

# APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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



NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

MAY - JUNE 2013

You Are Invited  
Apalachee Audubon Society  
Annual Awards Banquet  
Guest Speaker - Kevin McGorty

Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

*Banquet begins at 6:30 pm*

Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
4220 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee

*This year's banquet is a BYOC—Bring Your Own Chopsticks!  
We'll be enjoying Asian-style cuisine, courtesy of our chapter chef,  
Tim Smith. The banquet is open to non-members as well as members.*

*Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased in advance at Wild Birds Unlimited and  
Native Nurseries. If you wish to buy your ticket at the dinner, please call Tim at (850)  
933-5979 and make a reservation. If you need directions or have other questions, please call  
Kathleen Carr at (850) 322-7910.*

**Guest Speaker - Kevin McGorty,  
Director of Tall Timbers Land Conservancy**

Kevin McGorty is the director of the Tall Timbers Land Conservancy, which is  
a department of Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy.



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Founded in 1958, the mission of Tall Timbers, [www.talltimbers.org](http://www.talltimbers.org), is to foster exemplary land stewardship through research, conservation, and education. The Tall Timbers Land Conservancy (created in 1990) has saved 123,000 acres of land on 86 properties in northern Florida and southwest Georgia via donated conservation easements. For his outstanding achievements and dedication to land stewardship, the Florida Wildlife Federation honored Kevin in 2003 as Florida's Land Conservationist of the Year.

Kevin previously served as director of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, an agency of the Florida Department of State. Kevin currently serves on the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance to build and recognize strong land trusts, foster public confidence in land conservation and help ensure the long-term protection of land.

Kevin McGorty



## 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  
**Vice-President:** Seán McGlynn 222-4895  
**Secretary:** Jan Bordelon 942-8078  
**Treasurer:** Harvey Goldman 385-5222

#### Directors:

Nick Baldwin 877-0249  
Jim Cox 942-2489  
Ben Fusaro 297-2052  
Aubrey Heupel 312 290-2773  
Laurie Jones 545-9437  
Helen King 765-2488  
Adrienne Ruhl 813 293-1081

**AAS Logo Design:** Charlotte Forehand

**Newsletter Editor:** Suzanna MacIntosh  
[Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com](mailto:Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster:** Bob Henderson 575-6610

**Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.**  
**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).

### *President's Message by Kathleen Carr - Continued from page 3*

she has agreed to step into a leadership role. **Aubrey Heupel**, our college student, has provided our board with the perspective of a young scientist and led weekend birding socials.

**Ben Fusaro**, long-time AAS member, has provided a counterpoint of historical perspective. **Nick Baldwin** has been our tireless photographer at AAS programs and events and has generously donated funds and photos for our upcoming birding guide. Our newest board member, **Helen King**, is already proving herself to be an enormous asset to our chapter. A recent transplant from Sarasota, she has been leading field trips and is looking forward to learning more about our region with many more field trips in the coming year. And waiting in the wings is President Elect **Seán McGlynn**. As owner and operator of a water and soil testing laboratory, I think he will bring a strong awareness about issues of water quality and conservation to our chapter.

In addition to our board, I would like to recognize **Suzanna MacIntosh** for the outstanding job she has done on our newsletter. She is relentless in recruiting submissions and her attention to detail has made this publication a tremendous asset to Apalachee Audubon. Thanks also to **Elizabeth Platt** for organizing this year's field trips and volunteers for the Wakulla Wildlife Festival.

### 2013-2014

#### Slate of Officers and Directors

*Following are the nominations for next year's Board of Directors, selected by our nominating committee, Kathleen Carr and Judy Goldman. We will be voting for this slate at the Annual Banquet on May 30, 2013. Directors are elected for a two-year term and returning Directors for 2013-2014 are Nick Baldwin, Jim Cox, Ben Fusaro, and Aubrey Heupel.*

#### 2013 - 2014 Officers

President: Seán McGlynn  
Vice-President: Adrienne Ruhl  
Secretary: Helen King  
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman  
Past-President: Kathleen Carr

#### New Directors 2013 – 2015

Carol Franchi  
Pat Press  
Budd Titlow



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

## President’s Message

### Four Hundred and Counting: Change is in the Air By Kathleen Carr

Earlier this year, this newsletter noted some changes that we were witnessing in our environment: failure of the migratory Chimney Swifts to show up at the Wakulla Springs Lodge, and flocks of arctic Razorbills showing up along the Florida coastline all the way to Pensacola.

