

White Bird

Hope this finds you safe and healthy in this especially challenging time following the hurricanes. Hopefully we can bring you up to date on the happenings of Peace River Audubon Society to add some small semblance of order to our lives (this is a tall order but I'll try!)
Joy Linn, Editor

UPDATES.....

Membership Meeting Update: There was no meeting in September and there will NOT be a meeting in October. Our regular meeting place, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, sustained damage; but more importantly, the meeting room is functioning as a food pantry which has not slowed down in serving meals.

It is questionable whether we can meet there in November as well, so we are looking for an alternative site for November. Any person who has ideas for a back-up meeting hall that can accommodate our group meetings, please contact Peggy Kampert at 639-7791.

Newsletter/Schedule of Events Update: There was no newsletter in September, and we hope to get it back on a regular basis with this issue. The Schedule of Events has not been published due to changes in meeting places, etc. and we hope to get that completed within the next month.

PRAS BOARD UPDATE FROM CATHY OLSON:

I am pleased to welcome five new PRAS Board members: Regina Burke, Phyllis Doggett, Mary Ann Hughes, Betty Talburt and Tom Zinneman. We have met formally as a Board once and everyone offered new suggestions and is full of enthusiasm. I look forward to working with the new PRAS Board as we continue to grow and make changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank exiting Board members too: John Aspiolea, Chuck Froman, Joan Froman, Dennis Hungerford, Cyndi Marks, and Kathi Rader-Gibson. Each of you added to the success of PRAS and helped make it run smoothly. Thank you for your creativity and help with all the nitty gritty details that go into running a successful nonprofit.

Cathy



SEPTEMBER 18 FIELD TRIP TO FORT DESOTO

Peace River Audubon held their first field trip of the 04-05 season on Saturday, September 18. Although the trip was originally scheduled to visit the Laurel Landfill, we felt the landfill would be quite busy with all of the debris pickup activity. Instead, we went to Fort DeSoto.

Fort DeSoto turned out to be quite busy also. Since there were no hurricane evacuations planned for the weekend, I think many people thought it was time to get outdoors and visit the beaches. Even though the Park was crowded, we still saw 55 different species of birds. Our first stop was the rest area beyond the toll gate on I-275. The tide was out, so there were quite a few water-type birds on the flats, including Spoonbills, Sandpipers (Least and Western), Herons (Little Blue and YC Night), Terns (Forster's, Royal, Sandwich), Egrets, and Black-bellied Plovers.

As we continued driving to the Park, a small flock of Monk Parakeets were observed. Our first stop in the Park was the East Woods, where we hoped to see some Warblers. Nary a one was sighted. We then went to the East Turnaround, where again many Egrets, Herons, and a mixture of shorebirds were observed on the flats. Our next stop was the radio tower. We finally had some Warbler action. We saw several Yellow Warblers, a first for several of us. Redstarts and Black & White Warblers were also observed. A Frigate bird was observed flying overhead. On the way to the Tower area, we observed several Eastern Kingbirds, Tree Swallows, and Loggerhead Shrikes.

After a restful lunch, we made a final stop at the north lagoon. A flock of Skimmers, along with other Gulls, Terns, and shorebirds were observed in the far corner, away from the people. A lone Reddish Egret was also observed. Everyone had a good time and welcomed the chance to get away from the devastation in Charlotte County.

Tom Zinneman

Editor's Note: There were fewer birders than normal, but accolades go to Tom for holding this Field Trip and giving the opportunity to those who went along to enjoy nature's bounty—he is a real trooper! Thanks, Tom!

...AND TOM HAS THE OCTOBER 23 FIELD TRIP INFO on page 2

OCTOBER 23 FIELD TRIP

We will visit two parks, Alderman Ford Park and Medard Park, for our October field trip. These Parks are located southeast of Tampa. I suspect this will be a first time visit for many of you. We will meet in the Peachland Mall at 7:15 am on Saturday morning, October 23. We usually meet close to McDonalds, but if this area is occupied by hurricane relief workers, as it was for our September trip, we'll meet a few rows to the left (looking from Peachland). Dave Smith, who has visited these Parks several times, will lead this trip. He can be reached at 941-697-0529 if you have questions. Be sure to bring a lunch.

Tom Zinneman

PRESERVATION CHARLOTTE 2004 UPDATE

The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners met following Hurricane Charley to discuss the referendum for Preservation Charlotte 2004 (an initiative to acquire environmentally sensitive lands.) It was felt that with many issues regarding money and property values so unsettled following the hurricane, they should pull the referendum from the November ballot. The hope is that a new referendum will be set for 2005. Due to the pulling of the ballot question, the Preservation Charlotte 2004 Political Action Committee (PAC) will not be available to speak at near-term meetings.

AUGUST PRAS BOARD DOINGS:

>> Discussed the Annual Banquet "Evening with Audubon" location and caterer—to be further researched by Peggy Kampert and others.

>> Fund raisers currently scheduled are the Silent Auction at the Banquet and the Charlotte Harbor 100—no decision was made on which fund would receive the monies.

>> March 11-13 Florida Ornithology Society will be supported by PRAS. Friday and Saturday (11th and 12th) Field Trip leaders are needed; Sunday (13th) will include the Charlotte Harbor 100.

>> New insurance for the Board of Directors and General Liability have been procured.

Note: There was no September Board meeting.

NEW MEMBERS—KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS:

New National Audubon Members:

Ernest Holder
Jack Klug
M G Isenberg

Ross Raley
Vicki Sebastian

New PRAS Members:

Kathleen Rohner

"TENTATIVE" UPCOMING EVENTS (Subject to change!)

