

Skimmer



Fall 2012
October—December
Vol. XL No. 2

The Francis M. Weston Audubon Society

DIARY OF A DISASTER

Ann Forster

Thursday, June 7 – The Weather Channel predicted rain...maybe in excess of two inches.

Friday, Saturday, June 8/9 – Are you kidding me? At 11:00 am on Saturday, I measured 8.75 inches in the prior 24 hours. By 2:25 pm, we had another 7.83 inches. Our yard, which usually drains quickly, was flooded completely. Dan had to run the bilge pump in the boat every hour since the strong northeast wind was carrying the rain right under the shed. Things were floating that only float in hurricanes.

Sunday, June 10 – Two things happened almost at the same time. Dan looked out our bedroom window in shock. Not only was our Osprey nest gone with three almost fledged babies, but the whole tree was down. The phone rang and it was Jan Lloyd. She said we had to go to the Wildlife Sanctuary and help. The water had backed up and the two women who were preparing for feeding were suddenly up to their ankles, their waists, and then their necks! Water was 28 inches high in the building, higher outside, and they were wading in that nasty water lifting cages and containers above the water line. It happened so fast that they both lost their cars. That is dedication. Through their heroic efforts almost all the creatures were saved. A Great Horned Owl died from trauma when its perch fell and two Cooper's Hawks were lost. That means dozens of successes in the face of a disaster.

I gathered up an assortment of yard tools since that is what I can do best without supervision and headed for the Sanctuary. As I passed the Osprey tree, I saw two babies prone and injured and the oldest standing. The minister of Redeemer Lutheran and his wife walk on our street and have been enjoying watching the progress of our babies. They immediately called Fish and Game who came and took all three to Animal Control who then took them to the Sanctuary. Dorothy Kaufmann, director, ran out and told me my babies had been delivered. Because they release birds at our house, she immediately recognized the address. Unfortunately, one of the birds was so battered that it died,



but they set to work on the other two. They were so traumatized that they had to be fed with stomach tubes for a week before they would try to eat. In all that mess and destruction, the Sanctuary never stopped taking in a “flood” of victims, nor did they lower their standard of care one iota.

When I got to the Sanctuary on Sunday, there were already 40+ volunteers working on cleaning and getting the kitchen area up and running because all the new clients were hungry. On Monday, more volunteers came and donations flooded in from businesses and the community. The Pensacola News-Journal had a wonderful article in the Sunday paper and local TV stations also covered it.

On the home front: The Osprey parents were totally confused. They immediately started building a new nest in an even shakier tree than the one that fell. They only lay one set of eggs per season so this nest was either a territorial statement or a place for the babies just in case they came back. Every morning the male would catch a fish and fly all around the old nest area. As a scientist, I don't usually attribute human virtues to birds but he was looking for his babies. Dan was catching small fish and taking them to the Sanctuary hoping that the two survivors would start to feed. One day they put eleven fish in the pond in the flight cage and in a few minutes only four were left. We were jubilant. On July 12, a month after they were away from home, Dorothy called to say they were ready.

We rushed up there and got our Osprey. We released them near the new nest. Osprey #1 rolled out of the carrier, took a few running steps, and took off toward the bay. #2 eased out and took off toward the old nest tree. In a minute the two of them were flying over the bay. The daddy flew along with them briefly and later we saw him escorting them up Davenport Bayou.

September 12 – I am happy to report that they have become proficient at fishing and have graduated from small fish to mullet. On the down side, the new nest succumbed to Hurricane Isaac.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Field Trips

All field trips are open to the public and free of charge, but contributions are appreciated. All experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars and/or a spotting scope on birding trips. A camera, sunscreen, insect protection, appropriate shoes, hat, water, and snacks or lunch are recommended on all trips. Carpooling is encouraged. Questions? Call Lucy Duncan at 932-4792 or email her at town_point@bellsouth.net.

□ **Sat., Oct. 13, Ft. Morgan Birding.** Lucy and Bob Duncan will lead us to look for migrants at one of the best places along the upper gulf coast. Expect moderate walking in sand. There will be an entrance fee to the Fort. Bring a picnic lunch and drinks for the day. Insect repellent is a good idea. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Big Lots parking lot located on the east side of Navy Blvd. south of Highway 98 in Warrington. We plan to return by mid-afternoon.