This month, we learned that there is change in the air—literally. We’ve set a milestone for atmospheric carbon dioxide, one of the heat-trapping gasses that are fueling global warming. For the first time since record-keeping began in the 1950s, the average daily level of carbon dioxide recorded at Mauna Loa in Hawaii passed 400 parts per million (ppm). The New York Times reported that CO<sub>2</sub> above 400 ppm was first seen in the Arctic last year, and even higher in hourly readings at Mauna Loa. This month, however, was the first time that the 400 ppm level was sustained for a 24-hour period.

- May 9, 2013, 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time marked Mauna Loa’s first 24-hour period for a record high atmospheric level of CO<sub>2</sub>—**400 ppm**.
- The first CO<sub>2</sub> level at Mauna Loa was established in the late 1950s by Charles David Keeling—**315 ppm**.
- Many countries have adopted a maximum level for CO<sub>2</sub> that should be allowed if we wish to minimize economic and ecological damage—**450 ppm**.

**Web Site Renovations:** Switching to the topic of *change CAN be good*, I’m pleased to announce that our renovated web site is now live. We’ve had links to the developing site for a couple of months now and it’s still a bit boney, but we will continue to flesh it out this summer. We are looking forward to featuring blogs by the chapter president and perhaps others, as well as providing current information about AAS activities.

**Second Edition Birding Guide Coming Soon:** Ten years ago Apalachee Audubon published a guide to local birding areas called *Great Birding Spots in Wakulla, Leon & Franklin Counties, FL*. It featured descriptions, maps and directions to 27 sites in the three county area and was an incredibly popular publication and fundraiser. This fall we will roll out an enlarged 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition that will feature 65 sites in six Florida counties and one in Georgia. The new edition is laid out as a driving tour of each area, with directions from one site to the next.

We anticipate having print copies available by our September meeting, but to meet that goal we need your help sponsoring, or helping us find sponsors, to underwrite the printing costs. Estimates for printing are approximately \$10 per book and we plan to sell the book for \$20, \$15 wholesale to retailers. Thus far, we have sponsorships for 150 copies. We would love to be able to print 500 or 1,000, which means we need to raise \$5,000-\$10,000. For every \$10 of sponsorship we will raise \$15-\$20, which could ultimately raise thousands of dollars for our chapter.

**Thank You!** Last, but hardly least, my boundless gratitude to the members of this year’s board, our committee chairs and members who contributed much time and energy to our chapter this year. First, my thanks to **Julie Wraithmell** for all she did stepping in as President in May 2010. It was a difficult time for our chapter, but she kept a steady hand on the rudder of our organization and was an excellent guide as I stepped into the role of President. Secretary **Jan Bordelon** has been not just my right hand this year, but my right arm. I couldn’t have pulled it off without her tireless support and encouragement. **Jim Cox** has filled a multitude of roles, hosting our board retreat last August, scheduling program speakers, leading field trips, establishing our first scholarship to send a teen to Camp Talon, and starting what we hope will continue as an ongoing fund-raiser—a pre-program meeting raffle! **Harvey Goldman** has steadfastly maintained our chapter bank account and kept us focused on fund-raising for the organization. For the past two years, **Laurie Jones** has served on the board and as our gracious hospitality hostess, ensuring that we have beverages and (mostly) healthy snacks at our programs. **Adrienne Ruhl**, who joined our chapter and our board only a year ago, has brought us an infusion of energy and ideas and we are delighted that

*Continued on page 2*

## Team Tall Timbers Breaks the “Big Day” State Record

By Jim Cox

700 miles. 24 hours. 196 species.

While 200 species of birds was their goal, the team of Andy Bankert, Craig Bateman, Matt Gould, and Dave Pavlik recorded 196 different species of birds by day's end on Saturday, April 13 - a new state of Florida record. The previous Big Day record was 185.



