

# White Bird



## MEETING LOCATION AND TIME LIMIT FOR APR & MAY

Harold Avenue Recreation Center  
23400 Harold Avenue in Port Charlotte

**TIME CHANGE:** A 15-minute social time starting at 7 pm will be followed by a 7:15 meeting...must vacate building by 9 pm.

### APRIL 21 MEETING—KISSIMMEE BIRDING

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve Park Service Specialist, Dylan, will speak about the Preserve using a Power Point presentation...this is in preparation for the Field Trip which follows on April 23 (see next item).

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

## WHY NOT SERVE ON OUR BOARD?

As I'm sure you know our Board members are only allowed to serve for four years. This year, will be particularly difficult as not only do we have to replace five board members, but among these five board members are the President, Treasurer and Newsletter editor. The nominating committee has found three excellent new Board member candidates, one of whom has agreed to edit the White Bird newsletter.

Finding a replacement for treasurer is proving more difficult, which is frustrating as I'm sure that among our 500 members there are many who have retired with the knowledge needed to be an excellent treasurer.

Peace River Audubon has become a respected and involved member of our community. What we are fighting for is well worth the struggle. Our future strength depends a lot on the strength of our Board of Directors. Now is not the time to be modest, it is the time to come forward and give something back, be part of something both exciting and very rewarding.

Whether you feel capable of being a treasurer or are just willing to serve on the Board, we would be delighted to talk to you.

Please call any one of three nominating committee members:  
Cathy Olson - 613-6753, Joy Linn - 637-8160 or Paul Holmes - 833-3337

## 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.

### April 23 Field Trip—Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

On Saturday morning, April 23, PRAS members and friends will travel to the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. The Preserve is located approximately 25 miles north of the City of Okeechobee. At almost 54,000 acres, the Preserve protects the largest remaining tract of undisturbed Florida dry prairie. Highlights of the birding trip may include the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Crested Caracara, and White-tailed Kite.

The group will meet at 7:00 am at the Peachland Mall in the parking lot in back of McDonalds. Please bring a lunch. Tom Zinneman (627-1905) will be the leader of this trip.

## May Membership Meeting . . .

**We, the P.R.A.S. members, are the speakers.** You can have up to 15 minutes to 'Show and Tell' about anything that will interest our audience. You can bring a Disc with photos on and show them on our new projector, or bring slides and show them on our old projector. You can bring Pictures and lay them out on a table.

So get your 'Act' together—we provide the room, the rest is up to YOU! Any questions call Paul Holmes at 833-3337.

## ELAAC

The Environmental Lands Acquisition Advisory Council (ELAAC) is going to re-evaluate the importance of each of the locally important areas of environmentally sensitive land so they can better advise the County Commissioners as to which land is really vital to our future and the future of our water supply and that of our wildlife.

Audubon plays an important part in this effort, and we are currently looking for a few volunteers to help with this evaluation. It is an interesting and worthwhile effort, checking out neat places and really helping to save this important land for our future. If you are interested in joining the team, contact me. Paul Holmes, 833-3337 or at pgholmes@comcast.net

**Enjoy Spring!**



**SILENT AUCTION/PHOTOGRAPHY ADDITIONS**

**Delayed recognition:** Special thanks is extended to Betty Talburt for her organizational skills and assistance in acquiring and arranging the many auction items...she did an awesome job. Regina Burke, who worked closely with Betty, was instrumental in contacting many businesses and individuals for most of the items.

Photographs entered in the annual competition were donated to the Silent Auction by members of the Peace River Nature Photography Group.