□ **Sat., Oct. 27, Ft. Pickens Native Plants.** James Burkhalter will lead us on a walk to observe fall wildflowers and native plants along the Dunes Nature Trail and the Blackbird Marsh Trail at Ft. Pickens. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge at Wayside Park near the Pensacola Visitor Center. Easy walking. We will finish by noon. Bring drinks for the morning and a picnic lunch if you wish. Ft. Pickens is a fee area of Gulf Islands National Seashore.

□ **Sat., Nov. 10, Mobile Causeway Birding.** Lucy and Bob Duncan will lead us to several good birding spots around Mobile Bay and along the Mobile Causeway. These areas can be very productive for shorebirds, ducks and late migrants. Expect moderate walking. We will plan to eat lunch at a restaurant. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Publix parking lot on the corner of Nine Mile Road and Pine Forest Road, or at 8:30 a.m. in Daphne in the parking lot behind the Shell gas station which overlooks the bay. (This is the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail [ACBT] site #25). We expect to bird the Blakeley Mud Lakes and all participants must have permits on file prior to the trip. Access the permit form at <http://www.aosbirds.org/blakeley.php>. We plan to return by mid afternoon.

□ **Fri., Nov. 30 – Sun., Dec. 2, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Birding.** Peggy Baker and the Duncans will lead us on a long weekend birding trip to one of the southeast's finest birding areas to see a large variety of birds in diverse habitats. The trip pace will be moderate with some walking. We will arrive Friday in time to bird the afternoon and finish Sunday around noon. Definitely on the agenda, we will likely see manatees and close views of many water birds on the Wakulla River boat ride within the State Park. Rooms are being held for us at the Best Western Wakulla Inn & Suites located on Highway 98 near Crawfordville. To make your room reservations, call 850-926-3737 before Nov. 15 and ask for the FMW Audubon group rates (king at \$65 & double queens at \$72 plus tax). To sign up, send a \$35 per participant contribution to FMW Audubon Society and call Lucy Duncan at 932-4792 and leave your name, telephone number and email address, or email her at town_point@bellsouth.net. A detailed itinerary will be emailed in mid-Nov.

□ **Sat., Dec. 8, Urban Pensacola Winter Birding.** Join Lucy and Bob Duncan to explore some of the best birding nooks and crannies about town. We will visit Long Hollow, Project GreenShores, the new Admiral Mason Park pond, and a few other areas as time permits. We should find wintering passerines and a good variety of both bay and pond ducks. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge at Wayside Park near the Pensacola Visitor Center. We plan to finish by noon.

Chapter Meetings

Pensacola State College, 7:00pm, Main Campus, Baroco Science Center, Room 2142, unless otherwise noted. Guests are welcome!

□ **Oct. 25, 2012.** Ms. Barbara Almario of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will present a program entitled "Survivorship of the Bachman Sparrow: A pilot study at Blackwater Wildlife Management Area."

□ **Nov., 2012.** There will not be a FMWAS meeting.

□ **Dec. 13, 2012.** Holiday Gala! The program will consist of a slide show of bird photos presented by various members of our Society. This has become a favorite holiday tradition with our chapter. If you would like to present some of your recent photos, please contact Larry Goodman, 433-5135. Members attending are requested to bring a snack or dessert to share.

Board of Directors

□ **Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6**—The Board meets at 7:00pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bayou Blvd. Pensacola. Meetings are open to all members.

Other Activities

□ **Oct. 6-18,** Fall Bird Banding, Ft. Morgan State Historical Park, Hummer/Bird Study Group

□ **Sat., Oct. 13,** Open House at the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center. See page 5.

□ **Thurs., Nov. 8, 6:30pm**--The Native Plant Society - Longleaf Chapter will meet at the Tryon Library. Bill Finch will discuss his new book: *Longleaf, Far As the Eye Can See* (publisher, the Univ. of N. Carolina Press).

□ **Sat., Dec. 15, Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Bill Bremser, compiler, 934-3395 or billbremser@gmail.com if interested in participating. See page 6 for details.

