

# Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter of the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

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[www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)

October, 2007

## Florida Springs: Natural Gems – Troubled Waters

We are privileged to present **Jim Stevenson**, Coordinator of the Wakulla Springs Basin and the Ichetucknee Springs Basin Working Groups, as the speaker at our October program meeting. He will discuss the values of Florida's 700 springs, the threats to their continued health, and current strategies being implemented to protect these springs. The ecological health of Wakulla Springs and work underway to protect and restore the springs will serve as an example of protection efforts being seen throughout the state.

Jim was Chief Biologist for the Florida State Park System for 20 years, Chairman of the Florida Springs Task Force, and Director of the Governor's Florida Springs Protection Initiative. The Governor and Cabinet recognized Jim's longstanding stewardship of Florida's public lands by designating the highest annual award presented by the Department of Environmental Protection as the "Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year Award."

**Informal social begins at 7 PM, October 24, Wednesday, at the United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Drive. Program follows from 7:30 – 9.**

**Come join us, meet new folks, learn more about Florida ecosystems & see what Audubon is all about!**

**Attention Members!** Your vote is needed on our revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Two membership meetings have now passed without us having the required quorum to pass this measure. The revisions and ballot form are posted on our website at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org). You may either mail in a paper ballot or email your vote to our treasurer, Harvey Goldman, at [goldman@hep.fsu.edu](mailto:goldman@hep.fsu.edu).

### October 20, Saturday: Field trip Ochlocknee River & Lake Talquin State Forest Birding with Mike Tucker

Join local birder Mike Tucker as he guides us on inviting paths in the state forest. First, we'll walk about 1.5+ miles through river bottomlands to the river. Second, we'll go about 4 miles through low-lying pine-hardwood forest on a mostly flat, old logging road. Expect to see blue-headed warblers, migrating warblers, red-headed woodpeckers, and hooded warblers. At the river site expect to see wading birds as well.

**Meet at:** Winn Dixie parking lot on N. Monroe St. & Crowder Rd. at 7:30 AM (10-minute drive to starting point)

**Expect to be done by:** 2 PM

**Level of difficulty:** moderate

**Be sure to bring:** binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, and snacks or light lunch

**Cost:** Free

**Further information, contact:**  
Mike Tucker, 850-562-0555

### October 27, Saturday: Field trip Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) Birding with Chris Borg

Walk through natural mixed pine stands to Gannet Pond and the TTRS Bird Window. Then visit various points along Lake Iamonia. Birds to look for will include: Bachman's sparrow, Red-headed woodpecker, Brown-headed nuthatch, White-breasted nuthatch, and Hairy woodpecker. Our guide Chris Borg is Conservation Biologist with Tall Timbers Land Conservancy and a local naturalist.

**Meet at:** 7:15 AM, Books-A-Million, Thomasville Rd., for carpooling, or at 7:45 AM at TTRS Wade Center parking lot. (TTRS is 13 miles north on Thomasville Rd. past the I-10 intersection, then left on County Rd. 12 for 2.7 miles, and then left on Henry Beadel Dr.)

**Expect to be done by:** about noon at the latest

**Level of difficulty:** light to moderate

**Be sure to bring:** binoculars, field guide, water, snack, sunscreen, insect repellent, appropriate clothing and footwear for forest walking, and hat for weather.

**Cost:** free, but voluntary donation to TTRS Bird Window is suggested

**Further information, contact:**  
Melissa Forehand, Vice President, (850) 510-4877,  
[greentreefrog@earthlink.net](mailto:greentreefrog@earthlink.net)

## Message from Vice President, Melissa Forehand

Howdy Everyone:

Sept 15th's Clean-Up of Bottom's Road went really well. We would like to give a big THANK YOU to: Tim, Harvey, Judy, Marvin, Dawn, Ann and the troop of girl scouts who came by to clean up. We got a tire, a toilet seat, a toilet, a door, pieces of carpet, lots of bottles, cans, plastic bags and much more. Tim saw his first Sora of the season.

The first bird walk of the season was also very successful. We had a Red-shoulder hawk pose for us about 20 feet away and even got scope views thanks to Marvin. We also had Green heron, Common yellow-throat, Yellow-throated warbler, Prairie warbler, Pied-billed grebe, juvenile Purple gallinule and Downy woodpecker. Thanks to all the people who came by to enjoy Lafayette Lake in Piney Z early Sunday morning.

