



Eagle's View

Lake Region
Audubon
January-March 2005
Volume 15, Issue 1

Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

The Thank you Volunteers Luncheon was held January 22, 2005 at Street Nature Center in Winter Haven, FL. About 90 people attended the luncheon and enjoyed BBQ pork sandwiches, baked beans, slaw and potato salad from Peebles BBQ in Auburndale. Those enjoying this lunch were Board members and all volunteers who help with Christmas Bird Count, Bird Club, Nature Faire, Native Plant Sales, Special Programs, and the Street Nature Center.

This event was a “first” for Lake Region Audubon Society and the idea came from our Board members. We certainly thank all the many people who helped with the cooking, setting up (and taking down) the tables, serving the food, bringing desserts, name tags, parking cars, cleaning up, and all the many details, especially calling all the people who are the volunteers.

Those who helped with the luncheon were Chuck and Marvel Loftus, Nola Bowman, Barbara Cowel, Vera Murbach, Norm Brewer, Janet Anderson, Connie Bentley, Earl Roberts, Carolyn Coon, Carrie Plair, Shirley Lux, Kay Breckinridge, Lois Crowe, Judy Brungard, Louise Matteson, Lorraine Schnickels, Dick and Theresa Suetterlin, Rose Karnofsky, Larry Lane, John Duncan, Al Honican, Ray Pinner and several people who helped take down the tables. Please forgive me if you helped and your name is not listed. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated.

If you couldn't come, you missed some great food and enjoyable fellowship!!

A GREAT BIG THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!!!

Ann Pinner, Volunteer Coordinator

Editor

Herman Moulden

I am a new Audubon member and also your new newsletter editor. I guess that I also have a new awareness to nature.

I have worked with newsletters in the past and I know that the worst problem is getting articles from members. I request help from all of you in keeping this a quality newsletter. **Write articles and send them to me for publication.**

Contact me at:

863-687-9625

(Please no calls after 9PM)

hmoulden@peoplepc.com

www.hmoulden.com

Remember the Nature Walks with Earle Roberts at 10:00 AM on the second and forth Saturdays of each month at the Street Audubon Center

Notice: A new Polk County bird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, was photographed and banded at Joe Misiaszek's home in Lakeland on Jan 18. For info call Joe at 646-6187.

Work Day - Street Audubon Center

On Feb 5th Dick Sutterlin, Chuck Geanangel, Herman Moulden, Paul and Janet Anderson and Cub Scout Pack 515 of Den 1, Garden Grove participated in the work day. Den leader Tod Zechiel, 3 Den fathers and 4 cub scouts worked on the Den's Conservation Award.

Picture Perfect The Art of Photography

Classes by Tony Catalano

March 5 - March 26

Saturdays 9:00 AM - Noon

Cost \$45.00

At The Audubon Nature Center

115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Fl

Contact Tony Catalano 294-3556

Class size is limited.

Bird Club

Info and Schedule

Marvel Loftus

MEET: Most Thursdays during November, December, January, February, March, and the first Thursday in April. Bring binoculars, spotting scope, cell phones, walkie talkies, insect repellent, and water. We usually bring a picnic lunch unless otherwise stated. Always bring a snack. We do some hiking but not long walks. If you are on the Membership list you will receive a telephone contact by the calling committee. This is only a tentative schedule subject to changes when necessary. We notify people either by telephone or e-mail. If you need a ride or can drive please tell your phone caller. They are the one that form the car pools.

FEBRUARY 19, 2005

*****SATURDAY*****

**LAKE APOKA RESTORATION
AREA**

Meet at 7:00 AM at McDonalds on Hwy 27 just north of I-4. Bring Lunch.

FEBRUARY 24, 2005

KISSIMMEE STATE PARK

Meet at the gate of the State Park at 8:30. Planning a boat trip to see Snail Kites.

MARCH 3, 2005

FRED BABCOCK-CECIL

WEBB WMA

Meet in Publix Parking Lot, Bartow at 6:00 AM. Will give out directions and more information later. This area is located south of Arcadia on Hwy 17. Bring Lunch.

