

# APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013



## Speaker Series

Free and open to the public.

Social begins at 7 pm & meeting at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Located at the Historic Amtrak Station, 918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee. For more information: (850)322-7910, [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org) Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3q9q77s>

## Speaker Meeting Dates

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25

May 23

(Tentative Banquet Date)

## Inside This Issue

President's Message	3
Officers & Directors	2
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Costa Rican Tour	2
Operation Migration	4
Birdathon	4
2012 Environmental News	5
Wildlife-Friendly	7
Yards Tour	
Winter Hummingbirds	7
Field Trip-Save the Date	7
Workshops	8
Birding at Birdsong	9
GBBC	9
Florida's Water & Land	10
Legacy Campaign	

January Program: Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013  
Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

“The Atlas of Florida’s Natural Heritage”  
with Jon Oetting

Jon Oetting will talk about *The Atlas of Florida’s Natural Heritage*, [www.floridasnaturalheritage.org](http://www.floridasnaturalheritage.org),

that he and his colleagues at the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) published last year. The book is a gorgeous portrayal of Florida’s unique natural heritage and addresses everything from the importance of large,

complex ecosystems to the many smaller parks and preserves that support unique plants and animals. The book is a must own for anyone who has an interest in the natural beauty of Florida. It was awarded **Best of Show** by the 2011 Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) Annual Map Design Competition as well as the **Benjamin Franklin Award** of The Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) for Nature and Environment. *Jon Oetting has been with FNAI since 1999. Jon is currently involved in several planning projects including GIS analysis and computer modeling of rare species habitat and land acquisition priorities for the Florida Forever program. Jon has a master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science in Planning degree from Florida State University.*



Jon Oetting

February Program: Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013  
Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

“The Uncommon Loon –  
A Triumph of Evolution”  
with Dr. Paul Spitzer

Conservation biologist and ornithological expert **Dr. Paul Spitzer** has studied the non-breeding biology of the Common Loon, *Gavia immer*, on all three American saltwater coasts since 1988.



Common Loon  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dr. Spitzer will share fascinating information about one of our most extraordinary birds, a bird whose history stretches back over 60 million years. With wings that can stretch 50 inches tip to tip and a body over 28 inches long, this beautiful large solitary bird with its haunting call captures the imagination as little else can. *Growing up in the Connecticut River estuary of New England Dr. Paul Spitzer was inspired and encouraged by Roger Tory Petersen. He earned his PhD. at Cornell University in 1980 after a 10-year osprey population study.*

## Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2012 – 2013

### Officers & Directors

*All telephone numbers are in the 850 area code, unless otherwise noted.*

**President:** Kathleen Carr 322-7910  
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**P. O. Box 1237**

**Tallahassee, FL. 32303**

Inquiries can also be sent to:  
1819 Doric Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. (AAS) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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#### You can join National Audubon Society and Apalachee Audubon for just \$20 a year!

Membership includes *Audubon*, our bimonthly flagship publication. Each issue of this award-winning publication features beautiful photography and engaging journalism. Our Apalachee Audubon chapter newsletter will keep you informed of local and statewide Audubon and other nature-related events and will share birding and conservation information and news.

You can pay for membership using a credit card by calling Audubon's toll free membership number, 1-800-274-4201. **(Please mention our chapter ID, E19, for AAS to get full credit for a new membership).** If you prefer to pay by check for an annual membership, send your \$20 check made payable to National Audubon Society **(please add Apalachee Audubon's chapter ID, E19)** and mail to:

National Audubon Society  
PO Box 422246  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2246

Allow 4-6 weeks for the arrival of your first issue of *Audubon*. The cost of membership is tax deductible except for \$7.50 (which is allocated to *Audubon* magazine).

## Volunteer Opportunities

By Kathleen Carr

Our chapter has a diversity of volunteer opportunities available. Here are some of the opportunities that you could lend a hand with coming up this spring...we'd love your help! Please contact me or one of our Board members, if you're interested in helping or have any questions. Our telephone numbers are to the left.

