



January 3, 2003 Volume 26, Issue 6

**National Estuary Program - Dr. Lisa Beever**

Dr. Lisa Beever is the Director of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program in Florida. She joined the NEP staff in March 2002 but participated in its programs within a year after it was established in 1995. She presented original research at the Charlotte Harbor NEP's first watershed summit and implemented a restoration grant on behalf of a local non-profit organization. During her tenure with the NEP, she authored the annual workplan, the Advocacy and Federal Consistency Technical Report, The Implementation Review Technical Report, and a database to track restoration and science needs and implementation.

From 1993-2002, Dr. Beever was the director for the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization. Her agency won the highly competitive Environmental Excellence award from Federal Highway Administration for work that was accomplished in partnership with the NEP. Prior to that, she served as Lee County, Florida's Environmental Sciences Director, in charge of environmental planning, permitting, and enforcement. She wrote the Protected Species Ordinance, which became the model for local listed species ordinances in the State of Florida. She began her career in 1985 as a planner with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Dr. Beever earned her PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas A&M University in 1987, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from North Carolina State University in 1983.

Please join us at 7:00 pm on January 16 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for social time, followed by our meeting at 7:30 pm.

**January Board Profile - Peggy Kampert**

Hello my fellow bird enthusiasts. I would like to take the time to let you know a little about your PRAS Secretary, education co-chair, and program coordinator.

I am a fan of education. I believe in the power of curiosity and learning. I come by this interest honestly due to my family, as, nearly every family member has taught. They have been in many settings, from one room school houses in southern Missouri to Superintendent of Schools in Alaska.

I came to birding as a hobby due to curiosity. I have lived in Florida for 19 years. As my life became busier, I found that I needed to have a simple, uncomplicated space to explore. I found the trails at CHEC to be the space I needed, and my curiosity of the world around me led me to studying birding and native plants. I have a long way to go in learning my bird identification. However, I have learned to be patient and try to really understand one bird at a time. It has become a metaphor for my life.

I thank you for the opportunities which the positions on the PRAS Board has offered me. If you are interested in, or have suggestions about the education committee and programs, please feel free to contact me at 235-3160.

**Remember: Yard and Native Plant Sale**

Hopefully you will get this newsletter just in time to remind you of the yard and native plant sale on January 11, 2003, from 7 am to 2 pm at 466 Azalea Avenue (off West Tarpon) in Port Charlotte. The Florida Scrub-Jay is a state and federally threatened species. Acquisition of their habitat will 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 AND provide more opportunity for bird watching.

If you get this soon enough and have some items to donate, or if you would like to volunteer your time at this PRAS event, please contact Cathy Olson at 613-6753.

**BIRD WALKS...**On December 8, Norm Leppan, Barb Treadway, Joe Rothermund and Gene Christensen went birding for 4 hrs along the back country roads, King's Hwy to Pine Level. We saw 49 species, inc. great numbers of Goldfinches, Pine, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, several White-winged Doves, Bluebirds, Snipe, a Black and white Warbler and many Kestrels, Red-shouldered Hawks, and a Red-Tail. Most interesting were 2 groups of Turkeys close-by in the fields--at noon! No Red-headed Woodpeckers. Where are they?

The parking lot at the Pine Level Methodist Church (1868) was full. For you history buffs, the town of Pine Level became the County Seat of De Soto County in 1866, until relocation to Arcadia 18 months later. The town was a wilderness outpost where saloons outnumbered other businesses, a dry goods store, sawmill, cattle and real estate brokerages, a drug store, a post office, boarding houses and a jail.

The only standing original structure is the church, which is the bottom floor of the original schoolhouse that was used to replace the original Methodist Church (destroyed in 1923 by a hurricane). The top floor of the "new" church was destroyed by a hurricane in 1930, again leaving only the first floor. This was re-roofed and is the present church.

Across Pine Level Road, the old "Hanging Tree" remains, listing badly, roots exposed, marking the spot where, supposedly, justice was dispensed behind the outhouse.

A bronze marker stands under the shady oaks to remind the passer-by of the honor Pine Level once had. (Info from the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce brochures)

Barb Treadway

**AND...**On December 22, 2002, turned out to be a good day for birding! It was quite cool to start but it warmed up later on in the day.

