

White Bird



NEW MEETING LOCATION AND TIME LIMIT !!!!

New Location and Time for March, April and May:
Harold Avenue Recreation Center
23400 Harold Avenue in Port Charlotte

Due to Holy Trinity Church repairs from damage by Hurricane Charley, we will meet in a new location for March through May.

Directions to Harold Avenue Recreation Center: From 41, go north on King's Highway, left on Midway, immediate right on Loveland, left on Harold Avenue, right into parking lot.

From Peachland, go south on Loveland (near King's Highway), right on Harold Avenue, right into parking lot.

There is another parking lot (where the Harold Avenue Recreation Center sign is along Loveland), but it is a longer walk to the Center.

TIME CHANGE: A 15-minute social time starting at 7 pm will be followed by a 7:15 meeting. The room is ours from 7 sharp and we must leave by 9 pm.

MARCH 17 MEETING—WHOOPING CRANES

Pat and Jack Casselberry, who work with the Whooping Crane Project in Crystal River, will speak at our March 17 meeting on "Saving Cranes and Chassowitzka Population."

Please note the location and time limit for this meeting (described above). Call Paul Holmes 833-0337 for further information.

SHARK VALLEY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Members and guests of PRAS gathered in Punta Gorda at 7:00 in the morning to travel south to Shark Valley. Would you believe we had 28 people, which is quite a large group for one of our field trips. A caravan of 10 vehicles traveled south on I-75, CR-951, and US 41 to Shark Valley, about a 2.5-hour drive.

We arrived there around 9:30, just in time for the 10:00 tram ride. Most people signed up for the ride, which is a two-hour trip around a 15-mile trail. An on-board guide identified the various wildlife and plant life encountered on the ride. In addition to the numerous alligators, some of the more interesting birds observed included Spoonbills, Purple Gallinules, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Wood Storks, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Unfortunately, the Great White Heron was not seen on this ride. After arriving back at the beginning of the trail, we had about an hour to walk the trail and get close-up views of a number of birds. There were two Anhinga nests, each with nestlings, within a short distance of the entrance. It was interesting to watch the nestlings take food from the adults by sticking their head down the adult's neck.

After leaving Shark Valley, we stopped along a field to look for Snail Kites. We were quite fortunate to observe at least three different birds, two adults and a juvenile, flying over the field looking for food. This was a lifer for many of the group. Our final stop was the picnic area on the corner of US 41 and Turner River Road, where we ate our lunch (at 3:00 in the afternoon). Many of the group then walked the short boardwalk adjacent to the picnic area. Of course, there were quite a number of alligators along the bank of the river. We also observed a Great-crested Flycatcher and a Northern Parula, along with the Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers. We departed around 4:00 and arrived in Punta Gorda around 5:45, a long, but enjoyable day.

Tom Zinneman, Leader

MARCH 7 FIELD TRIP TO BEACHES & LAGOONS

On Monday, March 7, PRAS will be going on a Field Trip to the Fort Myers area beaches. Bunche Beach, near the Sanibel Causeway, is a spectacular place at low tide to see all the winter migrating, wading and shore birds. Many of the birds should be in breeding plumage at this time. Estero Lagoon at Fort Myers Beach is a world renowned birding area for viewing and photography, as well as for beach walking.

Bring a picnic lunch, wading shoes, binoculars and cameras for a fun day in the sun. Meet in Punta Gorda at the Burnt Store Road and Rt. 41 Shopping Plaza Parking Lot behind the Wachovia Bank at 7:15AM to car pool. Contact Lynn Bates who will be leading this trip at 639-7277 or e-mail BGeoLynn@aol.com for additional information or questions about this trip.

Lynn Bates

WHITE BIRD "ALERT"

WANTED: NEW EDITOR

REQUIREMENTS: Year-round resident with computer knowledge

START: Training (if desired) to start immediately; become editor by July 2005

CURRENT TOOLS USED: Microsoft Publisher for White Bird preparation and Acrobat (product owned by Audubon and goes to new editor)

TIME REQUIREMENT (about 5 hours/month):

Up to 2 hours max preparing edition and emailing to printer.

About 20 minutes to receive latest membership data base by email from Membership Chair Betty Talburt, sort by zip code and print labels for mailing.

Pick up White Bird from printer and stick labels on White Bird—about 1.5 hours.

Deliver to bulk mailing location (back of Punta Gorda post office) between 9:30 and 4 M-F.

Send email with Acrobat electronic copy for website to PRAS webmaster

FORT DESOTO FIELD TRIP

We're planning a field trip to Fort Desoto on Monday, April 4. With luck we will hit a major fallout of spring migrants, including tanagers, grosbeaks, warblers. If the day happens to be between waves of migrants, the shore birds at Fort Desoto are always worth the trip, and many will be in full breeding plumage. Fort Desoto is good in any season, and usually gives us a trip list of at least 70 species. Meet at the "N" location: Peachland Mall, behind McDonalds, at 7:15 AM. Bring wading shoes if you like, along with binoculars and lunch!