MARCH 10, 2005 *Boat Trip*

ALAFIA BANK BIRD SANCTUARY.

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This trip will be led by Ann Paul. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Port Authority's dock located by the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. Will give out better directions later. Cost will be \$15.00 each.

Bring Lunch.

MARCH 17, 2005

WHALEY'S LANDING, JOE OVERSTREET, THREE LAKES WMA
Meet at 8:00 in Haines City at the McDonalds on 17/92 (East of Hwy 27)
We will probably make a stop at Brinson Park, Kissimmee, Bring Lunch.

MARCH 24, 2005

BIRD BANDING TRIP
Meet at 6:30 AM at McDonalds on Hwy 27 and I - 4. This will be an early morning trip. More information and directions later. Bring Lunch.

MARCH 31, 2005

ORLANDO WETLANDS
Meet at 7:30 AM at McDonalds on Hwy 27 north of I-4 or at the parking lot at Orlando WetLands. From I-4 take toll road 417, Greenway North. Go east on 408, East/West Toll Road to Hwy 50. Go east on Hwy 50 to Christmas. Turn left on Ft. Christmas Road, then east, right turn, on Wheeler Road to the parking lot. Bring Lunch.

APRIL 7, 2005

FORT DESOTO STATE PARK
Meet at 9:00 AM at the Tierra Verde duck ponds that are located just past the business section of Tierra Verde on the right. This is CR 679, the road to the park. Bring Lunch. This will be a long day.

FOR INFORMATION:

CALL MARVEL LOFTUS -

HOME PHONE 863 324 9657


E-MAIL MARVEL769@AOL.COM

Owling Weekend

Larry Albright

Two Lake Region Audubon members recently traveled to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan for a weekend of owling. Bob Snow and Larry Albright were invited by some Michigan birding friends to join them on January 7-8 in the Upper Peninsula to search for wintertime specialties. Since this has been an irruptive year for owls, two great finds of the weekend were Great Gray Owl and Snowy Owl. Northern Hawk Owl was present but not successfully located by the entire assembled group. The weather was not extremely cold, daytime highs ranged from 20-30 degrees. Other birds seen on the trip consisted of Pine Grosbeak, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Iceland Gull, Rough-legged Hawk, Gray Jay, Northern Shrike, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Snow Bunting, Hairy Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and lots of Ravens. An additional bonus was the sighting of two Gray Wolves.



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PIZZA AND FILM NIGHT

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY
MONTH
TIME 7:00 PM
DONATION \$1.00

Come join us and watch a nature documentary while enjoying delicious, baked fresh pizza, potato chips and cold drinks.

February 1, 2005 Beneath the Sea: The Galapagos

February 15, 2005 Australia, The Big Red Roos

March 1, 2005 Harriman's Alaska Expedition
Retraced

March 15, 2005 The Life of Birds Vol. 5

The problems of parenthood

April 5, 2005 Gary Whales

With Christopher Reeves

To be continued:

Future Schedule check our website.

2003-2004 Officers Steering Committee

Bill Karnofsky 863.324.5282 brkay@juno.com

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VP/Conservation Chuck Geanangel 863.326.5748

VP/Field Trips Paul Fellers 863.293.0486

VP Membership

VP Newsletter Rae Bourquein 863.425.3003

Treasurer Bill Karnofsky 863.324.5282

Corresponding Sec.

Recording Sec. Liz Purnell 863.324.3181

Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, and Paul Anderson

Board Members: Larry Albright, Janet Anderson, Cheryl

Graffam, Bill Haddad, Bert & Fran Henry, Evelyn Hoog, Louise

Lang, Marvel Loftus, Giland Gina Lucas, Jack Moulton, Lynn

Powell, Earle and Katy Roberts

Board Meetings (open to members) 7:00 pm, second Wednesday,
at Street Audubon Center, 115 Lameraux Rd. Winter Haven,
863.324.7304

Mission Statement: Lake Region Audubon Society, a Chapter
of National and Florida Audubon Societies, is dedicated to
youth education, conservation, clean air and clean water,
preservation of our native flora and fauna, and the promotion
of public awareness of the remaining natural beauty of our
Florida and our world.

