

Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter Of The Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 105, no. 1

www.apalachee.org

September, 2004

See More Birds, Have More Fun

We want you to see more birds in more places this year than ever before. That is Apalachee Audubon's number one goal. The birders among us want to see more optics toting life-listers in the brush. The conservationists know that if people go to special places to see birds, they will be more motivated about protecting the environment. Natural history types want people to experience the outdoors to offset the belief that we are a just a government and football town.

Whatever your reasons, birdwatching is a fun way to connect with nature and with other people. You can find a list of accessible birding spots and the birds you are likely to see there in Apalachee Audubon's **Great Birding Spots**. You can buy the book at our September meeting and get some great tips on seeing birds and other wildlife. If you live in the Apalachee region, you are lucky to have incredible choices of outdoor destinations. So, *get out there and bird!*

Drawing by Steven DAmato

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO PROGRAM LOCATIONS

A number of you have asked us to move our programs back into the city to a more convenient location. Our new location is The United Church at 1834 Mahan Drive and programs will usually be on the fourth Wednesday. The jointly sponsored Bruce Means program this month is an exception. Just check the Calendar in your newsletter to be sure.

September Programs

Monday, Sept 20

Expeditions into the Lost World of Gondwana

Dr. Bruce Means, Exec Dir of the Coastal Plains Institute

You must see this amazing program about Dr. Mean's expedition to a fantastic region in SE Venezuela, the Guyana Shield and one of its highest mesas, Mt. Roraima. The Shield is the rugged core of South America that once was attached to Africa. It has a number of mesas which preserve the descendants of the ancient plants and animals once shared by Africa and South America.

Unitarian Universalist Church
2810 N. Meridian Rd
Social 6:45 PM; Program 7:15

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Seeing Birds in Apalachee

Fall is an exciting time to see birds in the Apalachee region. The September program features two of Tallahassee's funniest birders - Larry Thompson and Marvin Collins. They have teamed up to create a special presentation to get you excited about seeing more birds in more places and having more fun while you're at it. So dust off your binoculars and get off your roost. You don't want to miss this one.

Tallahassee United Church
1834 Mahan Drive.
Social at 7 PM ; Program at 7:30

Membership News

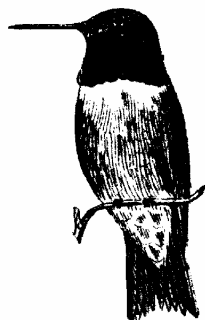
Karen Wensing, Membership Chair

Beginning in FY 2005 the AUDUBON magazine will return to a bi-monthly publication schedule. Members will once again receive six issues per membership year.

Good news for snowbirds or other dual household members. If you would like to have a summer/winter address split for delivery of Audubon publications, just call me at 850/386-7766 or email kwensing@mailier.fsu.edu for a copy of the ABON form. Dates can be customized for your needs and you may keep your membership in this chapter all year.

Apalachee Audubon welcomes the following new members: Clark Albritton, Patricia Arnold, Howard Baer, Regina Barfield, Raymond Bye, Gale Chase, Tom Clark, Ruth Deshaies, James Dolson, Anne Donohue, Robert Douglas, Lamar Downs, Paul Elliott, Isabel Estey, Laurie Evitt, Stewart Fleming, Andrew Foster, Barbara E. Greene, Ruth Guernsey, Katherine Hanson, Mark Hoffman, Kelly Horne, Janyce Horton, Bobby Howe, Janice Howell, Joel Johnson, Jim Kersh, Sonya Kornegay, Janet Lehmon, Cathy Level, Terri Lindbloom, Nancy Loeffler, David Lowe, Helen Lyle, Charles McCoy, Linda McCue, Gracia McGahagin, Michael McMahon, Robert Manning, Kim Meros, Conrad Meyer, Todd Miller, Nellie Mims, John Montana, Grace Nash, Svetlana Poroseva, Richard Prudom, Madge Roach, Jan Roche, Linda Sims-Davis, Liz Smith, Matthew Smith, L. Benjamin Starrett, JA Stevenson, Gary Stilwell, Ruth Swanson, Quincy Tarver, Roxanne Thompson, Johann Tschinkel, Mary F. Turner, Shane Nia Wellendorf, John Whitton, Emily Williams, and Marty Wood. Michelle Mitchell recently transferred to this chapter. We thank those who have recently renewed their memberships.

Membership meetings are free and open to the public, so feel free to invite your friends to any meetings you think might interest them. If YOUR friend decides to join during our meeting, the chapter will give the new member a bird-chiming clock (or alternate gift) and you will receive a membership pin.