For information, call Eleanor or Bill Marr at (941) 624-4182.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR 100 BIRDATHON

It is now only 13 days until the first running of the Charlotte Harbor 100, our new style Birdathon. To keep you all in the loop and help you understand what this competition is all about, I have copied the press release below.

If it is successful it can only be good for our area, so please support us. If you would like to sponsor a team or make a donation to cover some of the cost of organizing the event, please contact us.

If you are interested in, entering, acting as a local guide for out of town teams or just simply helping on the day, please call me, Paul Holmes, at 833-3337 and let's talk. [Press release:](#)

Speed Birding comes to Charlotte County

For the first time on March 13, speed-birding enthusiasts from all over the State in Florida have been invited by Peace River Audubon Society (PRAS) of Charlotte County to accept a challenge to beat a local birding record. Since this is a unique opportunity for birders, there will be TV and radio coverage.

March 13 is the third day of the Florida Ornithological Association Spring Convention being held in Venice. Some of these highly experienced birders will join teams representing many of Audubon's Southwest Florida Audubon Chapters and other speed-birding enthusiasts in an attempt to beat a local record. That record, "Charlotte Harbor 100," was set during the same period last year by two local birders who identified 100 species of birds, either by seeing or hearing them, in a 6-hour period without leaving Charlotte County.

Challenge headquarters will be at the rest area on Jones Loop Road at Interstate 75 (Ramp 161). Judges will monitor the competition as participants call in throughout the morning to keep the media up-to-date on the competition progress. All competitors will return to the challenge headquarters at 12 o'clock for the presentation of the prizes to the members of the winning team. "Whether the record is broken or not, each member of the team that logs the most species will win a 'Charlotte Harbor 100' trophy," said organizer Paul Holmes, Vice President of PRAS.

This is one of Peace River Audubon's major fundraising events which are used for the environmental education of Charlotte County 4th grade students. Team members and members of the public sponsor one or

more birders for a set amount for each bird species seen. The goal is to raise at least \$1,000.

Rebecca Allen of the local visitor's bureau said, "Obviously, the concentration of so many influential birding enthusiasts in one place creates an exciting opportunity for promoting Charlotte County as a great Eco-Tourism center."

PRAS would welcome offers to sponsor the costs of staging the event and asks potential sponsors to please contact Paul Holmes at pgholmes@comcast.net or call 941-833-3337. Entry forms are available on Peace River Audubon's website: www.peacriveraudubon.org.

The Peace River Audubon Society is a non-profit organization incorporated under the State of Florida to promote protection and preservation of natural resources through education and research. Website is: www.peacriveraudubon.org for additional information.

ANNUAL BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION REPORT

Thank you to all the attendees, contributors and buyers who participated in the Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on February 8, 2005. This event raised about \$1,500 which will go 75% to the Youth Environmental Education Fund and 25% to PRAS operational expenses.

Here is a partial list of contributors to the Silent Auction. Due to space, we are listing only those non-members who contributed to our annual event and want to thank these contributors:

Ace Hardware @ 912 Kings Hwy
Back Yard Birds
CHEC
Dr. Denise Orazi
Edward Jones American Funds
University of Florida Extension
GTE Federal Credit Union
Linda Bean
Maria Redona
Monty's Restaurant & Pizzeria
Nail Palace
Perkins Family Restaurant
Presseller Delicatessen
Punta Gorda Rent-All & Sales
Red Monkey Florist
Sandy Hook Fish & Rib House
The Driest Team w/Century 21 Almar
Tractor Supply Company
Wild Birds

Babcock Wilderness
Bacon Furniture Galleries
Don Sinclara
Dumas Concrete Specialties
Florida Native Plant Nursery
Gale Giles
King Fisher Fleet
Lowe's Livestock Mercantile
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
Mote Marine Laboratory
Stella Pangakis
Port Charlotte Title Company
Publix Super Market
Ray Cady
Regal Entertainment
Sea Key West Express
Therapeutic Wellness Center
Wanda Carter
William McKenzie

Please consider supporting these businesses and individuals listed above throughout the year.

Thank you to all!

REMAINING 2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mon/Mar 7/7:15—Bunche Beach & Estero Lagoon (S)

- Leader Lynn Bates 941-639-7277

Sun, Mar 13—Charlotte Harbor 100 (Various)

- Leader Paul Holmes 941-833-3337

Tue, Mar 15/7:00—Photography: Corkscrew Swamp (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Mon, Apr 4/7:15—Fort DeSoto (N)

-Leader Eleanor Marr 941-624-4182

Tue, Apr 19/7:00—Photography: Seaboard in the Web (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes 941-637-7855

Sat, Apr 23/7:00—Kissimmee Prairie Preserve (N)

- Tom Zinneman 941-505-8826

Tue, May 17/7:00—Photography: Sanibel/Ding Darling (S)

- Leader Mary Ann Hughes

Sat, May 21/7:15—Myakka State Park (N)

- Leader Dave Mathewson 941-629-6376

NOTE: Trips leave PROMPTLY as follows:

Trips marked (N) are NORTHbound and meet at McDonald's in Peachland Mall.

