



PRAS meetings are held on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of the month from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. The Palm Room at the **Charlotte County Cultural Center** located at 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte FL will be the 2005-06 meeting place.

## Past Events

### Field Trip to Bailey Tract

On January 21, a group of about 20 birders headed for the Bailey Tract, a lesser known section of Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island. The weather was partly sunny and mild. The group was met by a member of the Sanibel Island Audubon Society who led us down the trails through the wetlands and around ponds. We saw herons, egrets, ibis, anhinga, three raptors— osprey, red-shouldered hawk, and cooper's hawk, as well as a number of other common wetland species. The highlight of the trip was a Clapper Rail who emerged from the reeds less than 25 feet from the start of the trail. He was visible at least partially for a few minutes, and most of the group was able to see him. About 35 species were seen at the Bailey Tract. While most of the group left after lunch, a few remained to bird the auto route at Ding Darling and spot the snowy plover on the beach.

### Walk-about Amberjack Park

On February 7, approximately 30 people met to walk through Charlotte County's Amberjack Park. Amberjack is a 217 acre preserve made up of unique scrub, pine flatwoods, marshes and other beautiful areas. Amberjack is traversed by two significant wetlands. They are havens for several species of wading birds, including glossy ibis, roseate spoonbills and snowy egrets. Two boardwalks lead to observational platforms on Lemon Lake, where people can enjoy the amazing variety of birds who inhabit the lake and the surrounding areas. Dave Smith and a naturalist from the county helped guide the walk. Some of the birds that we saw included: Tricoloured herons, glossy ibis, coots, moorhens, egrets, anhingas, and a hairy woodpecker.

### Corkscrew Swamp

On February 18, eighteen people from PRAS toured the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The morning was spent on a buggy tour of remote sections of the facility. After lunch, the group explored the park boardwalks. Over 50 species of birds were observed.

## March 2006 Events

**Saturday**, March 4th – Family Day at CHEC  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Walk-about  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Cecil B. Webb

Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay at  
US 41 south of Burnt Store Road intersection

**Thursday**, March 9<sup>th</sup> -  
BANQUET AND SILENT AUCTION  
6:00 p.m.  
Charlotte County Cultural Center

**Wednesday**, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Cultural Center, Palm Room

**Saturday**, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip  
7:00 a.m.  
DeSoto Park – Spring Migration  
Meet in the parking lot near McDonalds at  
Peachland Mall

**Tuesday**, March 21 – Photography Group  
7:00 a.m.  
Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay at US 41  
south of Burnt Store Road intersection

**Sunday**, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 a.m. – Noon  
Charlotte Harbor 100/Birdathon

## Coming Events

**Tuesday**, April 4th– Walk-about  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Peace River Water Plant  
Meet in the parking lot near McDonalds at Peachland Mall

**Saturday**, April 15 – Field Trip  
7:00 a.m.  
CREW Land Trust – Naples  
Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay at  
US 41 south of Burnt Store Road intersection

**Wednesday**, April 19th – Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Cultural Center, Palm Room  
Charlotte County Parks Department – birding

**Saturday**, April 22nd – Boat trip  
Details to be Announced  
CHEC boat to Peace River Rookery  
Potluck Picnic- P. Doggett  
Meet in the parking lot near McDonalds at Peachland Mall  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

### **Evening With Audubon Silent Auction**

We have some great items at the silent auction this year. An interesting variety of pictures, some interesting antiques including a camera that is at least 50 years old and works, and a chance for a week in a fully equipped 3 bedroom/ bathroom home in the mountains of North Carolina will be offered. Come early so you will have time to browse among the hand made items and prize winning bird houses.



## **Invitation To Sponsor A Team In The 2006 Charlotte Harbor 100, Our Speed Birding – Birdathon.**

March 26th, from 6 a.m. until 12:00 midday.

