



Peace River Audubon Society First Annual Birdathon - April 20, 2002

What's a Birdathon? From sunrise to sunset on April 20, 2002, volunteers from the Peace River Audubon Society will be surveying the countryside and seashores looking for as many different species of wild birds as possible. Prior to the big day, they will be looking for sponsors who will pledge a specified amount for each bird species seen or heard. Pledges can be any amount the donor chooses. Our goal will be to identify 100 different birds on that day. Since we usually see fifty or so birds on any given field trip, this will be a real challenge, but we plan to work at it all day. You are certainly welcome to join us and sponsor yourself, or you can pledge a contribution directly to one of our volunteers or call 255-3318 and we will assign your pledge to a volunteer. After April 20 a volunteer will be contacting you to let you know how it went that day and how many birds were identified. If you wish, you may pledge a set amount that is not dependent on the number of birds identified.

The proceeds will go to support the Youth Environmental Education Fund. The fund was established in 2001 by the Peace River Audubon Society after school system budget cuts eliminated the funding for the fourth-grade environmental field-trip programs conducted by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. These programs can now only be continued if outside funding is obtained. This funding must now come from grants and donations such as yours. Here are some of the things that will be made possible through this fund:

- Interpretive boat field trips for Charlotte County fourth-grade classes
- Guided nature walks for Charlotte County fourth-grade classes
- Wading trips for second graders as requested
- Audubon Adventures magazines for classrooms as requested

This is your opportunity to make a difference. Our young people will be facing tough decisions as adults. A love and appreciation of natural things will help them make good choices. Understanding through education is the key to developing a love and life-long appreciation of the world's delicate ecosystems.

**“WARBLER MIGRATION”
APRIL 18, 2002 - MEETING**

- On April 18, Lee Snyder from the St. Petersburg Audubon Society will present “Warbler Migration.”
- Please join us at 7:00 pm on April 18 for refreshments followed by our meeting and program at the

CORKSCREW SWAMP TRUCK TRIP

The weather couldn't have been more beautiful on March 9 when 19 members of PRAS took the backroads trip into Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. We rode on benches on the backs of three flatbed trucks and were accompanied by driver/guides. For over three hours, we traveled on dirt roads that went about 5 miles into the park to an observation tower, through pine flatwoods and marsh habitats, including areas that had previously been fish ponds and vegetable farms. The birds were very active and many afforded great views. Two American bitterns were seen not far from the road. Several swallowtail kites soared overhead, occasionally low. We saw, from across a field, several groups of wood stork nests, though not as closely as in former years. Also, nesting there in one place were roseate spoonbills. Wading birds were dense in some areas. Osprey, red shouldered and red tailed hawks, a marsh hawk and a Cooper's hawk were on display.

After lunch, most of us went on the boardwalk through mainly cypress swamp habitat. Though early afternoon is a poor time for good birding, we hit a couple of hot spots for warblers; seeing yellow-throated, black and white, pine, palm, and yellow-rumped warblers; Northern parula and common yellowthroat. Pairs of the often elusive, but loud, Carolina wren displayed themselves on several occasions, affording excellent views for most of us as they carried nesting materials to nests that were close to the boardwalk. A third American bittern stalked close to our path. Although the group broke up gradually, a few stayed until they kicked us out! A total of sixty-one species was recorded.

Eleanor and Bill Marr

EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE REQUEST

Occasionally, there are reminders or notices that Peace River Audubon Society would like to send to you in a more timely manner. Yes, the phones work, but each call must be made individually. If we had your email address, we could send lots of folks a brief note in short order.

So, please send an email to: wecoomb@comcast.net and put your phone number in that note as well in case we need.

We PROMISE that your email address will not be used (or sold) for any purpose other than Peace River Audubon notices and other important bulletins.



Silent Auction a Big Success

The Silent Auction held in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary Banquet was a big success. A total of \$931 was raised for the Youth Environmental Education Fund. The fund was established by the Peace River Audubon Society in 2001 to support youth environmental education programs in Charlotte County. This year our major focus is to raise money to support the elementary school environmental education programs provided by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. A special thanks to all of the PRAS members who donated items for the auction and to the following corporate donors:

Babcock Wilderness Adventures
Backyard Bird Company
Cypress Gardens
Walt Disney World

Mote Marine Laboratories
National Audubon Society
Target Stores
Wal-Mart Stores

If you were not able to be at our Annual Banquet but would like to make a contribution to the fund, please take the time to send a check made out to the Peace River Audubon Society, designated for the Youth Environmental Education Fund, and mail it to the Peace River Audubon Society, P.O. Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951.

ROYAL LIPIZZAN STALLIONS AND SOLOMON'S CASTLE

FIELD TRIP

Twenty-five (25) people set off towards Arcadia on March 16 to see the Royal Lipizzan Stallions of Austria outdoor performances.

Austrian Col. Ottomar Herrmann announced the feats the horses would do as they performed elegant Baroque art form routines. The stallions did the levade, which was originally a war maneuver, the tandem with two lovely white stallions in unison and the pas de trios with three stallions performing.

A dramatic rescue of these stallions was undertaken by Gen. George F. Patton from Austria during World War II.

We departed and went 13 miles eastward through rural areas of pastureland, large oak and palmettos and other native Florida trees to arrive at Solomon's Castle in time for a nice lunch.

Howard Solomon built the castle and the boat-in-the-moat restaurant, which contains galleries of his art and more than 80 interpretive stained glass windows. There is a nature trail available along Horse Creek as well. On the way in, walking along the gangplank to the "boat," a large alligator hangs around below, just waiting for a careless guest to fall in! Our group sat outside for lunch, and all of our group returned home okay!

On our trip, we saw wild turkeys, cara cara, meadowlarks, bluebirds, and many more.

Norm Leppan

The Peace River Audubon Society
 PO Box 510760
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Non-profit organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951
 Permit No. 100

White Bird

Address Corrections? - please call Betty Coombs, Membership



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 Kitty Rich 941-764-8089

2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

4/18 Meeting 7:30 (Refreshments at 7)—"Warbler Migration" with Lee Snyder, St. Petersburg Audubon Society

5/16 Member's Night—Annual meeting, election of officers, and special presentations by our own talented members!

Peace River Audubon's web-site address is:
<http://clubs.homeearth.com/peacriver-audubon>

The following information must now appear on all solicitation requests: "The Peace River Audubon Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Federal tax ID number is 59-2190872. We do not engage a professional solicitor and 100% of the funds generated by this request will be used to support our Chapter programs. Our registration number with the FDA Division of Consumer Services is SC-040701."

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone (optional) (____) _____

Please enroll me as a National Audubon Society and Peace River Audubon Society member. I will receive Audubon and The Florida Naturalist magazines as well as the Peace River White Bird newsletter.

One year - \$20 Two years - \$35

Send this completed application with your check to:

The National Audubon Society
 Membership Data Center
 P.O. Box 51003 E14
 Boulder, CO 80323-1003 7XCH

OR . . .

Please enroll me for a 1-year White Bird subscription.

Please mail this application with your \$10 check to:
 The Peace River Audubon Society, PO Box 510760,
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.