- Program meetings, sign-up table or hospitality
- Florida Water and Land Legacy petition drive
- Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour (Feb. 16) and Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 16)
- Birdathon in April
- Least Tern Island refurbishing at Lake Piney Z on March 2 from 9 am – 3 pm
- NRDA shorebird monitoring (led by Audubon Florida, starting in March)



## Costa Rican Birding Tour

By Bob Henderson

Your Apalachee Audubon Chapter is proposing to lead a birding tour to Costa Rica. This is a preliminary invitation.

Detailed planning for such a tour will not be undertaken until there is a reasonable amount of interest in such an endeavor.

If you are interested in a Costa Rican birding tour in 2013, please contact me at 850-575-6610 or [bob@rkhenderson.com](mailto:bob@rkhenderson.com).



## Please Save Your Used Postage Stamps to Help Injured Eagles!

*Yes, it's true! All you have to do is cut postage stamps from your mail, leaving at least 1/4 inch of paper all around the stamp or just bring the envelope and I will trim them. Any postage stamp is useful—big, small, U. S. or foreign.*

*The Audubon Center for Injured Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL collects used postage stamps and sells them to wholesalers for sale to collectors all over the world. There will be a box to collect them at Audubon meetings. If you have questions or want to arrange for a pickup, please call Eileen Bontelle at (850) 656-3346.*

*THANK YOU for helping injured eagles!*



Kathleen Carr with “Paige”  
at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey  
*Photo by Mac Stone*

## President’s Message

### The Times They are a-Changin’

By Kathleen Carr

**Weird Birding Times:** On January 6<sup>th</sup>, I finally identified that odd bird that I kept catching glimpses of at one of our backyard feeders. It definitely wasn’t one of our regulars. Part of me kept saying “Nuthatch,” but the white stripe over the eye made me think, “No, maybe a small female Downy Woodpecker.”

Finally, the bird posed at the feeder long enough for me to grab the binoculars, and I was astounded. It was a beautiful Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a bird I had seen only in Michigan and NEVER in our backyard during the 25 years we’ve lived in our Tallahassee home. As it turns out, there has been an irruption of RB Nuthatches this year. Nationwide, the sighting reports for this species rocketed from 6% of all bird sightings to 16% from January through September 2012. And they’ve been showing up in the south in unprecedented numbers, every southern state reporting sightings since August 2012. To mark the occasion, I duly entered my observation at eBird.org and will be on the lookout for more of them.

There have been other unusual sightings in Florida this winter. This past December, AAS member Fred Dietrich banded a first-year male Costa’s Hummingbird, establishing the first record of this species in Florida. Costa’s are typically found in the southernmost reaches of California and Arizona and are believed to migrate to coastal regions in summer and to Mexico in winter. Like Bugs Bunny, this young bird took the proverbial wrong turn at Albuquerque.

Then there has been the invasion of the Razorbills. This crow-sized diving bird, a relative of Puffins (one of my personal favorites), breeds in the far north and may travel as far south as the Carolinas to overwinter. Although stragglers may have found their way south to Florida on occasion, this year entire flocks have inundated Florida’s coastlines and the keys, even following the peninsula along the gulf coast until they’ve ended up in Wakulla and Franklin counties. Photos have been popping up online of these arctic birds flying past palm trees and condos in Miami. Speculation is that the food supply has been disrupted in their usual wintering sites, perhaps from Superstorm Sandy, so they’ve kept moving along the east coast in search of food. As charming as it is to have them here, the reason for it may be very disconcerting.

