

White Bird

January 3, 2004

Volume 27, Issue 7

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004

Jeff Bouton - "Learning Florida Bird Sounds"

If you want to learn bird sounds, here's the guy to hear! Jeff's background is so varied, I've included his entire note about his expertise:

"I've spent the better part of the past 20 years birding professionally. In the early years, I worked as "binoculars for hire" bouncing from one seasonal research position to another (usually at a new location every 3-4 mos.) My travels carried me from Braddock Bay near Rochester, NY (where I started my birding career) to other great places like the Cape May Bird Observatory in NJ, Connecticut, Colorado, Arizona and even Alaska where I spent 7 years prior to moving to FL 5 years ago.

In Alaska I conducted long-term bird surveys in Denali and Wrangell/St. Elias NPP, and led professional bird tours annually throughout the state to areas like Attu Island, Gambell, Nome, St. Paul, Barrow, Dutch Harbor, The Artic NWR and throughout the interior and gulf. Since moving to FL, I've led trips for all of the major birding festivals and ABA conferences and have presented at the annual FL Audubon Assembly, FOS meetings, and at the various bird festivals throughout the state. I was a chapter author and contributor to the "ABA Bird Finding Guide to Alaska" as well as the upcoming revision to the FL guide. I was a contributor/consultant for the 2 CD set "Bird Songs of Alaska" and on the new photographic guides to Raptor ID by Brian Wheeler.

More recently I presented twice at the St. Pete Fest with 3 field trips and 3 presentations with 5 field trips at Spacecoast and the annual FL Audubon Assembly as well. "

Social time starts at 7 pm to visit and look at members' photography; meeting at 7:30 at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. All are welcome.

HELP CHEC IN RECYCLING EFFORT

CHEC collects computer printer cartridges for reuse through the Price-Less Inkjet Cartridge Company and Kore Products. According to the remanufacturing trade magazine *Recharger*, only 14% of all cartridges in the United States were reclaimed five years ago. One hundred and thirty three million (133,000,000) ended up in landfills across the nation!

SO, next time that you change your laser printer, copier toner or ink jet cartridge, please drop the old one into a plastic bag and bring it to the administration office at CHEC's Alligator Creek site on Burnt Store Road or Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood for recycling. The spent cartridges yield donation dollars for our nature centers as an additional benefit.

Nature & Wildlife Photography - Jan 19, 2004

Grande Tours is offering this special event: Dr John Flower, Nature Images of Englewood, FL and Margie Carroll of Gray Cat Farm Photography in Canton, GA will provide photography instruction in both film and digital camera techniques for the novice and experienced photographers alike.

Meet at Grande Tours, 12575 Placida Road in Placida at 3 pm on Jan 19. About 45 minutes of classroom discussions precedes boarding Recovery Room V for a boat trip/photography shoot down Gasparilla Sound to White Pelican Island returning at dusk.

Cost: \$75 + tax, totaling \$80.25—reservations required for the 12 students with payment due at reservation. Bring tripod, camera, lenses, film or cards, sweater or jacket and questions. Weather permitting/no refunds. Call 941-697-8825 for reservations.

January 17th – Field Trip to Tigertail Beach

Our first field trip in the new year on January 17 will be to Tigertail Beach, which is located on Marco Island. During the winter months, this area is excellent for shorebirds, terns, gulls, wading birds, and raptors. An easy stroll down the beach, especially on the lagoon side, should yield all five species of Plovers. Burrowing Owls can also be viewed on some of the side streets off of San Marco Drive.

Bill and Eleanor Marr (941-624-4182) will lead this trip. We'll meet in the parking lot of the old K-Mart located on the northwest corner of US41 and Burnt Store Road junction at 7:30 am. Don't forget to bring a bag lunch.