Amendment to Protect Florida's Most Cherished Waters and Natural Areas

Florida has a proud legacy of conserving the water quality of our lakes, rivers and springs and acquiring lands necessary to protect drinking water sources that has historically transcended party politics. For the past four decades every Governor, including Governors Graham, Martinez, Chiles, Bush and Crist, has made it a priority. Thanks to their leadership, popular programs, like Florida Forever and its predecessor Preservation 2000, have successfully protected over 2.4 million acres of critical lands.

Yet, since 2009, funding for the Florida Forever program has been essentially eliminated, being slashed by 97.5 percent. This year the legislature allocated only \$8.5 million to protect important water protection areas and conservation lands. Compared to the state budget of \$60 billion, that means that for every

dollar the state spends in 2012, less than two-hundredths of a penny went to the Florida Forever program. That's less than \$1 for every Floridian.

An effort is now underway to restore Florida's leadership on water and land conservation. Florida's Water and Land Legacy, a coalition of the state's leading conservation organizations, including Francis M. Weston Audubon, The Trust for Public Land, Audubon Florida, Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and many others, has launched a campaign to place the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

Through a constitutional amendment, Floridians can assure that adequate funding is dedicated solely to restoring critical natural areas, like the Everglades, and protecting Florida's magnificent waters and lands for future generations. We understand the value of clean and abundant water for people and wildlife, and

cherish the natural areas that make Florida special. That's why the amendment would ensure that these values have a place in our state's constitution.

With almost 2 million acres of important water protection areas, beaches, springs and other vital natural areas that remain vulnerable to unwise development decisions and deep funding cuts, this amendment is our best hope to create stable and long-term funding for conservation and restoration. It will take one million signatures to place the amendment on the ballot. To meet this challenge we will need an army of volunteers throughout the state gathering signatures in their community. Join the campaign and get involved by signing up to volunteer at www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org/volunteer.

To learn more about Florida's Water and Land Legacy campaign visit www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org and 'like' them on Facebook.

The Ecological Role of Beach Wrack

Barbara Albrecht and Carole Tebay

Look closely the next time you are at the shore, as on a daily basis the shoreline reveals a story about the previous day's events and weather conditions. Swash lines appear at the high tide line, having been carried there by the wave actions and cycles. Swash is made up of flotsam which is carried with sand and water up onto the shore with each wave. After the swash sinks, arcing debris formations remain at the high water mark, acting like a "score card of wave action."

Flotsam may be in the form of small plant material, torn loose by currents or surf, or large material like driftwood carried down river eventually to be deposited onshore. Flotsam carries with it a slurry of detritus – that is made up of decomposed plant and animal matter in a solution of algae and bacteria.

Wrack is the stuff cast away by the sea. Marine plant components make up the greatest part of the wrack community which are transported by currents, driven by winds, and carried ashore by waves. During its journey at sea, wrack attracts organisms from zooplankton to juvenile fish and crabs; these in turn attract sea turtles and many larger fish species including dolphin fish and bill fish.

As the wrack ends up deposited along the shoreline, the plants begin to decompose which forms the base of a unique

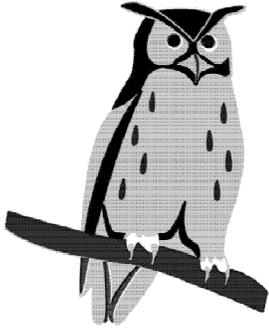
and very influential food web. Wrack which carried small and epiphytic organisms from the sea will now begin the recycling process. As the wrack matter ages it provides nutrients which invite growth of fungi and other microbial organisms. These microbes become a food source for amphipods and other small crustaceans. Insects appear which are also a major component in the recycling process. Before long, the wrack is made up of beetles, beach hoppers, ghost crabs, etc., which attract shorebirds. The wrack material becomes a buffet of various sized organisms, and as the shorebirds pick through material looking for an appetizer, they will do their part to add guano to the mix. Many of the smaller birds, camouflaged by the wrack, find cover from predators, a roost, and shade.

As the wrack is picked through and dried, winds may pick it up and roll it across the sand. Clumps of dried wrack may house seeds,

which will sprout when conditions permit. The decomposing wrack provides nutrients for the new plants. Thus wrack has the added benefit of creating new sources of vegetation. Plants, as they grow, will help trap the sand and grow the dune topography. The dunes, acting as a defense against flooding and erosion will host a variety of animal and plant life and create a unique habitat for birds to nest and feed.