Birding Activity

The winter of 04-05 has been quite the season for rare birds in Polk County. In full breeding plumage, a White-faced Ibis showed up at the new County birdwatching Mecca, the Circle B Bar Reserve, in May. Usually hard to distinguish from its cousin the Glossy Ibis, this bird, a second County record, was no problem. Red legs, red face, and white around the face made it a no brainer. In October, also at the Circle B Bar Reserve, a Cave Swallow was identified for the first time in Polk County. December brought 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and 2 Western Kingbirds to Tindel Camp road near Dundee. Also 4 Lark Sparrows, 2 Song Sparrows, and a Baltimore Oriole all found in a brush pile just down the road a mile. In all over a dozen of the highly unusual Scissor-tails were reported from four different locations. There was more to come in January as the second County sighting of a White-tailed Kite was confirmed at the Fort Green phosphate mine. Nearby 30 Fulvous Whistling Ducks, absent from the county for over ten years, were rediscovered. Another bird rarely reported in the County, a Broad-winged Hawk, was observed in the Four Corners phosphate mine. From Lakeland two mega rarities - a Common Goldeneye and the first County record of a Black-chinned Hummingbird were seen by many. A dandy dozen reported and its still January folks.

Chuck Geanangel, Winter Haven

Water Wings and Wild Things Polk Naturefest 2005

April 9, 2005 **10:00 AM - 2:00PM**
at
Circle B Bar Reserve

**Guided walking tours, Landscaping clinics,
Birding and Butterfly watching, Nature
photography and more.**

For info: Gaye Sharpe 863-534-7377

April-June newsletter deadline: February 28. Contact
Herman Moulden at hmoulden@peoplepc.com or 687-9625

Address changes: mail to Street Audubon Center, 115
Lameraux Road, Winter Haven,
FL 33884, Attention: Lynn Powell, or
lpo4448888@hotmail.com.

Membership Information: Mail to Street Audubon
Center, 115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, FL 33884,
Attention: Membership

AN INNOCENT PASTIME – BUTTERFLY PHOTOGRAPHY AND MORE

by Linda F. Cooper

When you start looking at butterflies a funny thing happens – at least it did to us – you want to know more about them. What started as an innocent pastime soon became all consuming as we bought books about butterflies, we planted a garden for butterflies, we took trips to see butterflies and we bought a single-lens reflex camera with added lenses to photograph butterflies. Buck believes in setting a goal for your interests. He decided we should try to see and photograph all the butterfly species in Florida – approximately 160 or so. Little did I know where this would lead.

It was fairly easy to photograph the butterflies that came to the garden at Street/Audubon Nature Center where we were living at the time. The larger swallowtails and sulphurs were easy to capture with a 100-300 mm lens and the smaller skippers allowed close enough approach for a macro lens. The macro lens is designed for very close-focusing and captures the subject life-size. In other words, it fills the frame with the subject. The macro lens rapidly became my favorite lens. The Minolta Maxxum camera was automatic which means I did not have to use a light meter or determine aperture or shutter speed unless I wanted to. I did not want to. I wanted to take good enough photographs so we could use them for slide programs for public education. Over the years I found most butterflies tolerated extremely close approach if I moved slowly. We believe in non-consumptive butterfly enjoyment. We do not catch them to cool them down to pose them in unnatural positions to get the 'perfect' photograph. Photography was secondary to seeing them but it surely was nice when they stayed around to be photographed.

In order to see and photograph all of Florida's butterflies Buck likes to say, "You must become a Sherlock Holmes of the forest." You have to learn their habitats, distribution, flight times, and host plants in order to have a chance of seeing or photographing them. Many butterflies are widely distributed, common and easy to see such as most swallowtails and sulphurs but some of Florida's rarer butterflies such as Coral Hairstreak and Amethyst Hairstreak require a great deal of effort and, most of all, luck.