**Limpkin**

*Photo by Nick Baldwin*

Big Days have been around since the early 1970s. The American Birding Association established a set of rules in 1972 for the growing number of competitive birders in their organization that made such attempts, and the organization now maintains a list of record setting events throughout the country. Team Tall Timbers will be listed as the record until the next group of intrepid birders takes on the task.

Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, just north of Tallahassee, sponsored the effort. Pavlik and Gould have been conducting bird research at Tall Timbers for the past three months;

and the station has always figured prominently in recent attempts to set a Florida record.

Pavlik posted status reports on Tall Timbers Facebook page throughout the day. As they left Tall Timbers in the morning, the team had counted 79 birds; after several hours at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge the count was 152, including: Cerulean Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and White-faced Ibis. Pavlik posted the following late in the afternoon as they headed south to Ft. De Soto Park near St. Petersburg to catch migrants coming across the Gulf of Mexico:

*“The big day team will be rolling into Pinellas County soon with one final push for 200. A few birds were added along I-75, with the best being Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. We aren't sure if we will reach the high bar we set for ourselves. Currently we are wondering what our next bird, number 160, will be. My money is on White Ibis.*”

*The abundance of new day birds at Fort De Soto gave life to the team that was tired from a long drive and a traffic headache in Tampa. As we approached the park we added Limpkin as well as some parakeets and a bonus Surf Scoter. Ft. De Soto itself had many migrants including a beautiful Scarlet Tanager plus an Acadian Flycatcher that we missed up north. Many water birds were new, including a Magnificent Frigatebird. After the sun went down we saw a staked out Barn Owl and finally caught up with a Killdeer bringing the list up to 196. We are about to try for one last bird before we call it a day.”*

For Pavlik's final Facebook post, he wrote that although they didn't reach the magic number of 200, the team had a great time; and they were cheered on by over 700 fans who followed on Facebook. The bird list will be posted on the Birdbrains listserv.

For more information on what the Stoddard Bird Lab is up to, please visit <http://www.talltimbers.org/vertebrate-ecology.html>

## Winter Hummingbird Banding Summary 2012-2013

By Fred Dietrich

This past year was another great season for our research project monitoring hummingbirds that spend the winter in the southeast, instead of the normal areas in Mexico and Central America. I banded 79 winter hummingbirds this season, a new high and up from the 65 I banded last season. I banded three of the birds in Georgia with the rest in Florida.

For the season I banded 49 Rufous, 20 Ruby-throated, 6 Black-chinned, 2 Broad-billed, 1 Calliope and 1 Costa's Hummingbird. Traditionally Rufous have been the most common species banded in the winter, followed by Ruby-throated, so those numbers were to be expected. The Calliope was only about the 30<sup>th</sup> one banded in the state, the Broad-billed Hummingbirds were just the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> records in the state and the Costa's was the first ever in Florida and only the second anywhere in the East.

In addition to the birds that I banded, I also recaptured four birds that had been banded previously. I caught a Ruby-throated at Fran Rutkovsky's that was back for the second winter at Fran's after I banded it the two years earlier at Helen Roth's home about a half a mile away. Diane Morris had a Rufous come back for a second year, and Joanne Harrington had a Black-chinned come back for its second winter.

The highlight of the recaptures came at Beth Lunsford's home out east of town where I caught a male Black-chinned that had been banded in February 2012 in Louisiana, just north of New Orleans. It is always exciting to get a foreign recapture like this and fun to track down where it was originally banded. Last year I caught a bird banded in Louisiana, by the same bander, and she caught one of my birds in Baton Rouge, LA that I had banded in Indianhead Acres.

On December 7, 2012 I banded a female Calliope at the home of Helen Roth, off of Lake Shore Drive in Tallahassee. Calliope's are the smallest birds in North America and the males have beautiful, long, flowing magenta gorget feathers. This bird was consistently seen at the feeders and gave lots of people a chance to put it on their life or year list. Though not as spectacular as a male, never the less, this was a stunning bird and it shared its yard with two young male Rufous who knew she was the boss of the yard.

