

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Apalachee Audubon Society Mission Statement:

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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 or www.apalachee.org Map: <http://tinyurl.com/3q9q77s>

In This Issue

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| President's Message | 3 |
| Officers & Directors | 2 |
| Speaker Series Programs | 1 |
| Audubon Assembly 2013 | 3 |
| Introducing 2013-2014 | |
| AAS Officers & Directors | 4 |
| Featured Board Member | 7 |
| Wakulla's Swift Night Out | 8 |
| In Your Yard | 9 |
| Pelicans & An Egret | 10 |
| Online Birding Resources | 10 |
| Fall Splendor | 11 |
| Field Trips | 12 |
| Introductory Birding Class | 12 |
| Some Fall Activities | 13 |

September Program: Thursday, Sept. 26th Potluck Dinner & Program!

Dinner & Social at 6:30 p.m. with Program at 7 p.m.*

**Starts 1/2 hour early*

Summer Bird Travels

Our first program in September features our traditional covered dish dinner and presentations on the summer travels of chapter members. Bring your favorite dish to enjoy with other bird-minded folks and hear about the summer

activities of friends and neighbors as well

as plans for the upcoming year. Apalachee Audubon's Education Committee Co-Chairs Carol Franchi and Pat Press spent a week at Audubon's Hog Island Education Camp in Maine this past summer and will share their experience with colorful slides and information on some of the stellar education materials being developed by Audubon.

Past-President Kathleen Carr and photo whiz Nick Baldwin also visited Hog Island this summer and have brought back some beautiful shots of puffins, gannets, and other cool-water species that stand to lose greatly as global warming progresses. *If you have 3-5 slides of your summer adventures with birds, please bring them along in a PowerPoint presentation and we'll let you take the stage to share the memories with other chapter members.*



Photo by Nick Baldwin

October Program: Thursday, October 24th

Social at 7 pm with Program at 7:30 pm

The Billion Dollar Industry Just North of Tallahassee

Neil Fleckenstein, Planning Coordinator

Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy

Ecosystem services are the tangible benefits that nature provides for people. The services include water purification, drinking water recharge, climate regulation, air purification, and many others. The value of ecosystem services provided to Tallahassee and surrounding populations by forest lands in the

Continued on page 2



Neil Fleckenstein

Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

2013 – 2014

Officers & Directors

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

President: Seán McGlynn 222-4895
Vice-President: Adrienne Ruhl 813 293-1081
Secretary: Helen King 765-2488
Treasurer: Harvey Goldman 385-5222
Past-President: Kathleen Carr 322-7910

Directors:

Nick Baldwin 877-0249
Jim Cox 942-2489
Carol Franchi 459-2066
Ben Fusaro 297-2052
Aubrey Heupel 312 290-2773
Pat Press 539-5765
Budd Titlow 320-6480

AAS Logo Design: Charlotte Forehand

Newsletter Editor: Suzanna MacIntosh
Aasnewsletter2011-audubon@yahoo.com

Web Administrator: Kathleen Carr 322-7910

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.

This newsletter is published by the Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc. ©2013 Apalachee Audubon Society, Inc.

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).

Continued from page 1 - The Billion Dollar Industry Just North of Tallahassee

Red Hills region was recently quantified by economists at the University of Georgia. The answer: over \$1.1 billion annually in critical natural services.

Neil Fleckenstein, Planning Coordinator for Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, www.talltimbers.org, will provide an overview of the tremendous ecosystem services that lie amid the private lands just north of Tallahassee. Neil is responsible for community and environmental planning activities and issue-based advocacy efforts to ensure the sustainability of the Red Hills region of north Florida and southwest Georgia. The Red Hills has been designated by the Nature Conservancy as one of "America's Last Great Places." Neil has served as a manager for a number of projects including the Red Hills Valuation of Ecosystem Services project; the Red Hills Cost of Community Services project; and the Red Hills Economic Impact Analysis project.

Prior to coming to Tall Timbers in 2002, Neil served as Senior Planner at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council where he coordinated the Council's emergency management and hazard mitigation planning programs.

*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 Boutelle at (850) 656-3346. THANK YOU for helping injured eagles! <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-center-birds-prey>



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." - John Muir

President's Message

Seán McGlynn



Seán McGlynn

Photo by Nick Baldwin

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song (an old proverb). We do not have the answer either, but we can sing a beautiful chorus. Apalachee Audubon strives to bring you the best programs, the most engaging newsletters, intriguing birding field trips and bountiful outreaches all tailored to the Florida Panhandle replete with local flavors and tastes. We are a volunteer organization and rely mainly on the generosity of others. However, we are the others. We are all volunteers just like you and each of us brings a unique gift to this organization. Apalachee Audubon is only as good as you are, it is a summation of its individuals, like a flock of birds, and we have a beautiful song. This year, joining Florida Audubon members across the state, our slogan is 'Boots on the Ground,' however our song will take wing and float in the air.