David McRee



FIELD NOTES

Bob Duncan

Who in their right mind wants to bird in the heat and humidity of summer? Most birders are like the Duncans, staying put and noting bird activity from house and yard. But sometimes unusual weather events punctuate the monotony.

Such an event occurred when Hurricane Isaac approached the Louisiana coast on 29 August. Early fall migrants, hindered by strong SE and S winds, began to accumulate along the coast, refusing to commit themselves to a suicidal flight into strong headwinds. Before the storm dissipated, 18 species of warblers were counted in the Duncans' Gulf Breeze yard, including hard to get birds such as **Canada, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Swainson's, Mourning, Blue-winged** and **Kentucky Warblers**.

On 30 Aug, after Peggy Baker, Pam Beasley and Sue Peters-Ferree found an exhausted **Great Shearwater*** on the road to Ft. Pickens, the Duncans decided maybe things were happening at the beach as well. Joined by Daniel Stangeland, we set up scopes from the elevated restroom at the Ft. Pickens road entrance and watched a steady procession of shearwaters move east just beyond the surf line. **Great*, Audubon's*** and **Cory's Shearwaters*** were identified out of the 80 we counted in an hour and a half. Birders usually have to pay big bucks and endure rolling seas and hot sun to go 50 or 60 miles offshore to see such a spectacle!

Another bonus was the influx of **Magnificent Frigatebirds** that came in from all over the area accompanying the storm. Reports are too numerous to mention in this article, but the top count was 115 roosting in trees at the tip of the Gulf Breeze peninsula. Such was Isaac's gift.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY BIRDS

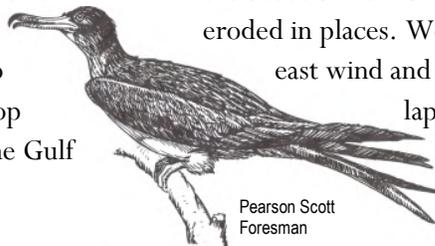
A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** has been lingering at the Taminco Sanctuary in Pace for several weeks. Thanks to diligent monitoring by Bruce Furlow, Les Kelly and Larry Goodman, we are getting a better perspective of what birders are missing from that productive habitat. The Duncans estimated 500 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in their Gulf Breeze neighborhood

on 21 Aug. A female **Bobolink*** was photographed at Ft. Pickens by Daniel Stangeland on 21 Aug, providing only a 4th Aug record. A **Western Kingbird** was seen in the Duncan neighborhood on 22 Aug providing an early fall record by a day. As Isaac approached, Lucy Duncan and John Connor spotted a **Bridled Tern*** at Pensacola Beach, a pelagic species that's usually found well offshore. A rare **Hairy Woodpecker*** was spotted by Jerry Callaway at IP Wetlands on 8 Sep.

Jan Nickerson was amazed to observe hundreds of **Common Nighthawks** near her home in E. Milton late on 6 Sep. Meanwhile Jerry Callaway was observing a similar phenomenon in the Cantonment area at the same time! These birds were migrating to wintering grounds in the tropics. (An estimated 2,000 were seen by Francis Weston and Charles Kahn moving through Pensacola on 13 Sept 1961!!)

A cool front passed through the area on 9 Sep, bringing with it refreshingly drier, cooler air and another influx of southbound migrants. Unfortunately, the road to Ft. Pickens was still closed due to Isaac's passage and birders had to scramble for birds wherever they could be found. The trails on the south side of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Gulf Breeze proved productive as well as the Duncan yard. Warblers, Vireos, Orioles and Tanagers were logged, and Jerry Callaway was able to pick out a rare **Western Tanager*** in the Duncans' yard on 9 Sep.

The Ft. Pickens road was reopened on 11 Sep and the Duncans and Daniel Stangeland were quick to investigate the situation. Unfortunately, the Gulf beach has been badly eroded in places. We went there at high tide with a fresh east wind and heavy surf, and found the waves



Pearson Scott
Foresman

lapping up to the asphalt in places. The most vulnerable area is the stretch of road between the "Land between the Lakes" and the second parking lot just east of Battery Langdon. It will not take much of a storm in the future to create another serious washout. Hopefully, I am wrong.

