

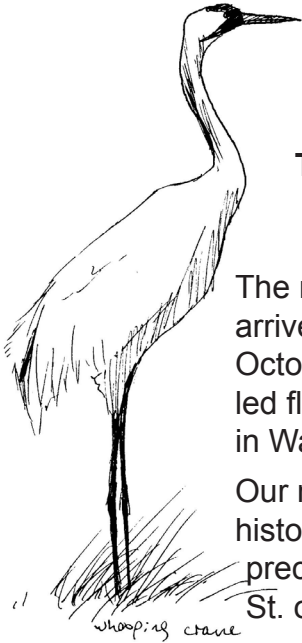
Apalachee Audubon

The Newsletter of the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 107, No. 1

www.apalachee.org

September, 2008



**Thursday, September 25TH, 918 Railroad Ave., 6 PM Potluck, 7 PM Program
New Avian Visitors, New Meeting Place
Whooping Cranes Are Coming to St. Marks**

The new avian visitors will be the migrating whooping cranes that are expected to arrive at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (SMNWR) for the first time starting this October. Our speaker Terry Peacock, SMNWR Manager, will tell us about the ultra-light led flight of the whooping cranes and the establishment of a whooping crane population in Wakulla County.

Our new meeting place is the Leon County Community Room, housed in Tallahassee's historic Amtrak Station located at 918 Railroad Ave. A potluck dinner at 6 PM will precede the program that begins at 7. The Amtrak Station is one block south of Gaines St. on the east side of the FSU stadium. See further driving directions inside.

**The Whooping Cranes are Coming!
So, Let's Have a Potluck to Celebrate!
Thursday, 6 PM, 918 Railroad Ave.**

At this, our first program meeting of the fall, take the opportunity to get re-acquainted with each other and welcome our speaker Terry Peacock, Refuge Manager, St. Marks NWR! Besides learning more about the whooping cranes coming to St. Marks NWR, enjoy a potluck dinner with friends too. Come to our new meeting site at 6 PM. Plan to bring a covered dish of either: main course (meat or vegetarian), a salad, bread, tea or soft drinks, or a dessert. Alternatively, you may wish to pay \$5.00.

So that we will be adequately prepared, please call me at 385-9043 or e-mail me at ejplatt@embarqmail.com with the following information by Tuesday, Sept. 23:

1. I will attend the meeting (yes / no) and bring ____ other folks
2. I will bring _____ (cover dish) to share
3. I will pay \$5.00. (yes / no)

I know there are many awesome cooks in AAS, so we are really looking forward to this event!

Thanks! Elizabeth Platt

**Sunday, September 14, 8 AM to noon
Family-Friendly Birding Field Trip to Piney Z / Lake Lafayette
with Melissa Forehand and Marvin Collins**

This field trip will cater to beginning birders and kids over 5 but *everyone* is welcome. Expect to see great blue herons, kingfishers, green herons, red shoulder hawks, osprey, woodpeckers, and maybe some early migrants.

Meet at: 8 AM at the park at Piney Z (950 Piney Z Plantation Rd.). Driving east on Park Ave., cross Capital Circle and continue east on Conner Blvd. for 1.5 miles. Then turn left unto Heritage Park Blvd., and pass through the traffic circle, staying on Heritage Blvd. This will dead end at the end of the park.

Expect to be finished by: noon

Difficulty: walking on level, unpaved trails

Bring: binoculars, bug repellent, walking shoes, friends

For more information contact: Melissa Forehand, 510-4877 or birdingtreefrog@gmail.com

President's Message -- Ben Fusaro

Dear Friends of Audubon,

Welcome to another year of informative programs, challenging field trips, and other interesting activities planned by the Apalachee Audubon Society's board of directors, committee chairs and other members. We will continue to link programs, field trips and other activities to the National Audubon Society's inter-related conservation goals:

Land conservation

Water resources

Wildlife protection

Growth & transportation

Global warming

Each of these goals is addressed in at least one of our programs, field trips or special events. Working on these goals is like buying insurance to protect what's left of vanishing natural Florida.

