

White Bird

July 30, 2004

Volume 28, Issue 1

SUMMER RAMBLE & POT-LUCK PICNIC

August 21 (Sat)

By summer picnic time, some of us are getting Cabin Fever— Florida Style. So, if you feel like a short nature ramble before lunch either in CHEC or the Webb, then join us at 9:30 on the 21st in the CHEC parking lot and we will take a stroll in the shade and be back by picnic time. Those who joined us last year enjoyed wading in three inches of clear sparkling flood water from the Datsun Trail back to CHEC. Meeting an otter half way made it more fun. Don't forget water, sun cream, bug spray, a hat and please wear old shoes, in case we get our feet wet. If you have questions, call Paul at 833-3337.

The annual summer pot-luck picnic on August 21 begins at 12 (or so) in the outdoor screen room at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Alligator Creek site (10941 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda) and hopefully the "waders" will have returned by then. A brief Board meeting will be held immediately following the picnic to cover any immediate business matters.

Please bring a covered dish and/or a dessert to share.

Also, please bring your own plates and utensils. Drinks, ice and cups will be provided.

Members' families and friends are encouraged to join us. This will be a casual afternoon of socializing and everyone is welcome.

DING DARLING & CORKSCREW SWAMP REPORT

On Wednesday, July 14, I made a trek out to Ding Darling NWR and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary respectively. My main objective was to make contact for my new job, but I naturally did some birding as well (when in Rome after all). Along the drive at Ding, things were a bit quiet as it was high tide. I didn't stop at Red Mangrove overlook (a mistake judging by Brian's post) because there was a whole busload of children here and no real room for a heavily armed bird warrior (scope, camera, bins, etc.). Nonetheless, there were some highlights at other spots: At Crossdykes Trail, Gray Kingbirds called from every mangrove snag, and a Black-whiskered Vireo let out 2 songs from the mangrove areas across the water (to the east) between the trail and the overlook tower. Looking back to the west from the tower, the Spoonbills (nearly 50) were perched in the mangroves in force waiting for the tide and heat to subside. Not many other surprises or highlights here but I wasn't complaining for a mid-day, high-tide afterthought in July. Along the Sanibel Causeway, one could at least imagine migration was underway with a group of 7 Ruddy Turnstones and 5 Semipalmated Plovers.... OK, sure they could have been non-breeding birds that summered-over, but migration sounds a lot more exciting and we are now in the back half of July so the shorebirds should be on the move.

One of the two biggest surprises of the day came after I met up with Charlie Ewell and Arlyne Salcedo who were up for an afternoon road trip. We were heading east on Daniel's Parkway just east of Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress when an adult dark morph Short-tailed Hawk sailed low across the road and over our vehicles heading to the north toward Six Mile Cypress Preserve.....things that make you go hmmm?!?... Now an adult Short-tailed in mid July is a bird of a different feather. Is this another bird wandering after completing nesting? Hmmm... could be, but there is plenty of suitable habitat to support a nest over there. Perhaps some of the locals could take a late morning and a scope and sit at that little open park on the NE corner of Daniel's/Six Mile and watch for a bit as the thermals develop. If there are nesting Short-taileds here, they will certainly be up above the trees as the thermals develop. These birds always hunt from high on the wing looking for avian prey so when they are around the only key to finding them is to find a spot where you can scan the horizon and wait! Who's game, I have a few scopes?!?... ; at any rate, I had one over Lakes Park a few years back but not in season so I didn't think much of it. Now I'm wondering. Anyone out there know of any history of nesting in Fort Myers?

On to Corkscrew, I spent a bunch of time yapping and finally hit the boardwalk in the late afternoon. Without proper fluids or adequate food...I was worthless, but fortunately Eagle-eye Ewell scored our second very curious bird of the day. A Red-eyed Vireo was right over the boardwalk in with a small mixed flock with a Northern Parula, a handful of Tufted Titmouse (mice..., mouses?!?...) and the ubiquitous White-eyed Vireos and Carolina Wrens. Here again mid July is a might early for a migrant. Makes

(Continued on page 2)



Babcock Ranch Preservation Update

The Peace River Audubon Society has recently sent a \$1,000 check to the Babcock Preservation Partnership fund on behalf of its 500 members.

The Board of Directors realized that, while this represents a lot of money for an organization such as ours, the purchase of the Babcock Ranch is so vital to our future standard of living in this area that they consider it money invested in our future, not just a donation to a worthwhile cause.

We would encourage other like-minded organizations and/or individuals to consider supporting this historic effort. Donations should be made to the: Babcock Preservation Partnership Fund and sent to: Southwest Florida Community Foundation, 8262 College Parkway, Suite 101, Fort Myers, FL 33919.