Species with asterisks require documentation so that they may be processed to become part of the ornithological record. The **Skimmer welcomes reports of noteworthy birds. If you have something to report, please call Bob or Lucy Duncan at 932-4792.*

TRIPPING to the Bird Store

Ann Forster

When Spotter's Bird Shop closed, we were left without shops dedicated to birds and the equipment to attract them. The "big box" stores have a selection of bird feeders and bird food, but their offerings are pretty basic. They do have plants in their nurseries that thrive in our climate, but do not have a clue to what we call native plants.

Over the past few years, our horizons have opened up and now there are some wonderful opportunities to spend your money and make your birds and butterflies ecstatic. All these establishments have excellent web-sites but visiting them is much more fun. I will tell you about three of these stores and if there are others, please contact me.

The Garden Gate (thegardengate@att.net) at 3268 Fordham Parkway, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563, 850-932-9066. Not only does this shop have an excellent choice of native plants targeted for butterfly and hummingbird gardens, they have the knowledge to back it up. In addition to plants, they have yard art and equipment. You definitely want to sign up for their monthly e-mail newsletter which has tips for the season and a schedule for regular seminars on plants, crafts, and other gardening topics.

Hall's Hardware (www.hallshardware.com) at 6606 Highway 90, Milton, FL 32570, 850-623-4622. If you like old-timey hardware stores, this is the place for you. Once you have finished looking for that yard tool you can't find anywhere else, you go to the bird area which has garden gifts and supplies, wild bird supplies including a huge selection of bird feed, even mealworms fresh and frozen, and all kinds of outdoor equipment and decorative art.



Woerner's Turf and Landscape Source (www.woernerlandscape.com) 1332 Creighton Road, Pensacola, FL 32504, 850-474-0830. We are all familiar with Woerner's Turf Farms over in Alabama because the migrating upland shorebirds land there, hopefully during one of our field trips. For years they had a sod outlet on Creighton Road but now it has expanded into a beautiful store with an upscale selection of birdfeeders, bird baths, fountains, outdoor art, and furniture. The sod, mulch, pavers, and plant materials are still there. Happy Shopping!

Roy Hyatt Environmental Center

Jim Brady, Center Committee Chair



We are pleased that once again FMWAS will employ Jennifer Butera as our Audubon Naturalist at the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center (RHEC), where Jennifer will be teaching classes of 2nd and 5th graders who come to RHEC on field trips. She will continue to charm the students with our Eastern Screech Owls, John and James II, who are used in the bird units offered to those classes.

We will also continue to provide, with your financial support, a copy of pertinent Audubon Adventures to each student who attends a field trip at RHEC, permitting classroom teachers to reinforce the lessons learned at RHEC upon return to the classroom.

The BirdBus will again be a major part of the bird unit curricula, and we have recently replaced the failed pump at the water feature near the BirdBus so that birds will again be attracted not only by seed and suet in the feeders, but also by the sound and sight of running water.

Over the summer, a team of volunteers led by Morris Clark finished the construction and placement of botanical signage along the main nature trail to highlight important native and invasive plant species found on the Center property (see photo). The trail has recently been greatly enhanced by the construction of a boardwalk that will permit use of the trail in all weather, and the signs are conveniently located nearby.

In early June, Jennifer Butera and a wonderful group of volunteers conducted two of our week-long Environmental Encounters Summer Camp program, providing a meaningful educational experience in nature for 18 youngsters. We hope to continue to offer this nature camp again next summer. In the meantime, Jennifer is offering opportunities for groups of students to visit the Center for Saturday morning or afternoon/evening programs throughout the fall. She can be contacted for more information on these programs at jennhale8@yahoo.com.

Many thanks to Morris Clark, Mo Michel and Richard Mason for their yearlong assistance in maintenance work in the bus area, posting of botanical signs, and other projects that help enhance the programs at RHEC.