We are all waiting for something. We need more water flowing from Georgia, to nourish our beloved estuaries where our delicious oysters languish. We want better native natural parks. We want improved conservation lands and protected wetlands. We want BP Restore funds. We are waiting for Lake Jackson to fill. We are waiting for Wakulla Springs to run clear with cool, crystalline water. Waiting for the Native Apple Snails and the Limpkin's to return to Wakulla Springs. We are waiting for the return of migrating Whooping Cranes and Monarchs. Waiting for invasive apples snails to vanish and go away. We are waiting for the Kudzu to wilt. We are waiting to see if we can exceed last year's record number of Manatees in our springs.

Every day has sunrise and a sunset, each one unique and spectacular. The between time is ours to sculpt. It is our chance to integrate ourselves with nature. Become a part of the intricate fabric of the natural world. We should impart nothing during our brief passage, our sojourn here, but positive nurturing influence, not a consumer. The world may change and mutate, but nature is constant, our blanket and solace. It will always be there, waiting for attention. I was waiting for the Chimney Swifts to return to their chimney home in the Wakulla Springs Lodge. They were missing and did not come home at all last year. I had imagined all manner of calamities besought them on their arduous migration route. But this year they did return, after a year of absence, location unknown, now back home. Half a thousand swirled in a grey evening sky, as a black cloud, swirling round the chimney as they descended, once again into their seasonal home. Things will be alright.



Don't miss Florida's premiere conservation event!

Boots On the Ground: Audubon Assembly 2013

October 25-26

Palm Harbor, Florida

Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club

To register or for more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/AudubonAssembly2013>
Contact Jonathan Webber with any questions: jwebber@audubon.org or 850-222-2473

Hotel Registration: Call 1-800-492-6899 by October 3
and mention Audubon Florida for the special rate.

Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity. and the earth's biological diversity.



Seán McGlynn, President - From childhood, I have been consumed and enthralled by all things aquatic. In my younger days I was a competitive swimmer, an avid diver and an ardent aquaculturist. I specialize in aquatic habitat characterization, the study of water and sediment quality, aquatic plants and algae, and the higher organisms, like birds and other animals, specially adapted to life in wetter habitats. Birds are especially adept at breaching both the aquatic and terrestrial worlds. I have worked in most ecosystems from Florida to Texas, including Apalachee Bay, Amelia Estuary, Apalachicola Bay, Barataria Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, Escambia Bay, Laguna Madre, Ochlocknee Bay, Perdido Bay and St. Andrews Bay. I have performed hydrographic studies all over Florida, from the Peace River to Pensacola.

I have a nationally certified environmental laboratory and perform a lot of dye trace studies. I strive to develop an understanding of the relationship between biological organisms and chemical contaminants in the environment. I analyze many environmental pollutants: nutrients, metals, organics, pesticides, herbicides, petroleum hydrocarbons, and bacteria. My knowledge came from studying molecular biophysics at venerable institutions like FSU, LSU, EP&A, CARRMA and MLI. I try to achieve an understanding of the working dynamics of ecosystems. My dissertation was on the cycling of petroleum hydrocarbons within the aquatic food chain, their metabolism and fate, basically phytoremediation. I have studied the toxicology and environmental fate of these pollutants looking for mechanisms to organically metabolize and rehabilitate toxic environments into useful habitat. Using these skills my ultimate goal in lake and coastal zone management is the restoration and rehabilitation of these ecosystems.

Our studies, like the Woodville Recharge Basin Aquifer Protection Study, characterize the loadings of pollutants with surface and groundwater modeling, showing how nutrients permeate habitat and eventually impact other ecosystems, like in this study, the world's biggest spring, Wakulla Springs, was compromised both biologically and its water quality was impaired. It is our goal to restore and preserve these aquatic resources. Lately we have focused on habitat and water quality restoration projects. We have finished some recent restorations like the Lake Tallavana Shoreline Restoration, the Killlearn Plantation Clean Lakes Restoration and the Cross Creek Wetland Restoration and have ongoing projects like the Killlearn Lakes Estates Restoration and the Hurricane Creek Nutrient Removal and Restoration project. We are also at war against invasive exotic species and have cleared areas of Chinese Tallow, Sesbania, Hydrilla, Island Apple Snails, Alligator weed, Kudzu and other harmful exotics.