**BIRDING BEACHES, LAGOONS AND A SLOUGH**

The sun was just appearing on the horizon as a congenial group of 20 Audubon birders and non-birders departed Punta Gorda on Monday, March 7 for the beaches and lagoons in Fort Myers. An hour later, we were standing on Bunche Beach watching an array of shore birds, including Plovers, Herons, Egrets, Sandpipers, Willets and Gulls as they searched for food, bathed and preened. After almost two hours, we moved on to Estero Lagoon at Ft. Myers Beach where, in addition to the usual birds and birding activity, we were treated to the dancing/feeding frenzy antics of a Reddish Egret and the methodical turning over of shells by the many Ruddy Turnstones.

Just before noon, we left the Lagoon to have our picnic lunch at Bowditch Pointe Park. The excessive seasonal traffic and Spring Break gathering of students made for a lengthy car ride, only to find the Park and Parking Lot filled to capacity. So.....a quick change of plans ensued and we were off to Six Mile Cypress Slough Park where we had our picnic lunch in pleasant, peaceful surroundings. We then walked the boardwalk viewing birds, bees, butterflies, snakes, alligators, turtles and flowers. The highlights of the walk were the sightings of the Purple Gallinule, numerous Green Herons and watching the ritual maneuvers of not only a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, but also a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites. We saw 78 bird species and had another enjoyable, day in the sun PRAS Field Trip.  
**Lynn Bates**

**Charlotte Harbor 100**

Florida Ornithological Society members from all over the state joined 'Speed Birders' from as far away as Brevard County in an exciting competition staged by the Peace River Audubon Society. Joining local experts, 20 bird identification experts accepted the challenge to try and identify, by either seeing or hearing, over 100 species of birds without leaving Charlotte County. Teams had six hours, from dawn at 6:00AM until 12:00am.

Easily beating the existing record of 100 species, the winning team with 114 different bird species was made up of two of the states best known Speed Birders, David Simpson and Andy Bankert, teamed with local expert Lynn Bates, well known for her bird identification class at the Cultural Center.

Two other speed birding experts, David Freeland from Merrit Island and Murry Gardler from Weeki Watchee teamed with local birder Peace River Audubon Vice President Paul Holmes, came second having identified 92

different bird species. Three teams made up of local Charlotte County birders came in third, forth and fifth places.

Paul Holmes, Peace River Audubon Vice President and organizer of the event, hopes to make it an annual fund raiser for Audubon's environmental education projects. He quoted David Simpson leading Speed Birder as saying," I think the idea of all the teams starting at one place and staying within one county is really cool. I am going to suggest that we try it in my home County, Brevard."

Teams with leaders, team members and species numbers follow:

- 1st Place: Team "Punk" Species: 114  
Leader: Lynn Bates with David Simpson and Andy Bankert
- 2nd Place: Team "Whatever" Species: 92  
Leader: Paul Holmes with David Freeland and Murray Gardler
- 3rd Place: Team "Jay Birds" Species: 87  
Leader: Tom Zinneman with Phyllis Doggett, Bill and Eleanor Marr
- 4th Place: Team "Mangrove Cuckoos" Species: 86  
Leader: Stu Lewis with Louise Lewis, Chuck and Joan Froman
- 5th Place: Team "Archaeopteryx" Species: 76  
Leader: Cathy Olson with Gregg Klowden, Henry and Weslyn Strickland

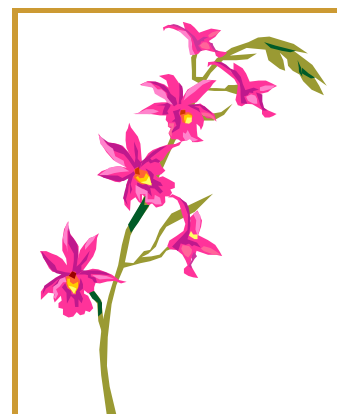
**MEMBERSHIP**

**New National Audubon Members:**

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Richard & Dolores Adams | Judith Armstrong   |
| Laurel Aumend           | Mr & Mrs Jim Brand |
| Denise Cameron          | Charnley           |
| John Comstock           | Barbara Connelly   |
| Bill Dixon              | Pricilla Doliber   |
| David Doupe             | James Edwards      |
| Sarah Fahlmark          | Phillip Fliesher   |
| R.W. Friedell           | J. Frost           |
| Frances Harris          | Arthur Haug        |
| R.M.Hunziker            | Henry Kamm         |
| Carl Kubicek            | Helen O Neil       |
| Mrs. Dorothea Phillips  | Ann & Stan Rosen   |
| Monika Tandon           | Mary Vincent       |

**New Peace River Audubon Members:**

- Kenneth & Donna Miller



## BABCOCK RANCH UPDATE

In the last couple weeks...

