



April 28, 2003—Volume 26, Issue 10



May 15 Membership Meeting - 7 pm Social Time; 7:30 Meeting

This meeting will be a members' "Show and Tell" so please bring any slides or photographs and show them off. We will set up some tables, and have a chance to really appreciate each other's work. Then, those with slides can show them.

Plus, this is NOT just birds—Audubon is about trees, flowers, and all other nature. That means we should have a grand amount of beautiful work to enjoy.

The election of 2003-2004 directors and officers will be held at this meeting. Committee chairs will be announced.

Peace River Audubon's 26th Annual Banquet was a success...

The Peace River Audubon's 26th Annual Banquet was a success. We had 101 guests sharing in our meal and programs. Included in our crowd were many members, non-members and the media.

Our wonderful presenter, Mr. Clyde Butcher, was generous with his time, book sales and donation of framed pictures. Teaching about perspective, Mr. Butcher took us on the journey that led him to black and white, landscape photography. We cannot begin to thank him enough for this gift.

Our evening began with the Silent Auction. Special thanks need to be extended to the following business and individuals for their fantastic donations: Clyde Butcher, Sea World, Selby Gardens, Babcock Webb, Nasrene MacDonald, Bonnie Burgess, the Florida Bat Center, Reba Smith, Cathy Olson, Joy and Larry Linn, the Backyard Bird Company, Kathi and Miles Gibson, Peggy and Elliot Kampert, Evelyn Booker, Inga Williams, Marley Watko, Arlene Cox, and a few anonymous Audubon members. We found out that anything goes with a Silent Auction. The donations included our favorite bird-related items – bird books, bird plates, bird feeders, bird pictures, bird videos, bird jewelry, bird toys, bird houses, bird tee shirts, and a bird tote – stained glass artwork, a handmade quilt, tickets to local attractions, a kayak rental, garden plants, a 3D puzzle, and the favorite for the evening: A decorative shell toilet seat.

We raised \$1,792 for the Scrub Jay Habitat Fund and an undetermined amount (from book sales) for the Youth Environmental Education Fund. We could not have hoped for such a generous addition to these funds. Thanks to those who donated and bid on the many items.

We had a special presentation of Birdathon Awards. Awards were presented for the number of species observed by the team and for the amount of money raised for the Youth Environmental Education Fund. First place for species observed went to the Hawkeyes, led by Tom Zinneman, second place went to the Battybirders, led by George Marks and third place went to the Jaybirds led by Cathy Olson. First place for amount raised went to the Battybirders, second to the Jaybirds and third to the Hawkeyes. Paul Holmes won the Birdathon photography contest with his photo of laughing gulls. Second place went to Lynn Bates for her photograph of a Florida Scrub-Jay and third place went to Tom Zinneman for his photograph of the marbled godwit.

Our Chapter President Cathy Olson was presented with a special award and dinner by the Board members for the time and energy she has donated to make this Chapter enjoy a wonderful year.

Nominations for Board members were noted and voting will be held at the May 15 general membership meeting.

Special Thanks must go to: Mr. George Marks, our Master of Ceremonies, who did a great job keeping the evening's activities flowing along. Kathi Rader-Gibson, coordinator of the Silent Auction. Cyndi Marks and Joy Linn who kept up with the crowd at the door, both coming and going. Larry Linn, the financial man who paid our bills. Cyndi Marks and Kitty Rich for the wonderful centerpieces. Dennis Hungerford, the "Sound Man." Ellen Hawkinson, helped with room arranging. Many others who helped make a wonderful evening for all.

For those of you who questioned the raised price for the Banquet, the cost was to cover the meal and the rental of the room, and after all expenses for those items, we cleared \$2.92—good planning!

FIELD TRIP TO STUMP PASS BEACH - Dave Smith reporting

Our field trip to this Manasota Key Park on April 19 was dampened, not by the weather which was ideal, but by the work in progress on the new pass being created near the south end. The cut had already split the park, isolating the southern tip where we usually see most of our shorebird species.

Undaunted, seven of us, under the direction of Kathi Rader-Gibson, made our way alternately through the wooded area and along the beach looking for our feathered friends. At the outset, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron made an appearance right in the middle of the beach which had just been renourished by the dredging operation. Across Ski Alley were two Ospreys, one on a nest and the other perched nearby. Soon a distant Bald Eagle flashed its white tail and disappeared over the bay. On the Gulf side, Kathi spotted a couple of Magnificent Frigatebirds and a flock of Black Skimmers. Uncommon songbirds seen included a Great-crested Flycatcher and several Barn Swallows. All told, twenty-five (25) species were counted as we all got our two-mile walking exercise for the morning.

