

# Peace River Audubon Society

## White Bird

May 4, 2004

Volume 27, Issue 11



### MAY 20—ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

Then a presentation by Jeff Bouton (many have heard him before and know how knowledgeable he is) on "Stump Pass Birds." A shortened bio: Birding professionally for most of the past 20 years; worked as "binoculars for hire" bouncing from one seasonal research position to another (usually a new location every 3-4 mos.); traveled from Braddock Bay near Rochester, NY to Cape May Bird Observatory in NJ, Connecticut, Colorado, Arizona and even Alaska (7 years prior to moving to FL 5 years ago). In Alaska, 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.

In Florida, Jeff has led trips for all of the major birding festivals and ABA conferences; presented at the annual FL Audubon Assembly, FOS meetings, and at the various bird festivals throughout the state. He was a chapter author and contributor to the "ABA Bird Finding Guide to Alaska" as well as the upcoming revision to the FL guide. Also 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. Most recent happenings: 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. "

Please join us at 7 pm for social time and to view members' photographs; then our meeting will start at 7:30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte.

### NEW DIRECTOR OF AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

On March 23, 2004 -- David Anderson was named state director of Audubon of Florida. He will begin his new assignment on April 5, and will work out of Miami.

Previous experiences: Director of San Francisco Zoo, Associate Director and General Curator at the Audubon Park and Zoological Gardens in New Orleans, Asst Director and Colony Supervisor at Duke University Primate Center. He has published reference books on biology of primates and lemurs.

### Changes for Nature Photography Group

Peace River Audubon Society is pleased to announce both a new name and the appointment of a new leader for its Nature Photography Group. The reason for the name change is to encourage all the residents of the local area interested in nature photography to take part in the group's activities, therefore, the new name will be:

#### **"Peace River Nature Photography Group"**

Mary Ann Hughes has agreed to run the new club and will coordinate the field trips and other activities, including the sharing of information and member's photographs. The object of the nature photography group is to provide a framework for those in the Charlotte Harbor area who wish to join a few friends and visit local areas of natural beauty with the object of taking photographs and improving the quality of the photographs taken.

The group is strictly informal and members learn mostly from exchanging information with other group members. To make membership more exciting, the group has been challenged to take photographs of all the different species of birds resident or migrating through the Charlotte Harbor area. These photographs will be used to create a photograph library of local birds and to add a personal touch to the Christmas Bird Count conducted annually by the Peace River Audubon. The "personal touch" is a PowerPoint presentation that shows both the total number of each bird species counted and a graph showing the trend. Our goal is that each of the 250 birds seen in Charlotte County will be illustrated with photographs taken by photographers in Charlotte County.

To this end, members take part in monthly field trips around the local area, many of them donating copies of the best pictures they take to the Audubon digital bird library. Other activities include providing photographs for the group's web site: [www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org](http://www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org) and for a bird identification program currently being created. There is also a nature photography competition, held in conjunction with the "Evening with Audubon" fund-raising event held annually. Incidentally, the new group coordinator, Mary Ann, was this year's Silver award winner.

Mary Ann Hughes can be contacted at (941) 637-7855 or by e-mail at [jcmafla2@comcast.net](mailto:jcmafla2@comcast.net).

### REPORT ON TRIP TO THE WEBB

Tuesday, April 6, twenty one (21) Peace River Auduboners spent a gorgeous Florida day looking for birds, wildlife and wild flowers in the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area outside of Punta Gorda.

Target birds were the Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW), Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Blue Birds, Brown Thrasher and Bachman's Sparrows.

Ranger Jenny Roberts, a naturalist at the Webb, joined us and showed us two new RCW spots--and gave us an informative brochure on the RCW. We ended the day in the Webb with 61 species of birds (missing only the Bachman's Sparrow of the target birds), seven deer, and five alligators and many beautiful wildflowers.

After a picnic lunch at Jones Loop rest stop, a few hardy souls ventured to two burrowing owl sites in Punta Gorda-- Success! and we added five more species for a day count of 66 species. --- A SUPER DAY

Dillys Randall, Trip Leader.

### April 17 – Emerson Point Park and Celery Fields Report

Two dozen (24) birders from the Peace River Audubon Society traveled north to Emerson Point Park. After a slow start, the birding activity picked up when we explored the area around the Portavant Temple Mound near the Park entrance. Quite a number of migrants were observed including Gray Catbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, a Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanagers, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several Warblers (Hooded, Palm, and Prairie), a Northern Parula, and Red-eyed Vireos. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest with two young chicks was located directly above the Mound. We observed 47 different species at the Park.