***It’s Time to Go Paperless:*** *Speaking of changing times, the past two years we’ve been cutting back on the number of print editions of the newsletter that we publish every year. At our retreat last August, the Board decided that it was time to drop the print editions altogether. This decision was made in part to decrease our paper footprint, but primarily to save the chapter nearly \$4,000 a year, printing and mailing newsletter to over 1,000 recipients, that could support other chapter activities.*

*At this point in time, we have excellent coverage via email service, web site, and social media, as well as traditional media that we believe will keep members and non-members informed. And while we are no longer going to be mailing out newsletters, we plan to send out a couple of mailings a year to the membership at large, before the program year begins and before the annual banquet.*

*If you want to keep up with the chapter, stop by our web site and subscribe to our email service. This is an announcement only service, so you will not be bombarded with unwanted emails. No Internet? We will be happy to print out a newsletter issue for you. Drop us a note via our Post Office Box or feel free to call me.*

See this newsletter IN COLOR plus much more at Apalachee Audubon’s web site: [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org)  
For timely updates about fieldtrips and other events, subscribe to the AAS notification email list at our web site: [www.apalachee.org/List\\_Serving.html](http://www.apalachee.org/List_Serving.html) or here: [www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon](http://www.groups.google.com/group/apalachee-audubon)



## Operation Migration Update

By Kathleen Carr



**Class of 2011:** First a bit of catching-up. Last winter, we reported that the OM ultralight aircraft were grounded in NW Alabama by the FAA after someone filed a complaint about the crafts operating illegally. Subsequently, they were given the go-ahead to complete the migration, but the Class of 2011 had decided otherwise. So far as the birds were concerned, they had arrived at their migration destination. They were subsequently moved to the nearby Wheeler NWR where they spent the winter in the company of Sandhill Crane flocks, an adult Whooper, and two Whoopers from the Direct Autumn Release, Class of 2011. Of the 10 birds in this class, five returned

to Wheeler this fall, where they have joined an older adult and the two DAR members of the Class of 2011.

**Class of 2012:** This year OM got clearance ahead of time from the FAA to escort the birds to Florida and they departed with six juvenile cranes on September 28, 2012. The migration got off to a good start, ran into typical weather delays, but then got back in the air. Tragically, en route, one of the birds fractured her leg while landing and died while being operated on. Once the team got back in the air, they made excellent progress and arrived at St. Marks on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, a chilly but sunny day; the flyover event lifted everyone's spirits.

**Congratulations to the Happy Couple:** Also on an optimistic note, a male/female pair of Whoopers from the OM Class of 2009, is overwintering here in Tallahassee for the second year. Although these two sweethearts are young, they did nest last spring in Wisconsin. The female laid one egg, but it disappeared some days later. Here's hoping for a more productive nesting season this spring. It's gratifying to see a positive outcome from the tireless efforts of the Operation Migration staff.

*Photo courtesy of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, [www.fws.gov/saintmarks/](http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks/)*



Royal Terns

*Photo by Nick Baldwin*

## BIRDATHON IS COMING!

This spring, when birds migrate north, across the Gulf from South and Central America, Apalachee Audubon Birdathon teams will be searching the skies, waters, bushes, shores and trees for all the species of birds that they can identify by sight or sound within a 24 hour period. Aside from the thrill of seeing a large number of species of birds and kindred companionship, participants are raising money for Apalachee Audubon bird education and preservation projects.

It's not too early to start lining up teams for a 24 hour birding adventure in April. Please let us know if you would like to be on a team. This is a good way to learn about birding areas, get help in identifying birds, make friends sharing food out of the car trunk or dining late at the coast, and participate in creative team naming (from previous Birdathons--the Avianators, Gone Pishing, Six Hawks on a Lark, Gnit-Picking Gnatcatchers, Ternerd Stones).