The biggest news of the season came on December 13, 2012 when I went to Tom Yarbrough's home east of Tallahassee and banded a first year male Costa's Hummingbird. These birds breed in the arid desert area of the extreme southwest, and this was only the second record of this species east of Texas. Hundreds of people came to see the bird and the Yarbrough's were perfect hosts. For many people, including me, this was their first time to ever see a Costa's. Also in the yard were several Rufous Hummingbirds that I came back to band later on, after the Costa's headed back to its breeding territory.

On January 28, 2013 I got a call from Andy Wraithmell, while I was at my grandson's soccer practice, who had been contacted about a possible Broad-billed Hummingbird at Julie Zimmerman's home east of Tallahassee. The bird had been around for several weeks but it had not been identified as a possible Broad-billed until they had shown Andy some photos. After a few emails and phone calls, the hosts agreed for people to come and see the bird and let me band it. I was warned that they had not seen the bird in 3 days and were afraid they had waited too long before notifying us. I decided to go by and see if the bird still happened to be around.

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*Photos: Above a male Costa Hummingbird; at right a male Broad-billed Hummingbird banded by Fred Dietrich*



I took my binoculars and went around back where the feeders were and after a short time I saw a Ruby-throated zoom off one of her feeders. Since I now knew there was a winter hummer there, I went back to get my trap and set it up. It didn't take long for a hummer to come and check out the spot where a feeder had been hanging on a window on the back deck. Discovering the feeder was no longer there, the bird made a beeline right at me and buzzed off, just a little upset that its feeder was missing. From the sound it made, I knew this was no Ruby-throated.

In just a few minutes the bird reappeared, checked out the feeder in my trap and after a few passes went on in. It turned out to be an adult female Broad-billed Hummingbird, just the 6<sup>th</sup> record of this species ever in the state of Florida. After banding the bird and taking a number of photographs, I released the bird back into their wonderful yard. I quickly called Julie to let her know that her bird was still around and that a lot of people would want to come and see this bird. She graciously agreed to let visitors come to her yard and get a close up look at this rare and beautiful bird. Several days later I went back to her home so I could introduce myself and thank her personally for letting me come, sight unseen, to her home and band the bird. Having hosts like this have really helped me gather data for our ongoing research on wintering hummingbirds in the Southeast. Julie and her husband Jim are just getting into serious birding and had a great time getting to meet our area's birders as well as the many out of town birders who came to see this bird. The Zimmerman's yard backs up to a swampy area that had dozens of Redhead ducks along with many other species of birds. There was never a dull moment for all the visitors that came to the house.

A month later I got a call from Chris Bittle, who lives west of Tallahassee, and she said that she had a Broad-billed Hummingbird coming to her feeders. I went over the next morning and very quickly caught the bird which was indeed a male Broad-billed Hummingbird. This became the 7<sup>th</sup> record of a Broad-billed in the state, and it was quite vocal guarding its feeders. Again, lots of people came by to see this beautiful hummingbird.

What a year! It's hard to believe that so many great birds were banded here and they stayed around to give so many people a chance to get to see them. I owe all the hummer hosts a big thank you for allowing me to come to their yards and band these wonderful birds to make them part of our research into their winter migration patterns. The majority of the birds that I band here in the winter are during the months of December and January. We are very fortunate to have hummingbirds year round in this area, so leave your feeders out and keep them filled with fresh sugar water. Mix it up using 4 parts of water to 1 part of table sugar, and store it in your refrigerator. When the water level gets low or begins to look cloudy, clean the feeder and replace the nectar.



Just last week, a Bahama Woodstar Hummingbird was banded *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* Photo by Nick Baldwin in Pennsylvania, further proof that birds have wings and can't read range maps so they continue to show up in the most unsuspected places. You never know what might show up at your feeders. If you have a hummingbird between November 15<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, give me a call at (850) 591-7430, and I'll be happy to come identify and band the bird and put it in your hand to release back into your yard.