The Florida panhandle and south Florida and the Keys hold the most rare species and the most special memories for us. I will share with you a few highlights of our many years of searching out and photographing butterflies around the state.

Coral Hairstreak is rapidly declining due to habitat loss and this butterfly may soon be gone from north Florida. I was fortunate to capture several on film sitting on their favorite nectar plant, orange Butterfly Weed, their coral hindwing band glowing in the sun. This hairstreak and several other butterflies found in Florida's panhandle are remnant populations of butterflies found easily in states north of Florida.

Amazingly enough, a new species was discovered in the Florida panhandle last year. While tiptoeing carefully in a pitcher-plant bog in Blackwater River State Forest with butterfly enthusiasts from Niceville we found a colony of Reversed Roadside-Skippers. The nearest known location outside Florida is South Carolina! These extremely cooperative butterflies posed beautifully for photos.

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One of the most gratifying butterflies I photographed was Hessel's Hairstreak. This hairstreak spends its time in the tops of White Cedar trees in the Florida panhandle and is extremely difficult to photograph. You can find the trees and the hairstreaks and then look at them through binoculars as they flit from cedar to cedar. You become very frustrated. Imagine our surprise one day when we found several males sitting on damp sandy clay in Blackwater River State Forest. The eye-popping frames of this very deep green hairstreak are truly spectacular.

Some tropical butterflies found in south Florida and the Florida Keys are ephemeral. Sometimes a new species from Cuba or the West Indies or Bahamas becomes established while no one is looking. This happened when a tropical blue known as Nickerbean Blue showed up on Big Pine Key. This snappy tiny blue is easy to find when you find their host plant, Pineland Acacia.

Some butterflies disappear completely for a while as happened to Miami Blue. This butterfly was widespread and common across Miami-Dade and the upper Keys until it blinked out in the 1990s. Recently discovered at Bahia Honda State Park, it is a state-listed endangered species and efforts to breed and release this butterfly into suitable habitat are ongoing at the University of Florida. They are easy to photograph once you find them but remember that Ceraunus and Cassius Blues fly in the same location. Disguised Scrub-Hairstreak showed up in March 2004 on Big Pine Key after an absence of several years. We missed this one because we were in the panhandle at the time.



I don't remember the first butterfly I photographed but it was probably a Gulf Fritillary or Zebra Heliconian, two very common butterflies at the Nature Center. I do remember the last one though - Amethyst Hairstreak. Probably the rarest butterfly in Florida, Roger Hammer found several of them last year at Castellow Hammock. His phone call to us had us on the way to south Florida, arriving early on August 8, 2004 along with other butterfly enthusiasts alerted to their presence. This very tiny, acid green hairstreak is a brilliant violet/blue color when the wings are open. This is the third sighting of Amethyst in the past two years. Prior to that it had been a number of years and many lepidopterists feared it was gone from the state. Its habitat is usually the tops of trees so it is extremely difficult not only to see but also to photograph. Fortunately, this tiny hairstreak was very cooperative, climbing down and around the tiny bonsai-like flowers of Bahama Berry and disappearing into the plant before spiraling up in flight and then starting its downward journey again, usually just above eye-level. Many people came to see and photograph this jewel including enthusiasts who flew in from out of state.

Being out in the field you also become aware of Florida's changing seasons — spring means that Hessel's and Juniper Hairstreaks and Sleepy and Juvenal's Duskywings will be flying; summer means that wildflowers will be blooming and that brings out large numbers of swallowtails and skippers; autumn means that even more wildflowers attractive to butterflies will be blooming and butterfly numbers swell as migrating butterflies such as Monarchs, Cloudless Sulphurs, Long-tailed and Ocala Skippers invade the state; winter brings a lull in activity but a Red Admiral with its bright

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red bands is enough to brighten a cool winter day. Nature happens and you have an opportunity to observe and photograph it happening.