We hope volunteers will come forward to assist us in implementing these goals. There are many ways you can contribute, from indoor activities such as helping with hospitality, publicity or our newsletter, to outdoor activities such as helping with birding field trips, joining the Christmas Bird Count, or rooting out invasive exotic plants in the Lake Munson park area.

Our first program -- Thursday, September 25th on Whooping Cranes -- will be preceded by a pot-luck dinner. This will be a chance to chat informally with officers, committee chairs and event-coordinators and find out first-hand how easy it is to become involved in protecting the environment for birds, other wildlife and -- lest we forget -- for ourselves.

This dinner is also a good occasion to show our appreciation to outgoing President Elizabeth Platt for all her contributions, especially the integration of local activities with National's goals. Rather than kicking back at the end of her term and leisurely attending this dinner and opening program of 2008-2009, she volunteered to organize the dinner!

For more information, please contact me.

Ben Fusaro
(850) 297-2052
fusaro@math.fsu.edu

"Announcements Only" E-Mail List for Apalachee Audubon Society (AAS)

It's official! AAS has a new type of e-mail list. This list is for -- announcements only -- no reply. The list is a one-way form of communication only. We will be using it for information and event reminders that only apply directly to Apalachee Audubon. No bird lists, no junk mail, just a way for the board of our local chapter to be able to communicate with the membership when necessary in between newsletters. If by accident a recipient sends a reply, the entire list will not see the reply. Only the person who sent out the announcement will get the reply.

There are two ways of being added to the list:

- 1) send a request to Pam Flynn, pflynn57@gmail.com, or
- 2) go to www.googlegroups.com, search for Apalachee Audubon, add yourself to the list.

When announcements are sent to the list, no e-mail addresses of recipients are visible. This ensures your privacy since no one can see your address. Only a small group of people will have authority to send out notices and our board must give prior approval for a notice to be sent. This list will never be shared.

Our web site is another place to easily see the latest chapter information and our current newsletter online. Visit our web site at:
www.apalachee.org.

2008 -- 2009 Officers and Board Members

President Ben Fusaro 297-2052

Vice President Ed Gartner 386-6543

Secretary Sylvia Cohen 668-6906

Treasurer Harvey Goldman 385-5222

Board Members

Melissa Forehand 510-4877

Harry Hooper 668-0498

Torrio Osborne 422-3305

Past President Elizabeth Platt 385-9043

Lynn Reynolds 421-1074

Karen Wensing 386-7766

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Newsletter Editor Ann Bruce 766-3061

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Visit our web site at www.apalachee.org for e-mail addresses, list of committee chairs, and newsletter..

Mission Statement

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

Why Do We Have A New Meeting Place?

In a word the answer is: *money*. Rental cost for the year would be over \$700 at our former meeting site. In contrast, we expect to spend only about \$273 using the new meeting facility. The AAS Board is obligated to spend our Audubon funds wisely to allow us to support our programs, causes, and organizational needs. The **Leon County Community Room** is located in the historic Amtrak Train Station, at 918 Railroad Ave. The room accommodates 65 people. On-site equipment includes an overhead projector for Power Point presentations (formerly we had to borrow one), plus a TV / VCR, podium with microphone, white marker boards, adjoining kitchen, bathrooms, and it is handicap – accessible.

Since our meetings are after 5 PM we are required to have a security guard present for a minimum of 3 hours at the rate of \$13 per hr. or \$39 per meeting. The guard is responsible for opening up the center and deactivating the alarm system and for turning out lights, activating the alarm system as we exit, and for locking all the doors. The guard remains on the premises throughout the meeting, including supervision of the lighted parking that is immediately adjacent to the building.

The **Leon County Community Room Calendar** is online at www.leoncountyfl.gov. We look forward to seeing you there for the first time!