February 4th – Field Trip to Shamrock Park and the Venice Rookery

On Wednesday, February 4th, Bill Havill will lead us on a field trip to Shamrock Park and the Venice Rookery. At Shamrock Park, we should see some Scrub Jays as well as a mixture of water birds and land birds. The Egrets and Herons should be in the peak of their nesting season, so the visit to the Venice Rookery should provide us with a view of nestlings. The nesting birds should provide photographers in the group with an excellent opportunity for close-up pictures of large birds. We'll meet in back of McDonald's in the Peachland Mall at 7:30 am. Please bring a bag lunch.

White Bird Recipients - Take note:

A - Once again, check your expiration date on your mailing label—it is the only "reminder" for renewal you will receive (if date is expired.)

B - If you are a "snowbird" and your other address is in the continental US and you wish to receive your White Birds there, please provide that address—call Joy Linn at 941-637-8160.

2003 PRAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Tony Licata provided the Christmas Bird Count Results as follows:

Totals	Birds
53	- Anhinga
2	- Bittern, American
133	- Blackbird, Red-winged
47	- Bluebird, Eastern
2	- Bobwhite, Northern
2	- Bufflehead
38	- Cardinal, Northern
81	- Catbird, Gray
12	- Coot, American
1,023	- Cormorant, Double-crested
62	- Cowbird, Brown-headed
52	- Crane, Sandhill
69	- Crow, Fish
55	- Dove, Common Ground
284	- Dove, Eurasian Collared
2,532	- Dove, Mourning
48	- Dove, Rock
25	- Dove, White-winged
2	- Dowitcher, Short-billed
30	- Duck, Black Bellied Whistling
5	- Duck, Mallard
167	- Duck, Mottled
30	- Duck, Muscovy
24	- Duck, Ring-necked
3	- Duck, Ruddy
24	- Dunlin
30	- Eagle, Bald; Adult _20_ Imm. _10_
221	- Egret, Cattle
153	- Egret, Great
95	- Egret, Snowy
19	- Flicker, Northern
1	- Flycatcher, Great Crested (count week jb)
1	- Frigate-bird, Magnificent (count week jb)
74	- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
1	- Goldfinch, American (count week jb)
949	- Grackle, Boat-tailed
2,273	- Grackle, Common
23	- Grebe, Pied-billed
1	- Gull, Bonaparte's
16	- Gull, Herring
1,314	- Gull, Laughing
1,603	- Gull, Ring-billed
4	- Harrier, Northern (Marsh Hawk)
4	- Hawk, Cooper's
35	- Hawk, Red-shouldered
10	- Hawk, Red-tailed
6	- Hawk, Sharp-shinned
79	- Heron, Great Blue
14	- Heron, Green
112	- Heron, Little Blue
40	- Heron, Tricolored
73	- Jay, Blue
49	- Jay, Scrub
23	- Ibis, Glossy
612	- Ibis, White
15	- Kestrel, American
166	- Killdeer
35	- Kingfisher, Belted
1	- Knot, Red
2	- Loon, Common (count week)
12	- Meadowlark, Eastern
849	- Merganser, Hooded
9	- Merganser, Red-breasted
2	- Merlin
233	- Mockingbird, Northern
92	- Moorhen
2	- Night-heron, Black-crowned (count week bm)
13	- Night-heron, Yellow-crowned
2	- Nuthatch, Brown-headed
45	- Osprey
1	- Ovenbird (count week jb)
1	- Owl, Barred
18	- Owl, Burrowing
1	- Owl, Great Horned
144	- Pelican, Brown
39	- Pelican, White
23	- Phoebe, Eastern
14	- Plover, Black-bellied (Gray Plover)
1	- Plover, Semi-palmated
8	- Rail, Clapper
78	- Robin, American
17	- Sanderling
3	- Sandpiper, Least
19	- Sandpiper, Spotted
1	- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
11,803	- Scaup, Lesser
1	- Shoveler, Northern
81	- Shrike, Loggerhead
184	- Skimmer, Black
19	- Snipe, Common
2	- Sparrow, Bachman's
1	- Sparrow, Chipping
1	- Sparrow, Grasshopper
5	- Sparrow, House
5	- Sparrow, Savannah
25	- Sparrow, Swamp
17	- Spoonbill, Roseate
873	- Starling, European
81	- Stork, Wood
1	- Swallow, Rough-winged (count week jb)
4,446	- Swallow, Tree
30	- Teal, Blue-winged
4	- Teal, Green-winged
134	- Tern, Forster's
59	- Tern, Royal
21	- Tern, Sandwich
1	- Thrasher, Brown
9	- Towhee, Rufous-sided (Eastern)
1	- Turnstone, Ruddy
4	- Vireo, Solitary
2	- Vireo, White-eyed
93	- Vulture, Black
81	- Vulture, Turkey
2	- Warbler, Black-and-white
201	- Warbler, Palm

