

White Bird

August 28, 2003

Volume 27, Issue 3



MEMBERSHIP MEETING—SEPT 18, 2003

"Putting the Fun in PRAS"

Everybody realizes that Audubon is concerned with very serious and important matters, which means some of the meetings also have to be serious. That doesn't mean that Audubon members have to be serious all the time. They can also get together and enjoy themselves.

With the approval of the Board, we intend to organize a series of fun events—all involved in some way with the flora and fauna of Charlotte County. None of them are serious, they are just for fun! **They are just for you!**

Our intention is twofold:

- 1 To encourage present members to be more involved in our activities; and,
- 2 Try and increase the PRAS membership, particularly among younger people.

However, it is no use we organize these events unless we know our members want to take part. So the first meeting of the season will be devoted to explaining the proposed ideas and getting the reaction of our members.

We will talk about the new exciting field trips - Mini-Birdathons - 'Pictures from Pennington' - and 'Picnic in Pennington' - the proposed Nature photography section of PRAS - Rare Bird Alerts for Charlotte County on our web site - Open feeder days at members' houses - Birding with Dad, (or Mom) - Audubon /Alphabet soup, a fun afternoon for all the family - A Nature scavenger hunt, solve the clue, find the bird - Bird and wild flower ID quizzes - a wading trip just for our members and more.

So if you want to be part of this new and exciting venture, make sure you're at the first meeting of the year and don't forget to bring the interesting photographs you have taken this summer, we'd all like to see them.

Paul Holmes

P S See page 2 for a survey you might want to do before the meeting (and bring it along for Paul)—your input will be appreciated.

PPS Please bring your Photographs taken since the last meeting to share with the other members during Social Time.

Laurel Landfill and Celery Fields:

Our first trip of the season is to an area which seldom disappoints. Laurel Landfill is a great place for birds. We will be carpooling from Peachland and driving round the outer perimeter of the landfill. I hope to have radios so we can communicate from car to car.

This will be followed by the Celery Fields, just a short distance farther up I75. We will have lunch in the Gazebo from which one can also watch birds.

So there's no walking, restrooms are available and we will be in the cars if it rains. In other words, there's no reason why you shouldn't come. So pack a sandwich, be in the Parking Lot behind McDonalds in Peachland Mall just before 7:30 and have a great day out with your friends!



PLEASE NOTE—CALENDAR "ADJUSTMENTS - Please make changes on your calendar:

The PRAS **Annual Banquet will be on Tuesday, March 16** (NOT 18th) at Maple Leaf Estates. It will be catered by "Cap'n and the Cowboy." So, great food, service, and an excellent speaker, will make this a special event! You'll surely want to be there!

The October membership meeting will be a "Harvest Supper"—details in the next newsletter.

2003/4 MEMBER SURVEY
WHERE IS PEACE RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY GOING IN 2003/2004?

Our mission is important. We speak on behalf of those concerned with preserving the quality of the Environment. It is, after all the place where we all live.

Many people in Charlotte County are concerned with the falling quality of the environment. We need them as Audubon members. Without members, we have no voice.

We are going to look for members. Will you help us, and have fun doing so?

PUTTING FUN INTO AUDUBON (By checking Yes or No, how I will help....)	YES	NO
New ideas to put fun into Audubon? - - - - -		
Should activities be on week days? - - - - -		
Should activities be on Saturdays? - - - - -		
Should activities be on Sundays? - - - - -		
Should activities be in the morning? - - - - -		
Should activities be in the afternoon? - - - - -		
Should activities be in the evening? - - - - -		
Do you have E-mail? - - - - -		
Do you have a Friend with E-mail? - - - - -		
Would you use Telephone tree? - - - - -		
Do you have Web site access? - - - - -		
Do you have a friend interested in Audubon? - - - - -		
Interested in "Birding with Mom, Dad & Audubon?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Mini 2-hour sight-only Birdathon?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Audubon Alphabet Soup afternoon out?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Picnic and Photographs in Pennington?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Open Bird Feeders...information on the web?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Nature photography section?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Bird Identification Quiz?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Wading with Audubon and CHEC?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Scavenger Hunt, Birds, etc.?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Birding trips led by local experts?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Bird count social, with statistics and pictures?" - - - - -		
Interested in "Charlotte County Bird Alert, by mail?" - - - - -		
Any comments??		

Florida Scrub-Jay Citizen Monitoring Network

The primary goal of the Florida Scrub-Jay Citizen Monitoring Network is to encourage public involvement with Florida Scrub-Jay research and monitoring. Volunteers assist with trapping the Scrub-Jays during the banding process and subsequently collect location and demographic data on the banded birds.

Prior to banding, each of the volunteers is given a "dummy trap" and peanuts to acclimate the Scrub-Jays to the trap. Dummy traps are placed in areas where Scrub-Jays are known to occur. Peanuts are placed in and around the trap to make the trapping more productive when Dr. Karl Miller, the master bander, is banding. During the banding process standard data are recorded (mass, wing chord, tail length, brood patch, sex, and age) and a numbered USFWS silver band and three-color bands are placed on each bird.