Directions to 918 Railroad Avenue, 32310

Starting from:
The intersection of Monroe St. & Gaines St.

Drive west on Gaines St. for .5 miles to the intersection with Railroad Ave.

At the intersection of Gaines & Railroad St., on the northwest corner, is a new Residence Inn Marriott. Turn left before the Residence Inn unto Railroad Ave. and drive about .1 miles.

The Amtrak Building is on the right with a large sign labeled 918 Railroad Ave. Here you turn right into the lighted parking lot in front of the Community Room entrance.

A security guard will be on the premises before, during, and after the meeting.

Saturday, September 20TH Panacea Bottoms Road Clean-Up as part of The Ocean Conservancy's 23rd International Coastal Clean-Up Day

You can join 40,000 other people worldwide in helping to make the Ocean Conservancy's 23rd International Coastal Cleanup day a big success! You'll be helping to make the world a little safer for us and for the world's seabirds and mammals too.

For the second year, Apalachee Audubon is joining other community members and groups in helping to clean up at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Our designated spot is Bottoms Road, Panacea.

Participants can earn a special T-shirt to mark the day. St. Marks Refuge staff will be there with their trucks to pick up our bagged trash on the roadside. There is a "weigh-in" of trash at the end and friendly competition to see which community group can pick up the most of trash.

Further details at: <http://www.coastalcleanup.org>.

Meet at: 8AM at the end of Bottoms Road. Reach Bottoms Rd. from the US 98 / CR 319 split in Medart (Wakulla Co.), by driving 2.5 miles south towards Panacea on US 98. Just outside of Panacea, Bottoms Rd. is on left. Follow the road to the parking lot on the left.

Expect to be finished by: noon

Be sure to bring: gloves, closed-toed shoes for mud, sunscreen, insect repellent, water.

Level of difficulty: Tasks for all levels of ability.

For more information, contact: Melissa Forehand, (850) 443-0770, birdingtreefrog@gmail.com.

North American Migration Count (NAMC)

The NAMC in Florida is sponsored by the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) and is supported by local Audubon Societies and others. Part of the mission of the NAMC is to obtain a "snapshot" of the progress and "shape" of spring and fall migration. Counts take place twice a year. Next counts are scheduled for Sept. 20, 2008, May 10, 2009 and Sept. 19, 2009. The area for our bird count would be Leon County. Each state has a coordinator who works with county coordinators, providing tally sheets, instructions and assistance. Marvin Collins has volunteered to "crunch numbers" from tally sheets in Leon County if someone else will be the county coordinator. If you are interested in being the Leon County coordinator, contact Bob Henderson, Florida State Coordinator, FOS, at 575-6610 or bob@rkhenderson.com.

AAS Birdathon 2008

by Ann Bruce

How many bird species could you identify in 24 hours? This year one of our expert Birdathon teams identified 142 species within a day! Our four teams were at work between April 12 – 27 and resulting Birdathon contributions total \$4,381 so far. Apalachee Audubon thanks the Tallahassee community, Audubon members, board members, and other volunteers who worked toward this great success. See our web site www.apalachee.org for more Birdathon details.

I was on a team – Six Hawks on a Lark – for the first time. It's a fabulous way to spend a Sunday with folks who know their birds & love to share their knowledge. We birded at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, Bottoms Road in Panacea, and at St. George Island State Park. Highlights for me were seeing the Common Nighthawk, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak and six Indigo Buntings together, happily ground-feeding next to campground dumpsters at St. George Island!

Congratulations to all of our Birdathon teams!

All Tuckered Out – 112 species

Mike Tucker, Elizabeth Platt, Fred Dietrich, Pam Flynn, Tracee Strohmman, Fran Rutkovsky

Gnit Picking Gnatcatchers – 142 species

Sally & Dean Jue, John Murphy

Mighty Marauders – 112 species

Marvin Collins, Melissa Forehand, Matthew Muller, Ed Woodruff

Six Hawks on a Lark – 124 species

Harvey and Judy Goldman, Karen Wensing, Linda Hosey, Kathy Besbekos, Ann Bruce

If you've never been on a Birdathon team, think about participating when next year's Birdathon comes around. It's fun and a **great** way to learn about birds from dedicated folks who know birds well and like to share!

