

Peace River Audubon Society

White Bird

February 26, 2004

Volume 27, Issue 9



"AN EVENING WITH AUDUBON"

WHAT: 27TH ANNUAL BANQUET AND SILENT AUCTION

WHERE: MAPLE ESTATES CLUB HOUSE
2100 Kings Highway just north of Midway Boulevard

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2004
Cash bar starts at 5:30 pm; dinner at 7 pm catered by
Cap'n And the Cowboy (a Charlotte County premier restaurant)

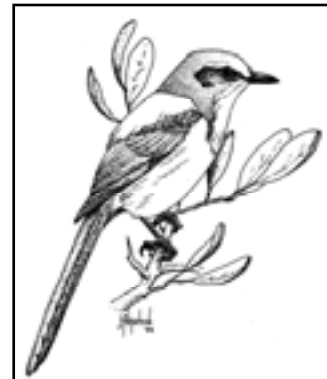
FEATURING

Speaker: Jim Beever, Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He will discuss the Federally and State-listed Florida scrub-jay in Charlotte County.

Auction: Silently bid on the many wonderful items, including Babcock Tour tickets, members' photographs, bird books, native plants, and many more items.

Contest: Photographic contest for those "perfect wildlife shots"—entry fees: \$5 for one or \$10 for three.

TO GO: Make reservations by March 5 by sending \$19 per person (includes gratuity) and providing guest names for name tags to:
PRAS, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760
OR call Peggy at 639-7791 or Joy at 637-8160 to make a reservation...cost at door is \$20 per person.



P. S. Save \$1 per person by sending your reservation in NOW!

Peace River Audubon Society Third Annual Birdathon – March 20, 2004

It is almost time for some good competitive birding! This year, our Birdathon will be held on March 20 from sunrise to sunset. Our Chapter goal will be to identify 140 different species of birds.

There are several ways to join in on the fun. Put your birding skills against others in a friendly competition: Create a team or join an existing team. If you can't join in on the birding aspect of the Birdathon, you can still sponsor a team financially. Prior to the big day, teams will be looking for "sponsors." A "sponsor" is anyone or any organization who would like to pledge an amount (such as \$1 a bird, \$.10 a bird, or a lump sum—the number of birds does not count for this one, or whatever)—the choice is theirs! Pledges can be any amount the donor chooses. If you would like to sponsor a team but don't know of a team, contact Cathy (613-6753) and she will guide you to a team. Team leaders: Be sure to tell Cathy of your team, so she can send sponsors your way.

The proceeds will go to support the Peace River Audubon Society and the Youth Environmental Education Fund, which was established to support youth environmental education programs within Charlotte County. These programs include (but are not limited to) the 4th Grade Environmental Education Field Trip Program which is conducted by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) in cooperation with the Charlotte County Public School System, interpretive wading trips for second- grade classes, educating them about the marine flora and fauna of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary System (also provided by CHEC), and Audubon Adventures magazines for third and/or fourth grade classes upon request.



The rules, sponsorship forms and other information can be downloaded from our Internet site (peacriveraudubon.org) and will also be available at the Annual Banquet.

Good birding!

April 6 – Field Trip to Babcock/Webb WMA

On Tuesday, April 6, we will travel to the Babcock/Webb WMA, located south of Punta Gorda. Hopefully, we'll be able to observe some Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bluebirds, Bachman's Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Dillys Randall (941-627-4090) will be leading this trip. We'll meet at the old K Mart parking lot located on the northwest corner of the junction of US41 and Burnt Store Road at 7:30 am. Please bring a bag lunch.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

At the recent prestigious "The Meadows 2004 Photographic Competition" held in Sarasota, PRAS's **Tom Zinneman won a "Best in Show"** award for his picture of a Meadowlark in full song. Tom has generously donated a print of his outstanding photograph which will be auctioned off as part of the Silent Auction at this year's "Evening with Audubon" on March 16.

Following this example, several other prominent members of Peace River Audubon's highly successful Nature Photography Group, who themselves will stage their own Nature Photograph competition during this fun evening, have also placed examples of some of their favorite pictures in the silent auction.

Kathi Rader-Gibson, PRAS member in charge of the Auction, said she was very pleased to have these beautiful items to add to the excitement of the Silent Auction.

Members wishing to enter one or more photos in the competition should bring an unframed print with them to the dinner. Judging will be by the guests—each person attending the event will cast one vote for their favorite entry.

Special *Added* Event for May

In our continued efforts to make Peace River Audubon a fun and successful organization, we have added an extra event to this year's calendar. On May 10, we will have a special "Inside the Fence" trip to **Lions, Tigers and Bears**, the animal sanctuary west of Punta Gorda. Members will meet in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie supermarket just east of 175, on state route 17, at 10 am. We will car pool the 7 miles to the sanctuary.

The owners Lynn and Dennis have promised us a close up and personal look at these incredible, retired Circus animals in their habitats. As the name implies, the sanctuary is home to many large Cats and lots of other fascinating retirees. An "Inside the Fence" trip allows 1 or 2 photographers inside the barrier, which enables them to take pictures through the large mesh fencing. "I recently visited the Sanctuary and was very impressed

with the love, affection and high standard of housing," said PRAS member Paul Holmes who is organizing the trip. A donation of \$5 is required for each visitor. Sign up sheets will be available at the April meeting or call Paul at 833-3337.

The Birding Map of Key West

If you are intending to visit Key West any time soon, Florida Keys Audubon Society has just published a birding hot spot guide to Key West. It is free, call 305-294-3438 and ask for The Birding Map of Key West.

PRAS Calendar of Events



(Meetings: Social time—7pm; program—7:30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, 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)



- Mar 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"—see page 1
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 10 Lions, Tigers and Bears trip (Paul Holmes 833-3337)
20 Annual Member Meeting—"Stump Pass Birds" Jeff Bouton
22 FT to Lakeland (Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826) (N)

KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS...NEW MEMBERS:

National Audubon:

Barbara Ahlers
Albert Allen
Sandra Artman
Gioia Brock
Mrs Eva Brodie
Elizabeth Bruce
Elizabeth Cassidy
Billie Cohen
Michael Collins
Jack & Mickey Drda
Madeleine Fayman
Marie Flynn
Richard Goddard
Kathleen Guy
Pat & Jack Hollowood
Joan Meek
Tom & Jane Pafford

(contd Natl. Audubon)

Dick & Patti Rettke
M B Sheehan
Jim Story
L Weiss
Jack Yee
Sherwood Zink

Transfers back:

David Lancaster
Thomas Lovely

PRAS:

Robert J. Armstrong
Jim & Helen Comfort
Gloria Freitas
Paul Garrett
Ralph Mifflin

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

www.peacriveraudubon.org

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March 2004
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 Min-it Print Shoppe (folding donated)

2003-04 OFFICERS:

President	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
Vice President	Kathi Rader-Gibson '04	474-3065
Secretary	Peggy Kampert '05	639-7791
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

Lemon Bay Conservancy event:
 March 27, 9 am to 5 pm Cost: FREE

"A Conference featuring Lemon Bay"
 Place: Joseph Tringali Centre, Hwy 776 includes refreshments, buffet lunch, free gifts, door prizes, speakers. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is the host. You don't have to live on Lemon Bay to know the crucial role coastal waters play in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties.

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.

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!



As individuals we can do very little, together we can do much more. Join us to protect the air we breath, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love. In short, help us protect the Florida lifestyle. Members receive 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 * ...

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: () _____
 City, State, Zip _____ **E14-7XCH**

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 Audubon Society and receive 10 issues of the "White Bird."
- Check here if you do not wish to receive "Audubon" Magazine