*The important work of Master Bird Bander Fred Dietrich, along with other banders, is helping us understand the migratory habits of hummingbirds. Fred can be reached at 850 591-7430 or [fdietrich@gmail.com](mailto:fdietrich@gmail.com). More at <http://hummingbirdresearch.net/>*

## Gardening for Hummingbirds

By Eleanor Dietrich

In March, I was sitting on my deck, overlooking my garden, and I saw my first hummingbird of spring – isn't it always a thrill to see one in your garden? I did have a feeder ready, but the flowers in the garden proved to be a greater attraction for the little bird. First I saw it flitting from flower to flower in the Red Buckeye tree that was in full bloom with hundreds of red tubular blossoms. Next it flew to the arbor of Crossvine, covered with striking tubular orange flowers. From there it went to the nearby Wild Azalea, also with aromatic tubular flowers.

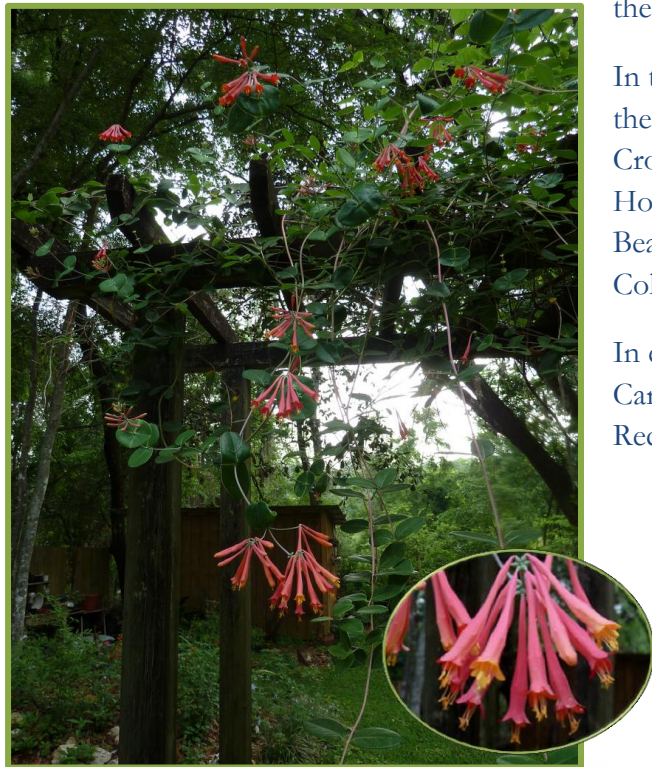
There are a number of different native plants you can put in your north Florida/south Georgia garden that will attract hummingbirds and offer them nectar. When the first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds begin returning in March, they are hungry from their long journey back and many will continue flying hundreds of miles farther north. But as you know, we also have some of these hummingbirds stay with us through summer as they raise their young.

The flowers listed here will bloom throughout the spring, summer, and fall, offering a continuous source of food for these small birds. They are locally available from nurseries and all grow in my garden. I plant many of them throughout my garden, and some I have put in a special hummingbird garden on my deck where I can easily see them as I pass by the sliding glass door. You can see pictures of each at [www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida) in the set "Hummingbird flowers".



*Hummingbird and a Zinnia*

*Photo by Martha Catherine Ivey*



*Coral Honeysuckle*

*Photo by Eleanor Dietrich*

In the spring, the Red Buckeye seems to bloom to coincide with the return of the hummingbirds. Along with it are Columbine, Crossvine, and Wild Azalea. A bit later in spring the Coral Honeysuckle begins to bloom, and the Indian Pink and Coral Bean. Red Salvia will begin to bloom and continue until frost. Columbine will also continue to bloom into May.

In early summer the Royal Catchfly blossoms open, and later the Cardinal Flower blooms, along with the continuously blooming Red Salvia which lasts through fall.

If you place these flowers where you can see them, you will often catch a glimpse of a hummingbird and always enjoy the beauty of the flowers.