We went to Nocatee on #17 not far from Arcadia and then on to 760A, then thru to SR31 areas. On a good-sized pond, there were several nice looking black-necked stilts; about 25 big white pelicans; hundreds of cormorants and coots; mottled ducks; egrets, hooded mergansers, P.B. Grebes. In a nearby field, there were about 50 sandhill cranes, red-shoulder hawks, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, some lovely singing Meadow Larks, bluebirds, 5 or 6 Bald Eagles, ospreys, snipe, pileated woodpecker, but no red-headed woodpeckers or red-cockaded.

Altogether we spotted 65 species. When we were out earlier in the month we saw red fox, fox squirrel, armadillo, otter and lots of wild turkeys. It shows what a different area has in birds and animals and a lot fewer birds.

**Good birding in 2003!** Norm Leppan (with Bill Havill, B. Cockayne, J. Rothermund and B. Treadway)

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS - December 14, 2002**

Tony Licata reported the following: "...We have now seen 34,739 birds representing 134 species. This is up from last year's 30,626 birds representing 130 species. Sighting changes of note from 2001 are: Bald Eagles from 15 to 32; Goldfinch from 8 to 203; White Ibis from 458 to 811; White Pelican from 5 to 53; Robins from 20 to 2645; Cedar Waxwings from 1 to 35. Sightings, however, on the downside are Hooded Mergansers from 1280 to 814; Royal Terns from 292 to 38; Sandwich Terns from 564 to 10."

|   |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 143 Anhinga                             | ___ Duck, Wood                        | ___ Kingbird, Eastern                   |
| ___ Ani, Smooth-billed                  | _27 Dunlin                            | ___ Kingbird, Gray                      |
| ___ Avocet, American                    | _32 Eagle, Bald; Adult 26_ Imm. _6_   | ___ Kingbird, Western                   |
| ___ Bittern, American                   | ___ Eagle, Golden; Adult ___ Imm. ___ | _57 Kingfisher, Belted                  |
| ___ Bittern, Least                      | 410 Egret, Cattle                     | _2 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned                |
| ___ Blackbird, Brewer's                 | 296 Egret, Great                      | ___ Kite, Black-shouldered              |
| 348 Blackbird, Red-winged               | _1 Egret, Reddish                     | ___ Kite, Snail                         |
| ___ Blackbird, Rusty                    | 251 Egret, Snowy                      | ___ Kite, Swallow-tailed                |
| ___ Blackbird, Yellow-headed            | ___ Falcon, Peregrine                 | _50 Knot, Red                           |
| _65 Bluebird, Eastern                   | _14 Flicker, Northern                 | ___ Limpkin                             |
| _18 Bobwhite, Northern                  | ___ Flycatcher, Acadian               | _4 Loon, Common                         |
| ___ Budgerigar                          | _1 Flycatcher, Great Crested          | ___ Loon, Red-throated                  |
| ___ Bufflehead                          | ___ Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed        | ___ Martin, Purple                      |
| ___ Bunting, Indigo                     | ___ Frigate-bird, Magnificent         | _26 Meadowlark, Eastern                 |
| ___ Bunting, Painted                    | ___ Gadwall                           | 814 Merganser, Hooded                   |
| ___ Canvasback                          | ___ Gallinule, Purple                 | _6 Merganser, Red-breasted              |
| ___ Caracara, Crested                   | ___ Gannet, Northern                  | _1 Merlin                               |
| _52 Cardinal, Northern                  | _73 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray            | 260 Mockingbird, Northern               |
| _74 Catbird, Gray                       | ___ Godwit, Marbled                   | 169 Moorhen                             |
| ___ Chickadee, Carolina                 | 203 Goldfinch, American               | ___ Nighthawk, Common                   |
| ___ Chuck-will's Widow                  | 1261 Grackle, Boat-tailed             | _2 Night-heron, Black-crowned           |
| _20 Coot, American                      | 1331 Grackle, Common                  | _43 Night-heron, Yellow-crowned         |
|   | ___ Grosbeak, Blue                    | ___7 Nuthatch, Brown-headed             |
|   | ___ Grebe, Horned                     | ___ Oriole, Northern                    |
| 1299 Cormorant, Double-crested          | _25 Grebe, Pied-billed                | ___ Oriole, Orchard                     |
| 170 Cowbird, Brown-headed               | ___ Gull, Bonaparte's                 | 206 Osprey                              |
| ___ Cowbird, Shiny                      | _1 Gull, Great Black-backed           | ___ Ovenbird                            |
| _48 Crane, Sandhill                     | _36 Gull, Herring                     | ___ Owl, Barn                           |
| ___ Creeper, Brown                      | 1185 Gull, Laughing                   | ___ Owl, Barred                         |
| _36 Crow, American                      | 1074 Gull, Ring-billed                | _37 Owl, Burrowing                      |
| 225 Crow, Fish                          | ___6 Harrier, Northern (Marsh Hawk)   | _1 Owl, Great Horned                    |
| ___ Cuckoo, Black-billed                | ___ Hawk, Broad-winged                | _1 Owl, Screech                         |
| ___ Cuckoo, Mangrove                    | ___4 Hawk, Cooper's                   | ___7 Oystercatcher, American            |
| ___ Cuckoo, Yellow-billed               | _34 Hawk, Red-shouldered              | ___ Parula, Northern                    |
| ___ Curlew, Long-billed                 | _12 Hawk, Red-tailed                  | 359 Pelican, Brown                      |
| _95 Dove, Common Ground                 | _1 Hawk, Sharp-shinned                | _53 Pelican, White                      |
| 189 Dove, Eurasian Collared             | ___ Hawk, Short-tailed                | _17 Phoebe, Eastern                     |
| 1321 Dove, Mourning                     | 119 Heron, Great Blue                 | ___ Pigeon, White-crowned               |
| ___ Dove, Ringed Turtle-                | ___ Heron, Great White                | _1 Pintail, Northern                    |
| _32 Dove, Rock                          | _14 Heron, Green                      | ___ Pipit, Water                        |
| ___ Dove, White-winged                  | 179 Heron, Little Blue                | _28 Plover, Black-bellied (Gray Plover) |
| ___ Dowitcher, Long-billed              | _87 Heron, Tricolored                 | ___ Plover, Piping                      |
| _6 Dowitcher, Short-billed              | _1 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated         | _11 Plover, Semi-palmated               |
| 107 Duck, Mallard                       | 105 Jay, Blue                         | ___ Plover, Snowy                       |
| 149 Duck, Mottled                       | _50 Jay, Scrub                        | ___ Plover, Wilson's                    |
| _10 Duck, Muscovy                       | _48 Ibis, Glossy                      | ___ Rail, Clapper                       |
|   | 811 Ibis, White                       | ___ Rail, King                          |
| _48 Duck, Ring-necked                   | _43 Kestrel, American                 | ___ Rail, Virginia                      |
| _2 Duck, Ruddy                          | 186 Killdeer                          | _1 Redhead                              |
| ___ Duck, Whistling (Fulvous whistling) |                                       |   |

