

# White Bird



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.

## FORT DESOTO FIELD TRIP 3/18/06

A small group of 8 birders departed for Fort Desoto on a gorgeous morning. Although spring migration was just getting underway, we had a very successful trip.

## April and May 2006 Events

### **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

We found American Oystercatcher at the South Fishing Pier rest stop on I-275. Lots of ducks were still at the duck ponds just outside the park, and we spent over half an hour admiring Red-headed Ducks, Ringed-neck Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, American Widgeon and more.

Our first stop in the park was at the picnic grounds at East Beach, where the trees there were better than the woods, or anywhere else in the park for migrants, for that matter. We found 8 species of warblers, including a Wilson's Warbler, the bird of the trip, as well as Yellow-throated Warbler, Ovenbird, and more. We happened to be there when a couple of experts found the Wilson's Warbler in an oak tree. It was the bird of the trip for them, too. Most if not all of our group got a good look at his black cap.

The mulberry bush area was quiet, as the mulberries were not ripe, but we did find Ground Doves there. At the East Beach turnaround we found a good variety of shorebirds, including Wilson's Plover. We found lots of shorebirds also at the North Beach area, where 10 or so Marbled Godwits rested along with gulls, terns, skimmers and others. Several Sandwich Terns with pearl-pink undersides were observed. A Reddish Egret finally appeared along with a white morph Reddish Egret. A total of 70 species plus the white morph was the count for the trip.

Bill and Eleanor Marr

### **Wednesday**, April 19th – Meeting

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Cultural Center, Palm Room

Charlotte County Parks Department – birding

### **Tuesday**, May 2nd – Walk-about

8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Yucca Pens—Trails

Meet in the parking lot of Sweetbay at

US 41 south of Burnt Store Road intersection

### **Wednesday**, May 17th – Meeting

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Cultural Center, Palm Room

Elections

### **Saturday**, May 20 – Field Trip

7:00 a.m.

Longiono Ranch

Barbecue Included

Meet in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie on highway 17 east of Punta Gorda

### **Wednesday**, May 24—Boat Ride on Peace River

8:30 A.M.

Board at Lashley Park

Max. 15 Participants

Tentative: Replaces ride scheduled for April 22

## Charlotte Harbor 100

Here are the results of the Charlotte Harbor 100 speed birding competition, held Sunday March 26th.

Last years winners successfully defended their title but with a lower total number of Species.

First place went to David Simpson and Andy Bankert, from Brevard County, with a total of 99 different species of bird seen or heard in Charlotte County in the period of six hours, from 6:00am to 12 noon.

Second place went to a local team calling themselves the mangrove Cuckoos with a grand total of 84.

Third place was also won by a local team, the Swallowtails, with 83.

Even though the Brevard team won this years competition, they did not beat the Charlotte Harbor 100 challenge as they only saw 99 birds. They also failed to beat their own record of 114 from last years event, so that will stand until beaten.

"The cold weather made all the difference," said David, " the birds were much harder to find this year."



## 2006 Evening With Audubon

More than 100 people attended this year's Peace River Audubon Banquet and Silent Auction. Mark Renz read one of his essays about an adventure on the Babcock Ranch and provided a video presentation of photographs that will be included in his not-yet published book called "Florida Through Native Eyes".

In this year's photo contest, first and second place awards went to Mary Ann Hughes, and third place went to Gregg Klowden.

This year's silent auction was extremely successful. Over \$3000 was raised to help support the educational programs of the Peace River Audubon Society. A special "thank you" to all of the members who contributed items to the auction. Thank you also for the donations of the following non-members: Babcock Ranch, Backyard Bird Company, Butwell Stone & Soil, Carroll Deadmon, Center for Positive Aging, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Clyde Butcher, It's Time (Edie Driest), Florida Native Plant Nursery, Kathy Roberts, King Fisher Fleet, Light Ideas, Maria Couper, Marie Selby Gardens, May & Russ Inman, Mote Marine, Perkins, Publix, Red Monkey Florist, Regal Entertainment, Sea World, SeaKeyWest Express, and Walmart.



## Audubon Education

The Family Day on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center turned out to be a successful event. There were 27 people who turned up to hike the trails and do some birding. Included in the group were visitors from England, Thailand and Quebec. The main attractions were the resident eagles and a baby alligator that performed for us most of the day.

PRAS and Girl Scouts will be partnering for 4 "Introduction to Birding" sessions next year at various parks throughout the area. The schedule will be published in the annual leaders guide book and will go out to all troops in Charlotte County.

## Birding Hot Spots

### Audubon-Pennington Park

This is a 7.9 acre park that Charlotte County leases to the Peace River Audubon Society. Maintenance is provided by PRAS volunteers and the County. The park consists of Cyprus swamp, oak hammock, and pine flatwoods. The park is sometimes forgotten when looking for a local birding site. Over 80 species of bird have been sighted in the park. Pennington Park is located in Port Charlotte on Alton Road, between Midway Blvd. and Peachland Blvd., approximately 1.5 miles West of Kings Highway. Small brown signs with white lettering direct you from Midway or Peachland.



## White Bird

Next year, there will be four editions of the "White Bird". The September edition will contain the annual calendar of events. Calendar updates and reports on activities will be published in December, February, and April. If necessary, special editions may be published.

We would like to have as many people as possible sign up for the electronic (e-mail) version of the "White Bird". To start receiving the electronic version of the newsletter, please send your name and e-mail address to: [white-bird@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:white-bird@peacriveraudubon.org). People receiving the electronic version can also receive notices of changes in schedules or additional birding and nature events.



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*April 2006*  
*White Bird*



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(941)

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**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)

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