137	-	Warbler, Pine
656	-	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
3	-	Warbler, Yellow-throated
8	-	Willet
9	-	Woodpecker, Downy
2	-	Woodpecker, Hairy
2	-	Woodpecker, Pileated
74	-	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
1	-	Woodpecker, Red-cockaded countweek jb)
5	-	Wren, Carolina
5	-	Wren, House
2	-	Wren, Marsh
1	-	Yellowlegs, Greater (count weekjb)
9	-	Yellowlegs, Lesser
21	-	Yellow-throat, Common
33,608	-	Total species 130 incl count week

Thanks, Tony, for the great job!

December 9: Corkscrew Swamp Report

Twenty avid PRAS birders traveled south to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, arriving there around 9:00. Sally Stein, a member of the Audubon Corkscrew staff, met us, along with four volunteers. We climbed into three open-back trucks for a trip through the northern end of the Swamp. The weather couldn't have been better, sunny skies, little wind, and temperatures in the 70s. Some of the birds observed during the ride included Anhingas, Sandhill Cranes, Purple Gallinule, Great Crested Flycatcher, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Glossy and White Ibis, Eastern Phoebe, Robin, and Wild Turkeys. One sight I'm sure many will remember is a flock of several thousand Tree Swallows flying over and around us.

We returned to the parking lot around noon, where we then enjoyed our lunches. About 1:00, we started the walk around the Boardwalk, finishing around 4:00. Again, we were rewarded for our efforts with observations of some interesting birds and the abundant plant life. Some of the additional birds observed included Cardinals, Catbirds, Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-eyed Vireos, Black and White Warbler, three species of Woodpeckers (Downy, Pileated, Red-bellied), and Carolina Wrens. We had several birds that outright posed for us, including a Little Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron. Collectively, the group saw about 45 different species of birds. It was another fun day and a great day to be outdoors.

Submitted by Tom Zinneman

P.S. from Editor: If you have access to the web, treat yourself and visit Tom's web page: <http://www.zinnysworld.com>. Tom loves to share his experiences and beautiful photography!

WHAT YOUR BOARD HAS BEEN DOING...

- * Web site birding area template has been distributed for input by authors for various sites.
- * A Birding class was requested by the Cultural Center; Kathi Rader-Gibson will share a class she has this time...volunteers are needed for future classes.
- * Backyard Bird Count on Feb 13-16—currently no participation.
- * Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival (CHNF) booth will be set up by Cathy Olson and Paul Holmes; other Board members to

assist during day. Membership is encouraged to attend CHNF on Jan 31. New members signing that day will receive a small gift.

- * Babcock Ranch: Board may contact County Commissioners; write to editor; put letter on web for supporters to write re purchase of the ranch through the Florida Forever Program.
- * Programs/field trip steering committee for 2004-5: Chuck and Joan Froman, Paul Holmes & Tom Zinneman; others welcome. Scrub Jay Habitat Plan on Commissioner agenda for Jan 17

"An Evening with Audubon"

Plan to spend the evening of March 16 with one of Florida's most well-known and respected biologists and help support your local Audubon Chapter by joining Jim Beever of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at this year's Annual Banquet. Mr. Beever will discuss the State and Federally listed Florida scrub-jay and how local conservation efforts can help protect this true Florida native.