This month's profile—the Fromans: We are really enjoying our association with PRAS. Chuck and I have always enjoyed searching out wildlife as well as visiting the beautiful nooks and crannies of our surroundings. Florida has finally galvanized us into becoming members of an organized group to accomplish this and we feel it will help us to learn about preserving some of these places and critters for our posterity. From our childhood we have been immersed in outdoor life, though we came to this via different avenues. I'm a westerner, the daughter of a forester. I've spent much of my life living in National Parks and Forests or related communities in Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Chuck grew up in Cadillac, Michigan, a lovely community located on two lakes, surrounded by many rivers, forests and grasslands. His parents enjoyed the outdoors and Chuck became a fine sportsman under the tutelage of his father. Chuck and I met in Juneau, Ak and married in Ann Arbor, Mi. We honeymooned in Canada canoeing and fishing (and fighting black flies). We are the parents of 5 children and have spent our vacations camping in various wildlife areas. We became ardent divers and did a family camping trip to the Keys when John Pennecamp was in its infancy. Our oldest son actually centered us more into birding. Our family lived in a small town on the shore of Lake Michigan (one of the great flyways) . Ogden Dunes was a perfect place for our indoctrination into the ways of our high flying feathered friends. The town is surrounded by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and just a few miles from Indiana Dunes State Park. Since Chucks retirement, we continue to enjoy all the beauty of this and that of northern Michigan near Cadillac. We find we have a long way to go to become the birders and conservationists we would like to be, but hope we can be of some benefit to the land as well as the critters that inhabit it.

SPONSORS FOR THE 5K RUN on February 8, 2003, to benefit the Youth Environmental Education programs of the Charlotte Harbor EnviAudubon Membership Applicationronmental Center were:

- o www.backyardbird.com
- o Tarpon Coast National Bank
- o Charlotte Sun Herald
- o Charlotte County Ford
- o McKinley, Imerszgen, Gunderson, Berntsonn, P.A.
- o Home Depot
- o Target
- o Publix
- o Dr. Jose Domingo, M.D.
- o Jimmy McCue

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE!

- THE AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2003:

Dates: Thursday, 10/23/03: Exhibit Set-up only
Saturday, 10/25/03: Assembly concludes at 3 PM after closing remarks.

Friday, 10/24/03: Assembly opens with Buffet breakfast
Location: The Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando

Come join us again this year and bring a friend! Our annual Assembly is the largest gathering of conservation-minded citizens in the State gathering together chapter members and leaders, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, scientists, politicians, agencies, students and other citizens of Florida concerned with our Environment. Our program will offer field trips within the Central Florida Region, expert speakers, education seminars and plenary sessions, which will set forth our work plan for the upcoming year. Please join the Audubon family and others to celebrate our "Culture of Conservation." Look for additional information on registration and upcoming events via the summer edition of The Naturalist or our website: www.audubonofflorida.org <<http://www.audubonofflorida.org>>

PRAS Birdathon Raises \$1,454

The Peace River Audubon Society Second Annual Birdathon was held on Saturday, April 5. It was a beautiful day with partly cloudy skies and reasonable temperatures. There were five teams and eighteen participants. The teams searched the West Coast of Florida from Ft. Desoto State Park to Cape Coral and identified a record 138 birds. Certificates were awarded at the banquet to the three teams that saw or heard the most bird species on that day. Here are the results for the five teams.

Team	Captain	Species
Hawkeyes	Tom Zinneman	99
Batty Birders	George Marks	77
Jaybirds	Cathy Olson	66
Buzzards	John Aspiolea	56
Woodpeckers	George Hindmarsh	55

In addition to having a lot of fun birding, the purpose of the Birdathon was to raise money for our Youth Environmental Education Fund. The fund was established by the Peace River Audubon Society to support youth environmental education programs within Charlotte County. A total of \$1,384 was raised by the Birdathon participants. Awards were made at the banquet to the three participants who raised the most money.