*Eleanor Dietrich is a longtime member and Past President of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, FNPS, [www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org](http://www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org).*

## Apalachee Audubon Field Trips



**Apalachee Audubon Society & Florida Trail Association Co-Sponsored Field Trip**  
**St. George Island**  
**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.**

Enjoy tall slash pines that dominate the windswept remnant of coastal scrub forest that St. George Island State Park protects at the easternmost tip of this barrier island dividing the mouth of the Apalachicola River from the Gulf of Mexico. St. George Island State Park is regularly rated one of Florida's most beautiful beaches, but what all the beachgoers don't realize is that it has spectacular birdwatching too! Bonaparte's Gulls are reliable from winter to spring, Snowy Plovers and American Oystercatchers nest here and Gull-billed Terns cruise the beach in summer. Starting from the campground area, the 5-mile round trip Gap Point Trail offers an opportunity to backpack or day hike to get up close to the desert-like coastal scrub. The trail will take you through salt marshes, beach and dune systems.

Bring lunch, plenty of fluids and be prepared for warm temperatures. In case you get wet while "playing in the surf" bring a change of clothes and footwear. After the hike, plan to enjoy an early dinner with the group at one of the local seafood establishments! Please register by Thursday May 9th by emailing [apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:apalacheefieldtrips@gmail.com).

**Joe Budd WMA, Lake Talquin**  
**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of CR 268 and Office Road. There is a large pasture there, and numerous habitats including water and woods. We'll be home in time for lunch. Please email Helen King at [thekingsom@gmail.com](mailto:thekingsom@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Looking forward to some good birding!

**Piney Z/Lake Lafayette**  
**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.**



Meet at 8 a.m. at the Hermitage Trail parking lot. Again, we have water, forest, and this seems to be a good birding spot year round. Please email Helen King at [thekingsom@gmail.com](mailto:thekingsom@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. We are looking forward to some good birding!

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*Look deep into  
nature and then you  
will understand  
everything better.*

*- Albert Einstein*



## Other Activities

**What: Nature Photo Workshop: Macro Photography of the Natural World**

**Presented by Bill Boothe, PhotoNaturalist**

**When: Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 5 pm**

**Where: Tallahassee Museum**

Fee: \$60 per non-members/ \$50 members

Registration Deadline: Monday May 13th, 2013

For more information or to register, call (850) 575-8684 ext. 126 or see [www.tallahassee-museum.org](http://www.tallahassee-museum.org)

Description: This day-long macro photo workshop will be held at the Museum with instructor Bill Boothe, a professional naturalist and award-winning nature photographer, who lives in the Florida Panhandle. You may view some of his photos at his website, <http://NatureInFocus.com>. For additional details about the workshop, call Bill Boothe at (850) 643-2583.



### Birdsong Nature Center

Invites You to

#### WOODSTORK!

Four Hours of Beaks and Music

A Midsummer Musical Event

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 – 9 pm



This fundraising benefit for Birdsong is in the early planning stages. Everyone had such a good time last year, in spite of the brief rainstorm, another WOODSTORK is being planned for this year on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 - 9 pm. A great musical line-up is being assembled and it will be an entertaining and enjoyable evening!

Birds have been very active recently at Birdsong. Woodstorks have been observed visiting their last year's nesting tree in Big Bay Swamp. Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Anhingas have built over twenty nests in trees adjacent or near the Storks' Water Tupelo. The Swamp is a very busy place! For more information and directions, see [www.birdsongnaturecenter.org](http://www.birdsongnaturecenter.org) or call (229)377-4408 or 1(800)953-2473.

*Photo of 2012 Woodstorks at Birdsong Nature Center by Birdsong Volunteer Joe Peresich*



### Workshops to Enjoy at

#### Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308

850-386-8882 [www.nativenurseries.com](http://www.nativenurseries.com)

#### “BUTTERFLIES LIKE IT HOT” WITH DONNA LEGARE

Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Free

It may be hot, but it is not too late to get going on a butterfly garden that will provide color for the rest of the summer and fall, as well as colorful butterflies and hummingbirds. Donna will also teach you how to entice mother butterflies to lay their eggs in your garden so you can watch the caterpillars transform into butterflies. The workshop will include a tour of our butterfly garden.

#### “SUMMER BIRD WORKSHOP” WITH JODY WALTHALL

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Free

Jody will cover a variety of topics related to the feeding and nesting habits of birds that frequent our yards in summer. He will discuss hummingbirds, how to outfox squirrels, nesting birds, birdbaths, planting for birds and the seasonal rhythms of bird appearances in our yards.