I have created and nurtured a private company, McGlynn Laboratories Inc., a nationally accredited environmental laboratory (NELAC), certified by the EPA for the analysis of microbiology nutrients, metals and organic hydrocarbons and approved by FDEP for TMDL sampling of surface waters for priority pollutants and various biological indices. We generate data that is accepted at the highest regulatory levels, like for permitting or the TMDL or for litigation. We even managed coastal zone permitting for the Louisiana Department of Coastal Zone Management for 10 years, before the Gulf Oil Spill. I have conducted hundreds of hydrographic studies across the Gulf Coast. Our numerous ecological assessments include the Escambia Bay I-10 bridge reconstruction after Hurricane Ivan and the Port of St. Joe Revitalization. By maintaining a private company, I have never worked directly for a governmental, industrial or development entity and have maintained my independence and integrity in environmental matters.

With expertise in sampling, analysis, hydrographic modeling, dye studies, habitat assessment and restoration as well as database assessment, quality assurance and quality control and environmental resource permitting, I offer a wide range of expertise in environmental clean-up and restoration, but most importantly active environmental management so that restorations are not necessary.

Seán E. McGlynn, PH.D., Technical Director, McGlynn Laboratories Inc., Director Florida Lake Management Society, Board Member of Friends of Wakulla Springs,



Adrienne Ruhl, President-Elect - A Baltimore native, Adrienne Ruhl is a graduate of Florida State University where she studied Psychology and Music. She is the Business Manager for the Office of Public Access & Wildlife Viewing Services at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, which is the home base of operations for the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail. In addition to getting the birding bug by spending time in the field with outstanding birding co-workers, her pivotal moment came about while participating in a rehabilitated Mississippi kite release. In her spare time, Adrienne likes to run, play Irish music, and mentor people in outdoor pursuits such as hiking, bird watching and paddling. Adrienne serves this year as the chapter Vice President.



Helen Jelks King, Secretary – Helen moved to Tallahassee from the Sarasota area in October 2012. Helen led a weekly birding group in Sarasota for 5 years and she currently leads Apalachee Audubon birding trips twice a month. Helen serves as Secretary of the Apalachee Audubon Society.

Helen is also an optometrist, working at a practice in Monticello.



Harvey Goldman, Treasurer - Dr. Harvey Goldman retired from the FSU Physics Department in 2004. He has kept the Apalachee Audubon books straight and paid the bills for about 18 years. Every year he and 4 women regularly hit the road on Apalachee Audubon's Birdathon--as a team sometimes known as Harvey's Harriers.

Harvey enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and visiting his grandkids, hitting at tennis, and travel.



Jim Cox, Board Member – Jim heads up the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station outside of Tallahassee. Most of his time is spent studying the many declining species of birds associated with southern pine forests of the region. Birds are one of the most visible components of these fire-maintained pine forests that once stretched from Virginia to south Florida but now have almost disappeared. Cox also is engaged in land conservation efforts that make use of special programs designed to conserve habitat for rare species on private lands.

Cox received his M.Sc. from Florida State University and worked as a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for many years before moving to out Tall Timbers. He also taught a popular bird-watching class at Florida State University for several years and continues to try to lure new bodies into the birding community through his education and outreach efforts at Tall Timbers. (See page 11 to learn about Jim's Introductory Birding class this fall.)



Budd Titlow, Board Member – Budd is a Professional Wetlands Scientist and Wildlife Biologist, and has operated *NATUREGRAPHS: Freelance Photography and Writing* for more than thirty-five years. During this time, he has published more than 200 articles and 5,000 photographs.

Throughout his career, Budd has shared his love of photography and nature by presenting/leading more than 100 seminars, workshops, and field trips nationwide. He has also conducted wild bird surveys and led birding field trips on sites throughout the eastern United States.

The Lyons Press recently published Budd's latest book, *Bird Brains: Inside the Strange Minds of Our Fine Feathered Friends*. He has authored two other natural history photo books: *Rocky Mountain National Park – Beyond Trail Ridge* and *Seashells – Jewels from the Ocean*. Budd has a B.S., Biology, Florida State University, 1970 & M.S., Wildlife Ecology, Virginia Tech, 1973.



Carol Franchi, Board Member - I reside in Havana, Florida and share a house with my sister and my two nephews. I attended Florida State University and received my B.A. in French and Foreign Language Education in 1968, a Master's in 1970, and began work on my PhD while working as a teaching assistant in French. In 1967, I spent the summer taking classes at the University of Paris (Sorbonne). I began my teaching career at Thomasville High School in 1975. In 1980, I earned a PhD in French, a life-long dream. During this time I also taught at the Thomas College and at the Thomasville Scholars Academy. I retired in 2007 after a 33 year career as an

educator but continued to teach part-time until 2010. I have traveled to many countries with my family and my students.

