

FIELD TRIPS
Vivian Taylor 734-1390

Wednesday, April 12 Washington Oaks State Park & Matanzas Inlet
Meet at Food Lion at 8:30 AM Carpool fee \$4

Wednesday, May 3 Alligator Farm at St. Augustine
Meet at Food Lion at 8:30 AM Carpool fee \$4 plus admission

ELECTIONS

The nominating committee, consisting of Don Schaeffer, Sylva Parillo and John Eggert will present the 2006-07 slate of officers at the March meeting. The election will be held at the April meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for an office from the floor, you can do so at the April meeting. You must have their prior consent to nominate them.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures still needs 8 classroom sponsors. If you cannot sponsor a classroom, ask a friend or friends to be a co-sponsor or earmark a small donation towards a classroom. Every little bit helps. Send your check to Ed Sherman at PO Box 1268, DeLand, FL 32721-1268.

GARAGE SALE

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in the Garage Sale (workers and supporters) and especially to Sara Taylor who donated her yard and garage, plus many hours of her time. WVAS raised \$818. A GREAT JOB by all!

Victor & Gloria Johnson

JOIN THE MARCH!

The Stop Global Warming Virtual March on Washington is a non-partisan effort to bring all Americans together in one place, proving there is a vast consensus that global warming is here now and it is time for our country to start addressing it. Visit www.StopGlobalWarming.org and join Arnette Sherman in the march. You can call me at 386-734-5840 with your e-mail address if you like.

March 28th Meeting

The Woman's Club of DeLand
128 West Michigan Ave.

6:30 PM Mix and Mingle
7:00 PM Meeting
7:30 PM Program

A YEAR IN NORTH AMERICA

By
Rick Kessler,
Photographer

THE

HUMMER



NEWSLETTER OF WEST VOLUSIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung! Our pair of screech owls is back sitting together in the tree. We are waiting for them to go into the nest box to start their new brood. The flowers are blooming and birds are singing and busy building nests. This is my favorite time of year.

The wood storks are busy building their flimsy nests in the cypress trees on the river in Quail Hollow again. It is great to watch them glide in with sticks in their beaks. It resembles a busy airstrip! You can only view them from the river.

Our trip to Cummer Road included Mike Parsons from England who has birded with us before. We saw warblers, kestrel, snipe, meadowlarks, egrets, hawks and many vultures cleaning up a dead cow in the field.



Photo by Arnette Sherman

Cyndy Barrow, Carol Mason and I led a bird walk at the International Wood Collectors annual meeting at Lake Yale. Participants came from around the nation and were thrilled to observe white pelicans, pipits and eagles.

The Great Backyard Bird Count reported 60,125 check lists from around the nation. 258 species were reported in Florida. Thanks to those that participated.

Ed & I will be attending the Audubon Academy and the annual membership meeting in St. Petersburg this month. We hope to learn more about conservation, community involvement, fund raising and effective chapter governance. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Arnette Sherman

BOARDWALK PROJECT

The boardwalk project at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge has run into complications and is no longer feasible. The board has voted to withdraw from the project and cancel the \$5,000 grant money. We had allotted \$10,000 of our funds for the project.

We will be voting at the March meeting on this issue and that we now fund a new project in the amount of \$5,000 from the Geiser memorial money for rebuilding the outdoor education structure at the Bicentennial Youth Park.

The Bicentennial Youth Park recently reopened under an agreement between the School Board and the county government. It was developed in 1976 on 260 acres and used as an open-air classroom until 2003 when it closed to save money. It is now part of the park program with the school system holding classes that concentrate on environmental education.

We are thrilled to have it reopened and Laura Cash is now helping with the bird walks. We hope to have more volunteers from our group to assist the teacher, Louise Chapman, with the classes as several of our members did years ago.

There still is a lot of work to be done out there but I want to commend Louise for the wonderful progress they have made so far.

Arnette Sherman



Student leaf collage



Photo by Arnette Sherman

CONSERVATION

In keeping with changing conservation needs throughout Florida, Audubon of Florida has recently approved a new strategic plan that more closely focuses Audubon's efforts on saving birds and their habitats here in Florida. This five-year plan has three components: save the land, protect the land, and involve Florida citizens in this effort. Dividing the State into six areas, Central Florida has been designated the Eagle Link. Central Florida, at this moment, has at least 635 nesting pairs of nesting eagles. This is more eagles than were in the entire continental United States during the early sixties. As you will recall, this was the period when insecticides had played havoc with the eagle population.

Audubon of Florida has shown major initiative in working with restoration of the Everglades and plans to bring this same focus to the area of the St. John's, Wekiva and Kissimmee Rivers, as well as the Green Swamp. Protection of these areas protects not only the eagle, but the many other birds depending on these rivers for food sources as well. Audubon of Florida plans include advocacy of local governments with the objective of generating comprehensive plans which will serve wildlife better. Their goals and ways of achieving them have been laid out in extensive detail. Included in these plans is the participation of representatives of local chapters to help guide the program with local needs considered.

The above is a very brief overview of how Audubon of Florida plans to influence our State. As residents of Florida, achievement of these goals is important. Let's help make them a blueprint for Florida's future.