The Charlotte Harbor 100 is one of our main fund raising efforts of the year. All money raised will be used for the Environmental education of our counties young people. You may choose to sponsor any of the teams below, at 'So much,' per bird species counted by that team. You may choose to sponsor the 'Winners' at 'So much,' per bird species counted by the winning team. Our you could just take a guess at the results (Around 100) and send us a check for \$10:00. The results will be in the next White Bird and on our web site. Please make all checks out to P.R.A.S. and send to:

Peace River Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 760  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-0760

If you would like to see the teams set off, join us at the Bayshore Oak's park on the North shore of Charlotte harbor at 6:00a.m. To see the teams return and find out who won, be at the same place at 12:00 noon.

Objective: The winning team will be the team which records the most species of birds either by sight or sound within Charlotte County during the six hours from 6 a.m. until midday on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. To beat the Charlotte Harbor 100 Challenge, the current record must be beaten.

The current Charlotte Harbor 100 record is held by David Simpson and Andy Bankert, set during the competition in 2005. The record is 114 species. Previously the record was 100 set in 2004 by Jeff Bouton and Paul Holmes.

The six teams currently entered are: The Mangrove Cuckoos, Dave Matheson's team, Cathy and Gregg's team, Eleanor and Bill Marr's team, the Winner's team and the Out of Towner's team.

## Invitation To Enter The 2006 Charlotte Harbor 100, A Speed Birding – Birdathon.

We would really like our neighbouring chapters to send a team. We will provide a local guide if you need one.

March 26th, from 6 a.m. until 12:00 midday.

**Objective:** The winning team will be the team which records the most species of birds either by sight or sound within Charlotte County during the six hours from 6 a.m. until midday on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. To beat the Charlotte Harbor 100 Challenge, the current record must be beaten.

The current Charlotte Harbor 100 record is held by David Smith and Andy Bankert, set during the competition in 2005. The record is 114 species. Previously the record was 100 set in 2004.

**Rules:** Teams may consist of two, three or four members, but only bird species seen or heard by at least two team members can be counted.

Only birds seen or heard by team members within Charlotte County can be counted.

Only birds seen or heard by team members between the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midday, can be counted.

No artificial aids, such as bird call tapes, can be used.

The team leaders of the first three teams will receive a plaque, team members a certificate.

The competition will start and finish at the Charlotte County Bayshore Oaks Park.

The park is on Bayshore Road on the north side of the Peace River just over the 41 bridge.

Teams should be prepared to leave the starting point, at 6 a.m. and must return at 12:00 midday.

One species will be deducted from the teams score for each minute late returning to check in.

A limited number of Local birders have volunteered to act as guides for teams from outside Charlotte County.

If you would like the assistance of a local birder please make a note to that effect on your entry form.

There is no cost for entry, but team members are requested to obtain some sponsorship or a pledge of so many cents per species. A sponsorship of at least \$10 per team member or a pledge of at least 10 cents per bird species seen by the team concerned, would be very gratefully received. All money raised will be used by Peace River Audubon Society to further the environmental education of young people in Charlotte County.

Entry forms can be obtained electronically from [birdathon@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:birdathon@peacriveraudubon.org)

Or, by calling Paul Holmes at (941) 833-3337

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)



*March 2006*  
*White Bird*



Printed on Recycled Paper  
C & R Graphics (folding donated)

**2005-06 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

(941)

President	Paul Holmes '05	833-3337
Vice President	Carol MacDougall '07	629-9120
Secretary	Mary Ann Hughes '06	637-7855
Treasurer	Walt Williams '07	235-3352
Additional Directors:	Phyllis Doggett '06	575-4009
	Eleanor Marr '07	624-4182
	Betty Talburt '06	766-0354
	Frank Walker '07	639-3879
	Jan Walker '07	639-3879

**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 / RENEWAL**

Join us to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife we love...help us protect Florida. Members receive the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips, bird walks, and special events.

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

To join National Audubon: Visit their web site: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)