My travels have included England, France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas. I have traveled to many states in the United States to enjoy the state, national and historical parks with my family. Since retiring I enjoy volunteering at the Thomasville Food Bank and with the Audubon Society. I also enjoy the fine arts, painting classes, reading, gardening, birding and retail therapy. I am greatly concerned about the degradation of the environment and want to do my small part to help preserve the species we have left.



Pat Press, Board Member – I arrived in Tallahassee as a wide-eyed freshman in 1966, during the middle of the famous 60's college experience. I received my B.A. in English/Humanities in 1971 from Florida State. After working for the State and FSU for 5 years I began my 37 year teaching career in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1975, the year I also married Edward Press, my college sweetheart. I went on to receive my M.S. in Reading from Florida State and later an Education Specialist Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern State University in 2005. I also taught evening classes at Southwest Georgia Technical College for 10 years. I am now a widow and a

retired teacher with two lovely Border Collies who keep my sister, Carol, my two sons, and me very entertained. We live on a 30 acre forested ranch near Havana, FL and enjoy the wildlife in our neighborhood. I spend my time volunteering, taking art classes, reading, writing and traveling.



Aubrey Heupel, Board Member - Aubrey Heupel was raised in Shell Rock, Iowa, the land of corn and beans. From an early age she developed a love and curiosity about animals. She pursued those early interests and in 2004 graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology. She promptly moved south to escape the cold and enjoy a change in seasons. For several years Aubrey worked at Ichauway Plantation in southwest Georgia, hunting frogs in winter wetlands, and radiotracking various turtles and snakes. Her attention turned to the feathered variety for the first time in 2009 when her boyfriend spent more time birding instead of catching snakes (his job). After birding NM, AZ, TX, CO, and up and down the West Coast, the deal was sealed. They worked and traveled together, seeking out new species of birds as well as reptiles and amphibians.

When they returned to the southeast, Aubrey began pursuing the abundance of southern birds, even spending half of 2011 in the piney woods of North Carolina with red-cockaded woodpeckers and other woods community species. The following year Aubrey moved to Tallahassee to pursue her Master's Degree in Entomology at Florida A&M University. Soon thereafter she joined the Apalachee Audubon Society and became a board member in May 2012. In her free time, Aubrey is still an avid birder, joining up with AAS field trips when she can, and a photographer, working on her nature photography website, Fingerprince Prints Photography (www.fingerprinceprints.com), as time allows. Aubrey plans to graduate in May 2014 and then move to Alabama to join her now fiancé.



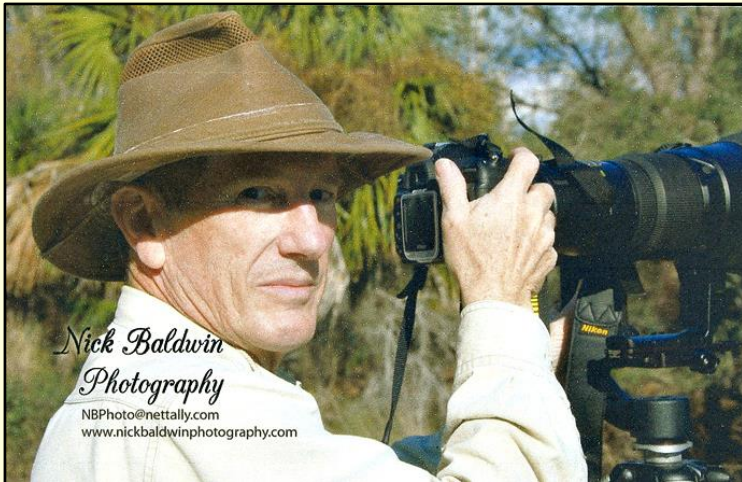
Ben Fusaro, Board Member - Ben retired from Salisbury State University, MD in 1995 and became a visiting professor of mathematics at Florida State University. A few years later he joined, and became active in, the National and Apalachee Audubon Societies. He has been active in the Big Bend Sierra Club for about ten years and has been certified as Master of Wildlife Conservation (University of Florida), Master Wildlifer (Clemson University and UF), and Master Naturalist (UF).

Ben has a PhD in applied mathematics -- his main interests are student contests and environmental mathematics. His favorite exercise is T'ai-chi Ch'uan.