We invite you all to come see what your Audubon chapter has done at the Center during the annual Roy Hyatt Environmental Center Open House on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

WHAZAT? *When a scope isn't enough.*

Several of us with binoculars and a spotting scope were struggling to identify a pair of swans from the road above the Vermilion Lakes in Banff, Canada. I noticed a photographer near by with a large lens on his camera. I asked if he knew which species of swan we were seeing—Tundra or Trumpeter? He replied, “I just take photos of wildlife and do not have a bird book.” But, he was interested as we talked about the differences—the slope of the forehead and bill; the extent and shape of the black facial skin; and the yellow spot in front of the eye of most Tundra Swans. He displayed one of his photos and digitally zoomed in on the face and bill. Bingo, the yellow spot—Tundra Swan. *The camera knew.* Carol Ascherfeld

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held this year in Pensacola on Saturday, December 15. This year is the 113th CBC conducted by the Audubon Society, a tradition which was started in 1900. Every person wishing to help during the CBC is very welcome. Expertise level is not a criterion, the more eyes and ears we have the better the results. If interested contact Bill Bremser at [850-934-3395](tel:850-934-3395) or billbremser@gmail.com.

BIRDWATCHING ON THE WEB

One of the most interesting things about birdwatching is that there is always something new to learn. Recently, a new technology has added a tome of new information on nesting birds. Amazingly, you can view these events as they occur through animal webcams. Of course, most will not be online until Spring but a few are available now.



Take a look at these birds raising young:

Barn Owls in Chula Vista, California
<http://www.ustream.tv/owlchannel>

South African Spotted Eagle Owl
www.ustream.tv/africampottedplantowl

Channel Islands Allen's Hummingbird
<http://phoebeallens.com>

Anna's Hummingbird in S. California
www.ustream.tv/worldofhummingbirds

We'll continue to share more sites as we find them.

Christmas Wreaths and Greenery Fundraiser

The fresh scent of pine, cedar, and fir can fill your home during the holiday season. For the third year, our chapter will offer wreaths and greenery for sale during the holidays. Contact any board member to place an order and for details on internet ordering. Orders are due no later than November 15 for early December delivery. The holiday greenery brochure and price lists are online at

<http://www.fmwaudubon.org/>

Tributes

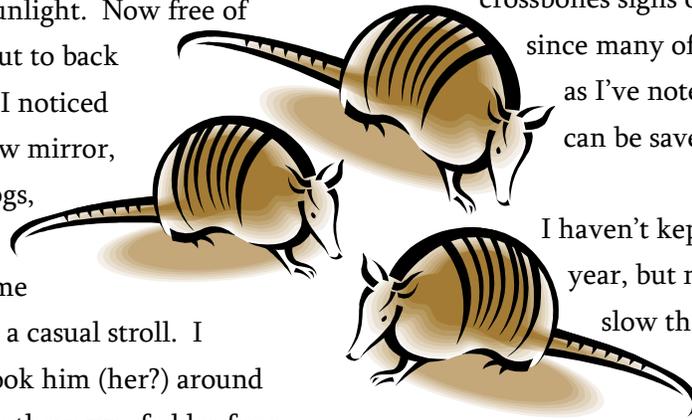
Our chapter was saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our long-time members, **John deLorge** and **Beth Barnett**. John was a former Audubon Board member and served as Conservation Chairman. He was active in many outdoor and environmental groups. Beth Barnett was always a friendly face at our regular meetings. She was a teacher at Brentwood Middle School for many years and was a faithful supporter of our educational programs. Our sympathies to their families and many friends.

The FMWAS Board also wishes to thank the friends and family of **John David (JD) Saunders** for their contributions to our chapter in his memory.

Yesterday three juvenile armadillos were running around in my garage. I know that they are always lurking about during the night, digging in my pine straw paths for grubs or whatever, but I hardly ever see one during the day—let alone three. In my garage. I have no idea what they had hoped to find on the concrete floor, but they were going about it in the usual manner of armadillos—leisurely. Yes, these creatures are not timid, just amazingly *degagé*. Or just stupid. Near-sighted, nonchalant, and simple-minded, it's a wonder they manage to survive at all, let alone reproduce. With a little effort I rounded up the antediluvian herd and shooed them out into the sunlight. Now free of wildlife, more or less, I was about to back the car out of the garage, when I noticed something through the rear-view mirror, in the driveway—you know, dogs, kids on bikes, we must stay alert to the unforeseen. This time it was a young box turtle taking a casual stroll. I scooped up the wanderer and took him (her?) around the house to the bay side, where there was fodder for a turtle, and less risk of being featured on the menu of the Roadkill Café, in Elberta.