### I would also like to let everyone know about some painless ways to help AAS financially:

1. When you surf the web, go through [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com). In the section where you enter the name of the charity you wish to donate to, enter Apalachee Audubon. Then each time you surf the net, AAS receives money.
2. At each meeting we offer Audubon's coffee for sale at \$1 a cup or .75¢ if you bring your own cup. Audubon's coffee is Fair Trade and Organic which is good for the wildlife and the people.
3. Go to Cartridge World at Blirstone Rd. and Park Ave. to get your printer cartridges refilled. Filling your empty cartridge here will provide us with funds and you will be able to reduce your carbon footprint by recycling.

Keep your eyes to the sky (except when you are driving) and enjoy Migration.

*Melissa Forehand*

### Costa Rican Birding Trip

A birding trip to Costa Rica is planned for April 12 – 26, 2008. The trip will be professionally led, making overnight stops at 9 locations, and possibly seeing a majority of the 869 avian species found in Costa Rica. The trip is during the height of the birding season. Accommodations are good and the price is reasonable. Contact Bob Henderson at 575-6610 or [bob@rkhenderson.com](mailto:bob@rkhenderson.com) for additional information.

### Buy a 2008 WBU calendar—Help AAS!

Beautiful color calendars with close-up bird photos are available for \$3.50 from **WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED**.

Proceeds from the sale of each of the calendars will be donated to Apalachee Audubon Society.

The calendars make lovely gifts & their purchase supports AAS.

AAS thanks **WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED** for this generous support.

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### Mission Statement

Protection of the environment through education, appreciation, and conservation.

**"Internet Birding"  
by Fran Rutkovsky**

Want to know what birds have recently been seen around this area?

Log on to the **North Florida Birds** email list at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nflbirds/>

Statewide bird sightings of interest are posted to the **FloridaBirds-L** email list at:

<http://lists.ufl.edu/archives/floridabirds-l.html>

Anyone can read the postings from archives of the lists but to post a message, you must first subscribe to the list. Directions to subscribe are at the site.

The best way to check out what birds are being seen almost anywhere in the world (including specialty lists such as "Humnet") is to go to the Regional Birdmail lists found at **Birding on the Net**. Here you'll see that Florida has 6 different regional lists. Check it out at:

<http://birdingonthe.net/birdmail.html>

Our local Audubon site ([www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)) also has many links to bird web sites and other interesting wildlife and ecosystem links. Current information on upcoming AAS programs and field trips are listed too. We are currently updating the links on our AAS site. Please submit additional web sites to be included or other web site suggestions to Harvey Goldman at [goldman@hep.fsu.edu](mailto:goldman@hep.fsu.edu).

So check it out and do some armchair birding to find out where the birds are.

**Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) Blog**

To see beautiful, local photos of a Cooper's hawk, Ruby-throated hummingbird, Black skimmers, and Wood storks, check out the new blog from WBU at: <http://wbubirdingblog.blogspot.com/>. Contributions to the blog are welcome from WBU customers, Audubon members, and the public. Anything from a story about an interesting visitor to your bird feeder, a bird outing to St Marks or any other birding descriptions that are submitted will be considered for posting. Send contributions by email to [wbubirdingblog@yahoo.com](mailto:wbubirdingblog@yahoo.com).

By Andy Wraithmell

**Biofuels: Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde?**

The Sierra Club meeting on Monday, October 17th, at 7PM, at the United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Drive, will feature Ben Fusaro, long-time environmental activist, Master of Wildlife Conservation, and Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at FSU. He will look at some of the claims for the fossil fuel du jour, ethanol, and explain advantages and disadvantages of using plant materials as an energy source for our modern industrial life styles. Audubon members and others are welcome.

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## **AUDUBON CALENDAR**

### Monthly meetings, field trips, conservation activities, and bird walks

Monthly programs are free and open to the public. They are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through May, at the United Church of Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Dr., unless otherwise noted. Most evenings begin with an informal social at 7:00, followed by the program at 7:30. For more information, check out our website at [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org).

### **OCTOBER**

- 20:** Field trip – Birding on Lake Talquin State Forest & Ochlocknee River trails with Mike Tucker
- 24:** Program – Florida Springs: Natural Gems – Troubled Waters: talk by Jim Stevenson
- 27:** Field trip – Birding at Tall Timbers Research Station with Chris Borg

### **NOVEMBER**

- 10:** Field trip – Bald Point with John Murphy
- 17:** Related field trip – Fall bird and wildlife tours at St. Marks NWR with Don Morrow
- 28:** Program – Birding by ear with Julie Wraithmell