Featuring

Nick Baldwin

Apalachee Audubon Board Member



Mr. Baldwin has resided in Tallahassee for over 46 years and he has been photographing here and around the world for over 55 years. While not actually making a living with photography, his photos have been featured in several national and local publications. At the age of 15 he received national recognition as a winner of the 1957 Newspaper National Snapshot awards (where one of the judges was Norman Rockwell) for a photograph he took in the Belgian Congo, in 1956. In 1960 he was recognized by Eastman Kodak in their

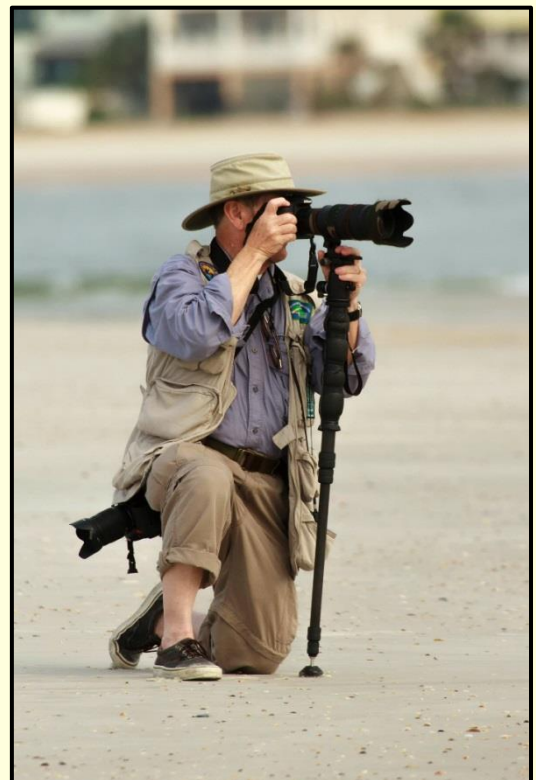
National Kodak High School Photo Contest with an Honorable Mention for his photograph of Lions in East Africa.

Since then he has photographed native culture and animals in the unexplored highlands of Irian Barat; wildlife in Australia and in the ocean around the Great Barrier Reef; swam with sharks in Sydney Harbor; hunted Tiger in Assam, with a camera, from the back of an Elephant; escaped a charge by a matriarch elephant while his father, a noted wildlife photographer and member of the Explorers Club, kept on filming; photographed a Hindu cremation on the island of Bali; an Indian wedding ceremony in Uttar Pradesh; Buddhist holy places in India, Burma, Thailand, and Angkor Wat in Cambodia. And he has been a professional wedding/event photographer, www.nickbaldwinphotography.com, for 37 years-including in his client list Governor and Mrs. Lawton Chiles, Lt. Governor and Mrs. Frank Brogan among many others.

More recently he has been charged by a momma alligator on St. Vincent Island; fought forest fires in Franklin County; and retrieved/safe-guarded as evidence a tiger shark with human remains in its stomach, while serving in the FMP Auxiliary.

He has been a member of the Audubon Society, off and on, since first becoming a member of Illinois/Vermilion County Audubon (which his parents helped establish) at the age of 12, almost 60 years ago. He remembers bird walks along the Jersey shore with R.T. Peterson and taking Peterson's and James Fisher's photos when they came to tour the Great Smoky Mountains with his father as their guide.

Currently Mr. Baldwin is a Refuge Ambassador at St. Marks NWR, watches/records Bald Eagles for Audubon EagleWatch, and assists in the tracking/recording of migrating Loons. He is a Master Naturalist, and Certified Florida Green Guide.



Swift Night Out at Wakulla Springs – 2013

By Jeff Hugo, Park Services Specialist

It is on the second weekend in September that all across the nation people stand at the base of chimneys watching for Chimney Swifts to descend into their roosts. They count them as they enter. Sometimes their numbers are as high as 9000, but most often they are in the neighborhood of 300-800 birds strong.

The data collected is submitted to www.chimneyswifts.org. Sites from all over the eastern half of the United States are represented.

The birds are busy gathering in flocks and preparing for the great migration to the wintering grounds of South America. During the day they spread out, capture and devour as many as 1000 insects each. Moths, flies, beetles, mosquitoes, and almost any insect on wing can work its way into the fat layer each little bird is working to build for the long trip.

At the end of an active day of feeding the birds gather to circle their roost. They have done this at Wakulla Springs for as long as anyone can remember. But it did not happen in 2012.

For some unknown reason the Swifts bypassed their customary roost at Wakulla Springs Lodge. They not only skipped out on the “Swift Night Out” in September of 2012, they made no appearance whatsoever at the park as is customary for them to do in August and September.

But they were back in 2013. In fact, on the evening of Saturday, September 7th, 55 people made a point to come out to the park to witness the birds once more circling the lodge prior to their entry.

It all started at 7:30 pm as Park Ranger Patty Wilbur and Park Services Specialist Jeff Hugo prepared the citizen scientists for their roles. Everyone was given general information about Chimney Swifts, journals for keeping track of data were distributed and prepared, and then the Swifts seemingly appeared on cue.

The first bird entered the chimney on the east side of the Lodge at 7:58 pm. As the minutes wore on, the flock circling the building grew in numbers. Several would dive toward the chimney feigning to enter. By 8:15 pm, rapid bursts of birds would enter the chimney. The continued numerical onslaught made accurate counting challenging.