Over time, the volunteers will continue to monitor the banded Scrub-Jays. These data will allow us to see shifts in family group composition (territory changes, recruitment, etc.) and identify territory boundary shifts. It is also hoped that dispersal data will be collected.

To date, 21 Florida Scrub-Jays have been banded; fourteen in western Port Charlotte (in the vicinity of Tippecanoe) and seven in Deep Creek/Harbour Heights. Eleven people have signed up for the monitoring network and so far, three have been actively involved. Each of the people who signed up for the citizen-monitoring network chose an area of interest. When banding occurs in their area of choice, the members of the Citizen Monitoring network will become more involved.

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program helped make this project possible through a \$150 microgrant. The microgrant enabled the purchase of materials required to build the traps, collect data, and purchase peanuts used to bait the traps. Bands were donated to the project by Dr. Karl Miller.

Cathy Olson

Thanks To Charlotte County Commissioners

The Peace River Audubon Society publicly thanks the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners for its perseverance and courage in standing up to the Phosphate Industry's attempts to get strip-mining permits without demonstrating that they can restore the environment. The recent court ruling in favor of Charlotte County in its bid to deny the 2,300-acre Altman Tract mining permit may also have a positive effect on the County's fight against the 24,000-acre Ona mining permit. The Altman ruling, plus the reluctance of Hardee County to allow carte blanche mining, have been positive signs that the public, politicians, and courts are starting to realize the long-term impacts of phosphate-strip mining in Florida.

It is becoming apparent that the Phosphate Industry is finally being held accountable for the impacts of its mining practices. One recent example of Phosphate Industry irresponsibility is the 160-million dollars that taxpayers will have to cough up to clean up the phosphate mess at the bankrupt Piney Point plant near Bradenton.

Again, Charlotte County Board of Commissioners, thank you from the Peace River Audubon Society!

Larry Linn, Conservation Co-chairman

MAILING LABELS HAVE LATEST EXPIRATION DATES!



As I promised, the data on your mailing label should be up to the minute for "White Bird" and National Audubon subscriptions. All "Exp" dates should be correct! If not, please let me know by calling 637-8160 or email: linn59@comcast.net *Jay Linn*

Mailing label:	Exp: (Sample: 0304 = March, 2004 Your name Your organization (if applicable) Your address Your city/state/zip code
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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.

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

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED...
contact Joy Linn, Membership Chair

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

MORE KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS ...
WELCOME TO NEW AUGUST
MEMBERS:



William Hanley
Kathleen Lawson
Carolyn Ryan

Transfers into Chapter:

Pauline Braman
Joseph Dillon
Anne Munger
Jean Phipps
Lewis Smith

Julie Graves (was in June!)
(Mistakenly identified in Summer issue)

2003-04 OFFICERS:

President	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
Vice President	Kathi Rader-Gibson '04	474-3065
Secretary	Peggy Kampert '05	235-3160
Treasurer	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
Additional	John Aspiolea '04	575-7788
Directors:	Chuck Froman '04	743-5204
	Joan Froman '04	743-5204
	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
	Dennis Hungerford '05	627-5405
	Joy Linn '05	637-8160
	Cyndi Marks '04	255-3318

COMMITTEES:

Annual Banquet - Peggy Kampert
Archivist - Dennis Hungerford
Audubon Pennington Park - Roger Blackmore & Larry Linn
Birdathon - Cathy Olson
Christmas Bird Count - George Marks & Tony Licata
Conservation - Larry Linn & Paul Holmes
Education - Cathy Olson
Field Trips - Tom Zinneman & Chuck Froman
Finance - John Aspiolea
Hospitality - Cyndi Marks
Membership/Publicity/White Bird - Joy Linn 637-8160

___ YES, I want to join Peace River Audubon now for \$10!

Every Peace River Audubon membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect local birds, wildlife and natural habitats. Members will receive:

- 1-year "White Bird" newsletter subscription (10 issues) with:
- Local news articles;
- Local meetings, field trips and bird walks; and,
- ONLY provide your email here if you want to receive the White Bird online:

MAIL CHECK DIRECTLY to:

PRAS, P O Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

OR, ___ I want to join National Audubon...

- ___ \$15 - 1-year Student/Senior Rate (62+)
- ___ \$20 - 1-year Introductory National Audubon Rate
- ___ \$30 - 2-year Special National Audubon Rate
- ___ \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership
- ___ \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership
- ___ My check is enclosed. ___ Please bill me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

City, State, Zip _____ **E14-7XCH**

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center,
P.O. Box 51003, Boulder, CO 80323-1003

I do not wish to receive "Audubon" Magazine

Every Audubon National membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you'll receive the following:

- * A 1-year subscription (10 issues) of the White Bird by mail;
- * Membership in National Audubon Society with 6 bi-monthly issues of "Audubon"