A silent auction (where you can bid on many wonderful items) will be our primary fundraiser for this year, so your generosity is greatly appreciated. You will also enjoy the efforts of many talented photographers displaying their best pictures in our second photo contest.

New location this year: Clubhouse at Maple Leaf Estates Golf and Country Club (2100 Kings Highway north of Midway.) The evening begins with a cash bar at 5:30; dinner catered by "Cap'n and the Cowboy" at 7:30. Cost is \$19.50 per person; reservations (639-7791) are strongly encouraged. More details in next month's White Bird.



PRAS Calendar of Events

(Meetings start at 7pm for social time/7:30 meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte)
(FT = Field Trips meet at 7:30 am; "N" meet at McDonald's in Peachland Mall; "S" meet in old Kmart lot at Burnt Store Road & 41)



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|-----|----|--|
| Jan | 15 | General Meeting - Jeff Bouton
"Learning Florida Bird Sounds" |
| | 17 | FT to Tigertail Beach (Bill/Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182) (S) |
| | 21 | Between 8 & 9 am, Mini Bird-A-Thon starting at Jones Loop rest area (Originally was on Jan 7) |
| | 31 | Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival |
| Feb | 4 | FT to Shamrock Park & Venice Rookery (Bill Havill 941-625-8096) (N) |
| | 19 | General Meeting - Todd Campbell
"Nile Monitor Lizards in SW Florida" |
| | 21 | FT to Eagle Lakes/Sugden Park (Marrs 941-624-4182) (S) |
| Mar | 1 | Kingfisher Trip to Peace River Rookeries |
| | 8 | FT to Fort DeSoto Park (Lynn Bates 941-639-7277) (N) |
| | 16 | "An Evening with Audubon" (aka Annual Banquet/Silent Auction/Talk: "Florida Scrub-Jays" by Jim Beever) at Maple Leaf Estates; catering by Cap'n and the Cowboy |
| | 20 | Birdathon (Cathy Olson 941-613-6753) |
| Apr | 6 | FT: Babcock/Webb WMA (Dillys Randall 941-627-4090)(S) |
| | 15 | General Meeting - Kathi Rader-Gibson
"For the Love of Butterflies" |
| | 17 | FT (N) Emerson Point Park (Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826) |
| May | 20 | Annual Member Meeting—"Stump Pass Birds" Jeff Bouton |
| | 22 | FT to Lakeland (Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826) (N) |

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

www.peacriveraudubon.org

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**KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS ... WELCOME TO
 NEW DEC MEMBERS:**

Joan Aaron	Norm Leppan
Iona Allen	Evelyn Taylor
Marvin Bock	John Whittington
Thomas Bradley	Jacqui Rupert
Cheryl Clark	Transfers back:
Bob Dahl	Robert Armstrong
Gene DeBoef	Bonnie Dunbar
Norman Easler	Mr/Mrs T D Galvin
Nancy Erb	Arnulf Gievers
Mary Jane Franklin	Robert Ives
J Tucker/L Fudula	Dr Eleanor Marr
Dale & Karen Green	Dr Herbert Weintraub

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 (editor)	637-8160

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

2003/2004 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE (Choose A or B below)

**(A) YES, I want to join/renew my membership in
 PEACE RIVER AUDUBON now for \$10!**



If you are concerned with what is happening to Southwest Florida's Environment, please become a member of Peace River Audubon Society and help us protect our area. As individuals we can do very little, together we can do much more. Join us to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love. In short, help us protect the Florida lifestyle. Members receive ten (10) issues of the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips and bird walks.

Visit our web site: www.peacriveraudubon.org

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____-____
 Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

MAIL \$10 CHECK WITH THIS FORM DIRECTLY to:

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

OR, (B): YES, I want to join National Audubon *...

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Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to:

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

* A National Audubon member receives 6 bi-monthly issues of "Audubon" magazine/year, and some discounts at Audubon Centers across the USA. As a National Audubon member, you are automatically a member of Peace River