## BIRD COUNT (CONTD):

\_\_\_ Redstart, American  
2645 Robin, American  
\_24 Sanderling  
\_77 Sandpiper, Least  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, Pectoral  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, Semi-palmated  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, Solitary  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, Stilt  
\_30 Sandpiper, Spotted  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, Upland  
\_80 Sandpiper, Western  
\_\_\_ Sandpiper, White-rumped  
\_2 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied  
9656 Scaup, Lesser  
\_\_\_ Shoveler, Northern  
160 Shrike, Loggerhead  
\_\_\_ Siskin, Pine  
150 Skimmer, Black  
\_2 Snipe, Common  
\_\_\_ Sora  
\_1 Sparrow, Bachman's  
\_\_\_ Sparrow, Chipping  
\_30 Sparrow, House  
\_16 Sparrow, Savannah  
\_\_\_ Sparrow, Seaside  
\_\_\_ Sparrow, Sharp-tailed  
\_\_\_ Sparrow, Song  
\_\_\_ Sparrow, Vesper  
\_7 Spoonbill, Roseate  
359 Starling, European  
\_\_\_ Stilt, Black-necked  
125 Stork, Wood  
\_\_\_ Swallow, Barn  
\_\_\_ Swallow, Cliff  
\_\_\_ Swallow, Rough-winged  
3649 Swallow, Tree  
\_\_\_ Swift, Chimney  
\_\_\_ Tanager, Summer  
\_91 Teal, Blue-winged  
\_2 Teal, Green-winged  
\_\_\_ Tern, Black  
\_\_\_ Tern, Caspian  
\_\_\_ Tern, common  
\_90 Tern, Forster's  
\_\_\_ Tern, Gull-billed  
\_\_\_ Tern, Least  
\_38 Tern, Royal  
\_10 Tern, Sandwich  
\_2 Titmouse, Tufted (count week)  
\_2 Thrasher, Brown  
\_\_\_ Thrush, Gray-cheeked  
\_\_\_ Thrush, Hermit  
\_\_\_ Thrush, Swainson's  
\_\_\_ Thrush, Wood  
\_39 Towhee, Rufous-sided  
\_\_\_ Turkey, Wild

