

Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter Of The Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

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www.apalachee.org

January, 2002

President's Column

Apalachee Audubon Gets it Done in 2001

The end of the year is traditionally a time for reflecting back on accomplishments and for looking to goals for the New Year. With a strong and involved Board of Directors, dedicated officers and the hard work of chapter volunteers Apalachee Audubon Society accomplished the following in 2001. We:

- Helped define and supported local, state, regional and national conservation campaigns.
- Conducted nine open membership meetings.
- Led seven field trips for members and the general public.
- Sponsored thirty-five Audubon Adventures classrooms in our chapter area.
- Promoted "Audubon Month" in April by helping plan and conduct the Welcome Back Songbirds Festival at Wakulla Springs State Park.
- Published eight chapter news-

letters for our members.

- Conducted a very successful Audubon "Birdathon" fundraising event.
- Worked on and funded a project to erect a "Bird Migration" educational display at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.
- Began an ambitious project to publish a guide to birding locations in Leon, Wakulla and Franklin counties.
- Increased chapter membership to 851!
- Maintained a creative chapter web site www.apalachee.org/

In 2002, with your help, we will build on our successes and work even harder to accomplish the Apalachee Audubon Society mission-- "To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats".

In the coming year Apalachee Audubon Society (AAS) will continue to offer education to adults and children about birds and other wildlife, and the importance of their habitats through our web site, programs, field trips, and special projects and publications. AAS will also advocate responsible public policy for the

conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat. We will provide opportunities for members to enjoy the natural world around us.

And we will have fun!

Larry

Program Highlight **Tuesday, January 22**

Brown-headed Nuthatch: the smallest bird in the Red Hills Social Register with Jim Cox.

Jim is a biologist at the Tall Timbers Research Station and a well-known local birder. He will describe his current research with the Brown-headed Nuthatch. This will be followed on Saturday, February 2, with a field trip at Tall Timbers Research Station during which we will help Tall Timbers researchers locate new nesting cavities.

Meet at 8:30 at Tall Timbers on State Hwy 12 (turn West from US 319).

Naturalist Society Calendar of Events

The Naturalist Society of North Florida hosts lectures by researchers in the natural history of our area. All community members interested in the topics of research are invited to attend. The lectures are held the third Thursday of each month from September through May, except December. Each evening's program begins with a social mixer at 7:00 p.m. and is followed by the program from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m..

On January 17, Bruce Means will present his research on Amphibians and Reptiles in the Red Hills. The presentation will be held in the education barn at Tall Timbers Research Station, on Henry Beadel Drive, off Highway 12 across from the WCTV Station. Go north on either Thomasville or Meridian Road and turn on Hwy 12. Beadel Road is halfway between Meridian and Thomasville Road.

On February 21, Bill Palmer and Todd Engstrom will present their research on Bob White Quail, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and the Red Hills Ecosystem. The presentation will be held in the education barn at Tall Timbers Research Station, on Henry Beadel Drive, off Highway 12 across from the WCTV Station. Go north on either Thomasville or Meridian Road and turn on Hwy 12. Beadel Road is halfway between Meridian and Thomasville Road.

On March 21, Greg Hagan will present his research on Red-cockaded Woodpecker Reintroduction. The presentation will be held in the Cooperative Extension Service Auditorium, 615 Paul Russell Road, directly east of Capital Stadium.

On April 18, (Still being developed – announcement will come

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Mission Statement

Protection of the environment through education, appreciation and conservation

Join National Audubon

Make a difference by joining the National Audubon Society and the Apalachee Chapter. Every new member strengthens the organization and helps make our voice heard on behalf of wildlife and the environment.

