

Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter Of The Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

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January, 2003

President's Column

Birding Economics

Recently an Audubon Center Committee was formed to plan an ambitious campaign to develop an Audubon Center in our community. The goal is to provide environmental education programs for children and adults, facilitate science-based habitat protection, and strengthen our chapter's ability to be the voice of Audubon in our community.

While the Committee has only begun its work, suggestions for the proposed Center include forming an advisory board with leaders from the local community, creating partnerships with other organizations to enhance mutual programs, establishing a library of natural history materials, and hiring professional staff to develop field programs that reinforce and enhance the school system curriculum.

To launch this ambitious program the Chapter will look to our members, area businesses, local government, and foundations for a serious, long-term commitment to financially support the center. The result will be an Audubon Center that is financially sustainable, professionally managed and that offers environmental education of the

highest quality.

In the coming months the Audubon Center Committee will be seeking your thoughts, suggestions and ideas. Let us know what you think.

Larry Thompson - President

Getting Involved

Here are some ways that you can participate in your chapter. ...

1. Volunteer: There are many opportunities including serving on the board or being a member of one of our committees such as Conservation, Membership, Education, Field Trip, Program, Development, Publicity, Newsletter, Hospitality, etc.
2. Donate gear that you no longer need that we can use with school groups such as binoculars, telescopes, tripods and even older editions of birding field guides.
3. Help us raise money. Join us on our annual Birdathon to raise money for the chapter. You can be a passive participant by pledging financial support or an active participant by signing up pledges and joining one of our Birdathon teams. Guess what – this is *fun* and we will help you get the pledges. Our Bir-

dathon is a one-day event in April.

4. Come to our programs or go on some field trips. We would really like to meet you.

Program Highlight **Tuesday, January 28**

Dr. Diane Roberts will present "The Future of Paradise: Development in the Florida Panhandle." Dr. Roberts is an eloquent activist from the Deep South who possesses a clear vision of what Northwest Florida has been and where it seems to be headed.

Diane, a native of "Old Tallahassee," has written for the late (and lamented) *Florida Flambeau*, the *Tallahassee Democrat*, the *St. Petersburg Times*, and the *Oxford American Magazine* and has contributed to the Op-Ed page of the *New York Times*. She has published two books on Southern literature and society, and contributed "Dream State - The History of Florida Since the Late Pleistocene," for the current issue of the *Apalachee Review*.

Programs begin with an informal social at 7:00 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30. This will be a joint meeting with the Sierra Club.

Programs begin with an informal

Announcing eBird!

Announcing eBird, a new citizen science tool that allows anyone to report any bird species, anywhere, anytime. This joint venture of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology opens a new era of citizen science, which will help our birds in a time of increasing threats from habitat loss to West Nile virus.

We have a window of opportunity. Today, the vast majority of the species of birds in North America still exist in viable numbers in some remnant of suitable habitat. Today, we who love birds and the natural world in general exist in greater numbers than ever before, and those numbers are growing rapidly. And today, we have the tools that allow us to know and monitor that fragile world with depth and breadth that was unimaginable 10 years ago, let alone 102 years ago when the first Christmas Bird Count was held.

Now you can help us make birds count for conservation. You can participate in eBird and other citizen science projects through BirdSource at your level of ability and comfort. Remember, you will double your impact if you take along a friend; and you'll multiply it many times over if you include a scout troop or a class of kids.

To try eBird go to <http://www.birdsource.org>. It is also available through the Audubon website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/ebird/index.html>.

Frank Gill – Senior VP for Science, National Audubon Society

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**

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Mission
Protection



Statement
of the environment through education, appreciation and conservation.

Okefenokee Weekend

A dozen Apalachee Audubon members and guests enjoyed the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd birding the eastern Okefenokee area. The field trip was led by Larry Thompson.

After a country style lunch at The Three B's Restaurant in White Springs, the group explored the environs of a nearby phosphate mine. Late Saturday afternoon found us at the Observation Tower overlooking Chesser Prairie and Seagrove Lake at the Okefenokee Swamp. The evening was completed with a hearty meal at the Okefenokee Restaurant in Folkston. Sunday events included birding the Observation Tower and Swamp Island Drive area, visiting the Chesser homestead and taking a naturalist guided boat trip into the Okefenokee Swamp.

Sightings included Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Avocet, Greater Yellow-

legs, Willet, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow.

DJ Underwood, MD

Welcome to Our New Members

by Karen Wensing – Membership Chair

We would like to welcome the following new members to our chapter: W. Adolph, Eva Armstrong, Ernie Barnett, Gary Bennett, Elizabeth Bevington, Roger Blom, Donald C. Bourassa, Doris Brann, Emily Brungard, Marlene Buller, Woodward Burgert, Susan Burnette, Garrett Canter, Verna Catlett, Louise Clay, Ann Conn, Bonnie Copps, Mr. & Mrs. Davis (from Crawfordville), Loretta De-

nes, Michael Forsthoefel, Dot Hayward, Thaida Holmes, Bobby L. Howe, Dr. Madrea J. Keeler, Bonnie, Kidd, Patricia Kohler, Robert Lemgacher, Margaret Lindsey, Jane McClellan, Shanna Matteo, Lori Mattice, Tracy Miller, Frank Noyes, Christy J. Petrandis, Ms. Marjorie J. Porter, John Potter, Jan M. Poulsen, Natalie Reed, J. Riera, Arlene Siska, Michelle Snow, Barb Stevens, Cindy Stottler, Ms. Delphine Strickland, Jesse Suber, Mrs. Gina Vinson, Shawn Welch, Susan R. White, Robert E. Williams and The Thomas Yarbareugh Family. In addition, Susan Buchner-Jones, Mrs. Jessica Kleinfelter, Andre Libroth, Benjamin Rogers and Ms. Carol Sisk have recently transferred here from other chapters.

Apalachee Audubon is pleased to welcome these new members and we also want to thank everyone who renewed their membership this fall. The Chapter Board hopes that you will take an active role in Apalachee Audubon. Please take advantage of the programs and field trips and tell us what activities you would like to see the chapter sponsor.

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. Most 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 Wachovia Bank (formerly the First Union Bank) at 3400 S. Monroe Street (opposite the Fairgrounds). Note the time of departure for each trip. For more information check out our web site at www.apalachee.org.

Saturday, January 25 – Fieldtrip to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Wachovia Bank (formerly the Union Bank) across from the fairgrounds at 8:00 AM. This is a great time to see the ducks. Bring your telescope if you have one. If not, others will share theirs with you.

Tuesday, January 28 – Joint Membership Meeting with the Sierra Club. Diane Roberts - “The Future of Paradise: Development in the Florida Panhandle.” See the front page for details.

Tuesday, February 25 - Membership Meeting. Fred Bassett presents Winter Hummingbirds of North Florida. Fred works out of Montgomery, Alabama but spends much of his time in the Panhandle studying the several species of hummingbirds found here in the winter.

Tuesday, March 25 – Membership Meeting. Thom Lewis, Wildlife Biologist with the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, will present a program on Red Wolf restoration on St. Vincent.

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