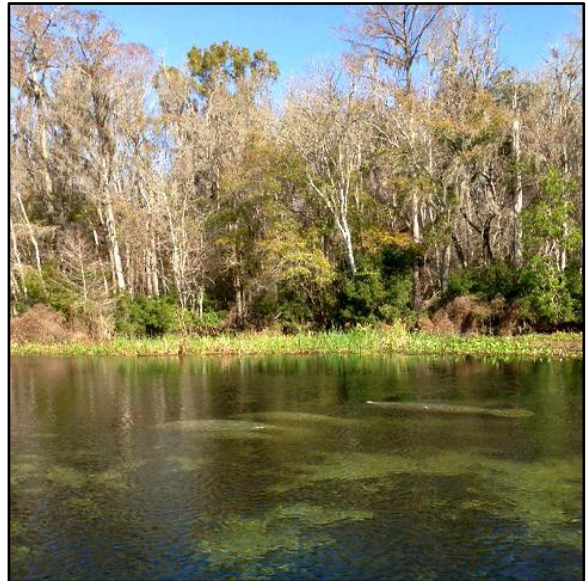
Participants are asked to get donations for Apalachee Audubon, either through a per-bird pledge or simple donation. Of course, early donations are always welcome, and can be sent to "AAS-Birdathon" at our mailing address: Apalachee Audubon, P.O. Box 1237, Tallahassee, FL 32303. If you plan on being a team captain, or would like to be assigned to a team, please contact Judy Rice Goldman at [goldman@hep.fsu.edu](mailto:goldman@hep.fsu.edu).

*Every dollar given stays in the community to support environmental education and wildlife habitat.*

## An Overview of 2012 AAS Environmental News

By Dr. Seán E. McGlynn, Vice-President, Apalachee Audubon Society

- Our climate is in flux. Some say that the drought is over and it's true that our annual rainfall amount for 2012 was normal. Tallahassee had 59.31 inches this year, 0.08 inches above normal. However, the drought conditions were broken due to tropical activity with most of the rainfall from three tropical systems, 3 deluges of rain. The average rainfall total may be normal but this is not typical rainfall and hundreds of homes were flooded.
  - Tropical Storm Beryl: May 23-30
  - Tropical Storm Debbie: June 22-27
  - Hurricane Isaac: August 21- September 1
- Despite the return of normal rainfall, our water deficit was not overcome. Lakes Miccosukee, Iamonia, Lafayette, the Bradford Brooks Chain of Lakes and parts of the Killearn Lakes are still essentially dry.
- Continued drought conditions, exacerbated by Georgia (reservoirs), caused a decrease in the flow of the Apalachicola River and the increased salinity and predation apparently caused the collapse of the Apalachicola oyster industry.
- TS Debbie with rainfall amounts exceeding 30 inches in parts of Wakulla County filled the springshed with so much water that the highest ever recorded flow was taken at Wakulla Springs. Wakulla Springs recorded the highest flow of any inland Florida Spring, exceeding 3000 cfs. The previous record of 1910 cfs was set at Wakulla Springs in 1974.
- The average temperature was 69.9 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal, warmer than usual conditions. Climate change implies more frequent extreme weather events.
- Manatees have been making an annual trip to Wakulla Springs for the past 5 years. They were rarely seen at the springs before. Over 40 are wintering at the springs this winter, a record number. Their abundance may be attributable to global warming, or increased toxic algae blooms, impaired water quality, in their former home, Kings Bay and the Crystal River, or perhaps the increased flows of Wakulla Springs itself is attracting these endangered species to the Big Bend Area.
- The Least Tern Island project, sponsored by the FWC and Audubon volunteers established and enhanced breeding habitat on an island in Piney Z Lake.
- Audubon Florida purchased an island in Apalachicola Bay. This saved Lanark Reef, an important nesting and migrating island for sea and shore birds and preserved the rookery saving it from developers.
- This fall Fred Dietrich reported a great early winter season for Hummers. By the end of September, the number of Rufous banded in our area exceeded the number banded in the last 14 years combined. Good news for the hummingbird populations!
- The Tired Creek Dam in Georgia will be built, as the litigation against the dam was dismissed; this will increase the water retention in Georgia and decrease the flow of fresh water to Florida.