## We Enjoyed these Great Events

### John David Patton Park Work Day

By Adrienne Ruhl

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, a group of six Apalachee Audubon Society volunteers attended the workday at John David Patton Park in Carrabelle, Florida. This park is owned by the city and run entirely with the help of volunteers, including volunteer Park Manager Lesley Cox. Our volunteers joined with locals to put in a total of over 35 volunteer hours cleaning up the native gardens and blazing trails with fresh orange paint. Using handheld GPS units, Mark and Selena Kiser conducted a survey of gopher tortoise burrows on the property.

While working in the gardens a Swallow-tailed Kite flew overhead, and during breaks we heard lots of chirps from Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in the trees. Wildflowers, including a gorgeous Silvery Lupine, were in bloom. It was beautiful weather and a great day for a good cause.



*Left to right: Selena Kiser, Adrienne Ruhl, Ken Shick, Mark Kiser, Park Manager Lesley Cox*



**Wakulla  
Wildlife  
Festival**

Saturday  
April 20<sup>th</sup>



*Right (left to right): Apalachee Audubon Booth with AAS Volunteers Helen King, Kathleen Carr & Adrienne Ruhl Photos by Lou Kellenberger*



### St. George Island Field Trip on April 26<sup>th</sup>

By Helen King

Five of us met John Murphy at St. George Island State Park on a delightful sunny, cool morning for some interesting birding. While the warblers weren't cooperating, other birds of interest seen include: Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Swamp Sparrow, Common Loon, Merlin, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Redstart, Common Nighthawk, and Bobolinks.

*Photos by Chris Mason*

*Photos from top: Perusing bird books*

*Lower left: Common Nighthawk*

*Lower right: male and female Bobolinks*



## *An Audubon Tip - "How You Can Help Migrating Birds"*

### **Make Your Yard a Bird Oasis!**

*Start by providing the five basics:*



1. Clean water
2. Plants with flowers for nectar and insects (*songbirds need insects to feed to their young*)
3. Fruit-bearing plants to provide fuel for migration and winter
4. Layers of plants for cover and thermal protection
5. Nesting habitat and materials

*Native plants are key—their architecture, flowers, fruits, and scents are ideal for restoring the communities and relationships birds depend on. Yards that mimic surrounding natural plant communities not only attract more kinds of birds, they could help reverse the loss of urban biodiversity, according to new research.* - Reprinted with permission from the National Audubon Society, [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

To learn more, ***Bringing Nature Home*** by Doug Tallamy, [www.plantanative.com](http://www.plantanative.com)

### **Birdathon 2013**

*Birdathon took place in April and the complete results along with the winning team will be announced in the summer newsletter. We need your help to make this year's Birdathon a success. It is not too late to send in your donation. You can support Apalachee Audubon's nature/conservation education efforts by donating an amount of ten cents, fifteen cents, a quarter, fifty cents, or any amount you'd like, for every bird species that your favorite team identified or you can donate a set total amount. Please mail your donation to Apalachee Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1237, Tallahassee, FL 32302-1237. Thank you for supporting Birdathon!*

*Special thanks go to this year's teams for a terrific Birdathon!*

#### **HUNTING BUNTING BIRDERS**

123 species with Harvey & Judy Goldman, Karen Wensing, Kathy Besbekos, and Ann Bruce

#### **MELLOW YELLOWLEGS**

103 species with Fran Rutkovsky, Ed Woodruff, and Mike Tucker

#### **TEAM TALL TIMBERS**

156 species with Jim Cox, Katy NeSmith, Dave Pavlik, and Matt Gould.



**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!**

### **Hang Out at the Beach for a Good Cause – Baby Birds!**

*This year in the Panhandle, Audubon Florida is coordinating stewards at key nesting sites from Franklin to Escambia counties. If you would be willing to hang out with cute chicks at the beach for an afternoon, we need you! To learn how you can help, contact Bonnie Samuelsen at (850) 866-7152 or at [bsamuelsen@audubon.org](mailto:bsamuelsen@audubon.org). A few hours of your time spent relaxing at the beach can make the difference for these birds!*



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