**Commissioner Janes of Lee County wrote:** "In the effort to save Babcock Ranch, your help is needed **NOW** more than ever. We have heard that the State of Florida is currently looking at a deal that could allow up to **30,000 acres** of the Ranch to be sold to a private developer! This is contrary to what the people of Southwest Florida have been fighting for. The Ranch presents us with an amazing opportunity to protect over **90,000** of the western Everglades. Protecting **all** of Babcock Ranch will protect the habitat of 20 protected bird and mammal species, including the endangered Florida panther and wood stork. Protecting **all** of Babcock ranch will also protect our water recharge lands and over 20,000 acres of wetlands that filter pollutants out of stormwater before it reaches the Caloosahatchee. Protecting **all** of Babcock Ranch will provide an area large enough to offer recreational opportunities for all of Southwest Florida's residents. Protecting **all** of Babcock Ranch will be good growth management for Southwest Florida. Our roads are already full, our waters are already polluted, and we are still going to grow, even with **all** of Babcock Ranch protected. We need **smart growth** that directs growth to our urban areas that already have the needed infrastructure. We do not need more **urban sprawl!**

Please call, write, email, or fax Governor Bush **today** and tell him you want to see **ALL** of Babcock Ranch protected for the benefit of all in Southwest Florida!"

Governor Jeb Bush  
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
Phone: (850) 488-4441  
Fax: (850) 487-0801  
jeb.bush@myflorida.com

**This may well be the most critical environmental issue for Florida during the first half of this century. We need to be visionary and begin writing a new chapter in Florida history, one for the better.**

## REMAINING 2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 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*

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

**May 19, 2005—Annual Membership Meeting:** Paul Holmes

## New Sign for Betty Pennington at Pennington Park

Bob Isaksen, master sign maker for CHEC, has fashioned a sign to replace the one vandals destroyed honoring Betty Pennington. Place not far from the entrance next to the wild oak tree planted in her memory is the sign, reading: In Memory of Betty Pennington, who loved life. The park, of course, is named in her honor.

The park continues to go through its seasonal changes. The changes are less noticeable when you go every week, as some of do to ensure the trails are clear and to eliminate the occasional exotic/invasive, but



you sure see the changes if you miss a week. Please join us on Wednesday mornings from 8-10 AM to help, or just to see the park, a 7.9 acre of paradise right in Port Charlotte. If you want to see what a hurricane does to natural settings, or if you just want to see several different habitats, including Cypress Swamp, Oak Hammock, and Pine Flatwoods, this is a great place to check out.

The park is located on Alton Road between Peachland and Midway, about 2 miles from Kings Highway. There are small brown signs with white lettering marking the park location on both Midway and Peachland, and on Alton Road. The big main entrance sign for the park was destroyed by Hurricane Charley.

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

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

View the White Bird on:  
[www.peaceriveraudubon.org](http://www.peaceriveraudubon.org)



*April 2005  
 White Bird*



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

**2004-05 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

(941)

<b>President</b>	Cathy Olson '05	613-6753
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Ann Hughes '06	637-7855
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Linn '05	637-8160
<b>Additional Directors:</b>		
	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!

"0405" means your PRAS and/or National membership expires in Apr '05 (both organizations stop mailings after 2-3 months). To save the cost of sending reminder post cards, 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](http://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