Wakulla Springs Manatees Photo by Dr. Seán McGlynn

- Florida's Water and Land Legacy, a coalition of the state's leading conservation organizations including Apalachee Audubon, Audubon Florida and many others launched a campaign to place the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. This is the best way to assure that adequate funding is dedicated solely to restoring critical natural areas, like the Everglades, and protecting Florida's magnificent waters and lands for future generations. *(See page 10 for more information.)*
- Tropical Storm Debby devastated shorebird nests along the Panhandle Coast. In late June Tropical Storm Debby passed slowly along the Panhandle coast from Pensacola to the Big Bend. Storm surge and flooding washed away nearly all the shorebird nests on Panhandle beaches. The only nests that survived were further back in the dunes where they were more protected from the bad weather. Islands such as Lanark Reef and the old St. George Island Causeway, which usually hosts multitudes of nesting birds, were completely washed over by the storm surge. No nests survived. Other areas such as St. George Island State Park and Gulf Islands National Seashore were badly flooded by the heavy rains.

- Invasive exotic Island Apple Snails have spread from the Lake Munson Drainage to Lakes Lafayette and Jackson. They are transforming these ecosystems. They consumed all the aquatic plants including the beautiful Pickerel Weed and, notably, the invasive exotic aquatic plant, hydrilla, in Lake Munson. They have attracted snail eating birds, like Limpkins, to these lakes where they were not seen before.



Great White Egret at Wakulla

*Photo by Nick Baldwin*

- Audubon, the Tallahassee Garden Club and the Florida Native Plant Society wrote letters to the City and County Commissioners requesting that all banned invasive exotic plants be removed from the plantings in Cascade Park. Blueprint 2000 complied and the resulting planting will be more indicative of our native flora. These organizations and the local newspaper, promoted the planting of native plants in the Capitol Cascade Greenway.
- A large sinkhole, also called a karst fissure, fracture or cleft, opened up again in Cascade Park. The sink is in the Boca Chuba Stormwater Management Facility, which drains into the aquifer.
- The box culvert burial of the St. Augustine Branch (formerly the Franklin Ditch) and the creation of the Capitol Cascade Greenway, a trail system planned from Leon High School, near the Florida Capitol, to the coast, suffered construction delays and is still unfinished.
- FDEP released the Total Maximum Daily Load for the Upper Wakulla River which called for an almost 60% reduction in nitrate concentrations at Wakulla Springs.
- To achieve the nitrate reduction, the City of Tallahassee began a 250 million upgrade at the sewage plant to reduce nitrate levels in Wakulla Springs.
- Possibly due to the Sewage Plant Upgrade and the increased flows at the spring, the nitrate concentration at Wakulla Springs is dropping.

*Continued on page 8*



*Announcing the 6th Annual Apalachee Audubon*

**Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour**

Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> - 10 to 4 pm

By Pam Flynn

It's that time of year again for the 6th Annual Wildlife-Friendly Yards Tour sponsored by Apalachee Audubon. If you haven't done this tour before, those who have will tell you it's one of the best \$10 you can spend for an activity here in Tallahassee. Each year we have chosen yard hosts for their environmentally friendly yards and the great ideas they have come up with to attract local and migrant birds and wildlife. With this tour happening in the middle of winter, it is not a typical garden tour. It's a chance to see the 'bones' of the yard and catch a glimpse at some fabulous winter birds. Winter is planting time so you can take notes and then go home and start that yard project you've always wanted to do and to welcome the birds of spring to nest in your yard.

This year our event takes place on February 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm. Tickets will be available, starting Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at Native Nurseries (1661 Centerville Rd) and Wild Birds Unlimited (1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd.) and will be available through the day of the tour. The tour takes place rain or shine. Birds are very active when it's stormy so don't let that stop you. This is a fundraiser for the local Apalachee Audubon Chapter.