With so many people counting, though, there was an advantage with multiple observations. It was possible to take the data collected and to find an average. It turned out to be **552** birds with the last bird entering the chimney at 8:24 pm.



Chimney Swifts circling above Wakulla Springs Lodge

Photo by Nick Baldwin



Kathleen Carr, center, with camera *Photo courtesy of Clifford Nabsar*

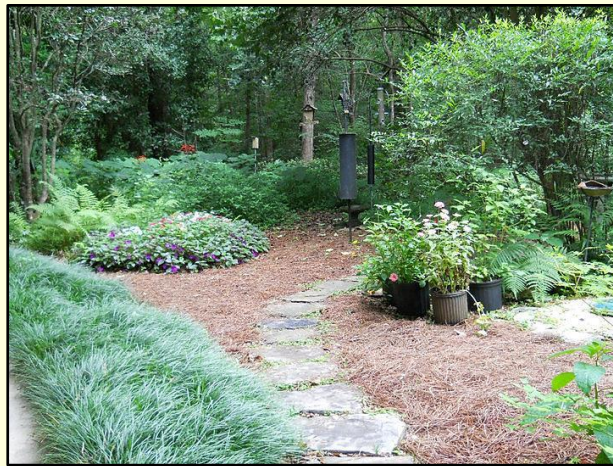
Looking at the data from 2011, it was interesting that the average was **553** birds.

The “Swift Night Out” at Wakulla Springs might not have happened in 2013 without the aid of Park Services Specialist Jackie Turner and park volunteer Ed Gartner (*and an AAS Past President!*). Together they worked to monitor the Swift population at the park beginning on July 24. It was great to get Ed’s reports of the flock’s growth from week to week. It is hoped that with continued volunteer support that the park will establish a data base delineating the flock’s activities throughout the year.

IN YOUR YARD

by Fran Rutkovsky

What's in your yard? Food, water, shelter/habitat are the big ticket items. This time of year, birds in my yard are more interested in caterpillars, gnats, seeds, berries, flowers--anything growing naturally--than they are in the feeders. I use this period to take down and clean feeders, and I put out smaller amounts of seed and suet. Be sure to refresh your nectar feeder often. Migrating birds such as warblers, orioles, tanagers, thrushes, and grosbeaks will be coming through this fall. They may take some suet, nectar and seeds but will really appreciate the water. Migrating songbirds will drop down to fresh water, especially if you are using a dripper or mister with the birdbath. Some birds also like to take "leaf baths", so be sure to have plants nearby. Leafy plants in pots work fine.



Rutkovsky Back Yard

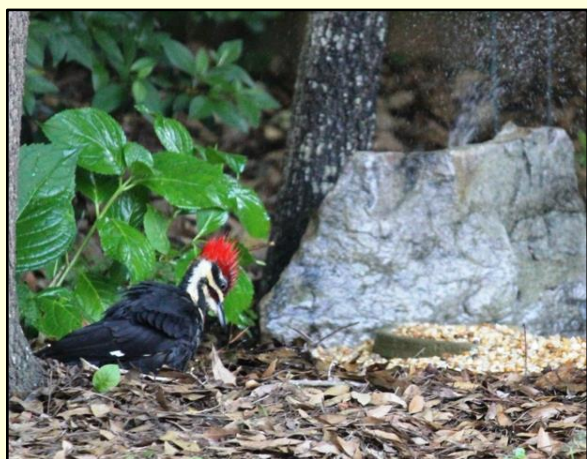
Photo by Fran Rutkovsky

Using native plants in your landscape is the best advice of all. If you can, allow some "weeds" to grow in a section of your yard. My own yard backs up to a ravine. The part that I have left to go wild is the area that gets the most bird action. In the yard I have allowed a pokeweed plant to grow tall each summer. Hummers, butterflies, and bees enjoyed the flowers in early summer; Zebra Heliconian and Gulf Fritillary caterpillars climbed it to pupate; now the berries are ripe and awaiting birds. Two other good plants for the yard that produce berries are American Beautyberry and Hearts-a-busting.

Many of us look to Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co., GA, www.birdsongnaturecenter.org, for inspiration. Did you know that the "Bird Window" room was originally the Komareks' dining room that overlooked a chicken yard? The plate glass window was installed in 1958. Betty Komarek was raising two children and wanted to be able to observe and study birds and butterflies up close at home. "The six acres around the house were purposefully landscaped for the maximum attractiveness to a variety of birds, insects, and butterflies." Try adding plant variety to your landscape and watch what happens.

The July/August issue of Audubon magazine has an excellent article titled, "Food Network".