\_19 Turnstone, Ruddy  
\_\_\_ Vireo, Black-whiskered  
\_\_\_ Vireo, Red-eyed  
\_2 Vireo, Solitary  
\_\_\_ Vireo, Yellow-throated  
\_\_\_ Vireo, White-eyed  
200 Vulture, Black  
460 Vulture, Turkey  
\_3 Warbler, Black-and-white  
253 Warbler, Palm  
195 Warbler, Pine  
\_1 Warbler, Prairie  
\_\_\_ Warbler, Prothonotary  
1528 Warbler, Yellow-rumped  
\_5 Warbler, Yellow-throated  
\_\_\_ Water-thrush, Northern  
\_35 Waxwing, Cedar  
\_\_\_ Whimbrel  
\_\_\_ Whip-poor-will  
\_\_\_ Wigeon, American  
\_\_\_ Wigeon, European  
\_29 Willet  
\_14 Woodpecker, Downy  
\_1 Woodpecker, Hairy  
\_5 Woodpecker, Pileated  
\_61 Woodpecker, Red-bellied  
\_1 Woodpecker, Red-cockaded  
\_2 Woodpecker, Red-headed  
\_4 Wren, Carolina  
\_5 Wren, House  
\_\_\_ Wren, Marsh  
\_3 Yellowlegs, Greater  
\_8 Yellowlegs, Lesser  
\_8 Yellow-throat, Common  
\_60 Black Bellied Whistling Ducks  
\_2 Ducks, Black  
\_3 Monk Parakeet  
\_2 Sparrow, Grasshopper  
\_1 Sparrow, Swamp  
\_1 Wren, Sedge

***Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Bird Count, and particularly Tony for tallying all the numbers!***

## RIVER OF WORDS ART & POETRY CONTEST

The Arts and Humanities Council of Charlotte County is sponsoring a local level of the "River of Words: Annual Environment Poetry & Art Contest." The art contest, for middle school students, is co-sponsored by Keep Charlotte Beautiful; the poetry contest, for middle and high school students, is cosponsored by the Peace River Center for Writers.

The theme for the contest is the Charlotte Harbor Watershed: Geography (physical, social or political); Ecology (physical and biological aspects) or Cultural History (human influence on or response to).

Deadline for both contests in January 31, 2003, and all entries must be accompanied by an Official "River of Words" Contest Entry Form. Forms are available at the offices of the sponsors or can be found at [www.peacriverwriters.org](http://www.peacriverwriters.org) or [www.keepcharlottebeautiful.com](http://www.keepcharlottebeautiful.com) or [www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org).

All art and poetry will be on exhibit at and the award ceremony will be during Artsensation, February 8, 10-4, at Edison Community College in Punta Gorda. Artsensation is the annual all-day, all-arts free festival of the Arts and Humanities Council. All entries will also be submitted to the International "River of Words" Contest. Co-founded by Robert Hass, former U.S. Poet Laureate (1995-1997), the contest is based on the belief that creating art about a watershed requires students to closely observe and appreciate the natural environment. Such observation and appreciation in turn will inspire students to preserve and conserve. The deadline for the international contest is February 15, 2003.

Artwork can be in paint, pencil, marker, chalk, pastel (fixed), photography, ink, crayon, cloth or collage; cannot exceed 11" x 17"; and must have the student's first and last name signed in the lower right-hand corner. Poetry must be original, typed or legibly written in ink, not to exceed 32 lines, with the student's name, school, city, and state on the page.

There are three first prizes in the art contest, as well as the poetry contest.

For more information, please contact the Arts Council at 941-764-8100 or the Keep Charlotte Beautiful at 941-764-4390 or the Center for Writers at 941-575-1976.

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

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Punta Gorda, FL 33951  
Permit No. 100

January  
White Bird



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### 2003 Audubon Calendar

- 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.

### 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.

### **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

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