Yes, it's a wilderness here. We are home to possums and raccoons, and whatever else stalks this half acre through the evening hours, while during daylight my squirrel clans, front and rear, rule the tree tops, and anoles stake claim to the deck and its railings. I've started naming these little chameleonic predators, but that's probably not a good idea, as I've seen Blue Jays picking them off from time to time. I do have a favorite though, Annie. Her gluttony and her carefree brazenness are making me anxious for her safety. She recently ate a moth pupa as large as herself, which proved no easy task for a toothless creature—and yes, I do know males from females.

This past spring was a bonanza of bird nesting: Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Brown Thrashers, and Brown-headed Nuthatches all found reason to start families here. Bluebirds, mockingbirds, doves, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers have done so as well in past years. My neighbors on this rather ordinary residential street tend to be normal behaving suburbanites, with their noisy gardening engines whining ad nauseum, and their vile devices for spraying poisonous fumes through the air, endangering the safety and well-being of children and caterpillars alike. These folks should be obliged to post skull-and-crossbones signs on their sleek grass carpets, since many of the brighter kids can read, as I've noted in the local news. Lives can be saved.



I haven't kept my feeders stocked this year, but my neglect hasn't seemed to slow the traffic in wildlife. I remember once reading that backyard feeders tend to create dependencies, and in some instances folks who have departed their winter homes for sunnier climes, have left their chickadees behind to starve. I travel myself, and I wouldn't want my critters to lose their natural survival instincts because I'd made their lives just a wee bit too comfortable. I admire the self-sustaining nature of wild things, alert to both danger and opportunity, living by caution and wit, or losing life by lack of either. Not true for our pets, of course. We treat them like our children, who also learn to lean on their dependencies, lacking both wit and caution, living on hand-outs and dumb luck like the armadillos in my garage searching for grubs in concrete corners. I wonder if armadillos are good to eat—or could possibly make good pets. There may be money in this yet.

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society
 P. O. Box 17484
 Pensacola, Florida 32522

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BirdBus, Heidi Moore

Chapter Meetings
 Oct. 25 and Dec. 13

Field Trips
 Oct. 13 & 27, Nov 10,
 Nov 30—Dec 2, Dec 8
Details on page 2



about 25% postconsumer waste

Corporate Supporters

Armstrong World Industries, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc.,
 Pfizer, and Ascend Performance Materials

Chapter Contacts

President	Dana Timmons	934-4521
Vice President	Position open	
Recording Secretary	Lucy Michel.....	433-3151
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Forster	456-4421
Treasurer	Becky Grass	455-9666
Directors at Large	Lucy Duncan.....	932-4792
	Larry Goodman	433-5135
	Wes Tallyn	390-5525
Membership	Jan Lloyd	453-1660
Field Trips	Lucy Duncan.....	932-4792
Programs	Larry Goodman.....	433-5135
Publicity	Brenda Callaway.....	968-4516
Fundraising	Dana Timmons	934-4521
Conservation	Barbara Albrecht.....	384-6696
Hyatt Center Committee	Jim Brady.....	456-5083
Education	Mary Newman.....	282-0485
	Jane Dysart	637-8008
Outreach	Peggy Baker	564-1482
Skimmer Co-Editors	Jere French.....	932-8796
	Sue Timmons.....	934-4521
Web Liaison	Cheryl Bunch.....	572-5669
	http://www.fmwaudubon.org/	bunchc@cox.net

Introductory Membership
National Audubon Society
(includes Audubon Florida and our local chapter)

Individual/Family: One-year —\$20
 (Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society.)

Student Membership—local chapter only
One year—\$7.00

(Include a copy of your student id with a check payable to FMW Audubon Society.)

Mail to the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society,
 PO Box 17484, Pensacola, FL 32522.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society Chapter C2ZE460Z

The National Audubon Society occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you might find of interest. To have your name omitted from this list, please check here. _____