SPECIAL ONE-YEAR INTRODUCTORY RATE is \$20.00

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Members receive six bi-monthly issues of the award-winning Audubon magazine, eight issues per year of the Apalachee newsletter, free membership in the local Audubon Chapter, opportunities to visit most sanctuaries and nature centers, invitations to study with Audubon experts at ecology camps and workshops, and eligibility to participate in wide-ranging Audubon travel. Local Chapter: Apalachee Audubon, **E19 7XCH**

Send to: **National Audubon Society**

PO Box 51001

(Make checks payable to National Audubon Society)

Boulder, CO 80322-1001

2001 Audubon Assembly Successful

Despite the national crisis, a pending hurricane and rumors of "disturbances" at Florida theme parks, Audubon Assembly 2001 was an overwhelming success with over 450 people from 42 chapters, National Audubon and Audubon of Florida staff, and guest speakers and guests. This is more than twice the attendance for Assembly 2000. It was a packed agenda with twenty workshops, twelve field-trips, and keynote addresses by Senator Bob Graham, Governor Jeb Bush, and Secretary of DCA Steve Seibert. Secretary of DEP David Struhs was there as well.

Governor Bush told the Assembly that he is committed to full (and permanent) funding for Everglades restoration and no reduction in funds for P-2000 or Forever Florida. Earlier Senator Graham informed us that funding was in place for the restoration of the Apalachicola River, and that \$200 million was being appropriated for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Disney and SeaWorld were the host sponsors for evening events.

Apalachee Audubon's President,

Larry Thompson, was voted onto the Audubon of Florida Board of Directors at their Sunday meeting, taking the seat of outgoing member Jim Crews, our previous President. Assembly 2002 will be held again at the Orlando Airport Marriott, on the last weekend in October so mark your calendars!

Help Scientists Track Birds in the Big Bend Region



This winter's Great Backyard Bird Count will be conducted from February 15th through the 18th. This count, organized by the National Audubon Society and the

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, is a snapshot of where the birds are throughout North America during the coldest period of the winter. Everyone's contribution, whether it is a very few birds, or many, is important because it all contributes to the big pic-

ture. Last year more than 53,000 checklists were submitted! The most common bird seen nationwide was the Mourning Dove followed by the Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, American Crow, and Blue Jay.

Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any of the four count days. Watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park. To avoid recounting the same bird making repeated visits to your feeder, for each species you identify, record the highest number of individuals seen at any one time during the count. Watch the birds for at least fifteen minutes on the days you participate but we recommend doing it longer than that.

Details and background on the count can be found on-line at <http://www.birdsource.org>. This is also the site where you enter your results by using the checklist for Florida. It also provides a map-room to see the results across the entire continent.

Monthly Meetings, field trips, conservation activities and bird walks

Audubon Calendar

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. They are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Tallahassee, 2810 North Meridian Road. The evenings begin with an informal social at 7:00 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30. Unless otherwise stated, field trips will depart from the First Union Bank at 3400 S. Monroe Street (opposite the Fairgrounds). Note the time of departure for each trip. For more info check out our web site at <http://www.apalachee.org/calendar.html>.

Saturday, Jan. 19 - Bird Walk. Let's try the Lake Jackson area north of Tallahassee. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the pond back of Tallahassee Mall.

Tuesday, January 22 - Membership Meeting. Jim Cox: Brown-headed Nuthatch - The Smallest Bird in the Red Hills Social Register.

Saturday, Feb. 2 - Field Trip: Jim Cox will lead a "working" field trip at the Tall Timbers Research Station to discover evidence of nest cavity excavation by Brown-headed Nuthatches. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Tall Timbers on State Hwy 12 west of US 319.

Saturday, Feb. 16 - Bird Walk. Location and time TBD.

Tuesday, Feb. 26 - Membership Meeting. Jim Stevenson - Protection of Florida's Springs.

Saturday, March 16 - Bird Walk. Location and Time TBA.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Events

Sat. Jan. 5, 2002 and Sat. Feb. 2, 2002 - More "Winter Wildlife Tours" in our series with guide Don Morrow. 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. tours. Space limited, reservations required.

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To check membership status, or to change address, call the National Audubon Society Office at 1-800-274-4201