Trips marked (S) are SOUTHbound and meet at Burnt Store Road and Rt. 41 Shopping Plaza Parking Lot behind the Wachovia Bank.

2005 MEETINGS

Membership Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from September to May, beginning with social time at 7 and the meeting at 7:15 pm (unless noted otherwise).

Meeting site is: Harold Avenue Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Avenue in Port Charlotte

Mar 17, 2005—Saving Cranes and Chassowitka population:

Pat & Jack Casselberry, Whooping Crane Project, Crystal River

Apr 21, 2005—Kissimmee Birding: Paul Miller, Prairie Preserve

May 19, 2005—Annual Membership Meeting: Paul Holmes

Membership

New National Audubon Members:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Mr M.B. Abrahamson | Char Cadmen | Laura A Felmore |
| Kay Frye | Ms June W Green | William Hopewell |
| Alice L McComb | Elizabeth Oleary | Marilyn Ress |
| Mr Guy A Shane | Leonora w Smith | Kay Tanner |
| Marguerite Thief | Lois Watts | Marilyn Wessel |
| Guy H Willett | Irmgard A Wolfram | Virginia Yelvington |
| Patrick Dulaney | Bill/Linda Eckhoff | |

New Peace River Audubon Members:

Fran Reimondo

Your Help Needed.....

Recently, we wanted to call as many members as possible when our monthly meeting location had to be changed, but we did not have phone numbers or emails for some.....would you please give Betty Talburt your current information by calling 766-0354 or btalburt@comcast.net (particularly if you know we don't have one or the other).

FACING THE WORST THREAT

Lee Bidgood, Conservation Chair, SE Volusia Audubon Society, Inc. wrote the following article:

"Florida needs help. Prized ecosystems, especially the Everglades, would probably be damaged beyond recovery by unchecked global warming. Countless species would be imperiled by higher temperatures, rising sea levels, stronger storms and exotic invaders.

Let's call it global heating; 'warming' sounds too benign. Average global temperatures climbed 1° F in the last century, and heating has accelerated. Virtually all scientists blame human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, for part or most of the heating and expect another 3 to 11° F temperature rise this century. Computer models of climate correctly predicted that weather extremes would increase with global heating. Downpours instead of gentle rains, blizzards, killer heat waves and scorching droughts have become more common worldwide.

Four devastating hurricanes hit the state, but most Floridians seem unaware that warming seas fuel more powerful hurricanes. Wind damage pales beside potential flooding. Two or three foot higher sea levels, as projected by climate models, would mean catastrophic damage to coastal communities and ecosystems by a powerful hurricane striking at high tide. A lingering nor'easter could wreak even more havoc....

What should you do about this threat?

You can cut your family's greenhouse gas emissions and set an example for friends and neighbors. Most of these suggestions will save money as well:

- For your next car, buy a higher mpg vehicle. New hybrids offer a range of models. My early model has averaged over 68 mpg in four years. Walk or ride a bicycle when you can and enjoy the health benefits.
- In replacing appliances, select for top-rated energy efficiency. Consider installing a solar thermal water heater; it can be a good investment.
- If your local utility offers a "green power" option, support it. Such programs feature energy purchased from renewable sources, financed by consumers volunteering to pay a small additional monthly fee.
- A few non-profit municipal utilities have offered solar photovoltaic (PV) installations largely subsidized by government. Participate if you have the opportunity and can afford your share of the installation cost.
- Make sure your house is properly insulated; many utilities provide a low-cost evaluation. Avoid over-heating in winter and excessive air conditioning in summer. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent types. Turn off unnecessary lights and unplug idle appliances. Install low-flow shower heads to save hot water. Dry clothes outside when practicable. Recycle and use recycled products as feasible.
- Trees soak up carbon dioxide and will provide summer shade and restrain cold winter winds if strategically placed. Use lawn fertilizers sparingly, preferably organic types. Don't water excessively. Florida lawns can flourish without pesticides and be havens for birds and other wildlife. 'Pesticides' include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and other 'cides' derived from petroleum. Many studies have shown that lawn pesticide use is associated with higher levels of cancer in toddlers and pets. For 25 years, I have maintained a pesticide-free lawn that is green and inviting, but not a monoculture....."

References: 1. Audubon booklet, "CO2 Diet for a Green house Planet: A Citizen's Guide for Slowing Global Warming", by DeCicco, Cook, Bolze and Beyea, published June, 1990

2. Audubon Magazine, special issue of December, 2003, Global Warming, Confronting Climate Change: How the World Can Keep Its Cool

You CAN help!!

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

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To view the White Bird in color, go to:
www.peaceriveraudubon.org



March 2005
 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 | Mary Ann Hughes '06 | 637-7855 |
| 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 |

PLEASE:

Check the "Exp" date on your address label!
 If an "Exp" is "0105," it means your PRAS and/or National membership expires in Jan '05 (both PRAS and National Audubon 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Please direct all membership changes, etc. to Chairman Betty Talburt at 766-0354.

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.

FAMILY 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.peaceriveraudubon.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