<http://mag.audubon.org/articles/living/creating-bird-friendly-yard>. Much of it is based on the Doug Tallamy book, "Bringing Nature Home", www.plantanative.com, which encourages people to use more native plants in their landscape. This in turn will bring in more natural food for birds and other wildlife. The article ends with a quote from Dr. Tallamy, "We have to get rid of the notion that nature is something you must drive to".



Pileated Woodpecker

Photo by Janeen Langley

This is also a good time of year to consider joining Project FeederWatch, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw>. The 2013-2014 season begins November 9th. It's easy, fun, and best of all contributes valuable data about bird populations in winter. PFW is a Citizen Science project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

To learn about the distribution status of birds in our area month to month, purchase a copy of the "Field Card of Tallahassee Birds" (original by Henry M. Stevenson, updated by Native Nurseries with assistance from Don Morrow, Gail Menk, and Jack Dozier). This inexpensive card is available locally at Native Nurseries, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Tallahassee Nurseries.

Brown Pelicans and a Snowy Egret

Photographs by Budd Titlow

Brown pelicans are always fun to watch and easy to find and see and Snowy Egrets are always beautiful.



Photo by Budd Titlow

Brown pelican diving for his dinner: *This shot resulted from watching and photographing a small flock of five brown pelicans diving for food along the surf line of the main beach on Sanibel Island, Florida.*

Brown pelicans on pilings at sunset (top right): *This shot was taken just after sunset when several brown pelicans came to roost on pilings that are located adjacent to the lighthouse dike trail at the end of the paved road through St. Mark's NWR.*



Photo by Budd Titlow

Snowy egret (below): *A snowy egret shows off his classic "golden slippers" while prancing through the winter surf on Florida's Sanibel Island.*



Photo by Budd Titlow

SOME ONLINE BIRDING RESOURCES

By Fran Rutkovsky

(Continued from the AAS Summer Newsletter)

How can you find out what birds are being seen locally? Check out the following web sites to find out:

Florida Birding Forums, hosted by Elliot Schunke:

<http://www.flbirding.com/forum/>

Andy Wraithmell's website, Limeybirder:

<http://limeybirder.wordpress.com/>

On Facebook (you'll need to login to get access) here are some sites:

Tallahassee Bird Club (Elliot Schunke and Andy Wraithmell are the co-hosts of this. *"The Tallahassee Bird Club is a social group for birders. Join us for a coffee, a beer and/or to go birding. We also post Tallahassee bird sightings & news."*):

<https://www.facebook.com/tallahasseebirding?ref=profile>

Apalachee Audubon Society:

<https://www.facebook.com/ApalacheeAudubon>

Birding Florida (statewide):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/birdingflorida/>

Wild Birds Unlimited



**Everything for the birds
and the serious birder!**

NATURE GIFTS
OPTICS ~ FIELD GUIDES ~ FEEDERS
BIRDBATHS ~ SEED ~ NEST BOXES

1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd.
(850) 576-0002

Tallahassee, FL 32301
tallahassee.wbu.com

Fall Splendor

By Eleanor Dietrich

We often associate wildflowers with spring, but there is also a very large and showy bloom in the fall, beginning in late summer with the Blazing Star, and progressing into September through October with the many different wildflowers that are often yellow and purple. This bloom comes just at the right time for the multitude of migrating butterflies as well as hummingbirds.

One of the most beautiful spots with concentrations of wildflowers is along SR 65 through the Apalachicola National Forest. The Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has developed a self-guided tour to see the fall wildflowers on this road. Some of the most common ones include the Pink False Foxglove, Rayless Goldenrod, Blazing Star, and the Narrowleaf Sunflower.

You may look at and download the tour guide, and see the many different kinds of flowers blooming on this road (and in roads in many places) by going to

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildflowersflorida/sets/7215762787415>

And when you are going wildflowering and birding, we encourage you to patronize the businesses along your route, and let them know you are there to see the wildflowers and birds so they will see the economic benefit of our visits.



Wildflowers along SR 65

Photo by Eleanor Dietrich



Wildflowers along SR 65

Photo by Eleanor Dietrich

Eleanor Dietrich is a longtime member and Past President of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, FNPS, www.magnolia.fnpschapters.org. Congratulations to Eleanor for being tapped by the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) to serve as liaison between the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance and FDOT's District 3! For additional information, see: www.flawildflowers.org



Native Nurseries
Since 1980

- Wild Bird Shop
- Wildlife Gardening
- Landscape Design



1661 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee, FL
850-386-8882 www.nativenurseries.com

We Enjoyed these Great Field Trips!



Photo by Kathleen Carr

Munson Trail - Saturday, August 3

Munson Trail is a haven for Red-cockaded, Red-headed, Red-bellied, and Downy woodpecker families.