Once you purchase your ticket, you will be given all the information you need for the tour. The final slate of yard hosts include Gary and Peg Griffin, Maureen and Alan Peters, Pam Shank and Karen Pritzl, Susan Lorch and Joanne Herrington. It's shaping up to be another spectacular year not to be missed.

Please go to [www.apalachee.org](http://www.apalachee.org) or contact Pam Flynn at [tallypfly57@yahoo.com](mailto:tallypfly57@yahoo.com) or (850)322-6287 for additional information about the event.



**Remember Our Winter Hummingbirds!** Just a reminder that winter in the southeast means the return of our winter hummingbirds. If you took your feeder down, hang it back up! And if you see a hummingbird, please contact master bird bander, Fred Dietrich at 850 591-7430 or [fdietrich@gmail.com](mailto:fdietrich@gmail.com). He will come out and do his best to band your bird. His work, along with other banders, is helping us to understand the migratory habits of these birds. More at <http://hummingbirdresearch.net/>



**Save the Date - March 9<sup>th</sup> Field Trip** Mike Tucker will lead a Field Trip on March 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 am from J. Lee Vause County Park on Old Bainbridge Rd. carpooling to Indian Mounds State Park and Martha Wellman County Park with short hikes and birding along the way. Contact Mike Tucker at 545-3489 or [tuckems@hotmail.com](mailto:tuckems@hotmail.com) for more information.

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*Continued from page 6 - 2012 Environmental News Overview by Dr. Sean McGlynn*

- EPA approved the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's revised nutrient pollution rules for statewide springs, lakes, streams and some estuaries. These pollutants, called "nutrients," cause algal blooms, contaminate drinking water supplies and are among the largest contributors to water quality problems. These rules will protect Florida waterways from excess nitrogen and phosphorus.
- FWC removed accumulated muck deposits in areas of Lakes Iamonia and Miccosukee improving fish nesting habitat as well as removing accumulated nutrients and detritus.
- The Lombardo Report stated that once the problem of nitrate loading from the spray field is decreased nitrate loading from septic systems will become the most significant pollution source degrading Wakulla Springs.
- A petition has been started by the Wakulla Springs Alliance for Wakulla, Leon Counties and City of Tallahassee to work towards establishing a Responsible Management Utility(s) for Septic Systems in the Wakulla Springshed to further reduce nitrate pollution at Wakulla Springs.
- The ultralight-led Whooping Crane Operation Migration birds were detained last winter, but I am happy to report that on Nov. 23, 2012 the Whooping Cranes returned to St. Marks NWR with a large crowd of well-wishers assembled to witness their flyover. (See page 4 for details.)
- For the first time in memory the Chimney Swifts did not stop by Wakulla Springs on their fall migration south. We have been fortunate to witness this great natural phenomenon, the roosting of the Chimney Swifts, at Wakulla Springs when at dusk they begin their dizzying dance of descent circling the Wakulla Springs Lodge and descending into one of its unused chimneys as the sun sets. It's a mystery why they didn't arrive this year, one we can look forward to exploring together.



Wakulla Springs Lodge

*Photo by Suzanna MacIntosh*

## Workshops to Enjoy Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308  
850-386-8882 [www.nativenurseries.com](http://www.nativenurseries.com)

### Winter Hummingbirds and Banding

Saturday January 19th 10am Free

Tallahassee's own **Fred Dietrich** has been banding winter hummingbirds with **Fred Bassett** throughout the southeast for many years and now is a master bird bander himself. He will show slides and discuss winter hummingbirds as well as our springtime visitor - the ruby-throated hummingbird. Call the nursery if you have a winter hummingbird so Fred can arrange to band it.

### Identification of the Birds of North Florida with Jim Cox

Saturday February 9th 10am Free

Learn how to identify the birds you are seeing in your yard and in the field as well. Jim is a biologist at Tall Timbers Research Station studying red-cockaded woodpeckers, brown headed nuthatches, Bachman's sparrow and other songbirds. He is a wonderful teacher!