One of the greatest rewards of our involvement with butterflies is meeting people interested in the same thing. Our circle of friends has expanded greatly because of butterflies. We now spend October in south Texas doing the same thing we do here – watching and photographing butterflies. I switched to an inexpensive simple to operate digital camera in late 2003. I love it because I know immediately whether I have a good photo or not and it is just a heck of a lot of fun. I haven't given up the slide camera altogether but find I use it less and less.

Lastly, the Internet has also played a big role in expanding our circle of friends and knowledge of butterflies. By starting a Listserver for butterfly enthusiasts where members can post photos, gardening information, butterfly survey results, field trips, or ask questions we found people not only in Florida but also from other areas were interested in Florida butterflies. When a rare butterfly shows up, the members are alerted and can see and photograph the butterfly if they desire, provided it stays around. It is now also possible to contact knowledgeable lepidopterists almost immediately if there is a question about butterflies.

What began as a pastime has become an incredible journey — a journey full of adventure, old and new friends and so many wonderful memories. Our journey began around 1995 when we began seriously looking at butterflies with our dear friend and mentor, John Edscorn. John passed away in May 2000 but his spirit is always with us in the field. We have managed to see 164 species and have photographed all but three of these - Mourning Cloak, Eastern Comma and Zestos Skipper. There are still about five others we have a chance of eventually tracking down and photographing. So many butterflies...so little time.

Lakeland Christmas Bird Count

Paul Fellers

Last December 18th, 47 birders in 13 teams counted 43,814 individual birds representing 138 species for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Team leaders were Byron Bratlie, T.J. Coburn, Linda and Buck Cooper, Paul Fellers (31st year as compiler for the count), Charles Geanangel (co-compiler), Mae Hartsaw, Elizabeth Lane, Larry Lane, Gina Lucas, Joe Misiaszek, Tom Palmer, Earle Roberts, and Pete Timmer.

Some sightings of note were: a pair of common loons on Lake Arietta, 18 horned grebes on Lakes Arietta and Ariana, 37 brown pelicans (3 teams), 14 american bitterns (13 around Lake Hancock), 7 roseate spoonbills (across road from Circle B Bar Ranch), 62 black-bellied whistling ducks, 72 american widgeon, 32000 ruddy ducks (most on Lake Ariana, redhead duck (Lake Morton), 103 bald eagles (41 mature and 62 immature; most at Circle B Bar Ranch), short-tailed hawk (Gordonville), 2 merlins, 69 purple gallinules (probably enough to earn highest number of any CBC), not a single northern bobwhite, king rail (Polk County Landfill), 114 lesser yellowlegs, solitary sandpiper, 6 spotted sandpipers, 2 royal terns, 105 monk parakeets, 8 ruby-throated hummingbirds (4 each at feeders at Joe Misiaszek and C.J's Nursery. , empidonax flycatcher (Panther Point along Saddle Creek, Bartow), 2 great-crested flycatcher, 4 western kingbirds (Williams Property north of Teneroc), scissor-tailed flycatcher (1st ever for the CBC on the Williams Property), 27 sedge wrens, 13 hermit thrushes, 1375 american robins, 24 blue-headed vireos, 4 northern parula warblers, 700 yellow-rumped warblers, 74 pine warblers, 914 palm warblers (perhaps enough to be the highest number for all CBC's), 6 ovenbirds, yellow warbler (Williams Property north of Teneroc), black-throated green warbler (Panther Point along Saddle Creek, Bartow), and 6 house finches (at feeder of Linda Valencia, Lakeland).

It was another fine count thanks to an excellent cadre of dedicated folks who put in a total of 119 hours in the field for the effort. Weatherwise, the day was great with a mostly sunny day and temperatures ranging from 55 in the morning to 70 in the afternoon. Thanks are also due Nola Bowman and Alice Hallinau who had a nice supper waiting for us back at the nature center for the exciting roundup and camaraderie.

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Injured Birds and Animals, Joan Waters

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MEMEBERSHIP APPLICATION

For New Audubon Members Only - Chapter E25:7XCH

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