

Marion Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5616
Ocala, FL 34478

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Scrub Jay



Marion Audubon Society Inc. Newsletter

April / May 2009

LET'S HAVE A PICNIC PARTY ON MAY 3rd!

Marion Audubon Chapter will have its Annual Picnic and Meeting on Sunday, May 3rd. The details and directions are elsewhere in this issue. Usually several dozen gather for this pleasant event. The only brief business, at about 1:30 p.m., will be the election of officers and directors for the next two years. Happily, we have a full slate of nominees to take us into the fall program as you can see in the report of the Nominating Committee in this issue. I am truly grateful for the excellent support of our Directors during these past few months of my appointment by the Board, and am honored that they are nominating me for a full two year term.

There are two Directors to whom I want to give special thanks. Rosalie Coyner is completing four years as Secretary of the Board and we are most grateful for her faithful service. Teresa Darnell has been the dynamic editor of Scrub Jay again this year, cajoling and inspiring articles, getting it printed and mailed. See you all at the picnic.

With best wishes to you all,

Conrad H. Massa, President

MARK THESE DATES

• Saturday, May 2, 2009 – Field Trip, Carney Island, 9:30 a.m.

• Sunday, May 3, 2009 – Chapter Picnic, Brick City Park, 12:00 p.m.



For more information about Marion Audubon Field Trips,
please call Carolyn at (352) 817-6715 or (352) 622-2850.

Visit our website for a complete list of upcoming events

at www.marioncountyaudubon.com



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PROGRAMS

The Coyotes program was very informative. Thanks to Joy Hill for her presentation to help us better understand these animals and their behavior. People are getting along with coyotes but it is best to remember and respect that they are wild animals suffering from a stressed habitat with limited food sources. One source of food is feral cats and family pets not kept indoors. Please be responsible for your cats! Coyotes are helping with the control of mice and rats in our area. Very few people have reported coyote attacks or being followed by coyotes. Our own dogs are far more dangerous as far as attacks on people. If you know you have coyotes in your area, protect your small children and pets by keeping them in your yard or house. The same as you would do if dogs were running loose in your area. For more information visit this website <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW127>.

Captain Erika Ritter

<http://acrusingdowntheriver.com>
<http://www.prospectorcabins.com>
<http://www.tailgatersamps.com>
<http://www.marioncountyaudubon.com>

<http://www.captainerikafloridaboatcharters.com>
<http://www.ocklawahariverlandings.net>
<http://www.pcecweb.org>

AUDUBON "BENEFITS" FROM WEDDING

Audubon Past-President Bob Stenstream and his bride Colleen were married in a private ceremony in February. On April 4th they held their wedding reception at their home to introduce one another to friends old and new. Guests had been informed that, in lieu of gifts, the reception would be a benefit party for two causes. Bob's choice was Marion Audubon. We have received over \$1000 from this thoughtful and delightful event. Our thanks and best wishes go to Bob and Colleen for a long and happy life together.

Member
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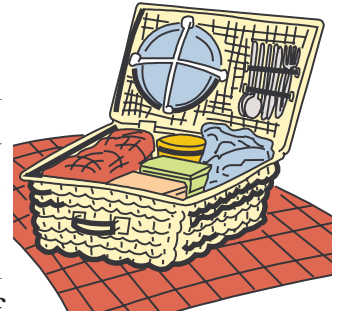
19th & 20th Century
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Paintings

ROBT. STENSTREAM FINE ARTS

Robert Stenstream
4200 S.W. 7th Ave.Rd. / Ocala, Florida 34474
352-861-8559

ANNUAL PICNIC

May 3rd, Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Join us for Marion Audubon's Annual Picnic and introduction of new board members. Location: Brick City Park, 1211 S.E. 22nd Road, Ocala. Take a nice walk around an old small lime rock pit. Enjoy the diversity of large trees that have grown up in and around the lime rock. From Hwy. 441 go South of Hwy. 40 and turn left/East onto SE 17th Street. Turn right/South onto SE Lake Weir Ave. Druid Hills United Methodist Church is on the corner. Go past St. Johns Lutheran Church/School and turn left/ East onto 22nd Road. The Park is on the left. Please bring a covered dish, non-disposable utensils, plates, cups, (NO BOTTLED WATER!), binoculars and cameras. Live music performed by the local birds! Main dish and drinks will be provided by Marion Audubon.



BACKYARD BIRDING

My war with the raccoons is over. After my last suet feeder was torn apart at the hinges, I reinforced all parts with heavy electrical wire. A good measure of cayenne pepper on the suet keeps the raccoons away. Lately there have been less birds showing up in my yard. With spring migrations underway this is partly natural. Unfortunately, a pair of Cooper's Hawks is nesting nearby. Some experts say that you should stop feeding when this occurs. I may have to because yesterday one of the hawks was sitting on my fence right next to the bird feeders. She (the larger of the two) sat there for at least fifteen minutes before shooting into some hedges. She was gone before I could tell if her hunt was successful. Have a great summer.



Larry Sutton

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

from Ron Broman, Chairman

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present a full slate of Officers and Directors to the Annual Meeting this year. All nominations are for a two year term commencing with the Annual Meeting, May 3, 2009.

President Conrad H. Massa
Vice-President Judy Greenberg
Treasurer Larry Sutton
Secretary Vicki Stapp

Directors (in alphabetical order)

Ron Broman
 Teresa Darnell
 Vince Druding
 Jane Eberts
 Jane Pope
 Carolyn Retey
 Erika Ritter
 Bob Stenstream



Jim Yaich will continue as **Webmaster**

Rosalie Coyner will assume the responsibilities of **Database Coordinator**

All of the above serve as volunteers without any compensation.