Green Corner

from Karen Wensing

Is it **Green** or is it **Greenwashing**? After decades of ignoring the science, suddenly it has become chic and profitable to sell "green." As a non-scientist, I sometimes have trouble discerning the truly green from the greenwash. Like most Audubon members, I'm struggling to reduce my carbon footprint and trying to leave the planet fit for my grandchildren to inhabit, enjoy and thrive in. Some behavior changes are hard and I'm trying to take incremental steps. But, I'm also eager to learn about any simple and inexpensive ideas, which collectively can have a big impact.

Customers of City of Tallahassee utilities may request a free energy audit and may possibly qualify for grants or low interest loans to reduce the energy use of your household. We can all benefit from an occasional self audit by checking:

www.audubon.org/globalWarming/BePartSolution.php

We can also help each other by sharing ideas that we've researched and tested for their greenworthiness. Here's an issue that I hope will solicit a helpful response. Please reply to the editor so that your response can be shared with the membership in a future Green Corner. A recent AARP newsletter suggested that you can reduce the number of mail order catalogs that come to your house – and then to, the recycling bin rather than the landfill, I hope – by going to catalogchoice.com. Before I got around to testing this service, I read a contribution to a blog from my professional association (Special Libraries Association) that cautioned, "Be careful: I signed up with Catalog Choice about a year ago, at the suggestion of a trusted source. But since then I receive *way more* mailed paper catalogs. My guess is that you're now considered fair game for any catalogs you don't specifically say 'No' to. Big disappointment."

So, how can I make this work for me? Are the free services any good? Is it better to pay to opt out of junk mail? That just seems so wrong. I look forward to reading your recommendations. ~ **Karen**

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SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL DINNER

Our annual dinner held on May 15 at the United Church was a great success. Thanks to Tim Smith and his wife Heather, everybody loved our homemade Greek cuisine. Our knowledgeable speaker Bob Montanaro had wonderful still photos & video of Osprey. Our supporters Susan Teisciero and Mary L. Huggins, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited, donated a pair of binoculars that were raffled off & helped to offset our expenses.

Special thanks also go to Bruce Ritchie, Democrat staff writer. He not only stopped by our dinner, but publicized it too. His Osprey feature article in the Democrat helped to increase our attendance. You can check out Bruce's Environmental journal blog at: <http://tinyurl.com/2l9nuq>. Thank you, Bruce!

Wildlife 2060: What's at stake for Florida?

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has released a report, *Wildlife 2060: What's at stake for Florida?*, which explores what the status of wildlife in Florida could be in 50 years, based on current trends. The FWC draws conclusions based on a study published by the 1000 Friends of Florida, a not-for-profit organization, which monitors growth in the state.

If the human population in Florida doubles to 36 million by the year 2060 as predicted, many natural areas will be developed, and many species will be reduced from their current population levels. Climate change, in addition to development, will further exacerbate loss of habitat to support wildlife. This report provides maps, graphs and photographs to emphasize and clarify these impacts.

Although Florida growth and development will expand over the next 50 years, the FWC is optimistic there can be a better outcome for people and wildlife than is currently predicted. The FWC wants this report to motivate decision makers to manage growth more wisely and inspire Floridians to get more involved in preserving the state's diverse wildlife and habitats.

To view *Wildlife 2060* online, visit
MyFWC.com/wildlife2060.



