



2002 Christmas Bird Count - December 14, 2002

The Peace River Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 14. This will be our 16th Annual Christmas Bird Count. We will be counting the number of birds and species within an area generally defined as a 15-mile diameter circle; the center of which is located at US 41 and Henry Street in Punta Gorda. To facilitate the count, the circle has been divided into twelve areas. Although the areas are similar to last year, a few boundary changes have been made to better approximate our circle. Team leaders are now contacting participants with details of where and when to meet. A \$5 fee will be collected from each participant at the beginning of the count and will be forwarded to National Audubon Society to fund the compilation of the results on a national basis and make the results available in published form. Here is a listing of our areas and team captains:

- Area 1: Jones Loop Rd. and areas east of US 41, including the northwest corner of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area – Jeff Bouton
- Area 2: CHEC, Burnt Store Rd. and areas southwest of US 41 – Gene Christensen
- Area 3: Punta Gorda west of I-75 and north of Alligator Creek – Tony & Judy Licata
- Area 4: Punta Gorda east of I-75 and north from Jones Loop Rd. up to Washington Loop Rd – Cathy Olson
- Area 5: Peace River and Charlotte Harbor by boat – Denise Tomlinson
- Area 6: Port Charlotte, east of Kings Highway, south of Rampart Blvd. and west to the Peace River – Jean Phipps
- Area 7: Deep Creek, east of I-75 and north of Sandhill Blvd. to Desoto County line – George Marks
- Area 8: Port Charlotte, northeast of US 41, west of Kings Highway and south of Veterans Blvd – Bill & Eleanor Marr
- Area 9: Port Charlotte, southwest of US 41, south of Toledo Blade and east of the Como Waterway – Bill Havill
- Area 10: Port Charlotte, east of Kings Highway, south of Sandhill Blvd. and north of Rampart Blvd. to the Peace River – Elliot Kampert
- Area 11: Myakka River and Buffer and Aquatic Preserve east to Alligator Bay, by boat – Joan and Chuck Froman
- Area 12: Buffer and Aquatic Preserve (western edge of land and Charlotte Harbor) by boat – Bob Repenning

If you would like to help and have not yet been contacted by a team captain, please call Cathy Olson at 613-6753 or call your team captain directly.

WHAT YOUR BOARD'S BEEN DOING.....

- ⇒ Land and Water Conservation Fund Application was completed and sent to NAS.
- ⇒ A letter is to be sent to SFWMD and NEP in support of a SWIM designation for lower Charlotte Harbor.
- ⇒ PRAS Website is under www.Audubon.org and then link to our Chapter.
- ⇒ The upcoming CHEC Auction at Best Western in Punta Gorda on November 6 was discussed.
- ⇒ Membership reported by Betty Coombs was 473 members, 16 White Bird only, 90 nonmembers...total 579.
- ⇒ SWF Regional representative Larry Linn reported that two PRAS resolutions were sent to Audubon of Florida: (1) PRAS's position on phosphate mining—now called Peace River Watershed Resolution and (2) Water resolution.
- ⇒ Caloosa Regional representative George Marks reported that Brad Cornell of Collier County was elected to serve on the AOF Board (replacing George). The panther habitat and SWF land-use resolutions were finalized; with "Smart Growth" added to the land-use resolution. George believes both resolutions were adopted as proposed at the Audubon Assembly. There was a major issue involving Babcock Ranch discussed at the regional committee meeting with some potential for state purchase, with a key component being local government monies.
- ⇒ George Marks discussed the Audubon Assembly—workshops were tremendous, field trips were good, lower attendance than expected in all. The Disney bird-show experience was phenomenal. The Assembly will be held in Orlando next year.
- ⇒ Youth Environmental Education monies were discussed; suggestion that maybe a bird/butterfly garden being set up in Peace River Elementary Schools would enhance students involvement and enjoyment.
- ⇒ Volunteer are needed in the kitchen area for membership meetings—contact Cyndi Marks at 255-3318.
- ⇒ Nature Festival (2/1/03) and Yard/Native plant sale (1/11/03) - need volunteers!
- ⇒ Bird ID class and Christmas Bird Count and Social - see articles in this issue.

Coming up soon: Yard and Native Plant Sale - January 11, 2003

The yard and native plant sale on January 11, 2003 to benefit Florida Scrub-Jay Land Acquisition in Charlotte County is coming up fast! The Florida Scrub-Jay is a state and federally threatened species. The principal reason for the decline of this species is loss of habitat. Acquisition of Florida Scrub-Jay habitat will also protect other native plant and animal species, protect our watersheds, and add to the quality of life in Charlotte County by providing additional open space. Proceeds from the sale are anticipated to be matched by the State, furthering your contribution. So, please start looking for items that may be cluttering your house. We will gladly accept these unwanted items. Florida Scrub-Jays are dependent on your generosity! Please contact Cathy Olson at 613-6753 if you have items to donate or would like to volunteer your time at this PRAS event.

Peace River Audubon Society:

President: Cathy Olson..... 613-6753
Vice President: Kathi Rader-Gibson..... 474-3065
Secretary: Peggy Kampert..... 235-3160
Treasurer: Larry Linn..... 637-8160

Other Directors: John Aspiolea, Betty Coombs, Chuck Froman, Joan Froman, Dennis Hungerford,

Joy Linn, Cyndi Marks, George Marks

Editor: Joy Linn 637-8160 linn59@comcast.net



Tell me how I can help the environment with a gift annuity to CHEC!

- *Guaranteed payments for life
- *Receive immediate tax savings
- *Support the environment for generations to come

If you are 50+ and considering a gift of \$10,000 or more, please call or write for free information :

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Send to: Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center,
 10941 Burnt Store Road, FL 33955
 Telephone (941) 575-5495**

What You Give To Nature-Nature Gives Back To You.

2002-03 Audubon Calendar

- 12/7 Birding Class (see article)
- 12/14 Christmas Bird Count - Cathy Olson, Chair
- 12/19 Christmas Bird Count Social
- 2003:**
- 1/11 Plant/Yard Sale (for Scrub Jay Habitat) - Cathy Olson
- 1/16 Membership meeting (7 pm social/7:30 meeting)
"National Estuary Program" - Dr. Lisa Beever, Director
of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- 1/18 Field Trip - Whooping Cranes at Lake Kissimmee, Gene
Christenson 575-4170
- 2/1 Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
- 2/8 5K Cross-country Wildlife Walk and Run - registration forms
will be in the next White Bird and at the January meeting
- 2/20 Membership meeting (7 pm social/7:30 meeting)
"Burrowing Owls" - Cindy Bear
- 2/22 Field Trip - Bait Bucket Trail road, John Aspiola 575-5861
- 3/20 Membership meeting (7 pm social/7:30 meeting)
"Techniques and Practices" - Mike Kemmerer, Wildlife
Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Land Management
- 3/22 Field Trip - Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area,
Leader TBA
- 4/5 Birdathon - George Marks, Chair
- 4/19 Field Trip - Stump Pass State Park, Leader TBA
- 4/24 Banquet/Silent Auction, Victoria Estates - Clyde Butcher,
Artist, Photographer

Meeting site: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Pt Charlotte.

When you are finished with this Newsletter, please give it to a friend, leave it in a doctor's office or on a table where you work. It could help us grow our Chapter.

Bring a friend to the next meeting. Discuss Audubon with others. Enjoy the simplicity of birding in this complicated world. And, use this application for

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 plus 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:

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

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."

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

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December
White Bird



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