Tallahassee Nurseries inc.

Visit our remodeled Bird Shop & Bird Window.
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This newsletter is printed on partially recycled paper.

Mission
Protection



Statement
of the environment through education, appreciation and conservation.

Apalachee Audubon Society Plan for 2003-2004

It was a hot Sunday in July when we gathered at Wakulla Springs, not to swim or look for Limpkins, but to write a plan of action for the coming year. Ten people sat around the Ed Ball conference room, named after the legendary founder of the St. Joe Land Company - the man who transferred Wakulla Springs to the State of Florida. It was as if Mr. Ball was beckoning us to do more to advance our mission. His successors at St. Joe are making decisions that will transform NW Florida. How we asked, could we ten leaders inspire our members to participate more to help to:

- √ Educate people about the Apalachee region's birds and wildlife,
- √ Advance state and local programs for conserving and restoring habitat, and
- √ Provide opportunities for people to experience and enjoy the natural world.

We listed the challenges we face and made a list that seems doable and not overwhelming.

1. Recruit new members to support our partnership with National Audubon Society.
2. Get more of our 900+ members to participate in programs and give money.
3. Provide monthly programs and field trips that inspire our members and the public.
4. Have more fun.
5. Stay grounded in our tradition of knowledge and appreciation of birds and wildlife.
6. Raise enough money to fund our education and conservation work.
7. Work with our allies to further our conservation goals.

Our **Conservation Action Plan** for this year built on previous success and grew. Projects include:

- Lake Elberta – *keep this stormwater pond friendly for the 90 bird species found there*
- San Luis Mission Park – *restore one of Tallahassee's important birding places*
- St. James Island Habitat Conservation – *set aside land to offset development plans*
- Ochlockonee River Floodplain – *educate the public about declining water flows*
- Lanark Reef – *support preservation of this nationally recognized Important Bird Area*
- Apalachicola River – *advocate for ongoing litigation to preserve the great River's flow*
- St. Marks River Headwaters – *encourage state purchase of these vital wetlands*
- Wakulla Springshed – *(proposed – support limits on growth impacts on groundwater)*

We are also going to continue to support the conservation goals of our sister chapters in Northwest Florida and the conservation priorities of Audubon of Florida.

Our **Education and Communication Programs** continue success from past years:

- Distribute the *Important Bird Areas of Franklin, Leon and Wakulla Counties*
- Co-sponsor the *Wakulla Wildlife Festival* held in April
- Sponsor *Audubon Adventure* teaching aids in 50 local classrooms
- Conduct birdwatching field trips for the public
- Hold monthly meetings from September through November and from January to May

Our Science Programs will again:

- Participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count project and Feederwatch, and
- Support the Florida Ornithological Society with volunteers and publicity.

Leadership - We will continue to recruit the area's most knowledgeable and effective conservation leaders to serve on our board and working committees.

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 United Church at 1834 Mahan Drive. Most evenings begin with an informal social at 7:00 p.m. followed by announcements and the program at 7:30. Unless otherwise stated, field trips depart from the Wachovia Bank at 3400 S. Monroe Street (opposite the Fairgrounds). Note the time of departure in the description for each trip. For more info check out our web site at www.apalachee.org

September – October 3rd. *John James Audubon's Florida Travels Exhibit* at the the Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science. This exhibit features a rare glimpse into the Florida travels of one of our country's best known and most colorful artists and naturalists, John James Audubon. You'll marvel at the collection of 20 original *Birds of America* folio prints and artifacts relating to Audubon's Florida expeditions. Even if you're not a birdwatcher, this exceptional exhibit will give you a better feel for territorial Florida in the early part of the 19th century.

Monday, September 20. Bruce Means presents *Expeditions into the Lost World of Gondwana* at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2810 N. Meridian Rd. See page one for description.

Saturday September 25. Field trip to top birding locations in and around Tallahassee led by Larry Thompson and Marvin Collins. Meet at the Wachovia Bank on South Monroe at 8:00 AM.

Wednesday, September 29. Larry Thompson and Marvin Collins kick off the Fall Birding Season with a program on the Great Birding Spots in the Tallahassee area. See page one for description.

Wednesday, October 27. James Burnett, Refuge Manager for the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, will discuss the history, future, and potential threats facing the refuge. Tallahassee United Church 1834 Mahan Drive. Social at 7 PM ; Program at 7:30.

Saturday, October 23. Field trip to St. Marks NWR. Meet at the bank at 8:00 to carpool to one of the lesser traveled parts of the refuge. Call Marvin at 224-9549 for details.

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