Southwood Birding - Sunday, September 8

Not all birding is done in the woods!



Fall Field Trips Helen King

This month we will concentrate on searching out those little migrant warblers. If you plan to attend, please email me at thekingsom@gmail.com. The trips are limited to 12 participants. Both of these trips will be finished by lunchtime. Depending on how migration is proceeding, we may plan a St. George Island trip later in the month. Here are two upcoming trips:

Saturday, October 5th: Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park

Meet at Gate A on Miller Landing Road at 8 am. There may be a fair amount of walking on hilly terrain.

Friday, October 11th: St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot at 8 a.m. This will be a combination of driving and some walking.



Photo by Brian Lloyd

Leon Sinks Geological Area - Friday, September 13

Seriously working hard for birds at Leon Sinks!



Courtesy of D. S. Kilby

Introduction to the Birds of Leon County

Jim Cox, Director of the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station, is resurrecting an introductory birding class that he taught for nearly a decade at Florida State University. The class opened the window to the dynamic colors and sounds that abound in our region for scores of people, and many former students now rank among the top echelon of local bird nerds. The class will consist of 2 evening lectures that provide an overview of bird identification and the birds of Leon County and 3 field trips to local hotspots to practice what is learned in the classroom. The specific dates have yet to be set firmly, but the general timeframe will be from mid-October to early November with a careful attempt to avoid important sporting events. The lecture component also will take place at a convenient location near Meridian and John Knox Road. If you are ready to expand your knowledge of local birds, send an email to Jim (jim@ttrs.org) and he'll provide specifics on the class as they emerge.

Some Fall Activities With our Friends!



Birdsong Nature Center

BUGS, BUGS, BUGS! Saturday, October 12 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Let's go bug hunting! This program is geared primarily towards children, but parents, naturalists and other adults are welcome and will find this to be an enlightening and enjoyable field experience. Please sign up by noon on Friday, October 11th, by calling 229-377-4408 or emailing birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org. This program was packed last year, so reserve your space as soon as you can. \$4 Friends, \$8 nonmembers, children half price. For more information about this and the many other great activities this fall at Birdsong Nature Center, please see www.birdsongnaturecenter.org.



Mission San Luis

**Blessing of Animals
Saturday, October 5, 2013
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Pet owners, animal lovers, and furry, feathered, or other friends are invited to the annual *Blessing of Animals*. Children are invited to make wild animal masks to be used during a blessing of our woodland creatures. Mission San Luis is a pet-friendly site, so bring your companions and enjoy the beautiful park setting and living history programs. Please join us for this and other events at Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee. For more information, please call 850-245-6406 or see www.missionsanluis.org



Wakulla Springs State Park

One of the monthly activities at Wakulla Springs is a ranger-led nature walk which provides an opportunity to learn more about the different habitats at Wakulla Springs. The next scheduled walks are as follows:

November 16, 2013 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

December 28, 2013 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

The web site to register for these walks is

[http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/even-
ts.cfm](http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/even-
ts.cfm). For further information, please call (850)
561-7276



**St. Marks NWR
25th Annual
Monarch Butterfly Festival
Oct. 26th from 10 am – 4 pm**

Fall is in the air and so are the migrating monarch butterflies, making their 2,000 mile trip from the northern American boundary to the mountains of central Mexico. This amazing phenomenon passes through the Gulf coast of Florida beginning about the third week in October, and may be observed along the coast at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

Visitors will be able to watch the tagging process at our 25th annual Monarch Butterfly Festival on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 10 am – 4 pm. The event is filled with the wonder of folks of all ages charting their own "migration," making butterfly crafts, talking with monarch butterfly researchers and other exhibitors, learning about landscaping to help all pollinators, taking tours and much more!

For more information, please see www.fws.gov/saintmarks, www.stmarksrefuge.org, or call 850 925-6121.

**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
1255 Lighthouse Road
St. Marks, Florida 32355**



Workshops to Enjoy at Native Nurseries

1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-386-8882 www.nativenurseries.com

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101 WITH LILLY

Saturday, October 5th at 9 am and on

Saturday, October 10th at 10 am

Free, but reservations required - 386-8882

Class size limited

We will cover soil preparation, when to plant vegetables with a focus on the fall & winter garden, water, fertilization & pest control. The workshop will conclude with a demonstration in our vegetable garden next door to the nursery.

ORGANIC MORNING AT NATIVE NURSERIES

Saturday October 5th

Vendors here from 10am - noon

See website for more information

OUR OWL NEIGHBORS WITH SANDY BECK

Saturday, October 19th 10am - Free

All four native species — the Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Barn and Screech Owl — will help St. Francis Wildlife education director, Sandy Beck, explain the adaptations that make these birds spectacular nocturnal hunters and what we can do to help them.