Ron Broman
 8959A SW 96th Lane
 Ocala, FL 34481
 (352) 861-4560

Jane Eberts
 10976 S.W. 139th Ct.
 Dunnellon, FL 34432
 (352) 816-0657

Rosalie Coyner
 5103 N.E. 60th Terrace
 Silver Springs, FL 34488
 (352) 236-4036



Capt. Vince Druding, R.N., M.S.
 Masters License USCG 100ton
 First Mate Myla Druding

6750 NW 62 St. Rd.
 Ocala, FL 34482

(352) 690-7140

**Your
 ad
 here!**

PURPLE MARTIN

(*Progne subis*)

“Almost every country tavern has a martin box on the upper part of its sign-board; and I have observed that the handsomer the box, the better does the inn generally prove to be.” — John James Audubon (1831)

Audubon’s observation illustrates the long and close association between people and the Purple Martin. Extremely popular and well known to much of the public, this species in eastern North America now breeds almost entirely in backyard birdhouses. Its conversion to human-made martin houses from ancestral nest sites—abandoned woodpecker holes in dead snags—was almost complete before 1900; only



a few records of natural nestings east of the Rocky Mountains have been reported during the twentieth century. Yet in the mountain forests, deserts, and coastal areas of western North America, where the species is less common, it still nests almost exclusively in woodpecker holes or natural cavities. Few other species show such a marked or abrupt geographic difference in use of nest sites.

The largest swallow in North America and among the largest in the world, the Purple Martin is the northernmost species of a group of closely related species whose systematics remain unclear. The Purple Martin’s migratory routes, from North America during spring and summer months for breeding to wintering in South America, are not known with certainty.

Surviving on a diet consisting exclusively of flying insects, martins are highly vulnerable to regular spells of cold and rainy weather during spring and early summer, conditions that temporarily reduce their insect food supply.

Since it is a secondary-cavity nester, the Purple Martin has also suffered from the introduction into North America of European Starlings and House Sparrows, which compete with it for nest sites throughout much of the eastern half of the continent. Without human intervention and management of colony sites, starlings and sparrows can cause local extinction of martins by appropriating their nest cavities and making them permanently unsuitable for martin use.

The martins have arrived in Florida for the season; enjoy these beautiful and sociable birds all summer by erecting suitable housing for them.

Citation: Brown, Charles R. 1997. Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/287>

CONSERVATION NEWS

The Florida Friendly Yards Program is making strides toward educating consumers about proper fertilizing. Proposed legislation sends a strong message but enforcement may be problematic.

What if the Florida Friendly Yards program could provide a rebate to residential customers for switching to slow release fertilizers? I think the legislation is probably targeting commercial operations and not the retail consumption that keeps Lowes, Wal-Mart and Home Depot stocking inappropriate products for use in Florida.

Judy Greenberg

NO-P URBAN TURF FERTILIZER COALITION

“Whereas clean water is vital to Florida citizens and to the habitats that native plants, fish, birds, and all other wildlife in Florida rely on to thrive...

Whereas nutrient pollution in our watersheds and estuaries is a leading cause of habitat degradation...

Whereas nutrient pollution from phosphorus (P) in Urban Turf Fertilizers is a leading contributor to (P) enrichment of Florida native waters...

We fully support the current efforts being made to pass legislation this coming session; requiring use statewide (starting in 2011) of only “No-Phosphate/No-Phosphorus” fertilizers, and only allow application of fertilizers containing the plant nutrient Phosphate on Urban Turf after a soil test or tissue test indicate the need for Phosphorus.”

United Waterfowlers – FL
Florida Wildlife Federation
Recreational Fishing Assn. (RFA)
Florida Stormwater Association
St. Johns Riverkeepers
Lee Paddle Sports Alliance
Florida Sportsman Magazine
Marine Resource Council (MRC)

Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association /Riverwatch
Environmental Consultants Council, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
The PURRE Water Coalition Foundation, Inc.

Florida Ducks Unlimited
Audubon of Florida
Snook Foundation
Surfriders
Friends of Billy’s Creek
Outdoor Life Magazine
Sierra Club
Rivers Coalition

Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

Marion Audubon Society, Inc. offers a *local chapter membership option* to those who wish to be involved in Marion County’s environmental issues and activities.

Local Audubon membership includes a monthly (during the winter) issue of *The Scrub Jay*, Marion Audubon’s newsletter.

The newsletter has information on meetings, programs, activities, issues for your involvement and guided field trips to identify native birds, flora and fauna.

Dues are \$10 annually. A bargain!

Three easy ways to join:

1. Go online and sign up at:
www.marioncountyaudubon.com
2. Print the online form and mail it to us.
3. Use the form above, and mail it to:
Marion Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5616,
Ocala, FL 34478

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E mail _____

\$10 membership paid by

____ cash ____ check

____ new ____ renewal

Prior Audubon chapter elsewhere?

____ yes ____ no

Are you willing to serve an active role?

____ yes ____ no

We need you now!

A Cruising Down the River

You are invited aboard The Anhinga Spirit.
Experience the Ocklawaha River.
The wildest Outstanding Florida Waterway.
Trips are custom designed, educational and fun!

Licensed by USCG

352-546-5718

captainerikaritter@yahoo.com