(Continued from page 1)

you wonder what that bird is doing there. Certainly plenty of habitat for a nesting bird to hide out there, and looking at the data they had back at the center there are records for the species for every month of the year. Any Corkscrew experts out there that can shed some light on circumstances surrounding other mid-summer reports? Pileated Woodpeckers were prevalent, Red-bellieds, and Downy Woodpeckers were everywhere, and at one point I thought I heard a Hairy but couldn't prove it (of course I thought I was hearing voices a bit later so take that for what it's worth... note to self, be sure to eat more and keep hydrated the next time I'm birding all day in the mid-summer heat!) Next it was Arlyne's turn to carry us by spotting one of the most indifferent Limpkins I've ever seen. It finally walked right under the boardwalk not too far ahead of us. Good views! (Of course when Arlyne originally spotted it, it was not easily seen!)

We also heard Barred Owls getting raucous and had a decent flock of Wood Storks soaring with the vultures here, but no Swallow-tailed Kites were seen from the boardwalk. I did remedy this for the day list though by seeing a bird over 75 just north of the Callosahatchee River. This is a reliable spot for all the years I've lived here and after Arlyne and Charlie semi-revived me with fluids and sugary snacks I was back in the game again and looking for these birds as I sped home to Port Charlotte.

Have fun and get out there! Jeff Bouton, Leica Sports Optics
Port Charlotte, FL

NEW MEMBERS—KEYS TO PRAS SUCCESS:

New National Audubon Members:

John & Gudrun Boatman	Laura Mann
O M Boggs	Mary Marshall
Brenda Bossman	Bill & Shirley McInturf
Carl Bradshaw	Russ Meinke
Nelda Cain	Oyar & Lynn Miller
Dena Callman	Linda Moreau
Brenda Capek	Theresa Munley
Mary J Cassels	Meredith Myers
Ralph Cima	Monte Ocha
Gertrude Coble	Charles & Marge Ostrom
Lois Cross	Patricia Owens
Charles Crowell	Forest Plum
James & Madeline Detlefs	Vince & Fran Radzik
Lois Doczy	Gerde & Hectro Ramos
Helen Ducick	Ron & Marylou Reed
Marica Durland	John Reeves
Allen Feres	M B Rehrmann
Martha Finnegan	K Reitano
John & Bev Fornauder	Ronald & Janie Ressel
Frank Friddle	Ron & Charlotte Robinson
Susan Fuller	Jennifer Robots
George & Pat Garrett	Eugene Scott
Gladys Grudt	Robert & Beverlie Scott
John Hunter	Mr & Mrs Curtis Serven
Marilyn Jones	Norb & Elaine Smialek
Harriette Kirkpatrick	Kenny & Marcia Sparks
Doreen Kundrot	Fern Striplin
Bruce & Susan Lawson	Pamela Taylor
Leslie Leavitt	Fredrick Vanham
John Lorden	Rosamond Volkert
Bob & Clara Macthen	Harriet Weaver
Bob & Donna Werner	Peter & Nancy Williams
William White	Carol Yost

New PRAS Members:

Jean Armour	Margaret Melgard
H Armstrong	Carol Mozik
Joan Ehrman	Don & Carol Sessions
Wm J Grant	Nancy Semon-Kraus
Donald House	Diane Strandberg
Helen Howell	Jim & Nancy White
Richard & Marilyn Linden	Elfrieda Wuerz

PRAS 2004-5 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To join any of the committees, please call the chairperson:
(941)

Annual Banquet	Peggy Kampert	639-7791
Archivist	Peggy Kampert	639-7791
Audubon Pennington	Roger Blackmore	625-7317/Larry Linn 637-8160
CHEC rep*	Paul Holmes	833-3337
Christmas Bird Count	Tony Licata	505-9775
Conservation*	Paul Holmes	833-3337
ELACC rep	Paul Holmes	833-3337
Education*	Phyllis Doggett	575-4009 & Regina Burke 639-4627
Executive*	All officers plus Joy Linn & Tom Zinneman	
Field Trips*	Tom Zinneman	505-8826
Finance*	Cathy Olson	613-6753/Paul Holmes/Tom Zinneman
Hospitality	Estelle Fairhurst	624-0715
Membership*	Betty Talburt	766.0354
NEP rep	Ellen Hawkinson	426-0123
Nature Photography	Mary Ann Hughes	637-7855
Newsletter* & Publicity*	Joy Linn	637-8160
Programs*	Paul Holmes	833-3337
Silent Auction	Regina Burke	639-4627 & Betty Talburt 766-0354
Webmaster	Bill Coombs	639-4961

* Required committees according to Bylaws & NAS

WHAT THE BOARD HAS BEEN DOING:

>> A \$1,404.60 check for youth environmental education will be presented to CHEC at the August picnic. This will include Audubon Adventures funds unused during the last few years, Youth Environmental Education donations, and 50% of Birdathon proceeds;



>> Babcock donation \$1,000 (see page 1);

>> Donated \$250 to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for use of room;

>> Discussed involvement in environmental land referendum; further checking on rules re PRAS as a 501(c)3 organization will be done before participation;;

>> Held planning session for 2004-5 PRAS direction, programs, special events, and field trips in July.