### The Wonder of Bluebirds with Glenda Simmons

Saturday March 9th 10am Free

Nature photographer and bluebird enthusiast **Glenda Simmons** will begin this session with a series of her wonderful bluebird photos set to music. She will then present a slide show on the natural history of bluebirds in our area, how to attract them and monitor their nests. Glenda has been very successful in managing her suburban property to promote bluebirds (and other wildlife) and has photographed several generations of bluebird families.







**Red-breasted Nuthatch** Photo by  
Birdsong Volunteer Nancy Ann Thomas

## Birdsong Nature Center

Invites You to Share

### A MORNING IN THE WOODS WITH MARVIN

Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 A.M. – 11 A.M.

Wintertime at Birdsong Nature Center is a great time to go birding! Join expert birder and Birdsong Board member Marvin Collins for a long, leisurely discovery hike through a variety of excellent bird habitats. If birds are here, Marvin will find them, especially those elusive sparrows and warblers!

The hike will wrap up with a visit to the Bird Window, which is typically a very busy place in the winter months. Dress for the weather and for a long walk in the woods. Bring binoculars and field guides. RESERVATIONS PLEASE. Participants should register with Birdsong by calling (229)377-4408 or 1(800)953-2473 by noon on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. \$4 Friends of Birdsong and Audubon members, \$8 nonmembers, children half-price. For more information and directions, see ([www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org))

## 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15 – 18, 2013

By Fran Rutkovsky

The 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This event provides a "winter snapshot" of birds across the United States and Canada. Observe and count the birds you see at a given location and enter the results at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). At this web site you can watch the tallies grow all weekend, with thousands of observations reported. The counts can be conducted anywhere, though a separate checklist must be made for each location.



**Pine Warbler**

Photo by Glenda Simmons

During the weekend, the online data is updated many times a day, and you can keep up with what birds are being reported where (click on "Explore Data"). Check out the Top Ten lists to see what's happening in our location or any other area. *In 2012 Florida was in the top ten in six categories. Nationally, Tallahassee was #7 in Number of Species (147) and # 5 in Number of Checklists (352). Nationally, Tallahassee ranked #3 for Most Checklists and #4 for Most Species. Within the state, Tallahassee ranked #2 for Number of Species and # 1 for Number of Checklists submitted. **Let's do it again this year!***

Another part of the event is the GBBC Photo Contest. Every year the GBBC photo contest entries get better and better and the judges have a harder and harder time selecting the most outstanding submissions. In 2012 with over 6,000 entries, GBBC recently announced the winners. Congratulations to AAS members Glenda Simmons who was honored as 4<sup>th</sup> place winner in the overall category, as well as honorable mention in the composition category and to Judy Lyle who placed second in the behavior category. Here's a link: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/2012-photo-contest-winners/2012-overall-winners>. GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada. It also receives support from Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>



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Your membership expiration date is shown above your name at top right. For information about your membership call the National Audubon Society at 1-800-274-4201 or go to the 'Member Center' at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).



## FLORIDA'S Water & Land Legacy

*An effort is now underway to restore Florida's leadership on water and land conservation. Florida's Water and Land Legacy, a coalition of the state's leading conservation organizations including Apalachee Audubon, Audubon Florida, The Trust for Public Land, Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and many others, has launched a campaign to place the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.*

*Through a constitutional amendment, Floridians can assure that adequate funding is dedicated solely to restoring critical natural areas, like the Everglades, and protecting Florida's magnificent waters and lands for future generations. We understand the value of clean and abundant water for people and wildlife, and cherish the natural areas that make Florida special. That's why the amendment would ensure that these values have a place in our state's constitution.*

*To place this important amendment on the ballot, we need volunteers to gather signatures in their communities and gather the remaining 480,000 signatures! Support the campaign by signing up to volunteer at [www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer](http://www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer)*