10/19 (Tues) 7:00 AM Nature Photography/Six-Mile Cypress
Meet at Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41

10/23 (Sat) 7:15 AM Field Trip/Alderman Ford & Medard Pks
Meet at McDonald's, Peachland Mall

11/02 (Tues) 7:15 AM Field Trip/Sanibel & Ding Darling
Meet at Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41

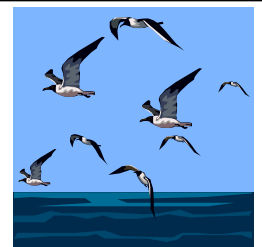
FIELD TRIP WAIVER

In the "Board Doings," you may have noticed that new insurance coverage for this fiscal year has been obtained by the Board.

One of the requirements of the General Liability insurance is that each participant on field trips must sign an annual "Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement." These will be kept on file by the Field Trip Chairperson, Tom Zinneman.

It is the responsibility of each field trip guide to check that everyone on his/her trip has signed this Waiver...if not, you should have blank copies with you which must then be given to Tom. The Waiver may be obtained from Tom, Paul Holmes or Mary Ann Hughes. Also, as a guide, you may also request one be faxed or emailed to you by any of them or by Joy Linn (637-8160) to send one to you or(linn59@comcast.net...that is after I get Comcast back!!!)

Now smile, go out and see some birds and be thankful for your family and friends!



Remembering Malcolm...Cathy Olson requested memories to be shared from PRAS members and here are a few of those:

Malcolm M. Simons Jr.

1916—2004



Peggy Kampert: "He was not reluctant to spread his love and knowledge of nature and birds to all who were interested. He was a wonderful example of the way I would like to approach the later years of my life."

Randy McCormick (past PRAS President): "My best remembrance dates back to when I was working at CHEC. We had a British visitor who was working on his life list and asked where he should go to see a mangrove cuckoo. Malcolm was volunteering in the Visitor's Center that day so we took a walk over there to get Malcolm's opinion. When asked the question, he smiled that subtle, wry smile of his and chuckled, "A mangrove cuckoo...hmm...well that's one of those birds you just have to go out to where they live and let them find you!" It was the perfect response. Sometimes the best way to learn what Nature has to teach us is to just get out there and look around. The lesson is there if we have the eyes to see it. Malcolm had the eyes."

Kathi Rader-Gibson (past PRAS VP): "Malcolm touched everyone that he came across. I remember meeting Malcolm first on a bird walk at Lemon Bay Park. I was in awe of his bird knowledge, as I was a fairly new birder. We have lost a great resource of knowledge. However, Malcolm made a point to share his wealth of information with everyone. You couldn't help but be in awe with some of the facts he remembered about birds. Malcolm will be sorely missed at our Peace River Audubon Society meetings and field trips. Thank you Malcolm for sharing your love of birds with not only myself, but everyone you came in touch with."

Cathy Olson: "My fondest memory of Malcolm is when he said, 'I'm glad you're involved with the Christmas Bird Count; will you please bring some science back into it and make the checklist by family group instead of by alphabetical order?' Although I didn't have enough time for that particular bird count, I re-keyed the checklist and now both versions are available."

George Marks: "We were always pleased to have Malcolm at the Christmas Bird Count socials. We knew if we could get our list of birds past Malcolm, there was a reasonable chance we hadn't made any major blunders. But if someone was reading off a list of birds and Malcolm said, 'Are you sure?'—the room would get really quiet. It was time to check out the sighting. In most cases after a few questions, it was concluded the exotic bird in question was more likely a common bird misidentified."

Mark Pokras (Director, Center for Conservation Medicine, Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, N Grafton, MA): "In the late '70's and early '80's a retiree named Malcolm M. Simons Jr. sponsored a series of beached bird surveys up and down the east coast of the USA....Malcolm collected and hand tabulated data from hundreds of observers over more than 8 years and published his summary results in the Fall 1985 American Birds. "Two articles Malcolm authored were listed:

"Reverse Migration of Sharp-shinned Hawks on the West Coast of Florida"

Source: Florida Field Naturalist, 5 (2): 43-44. 1977. WR 169 ISSN: 0738-999X

"Beached Bird Survey Project on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts—December 1, 1975 to November 30, 1983"

Source: American-Birds. 1985; 39(3): 358-362

(Thanks to Jean Arnold, CHEC Volunteer Nature Shop Manager, for taking Malcolm's picture and Monica Dorken, CHEC Education Coordinator, for sharing it with us.)

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White Bird



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2004-05 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

(941)

President	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
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	Betty Talburt '06	766-0354
	Tom Zinneman '06	505-8826

WOULD YOU PLEASE:

Check the "Exp" date on your address label!

If an "Exp" is "0704," it means your PRAS or National membership expires in July '04 (both PRAS and National stop mailings after 2-3 months). The "Exp" line saves the cost of sending post cards, so if your expiration date has or will expire, please use the application below to renew your membership.

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — (Choose A or B below)

(A) I/we want to join or renew membership in the local **PEACE RIVER AUDUBON** for \$10!

Join us to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love...help us protect our Florida. 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, PO Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760.

(B) I/we want to join or renew **National Audubon** for:

 \$15 = 1-yr Student/Senior Rate (62+) \$1,000 Individual Life
 \$20 = 1-yr Introductory National Audubon Rate \$1,500 Dual Life
 \$30 = 2-yr Special National Audubon Rate

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society

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Phone: () _____

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

Note: National Audubon members receive 6 bi-monthly "Audubon" magazines/year and some discounts at Audubon Centers across the US A, **PLUS, you automatically** receive the same 10 "White Bird" issues as PRAS members do in Option A.

Check here if you do not wish to receive "Audubon" Magazine