

Shorelines

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The Newsletter of the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Emily McKiddy, Audubon Fl **1**
March 12 Bird Walk **1**
Schedule of Events **2**
March 19 Field Trip **3**
Bird Cam info **3**
Membership Info **4**

See us on Facebook and CHOCTAWHATCHEEAUDUBON.ORG. For newsletters by e-mail send your e-mail address to Kay Parsons at: parsonskg1@cox.net

Hi Chapter Leaders,

I am looking for some volunteers to "adopt" a rooftop that becomes active this nesting season in their area. Would you be willing to send out a message to your chapter members to see if anyone would be interested in helping out this summer?

"Adopting" a rooftop would require a survey that can be done in the car for 15 minutes at the site, once a week. After the visual count of birds actively using the rooftop is completed, a walk around the perimeter of the building to look for any fallen chicks would be done. Data sheets can be emailed to me to be entered and if there are any fallen chicks the volunteer would have the phone numbers to call so we can put it back on the roof. Please let me know if you have any questions. And thank you in advance!

Emily McKiddy

Panhandle Rooftop Coordinator

Audubon FLORIDA

(608) 332-3802 mobile

Website: fl.audubon.org

Blog: audubonoffloridanews.org

Donate: ow.ly/58Pde

March 12, 2016 South Walton Government Annex Bird Walk

Eleven of us met to walk the area of diverse habitats that exist around the South Walton Government Annex area off of Hwy 331. It was overcast with a steady breeze, but still warm enough to enjoy. Because of the great sidewalk trails we were able to cover areas around the college, the pond behind the Health Dept., Padgett Park and behind the High School. We saw a variety of birds, ranging from Fish Crows to Brown Headed Nuthatches. Two special sightings were the Red-bellied woodpecker making a nest in a dead tree and the radiant Eastern Bluebird seen in the parking lot prior to us leaving. We finished up our morning with Brunch at Cafe 20 in Freeport, FL, and were impressed with the efficient service and good food had by all.

Dee Nickerson



Schedule of Events:

April 7: MONTHLY MEETING: Retired Federal Fishery Biologist Dave Clausen will present a program on the flora and fauna of Lord Howe Island, a U.N. World Heritage Site off the coast of eastern Australia. Clausen visited the island in 2015 and will report on many of the unique, endemic species of wildlife.

The meeting will be held in Room 130 of the new Student Services Building at Northwest FI State College main campus in Niceville. Socializing begins at 6:30 PM, and the program begins at 7:00. Admission is free and open to the interested public. Call or email Dr Don Baltz at 225 252-2760, dbaltz46@yahoo.com. For more information.

April 16: Bird Walk at Veteran's Park Okaloosa Island: Join expert birder Malcolm Mark Swan for a leisurely walk around a park that supports an amazing diversity of species including a Great Blue Heron rookery. Wear closed toe shoes, bring binoculars and camera. Meet at the NE corner of the Convention Center Parking lot at 7:30 A.M. Contact Malcolm at 210 343-9082 for more information.

April 23: Estuary Festival at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park: Spend a great day at the park teaching your kids the wonders of bird identification (with the help of Choctawhatchee Audubon). The Park is East of Niceville off HY 20 just East of Rocky Bayou bridge. Many displays/venues will be available so check the Festival website for details.

May 5: Monthly Meeting: New location see below.

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will host a showing of a short film on Florida's Coastal Dune Lakes on the Northwest Florida State College campus on Thursday May 5, 2016. Award winning film-maker, Elam Stoltzfus, has provided a stunning view of the scenery, ecology, and importance of 15 lakes that are extraordinary features of the panhandle's coast. While the lakes are not unique, similar systems are found in only a few other places around the world.

Professor Jon Bryan, chair of the Science Department, will be on hand to discuss the lakes' geology. Ms Brandy Foley of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance will describe the pivotal role that CBA has taken in ensuring the preservation of the lakes ecological integrity.

The meeting will be held at a **new location** in the College Science Bldg (350) room 110 with socializing at 6:30 PM and the program at 7. Admission is free and open to the public. Contact Dr Don Baltz for more information at 225 252-2760, or email Don at dbaltz46@yahoo.com.



Spring Field Trip, 19th March

On a gloriously sunny Saturday, four keen birders met in Niceville and headed north to the 7 Pines Native Plant Nursery. Dara and Lloyd Dobson were most hospitable and welcomed us to their 240 acre property north of DeFuniak Springs. Not only did the rolling vistas greet us but the variety of habitats fascinated us. A large water moccasin was seen swimming in the lake. We had John, a visitor with us who is a biologist with an interest in insect eyes. So although our bird count was, by Don Ware's standards, pretty miserable, we learned about insects and insectivorous plants that we observed. The highlight of the visit was a

splendid Fox Squirrel who fearlessly lay, leopard style, on a tree branch above us. Dave Clauson took this photograph which clearly shows his coloration. We bought some of Dara's native plants and headed home about 12:30.

Margaret



Bird Cams reveal interesting perspective on behavior and parental care demonstrated by raptors.

Several years ago Margaret Benner and I were approached by Dawn Pack of Destin Middle School for assistance in designing a bird cam observation post for an Osprey nest constructed on a light pole on the school grounds. We also developed a birding/ornithology class for her 5th graders but that is a different story. We found contacts and obtained hardware and software recommendations from Audubon and others but unfortunately the nest was destroyed by a windstorm and the birds elected to build elsewhere. In the process, we researched some existing birdcam sites which are exceptionally well designed and have high quality coverage. There are hundreds of sites out there but the ones below will be a start especially if interested in raptors.

http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/16/Red-tailed_Hawks/

www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon

<http://www.dickpritchettrealestate.com/>

<http://www.palemale.com/>



Chapter Representatives

President: Alan Knothe
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Vice President: **Position Available**

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Recording Secretary and Membership: **Dee Nickerson**

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Corresponding Sec:.... Position available

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Choctawhatchee Audubon Society Membership

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Introductory New Member- \$20.00 **Individual Member Renewal- \$35.00**

When you join you will be part of national, state, and local Audubon groups and will receive...

- Audubon magazine
- Florida Naturalist Magazine
- Our local Shorelines newsletter by e-mail
- Inclusion in Audubon of Florida's advocacy network
- Discounts at Audubon Sanctuaries and Nature Centers
- Opportunities for Audubon Ecology Camps and specially priced travel adventures

To join, mail this form and a check, payable to National Audubon Society, to;

Audubon National, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

CAS ONLY memberships are available and include A SHORELINES NEWSLETTER ONLY TO THOSE THAT INCLUDE THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS ON MEMBERSHIP FORM.

To join CAS **ONLY** mail this form and a check payable to CAS to; *P.O. Box 1044 Niceville, FL 32578*

New Member e-mail Newsletter Only- \$10.00 **Renewal Member Newsletter Only- \$10.00**

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Chapter Code: COZE110Z

A great big THANK YOU to all CAS sponsors !
Donations are welcome, and all contributions are tax-deductible. Feel free to specify a particular fund/event that you'd wish to sponsor.

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society

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