Eleanor Slyker

Welcome New Members

Clark Drumm
Bruce Gordon
Nancy Grindle
Juaneta Hershberger
Diane Hunter
Norman Miller
Hugh Morrow
Elizabeth Seaburg

BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Arnette Sherman	734-5840	arnette@cfl.rr.com
VP PROGRAMS	Vivian Taylor	734-1390	vctdeland@yahoo.com
	Sara Lynn Taylor	738-0119	
VP CONSERVATION	Eleanor Slyker	736-0370	eleanorslyker@earthlink.net
SECRETARY	Laura Cash	748-0681	cash62@cfl.rr.com
TREASURER	Ed Sherman	748-2538	esherman1@cfl.rr.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EDUCATION	Barbara Samler	738-2271	pipersue62@yahoo.com
HOSPITALITY	Laura Cash	626-2329	cash62@cfl.rr.com
HUMMER EDITOR	Marge Koshiol	738-0002	marjoriekoshiol@bellsouth.net
HUMMER PRODUCTION	Ed Sherman	748-2538	esherman1@cfl.rr.com
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Barrow	736-6519	abarow1@cfl.rr.com
FIELD TRIPS	Vivian Taylor	734-1390	vctdeland@yahoo.com
	Sara Lynn Taylor	738-0119	
PUBLICITY	Marylou Weiner	738-7443	mlweiner@mindspring.com
HISTORIAN	Ethel Perrick	734-9241	
WAYS & MEANS	Vic & Gloria Johnson	822-9700	glorvic5@netzero.com

DUCK

This duck was just a youngster who didn't even have any wing feathers when some cruel person shot him at apparently close range with an arrow. Judging from the angle of the arrow, this trusting little guy must have been almost at the shooter's feet when he was attacked. The arrow entered his back just in front of his left shoulder, went through his chest, and was sticking out through his left upper chest.

Two young girls captured the duck and once again Elaine Wadler came to the rescue. She picked up our poor duck and delivered him safely to Dr. Erin Holder. Under the skilled and gentle hands of Dr. Holder and her staff, the arrow was safely removed. After surgery, Elaine again got behind the wheel and transported the baby to me. True to Muscovy behavior, he never lost his appetite and with the help of some antibiotics and painkillers, this little guy munched his way to health through lots and lots of grains and soaked Beneful Dry Puppy food.

At first, he was very, very afraid of me and ran to the far end of the aviary hollering at the top of his lungs every time I entered. But he slowly realized that I was not going to hurt him like some humans, but that I was the Bringer of All Good Things to Eat! With the help of his new best friend, the Big White Bunny (a large, old, white domestic rabbit that had been dumped in very abused condition at my front door during last year's hurricanes), he relaxed and began to enjoy life. He is now completely healed, shiny new feathers covering his plump body, and in another month he will be moved to my "duck man's" farm where he will enjoy the rest of his life swimming from pond to pond, his every need catered to and joined with so many other wayward duckies that have come through my facility.

Kathy Paynter

KATHY'S BASKET

Kathy currently needs as many jars as possible of baby cereal: chicken, lamb, or turkey. These are used on just about everything but especially when she has to tube feed sick or injured birds or those recovering from surgery such as sandhill cranes, hawks, and owls. She could also use Beneful Dry Puppy Food and nonfood items such as paper towels, large cloth towels and large plastic (not glass) aquariums/terrariums.

Please bring items to the next meeting!

INJURED BIRD?

Contact a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator:

Kathy Paynter	386-738-2589
Kathy's E-Mail	kep@cfl_rr.com
Martha Selck	386-943-9239

Kathy Paynter's stories have always been on top of the list of favorite features. We have helped her with donations for many years. She will bring some of her critters to our **April** meeting.

SQUIRREL

Another patient that came to me was this big, fat, female grey squirrel brought to me by a man who said he saw her fall from a tree, hit his roof, and then the ground. She had several bad cuts around her nose and mouth where she apparently hit the roof face first and her face was quite swollen. To make matters much worse, she had a very severe upper respiratory tract infection. Between the facial swelling and her infection, she could hardly breathe. She lay limp in her cage, struggling to breath, so sick that she could not eat on her own. Every day, 4 or 5 times a day, I had to syringe a special liquid diet very carefully into her mouth along with antibiotics. Very, very slowly she began to improve.

After almost four weeks in captivity, she recovered from her lung infection and regained her appetite. But it was quite obvious by her initial obesity and abnormally docile behavior that she had been raised in a very confined area as someone's pet. It is unclear if she escaped her owners (very doubtful) or if they dumped her in the wild because she became ill and they didn't want to be bothered taking care of her or because they were simply bored with her. In any case, it was obvious to me that she probably could never be returned to the wild where she belonged. So I decided to see if she wanted to play foster mom to some baby squirrels I had. My hope was that their presence would perk her up a little and she in turn could give them a big, fat, warm "mom" to curl up to and play with.

I introduced her to two 3-week-old babies whose eyes were not even opened yet and the experiment worked beautifully. She accepted the "kids" without hesitation and the three of them spent almost 20 hours a day sleeping curled up together. As a matter of fact, the only time the "squirrel pack" woke up was to eat! Soon the little trio was joined by a 6-week-old baby whose mom had been killed by a cat and he was found on the ground literally starving to death. Normally, at 6 or 7 weeks baby squirrels are aware that people are the "boogiemens" and they are quite frightened and reluctant to nurse for the first four or five days of captivity. However, he took to "Fat Mom" and the other kids immediately and is now a happy member of the squirrel pack.

I don't know if Fat Mom will ever grow independent enough to be released. It is doubtful because she is so docile and may be quite old. But at least as a foster mom, she will not spend the rest of her life with no squirrels to interact with and will hopefully be able to help raise generations of baby grey squirrels and be able to see them returned to their rightful place in the wild.

Kathy Paynter



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WVAS WEBSITE ADDRESS:
www.volusia.org/birding/wvaudubon.htm

E - MAIL ADDRESS
wvaudubon@volusia.org

Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, September through April, except December at the Woman's Club of DeLand, Inc. 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand, beginning at 6:30 P.M. There is a brief meeting and a program. Refreshments served afterward. Wheelchair accessible, Smoke free, Parking in rear, Public welcome