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BIRD BITS

Anhinga (**Anhinga anhinga**): A sleek dark bird adapted to the underwater environs of our swamps and wooded rivers. When in its watery world, generally only its sinuous neck and slender dagger bill are observed above the water's surface, thus the nickname of "snake bird". And in its "other" life, a bird of the thermals, commonly seen as a "flying cross" soaring with black and turkey vultures, raptors and white pelicans. Its name "Anhinga" or water turkey is thought to have originated with the Tupi Indians of Brazil. The sexes are dimorphic (different in appearance). The male is all black with white "piano keys", beautifully seen when a bird is perched on a snag, drying its spread wings. The female and juvenile are look alike, mostly black with a dark crown, light brown cheek, neck and breast. The females and juveniles also display the piano keys, the juvenile less so. Watch for a diving bird. You might experience one surfacing with a good sized fish, its dagger piercing clean through. Then watch the antics as the anhinga makes multiple attempts to remove the unfortunate fish from its "spear" and consume it head first.



Contributed by:
Harry Hooper

The Tallahassee Film Society and Apalachee Audubon are sponsoring the showing of **Lord God Bird** on Nov 21st and 22nd at the All Saints Cinema at the Amtrak Station. This film was shown one time during the Tallahassee Film Festival this year. It is an excellent movie on the rediscovery of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for show times and prices.



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Whooping Cranes Coming!
September Program Meeting & Potluck Dinner!
Thursday, Sept. 25th
Family Birding Field Trip, Sunday, Sept. 14
Bottoms Road, Panacea, Coastal Clean Up Day
Saturday, Sept. 20th

Your membership expiration date is shown at top right above your name. For problems with membership, call the National Audubon Society Office at 1-800-274-4201. For problems with mailings, contact Pam Flynn at pflynn@us.ibm.com.

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY (AAS) CALENDAR September 2008, Vol. 107, No. 1

Monthly programs are free and open to the public. They are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May, at the historic Amtrak Station, 918 Railroad Ave. See AAS web site www.apalachee.org.

SEPTEMBER

- 13: Related event:** Learn about hummingbirds, at Birdsong Nature Center from 10 - 11 AM. Visit <http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org> for details on this and other Birdsong programs.
- 14: Field Trip** – Family Birding at Piney Z / Lake Lafayette, 8 to noon. With Melissa Forehand and Marvin Collins. For information on AAS programs contact: Melissa Forehand 510-4877 or birdingtreefrog@gmail.com.
- 17: Related event** – Information on birds of prey such as hawks and owls. Jane Fleitman, founder of Operation Wildlife Survival & wildlife rehabilitator, shares some of her feathered friends! Fun for all. \$3 suggested donation. Tallahassee's Green Living Center, 1020 N. Monroe St. 222-4521.
- 25: Monthly Program** – *Whooping Cranes Coming to St. Marks* with SMNWR Manager Terry Peacock. Program at 7 PM, potluck dinner at 6 PM; at Leon County Community Room, 918 Railroad Ave., historic Amtrak Station. RSVP on potluck to Elizabeth Platt 385-9043 or ejplatt@embarqmail.com by Tuesday, Sept. 23.

OCTOBER

- 7, 21: Related events:** Wakulla County Candidates' Forums, Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Highway (US 319). Forums 7 - 8:30 PM. **7th:** County Commissioners. **21st:** Other Officials. Sponsor: Concerned Citizens of Wakulla & other groups. Call Karla Brandt 877-7661 or contactccow@gmail.com.
- 12: Field Trip:** Kayak/canoe paddle on East River Pool, St. Marks NWR, with Harry Hooper. Limited spaces. Contact Harry Hooper 668-0498 evenings or sn_egret@yahoo.com.
- 16: Related event:** Candidates' Environmental Forum. For contested local, state & national offices at City Hall, 300 S. Adams St. Reception 6:00 PM, forum 6:30 -9. Sponsor: Big Bend Environmental Forum.
- 19: Related Event:** Tall Timbers Research Station Open House. Visit www.talltimbers.org for details.
- 23: Field trip:** St. Marks NWR Birding with Simon Thompson, 8 - noon.
Monthly Program – Migration In North Carolina with Simon Thompson, 7 - 9 PM.