Quite a number of different butterfly species were also observed at the Park. These included the Zebra, Gulf Fritillary, American Lady, Mangrove Skippers, Tropical-checked Skippers, and many others we were not able to identify.

On the way home, ten of us made a short stop at the Celery Fields. Within 45 minutes, we observed 24 different species. The most notable species observed were the Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Yellowlegs, Shrike, Blue-winged Teal, and several Monk Parakeets in the process of building their nests. Altogether, close to 60 different bird species were observed; not a bad day.

Tom Zinneman

### May 22 – Field Trip to Lakeland

On Saturday, May 22, we will travel north to Lakeland. Our first stop will be the Circle B Bar Reserve, which is located south of Lakeland on Highway 540, just off of Highway 98. Formerly a cattle ranch, this property was acquired by Polk County and the Southwest Water Management District in December 2000. It was recently opened to the public. This property encompasses the Banana Creek Marsh system, which comprises about 500 acres. The marsh attracts a large number of birds, including Bald Eagles.

Our next stop will be Lake Morton in Lakeland, where we will eat our lunch. In addition to three species of Swans raised by the city, the lake attracts a variety of bird life. Our final stop will be Lake Hunter, where you will see about a dozen Purple Gallinules.

We'll meet in back of McDonalds in the Peachland Mall at 7:30 am. Please bring a bag lunch. Tom Zinneman (941-505-8826) will be leading this trip.

### Pennington Park Trails Improved

On Wednesday morning, March 31, we did some maintenance on the trails at Audubon-Pennington Park. At 8:00 that morning, Charlotte County Parks Department delivered 11 cubic yards of dirt, which we used to cover exposed tree roots along all the trails in the park. Ten hardy souls were involved in this project: **Roger Blackmore, Ken Ferris, Eleanor and Bill Marr, Frank and Jan Walker, Paul Holmes, Larry Linn,** and Jerry and Keith of Charlotte County. Jerry operated the big dump truck to deposit dirt in 3 spots along the main road, and Keith ran the tractor to deliver the dirt to the trails. For the trails unreachable by tractor, we used wheelbarrows to move the dirt. We also had several folks spreading the dirt over the roots. **Paul Holmes** took pictures of the whole process. Amazingly, we were able to finish all trails before noon, and didn't have to use the gang of boys we had lined up for the following week to complete the job. Many thanks to all who participated.

Audubon-Pennington Nature Park is a 7.92 acre park in Port Charlotte which PRAS leases from Charlotte County. We and the County share maintenance of the park. We are there every Wednesday morning at 8:00 and usually spend a couple of hours trimming the trails and controlling exotic vegetation. The park is located on Alton Road between Midway and Peachland a mile or two from Kings Highway. Signs on Midway and Peachland point to the park. According to Dave Smith, 86 species of birds have been spotted there since 1989. You might also see an alligators or gopher tortoise if you're lucky.

