

# White Bird

October 2009 *Volume 33, Issue 2*  
Sandy Artman, Editor  
Dan Artman, Dispatcher



www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org

## 2009-10 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President	Cathy Olson '11	941-613-6753
Vice President	Stu Lewis '11	941-235-2590
Secretary	Sandy Artman '11	941-575-0651
Treasurer	Don Youso '10	941-235-1298
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	Jim Comfort '11	941-505-0206
	Mike Krzyzkowski '10	863-244-2652
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	George Ruby '10	941-423-0174
	Chuck Steele '11	941-875-9244
	Starr Zachritz '10	941-766-7686

**Next Meeting: October 15, 2009 at 6:30 PM**  
Speaker, Tom Zinneman

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2565 Tamiami Trail,  
Port Charlotte (just south of Midway)*

Tom Zinneman, a well known photographer and birder will take us on "A Photographic Journey through the Galapagos Islands". Tom has traveled extensively and is the creator of [www.ZinnysWorld.com](http://www.ZinnysWorld.com).



**Tuesday, November 3, 2009 Walkabout**  
**Ollie's Pond**  
By Don Youso

The November Walk-about will be at Ollie's Pond. We will meet in the parking lot at 8:00 am. The walk around Ollie's pond is about one mile and it is an easy walk and should be completed in about two hours. We can expect to see a variety of wading birds, migratory waterfowl, wintering warblers, and a variety of other species. On last year's walk the highlights were a Hermit Thrush and a pair of Great Horned Owls. Contact trip leader Don Youso at 941-235-1298 if there are questions. Look forward to seeing you at Ollie's Pond.



**Electronic Newsletter**  
**Help us Stay Green**



There is a signup sheet available at each meeting to request that you no longer receive a printed copy of the newsletter. The newsletter is always available at our website, [www.peacriveraudubon.org](http://www.peacriveraudubon.org). Let's work to be a green organization and reduce costs at the same time. To have your name removed from our mailing list, signup at the meeting or contact Phyllis Cady([ps\\_cady@yahoo.com](mailto:ps_cady@yahoo.com) or 941-286-7638).

**Saturday, October 17, 2009 Field Trip**  
**Celery Fields**  
By Don Youso

There will be a field trip to Celery Fields on Saturday, October 17. We will meet at the McDonald's on Peachland at 7:00 am. Celery Fields is located in Sarasota and is a noted wetlands birding area. We can expect to see a variety of wading birds, migratory waterfowl, Limpkins, and Black-bellied



Whistling-Ducks. Other possible species are the King Rail, Sora, Marsh and Sedge Wren and Roseate Spoonbills. Our group will walk on the dikes surrounding the marshes and ponds and we may be walking in wet grass. Accordingly, participants may want to wear

shoes or boots that may get wet. Bring lunch and we will stop on the way back at Carleton Preserve have lunch there and do some birding there as well. At Carleton we will look for Red-headed Woodpeckers and other species. On last year's trip we saw 64 species. This should be a great trip. Call trip leader Don Youso at 941-235-1298 if there are questions.

**New Format for Member Slideshows**  
By Chuck Steele

This year we are going to do something new. Instead of having the May meeting for member's slideshows we are going to ask for one or two volunteers at each meeting to show their slideshows the following month. This way more people can view the shows since many members go north before the May meeting.



- Shows should not exceed 4 minutes or the length of one song
- Shows will be presented at the end of each meeting.
- If there are any technical difficulties, the issues will be resolved and the show presented at the next meeting.
- There will be a signup sheet at each meeting for future shows.
- Anyone who has digital photos but doesn't know how to create a slideshow can contact Chuck Steele for assistance.

**2009-2010 Program Schedule  
3rd Thursday of the Month at 6:30 PM**

October 15, 2009	Tom Zinneman <b>Galapagos Photography</b>
November 19, 2009	Mike Owens <b>Fakahatchee State Preserve</b>
December 17, 2009	Christmas Potluck Andy Stevens <b>Florida Scrub-Jay Habitat Conservation Plan</b>
January 21, 2010	Tony Licata <b>Christmas Bird Count</b>
February 18, 2010	Bill Dunson <b>Myakka State Forest</b>
March 18, 2010	Audubon Banquet / Dennis Giardina <b>Florida Panther</b>
April 15, 2010	Gina Zimmerman <b>Swallow-tailed Kites</b>
May 20, 2010	<b>Film on life of James Audubon</b>

**PRAS Spotlight on Jim Comfort  
By Phyllis Cady**

One of our new board members this year is Jim Comfort. Jim and his wife, Helen, have been active members of our local PRAS group for several years. They attend meetings, field trips, and both participate in the PRAS photography club. In May of this year he was an observer in the Jay Watch survey in Charlotte County.

Jim and Helen are originally from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Jim worked in the fabricated structural steel business, and they raised 2 daughters and a son. It was when they moved to Hudson, Wis., along the St Croix River, that they began to do some birdwatching, which has developed into a lifetime interest. Years later, they spent a couple of years as living on their motor sailor cruising between Mount Desert in Maine and Punta Gorda, The Punta Gorda area was friendly to boaters and they rented a slip at Fisherman's Village for three years, before purchasing a condo in town, and moving here permanently.



Jim and Helen enjoy hiking, birding, photography, and traveling. They have back packed in Glacier and Yellowstone, boat camped at Isle Royale, and biked the carriage roads in Mount Desert. Just recently they have returned from a month-long summer trip to Arizona. The Audubon Magazine sparked their interest in birding in Arizona during the summertime. There, they climbed the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon trail to find the elusive Magnificent Trogan amongst other activities.