**TENTATIVE PRAS 2004-5
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Meetings:

Social time—7 pm;

program—7:30 pm at:

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

Field Trips (FT)

Meet at 7:30 am...

"N" meet at McDonald's in

Peachland Mall;

"S" meet in old Kmart lot

at Burnt Store Road & 41)

** = Phone # is PRAS

member's phone number

P. S.: Monthly Board

meetings will be held the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month at the Port Charlotte Library (upstairs meeting room).

P. S. S.: Audubon

Assembly October 7-10 in St. Pete at same time as FL Birding Festival...9/15 cutoff for \$99 registration fee!

Date

Date	Activity	Time	Meeting Place	Topic/Destination	Speaker/Leader	Contact
September						
9/16 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Parks Management/Control Burns	Laura DiGruttolo/Paul Holmes	941-833-3337**
9/18 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Laurel Landfill & Knights Trail Pk	Bill Havill	941-625-8096
October						
10/21 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Preserve Charlotte 04	PAC Speaker/Paul Holmes	941-833-3337**
10/19 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Six-Mile Cypress	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
10/23 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Alderman Ford Pk & Medard Pk	Dave Smith	941-697-0529
November						
11/02 (Tues)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Sanibel/Ding Darling	Paul Holmes	941-833-3337
11/16 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Explore CHEC	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
11/18 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Turtles	Wilma Katz/Paul Holmes	941-833-3337**
	Special Event			Wading with CHEC and Audubon		
11/20 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Charlotte County Birding Hot Spots	Cathy Olson	941-613-6753
December						
12/07 (Tues)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Pine Island Nature Cruise/Cabbage Key	Paul Holmes	941-833-3337
12/16 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Members Christmas Party	Paul Holmes	941-833-3337
12/18 (Sat)	Special Event	7:00 AM	Various	Christmas Bird Count	Tony Licata	941-505-9775
12/21 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	TBA	Special Christmas Trip	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
January						
01/18 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Selby Gardens	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
01/20 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Christmas Bird Count Social	Tony Licata	941-505-9775
01/22 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Selby Gardens & Celery Fields	Regina Burke	941-639-4627
01/29 (Sat)	Special Event	9:00 AM	Charlotte Sports Center	Charlotte County Nature Festival	Maran Hilgendorf	239-995-1777
February						
02/01 (Tues)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Circle B Bar Reserve	Tom Zinneman	941-505-8826
02/08 (Tues)	Special Event	5:30 PM	Maple Leaf Estates	Evening with Audubon	Jim Beever/Peggy Kampert	941-639-7791
02/15 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Venice Rookery	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855**
02/17 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Shells	Joyce Matthys/Paul Holmes	941-833-3337**
02/19 (Sat)	Special Event	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Everglades National Park/Shark Valley	Tom Zinneman	941-505-8826
March						
03/07 (Mon)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Bunche Beach & Estero Lagoon	Lynn Bates	941-639-7277
03/15 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Corkscrew Swamp	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
03/17 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Saving Cranes/Chassowitzka population	Pat & Jack Casselberry/Paul	941-833-3337**
03/19 (Sat)	Special Event	7:00 AM	Various	Charlotte Harbor 100	Paul Holmes	941-833-3337
April						
04/04 (Mon)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Fort DeSoto	Eleanor Marr	941-624-4182
04/19 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Seaboard in the Webb	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
04/21 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Kissimmee Birding	?/Paul Holmes	941-833-3337**
04/23 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:00 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve	Tom Zinneman	941-505-8826
May						
05/17 (Tues)	Nature Photography	7:00 AM	Old Kmart Parking Lot @ 41	Sanibel/Ding Darling	Mary Ann Hughes	941-637-7855
05/19 (Thurs)	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*	Annual Membership Meeting	Paul Holmes	941-833-3337
05/21 (Sat)	Field Trip	7:15 AM	McDonald's, Peachland Mall	Myakka State Park	Dave Mathewson	941-629-6376

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

www.peacriveraudubon.org

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Punta Gorda, FL
 Permit No. 100



Summer 2004
 White Bird



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

2004-05 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

(941)

President	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
Vice President	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
Secretary	Peggy Kampert '05	639-7791
Treasurer	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
Additional Directors:	Regina Burke '06	639-4627
	Phyllis Doggett '06	575-4009
	Joy Linn '05 (editor)	637-8160
	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

___ My check is enclosed or ___ Please bill me

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ E14-7XCH
 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