Participant	Funds Raised
George Marks	\$569
Cathy Olson	\$302
John Aspiolea	\$95

Photographers were challenged to photograph birds that day and enter the photos in a contest to be judged by popular choice at the banquet. Winners of the photography contest were: Paul Holmes, Lynn Bates and Tom Zinneman. Entry fees and sales of the winning photographs raised an additional \$70. Thanks to all who participated and to everyone who made a donation. It was an enjoyable and

Anhinga	Flicker, Northern	Loon, Common	Sandpiper, Western	throated
Bittern, Least	Flycatcher, Acadian	Martin, Purple	Scaup, Lesser	Vireo, White-eyed
Blackbird, Red-winged	Flycatcher, Great-	Meadowlark, Eastern	Shoveler, Northern	Vulture, Black
Blackbird, Rusty	Crested	Merganser, Red-	Shrike, Loggerhead	Vulture, Turkey
Bluebird, Eastern	Gallinule, Common	breasted	Skimmer, Black	Warbler, Black-and-white
Bobwhite, Northern	Gallinule, Purple	Mockingbird, Northern	Snipe, Common	Warbler, Palm
Bunting, Indigo	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	Night-heron, Black-	Sparrow, House	Warbler, Pine
Cardinal, Northern	Godwit, Marbled	crowned	Sparrow, Savannah	Warbler, Prairie
Catbird, Gray	Grackle, Boat-tailed	Night-heron, Yellow-	Sparrow, Song	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Chuck-will's Widow	Grackle, Common	crowned	Sparrow, White-	Willet
Coot, American	Grebe, Pied-billed	Oriole, Orchard	throated	Woodpecker, Downy
Cormorant, Double-	Gull, Herring	Osprey	Spoonbill, Roseate	Woodpecker, Pileated
crested	Gull, Laughing	Owl, Burrowing	Starling, European	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
Crane, Sandhill	Gull, Ring-billed	Owl, Great Horned	Stilt, Black-necked	Woodpecker, Red-headed
Crow, American	Harrier, Northern	Oystercatcher, American	Stork, Wood	Wren, Carolina
Crow, Fish	Hawk, Broad-winged	Parakeet, Black-headed	Swallow, Rough-	Wren, House
Curlew, Long-billed	Hawk, Cooper's	Parakeet, Monk	winged	Yellowlegs, Lesser
Dove, Common Ground	Hawk, Red-shouldered	Parula, Northern	Swallow, Tree	Yellow-throat, Common
Dove, Eurasian Collared	Hawk, Red-tailed	Pelican, Brown	Teal, Blue-winged	
Dove, Mourning	Heron, Great Blue	Pelican, White	Tern, Caspian	
Dove, Rock	Heron, Green	Phoebe, Eastern	Tern, common	
Dove, White-winged	Heron, Little Blue	Plover, Black-bellied	Tern, Forster's	
Dowitcher, Long-billed	Heron, Tricolored	Plover, Piping	Tern, Least	
Dowitcher, Short-billed	Ibis, Glossy	Plover, Semi-palmated	Tern, Roseate	
Duck, Mallard	Ibis, White	Plover, Wilson's	Tern, Royal	
Duck, Mottled	Jay, Blue	Robin, American	Tern, Sandwich	
Duck, Muscovy	Jay, Scrub	Sanderling	Titmouse, Tufted	
Duck, Ruddy	Kestrel, American	Sandpiper, Least	Thrasher, Brown	
Dunlin	Killdeer	Sandpiper, Semi-	Towhee, Rufous-	
Eagle, Bald	Kingbird, Eastern	palmated	sided	
Egret, Cattle	Kingfisher, Belted	Sandpiper, Solitary	Turkey, Wild	
Egret, Great	Kite, Swallow-tailed	Sandpiper, Spotted	Turnstone, Ruddy	
Egret, Snowy	Knot, Red	Sandpiper, Upland	Vireo, Yellow-	

Note: Phone calls received after the official number was released resulted in a final count of 140 bird species

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

MAY
White Bird



Printed on Recycled Paper
Min-it Print Shoppe (folding donated)

Next "White Bird" will be in early August

*The Summer Picnic and the new
2003-4 schedule will be announced!*

2003 Audubon Calendar

5/15 Membership Meeting: Member photo presentations, election
of officers and Board members

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

PRAS website: www.audubon.org
Then, link to our Chapter website

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

PLEASE PASS THIS APPLICATION ON:

Audubon Membership Application

A... Please enroll me as a National Audubon Society and Peace River Audubon Society member—I will receive the Audubon and Florida Naturalist magazines, plus the Peace River White Bird newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email: _____

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

Now, send the above application with your check to:

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

OR B...

Please enroll me as a

One-year White Bird subscriber ONLY for \$10

Send this White-Bird-only application and a \$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."