Larry Linn

### March 20 Birdathon "Birds Seen" Report

Anhinga	Heron, Tricolored
Blackbird, Red-winged	Ibis, Glossy
Bluebird, Eastern	Ibis, White
Bobwhite, Northern	Ibis, White-faced
Cardinal, Northern	Jay, Blue
Catbird, Gray	Jay, Scrub
Coot, American	Kestrel, American
Cormorant, Double-crested	Killdeer
Cowbird, brown-headed	Kingfisher, Belted
Crane, Sandhill	Martin, Purple
Crow, American	Meadowlark, Eastern
Crow, Fish	Merganser, hooded
Curlew, Long-billed	Merganser, Red-breasted
Dove, Common Ground	Merlin
Dove, Eurasian Collared	Mockingbird, Northern
Dove, Mourning	Night heron, Black crowned
Dove, Rock	Night heron, Yellow crowned
Dove, White-winged	Osprey
Dowitcher, Long-billed	Owl, Burrowing
Dowitcher, Short-billed	Owl, Great Horned
Duck, Mallard	Oystercatcher, American
Duck, Mottled	Parakeet, Black-hooded
Duck, ring-necked	Parakeet, Monk
Duck, Muscovy	Parula, Northern
Duck, red-head	Pelican, Brown
Duck, Whistling, fulvus	Pelican, White
Duck, whistling black bellied	Phoebe, Eastern
Dunlin	Plover, Black-bellied
Eagle, Bald	Plover, Snowy
Egret, Cattle	Plover, Semi-palmated
Egret, Great	Plover, Wilson's
Egret, reddish	Sanderling
Egret, Snowy	Sandpiper, Least
Flicker, Northern	Sandpiper, Semi-palmated
Frigate bird, Magnificent	Sandpiper, Spotted
Flycatcher, Great Crested	Sandpiper, Western
Gallinule, Common	Scaup, Lesser
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	Shoveler, Northern
Goldfinch, American	Shrike, Loggerhead
Godwit, Marbled	Skimmer, Black
Grackle, Boat-tailed	Sparrow, Bachman's
Grackle, Common	Sparrow, Chipping
Grebe, Pied-billed	Sparrow, House
Gull, Herring	Sparrow, Savannah
Gull, Laughing	Spoonbill, Roseate
Gull, Ring-billed	Starling, European
Hawk, Broad-winged	Stilt, Black-necked
Hawk, Red-shouldered	Stork, Wood
Hawk, Red-tailed	Swallow, Barn
Heron, Great Blue	Swallow, Rough-winged
Heron, Green	Swallow, Tree
Heron, Little Blue	Swan, mute

Teal, Blue-winged	Warbler, Yellow
Tern, Forster's	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Tern, Least	Warbler, Yellow-throated
Tern, Roseatte	Whimbrel
Tern, Royal	Widgeon, American
Tern, Sandwich	Willet
Towhee, Rufous-sided	Woodpecker, Downy
Turnstone, Ruddy	Woodpecker, Pileated
Vireo, Solitary	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
Vireo, White-eyed	Woodpecker, Red-headed
Vulture, Black	Wren, Carolina
Vulture, Turkey	Yellowlegs, Greater
Warbler, Black and white	Yellowlegs, Lesser
Warbler, Palm	Yellow-throat, Common
Warbler, Pine	

**Total bird species counted: 133 / Revenue raised: \$1,335.30**  
**Cathy Olson, Chair**

### April 24 Garage Sale

The PRAS garage sale benefiting the Florida Scrub-Jay habitat acquisition fund was a success! The event was thrown together in a month, but our membership pulled through and managed to find unwanted items throughout their houses. It was a much smaller event than the garage sale last year and had few high priced items, but there was still a mound of items. After two sweaty days, the earnings totaled \$525.96. Many thanks to all who donated and to those who heeded my SOS call and helped set the sale up early Saturday morning.  
**Cathy**

### WHAT YOUR BOARD IS DOING...

- \* ELAAC representative now is Paul Holmes
- \* Photography Group name change, Birdathon species seen/revenues, Columbus McLeod status, Audubon Pennington Park path improvement (see respective articles)

### KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS...NEW MEMBERS:

<b><u>National Audubon:</u></b>		
Mrs Jane Andrews	Henry Iverson	Elizabeth Raterman
Virginia Charman	Mark Kestner	Ralph Rotondo, Jr
Jean Drummond	Anne Lackman	Marianne Schenkel
George P Evans	Georgina Luedtke	L Sheppard
Robert & Pat Evers	George G Maiville	Evelyn S Turner
Robert W Friedell	Clifford B Meacham	Laura Watkins
Richard Harris	Anthony Paulton	Sonja Wilkins
Ms Muriel Hoffman	Charles & Elizabeth Pohle	Robert D Winter
<b><u>PRAS:</u></b>		
Hanna Teachman	Janet & Frank Walker	

### 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)

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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*May 2004  
 White Bird*



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**2003-04 OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b>	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
<b>Vice President</b>	Kathi Rader-Gibson '04	474-3065
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Kampert '05	639-7791
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
<b>Additional Directors:</b>	John Aspiolea '04	575-7788
	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

*Next "White Bird" will be in early August... The Summer Picnic and the new 2003-4 Schedule of Events will be announced!*

**October 7-10, 2004 Audubon Assembly St. Petersburg Hilton**—happening in conjunction with the Florida Birding Festival, enjoy workshops and field trips offered by both of these events! Register on-line at [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org).

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/we want to join/renew 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](http://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