Thanks Jim for volunteering to serve on the PRAS board.

If you know a PRAS member who would make a good candidate to be in the PRAS Spotlight, please send their name to [ps\\_cady@yahoo.com](mailto:ps_cady@yahoo.com).

**Pennington Park Update  
By Cathy Olson, PRAS President**



Several months ago the PRAS Board was notified that due to budget cuts the Charlotte County Parks and Recreation Department would stop assisting PRAS with maintenance of Audubon Pennington Park as of October 1, 2009. As you know, PRAS leases the park from the County and maintains this urban green space as hiking trails through natural areas. Every Wednesday a hardy group of volunteers get together for trail maintenance, litter pick up and exotic plant control. The Parks and Recreation Department assists us by mowing the main trail, which is more like a grassy road, collecting trash etc.

The PRAS Board of directors authorized Cathy Olson to write a letter to John Jackson, Director of Charlotte County Parks and Recreation, requesting that the County continue to assist us with trash collection and mowing. The letter was copied to each of the County Commissioners. During a Board meeting Commissioner Starr requested that the Parks and Recreation Department work with the Peace River Audubon Society. Unfortunately, I received a letter from Mr. Jackson stating that they were unable to continue maintenance of the park.

My sincere thanks to Commissioner Starr for trying to make this happen! Audubon Pennington Park is an important neighborhood park, both for local wildlife and as a recreational place for people. At this point I am not sure what will happen with mowing and trash collection. We will continue to do what we can.

This park is a wonderful birding spot. We regularly see limpkin, great horned owls, red shouldered hawks, northern cardinals, northern mockingbirds, blue gray gnatcatchers etc. On September 30, 2009, Lola the birding dog and I popped in to Pennington Park after work when conditions were just right to see migrants. We were only there 20 minutes and saw the typical cast of characters as well as a chestnut-sided warbler, magnolia warbler, Tennessee warbler, multiple white-eyed vireos, blue gray gnatcatchers (and a handful of glimpses I was unable to identify). We also saw four red-shouldered hawks making quite a commotion; perhaps they are already setting up breeding territories.

## PRAS Photography Group

The PRAS Photography Group meets twice a month from January through April. Everyone is welcome.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month there is a photo shoot. The time depends on optimizing lighting for the particular shoot, and may be in the morning or afternoon. Time and place will be announced in the White Bird that precedes the event, as well as at the preceding PRAS meeting, and about a week in advance in the Charlotte Sun, PRAS Updates and CharlotteNatureAlerts. An e-mail list of interested persons is also maintained for notification of the occasional extra photo op.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month there is an informal workshop where techniques and equipment are discussed and photos are shared. Special projects are also undertaken, such as working on individual slide shows for our monthly PRAS meetings. Photography group meetings have taken place at 2 PM in the Watershed Building at CHEC, Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda. A more central location is being sought. Be sure to check up-to-date information for a possible move.

### Donate to PRAS and give a gift to future generations

Your gifts are tax deductible and will help PRAS carry out its mission to protect the air we breathe, water we drink, and wildlife we love.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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College Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
To encourage exceptional college students interested in a career in the environmental sciences.

Audubon Adventures \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental educational materials for area grade schools.

PRAS Environmental Education Programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Such as Girl and Boy Scout birding programs, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, lectures to schools and organizations, etc...

PRAS General Needs \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Such as Audubon-Pennington Park, festival displays, literature printing, or based on need any of the funds above.

Send this form along with your gift to  
PRAS at P.O. Box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951  
or call Cathy Olson at 941-613-6753

## Walkabout & Field Trip Schedule 2009-2010

Please check the Whitebird close to the trip date for additional information, including directions to Walkabout sites, and for POSSIBLE CHANGES. Announcements will also be made about a week in advance in the Charlotte Sun, PRAS Updates and CharlotteCounty-NatureAlert.

October 6: *Walkabout* Prairie Shell Creek Conservation Lands  
Phyllis Cady 941-286-7638

October 17: *Field Trip* Celery Fields  
Don Youso \*North

November 3: *Walkabout* Ollie's Pond  
Don Youso

November 21: *Field Trip* Harms Marsh  
Cathy Olson \*South

December 1: *Walkabout* Amberjack Environmental Park  
Chuck and Joan Froman

December 19: Christmas Bird Count  
Tony Licata

January 5: *Walkabout* Desoto County Env Learning Center  
Stu and Louise Lewis

January 16: *Field Trip* San Carlos Bay-Bunche Beach  
Eleanor Marr \*South

February 2: *Walkabout* Tippecanoe Environmental Park  
Dave Lancaster

February 20: *Field Trip* Myakka State Forest  
Stu and Louise Lewis \*West

March 2: *Walkabout* Sleeping Turtle Preserve South  
Stu and Louise Lewis

March 20: *Field Trip* Babcock-Webb Wildlife Mgmt Area  
Dave Lancaster (meet at entrance station)

April 6: *Walkabout* Yucca Pens  
Eleanor Marr

April 17: *Field Trip* Fort DeSoto Park  
Eleanor Marr \*North

May 4: *Walkabout* TBA  
Phyllis Cady

May 15: *Field Trip* TBA  
Mike Krzyzkowski/Jim Bonk

\*NORTH—the parking lot by McDonalds at Peachland Mall near I75 and Kings Hwy in Port Charlotte (24133 Peachland Boulevard)

\*SOUTH—the parking lot of Sweetbay on US 41 south of the Burnt Store Road intersection in Punta Gorda (10175 Tamiami Trail)

\*EAST - the parking lot of Winn-Dixie on State Route 17 east of Punta Gorda (27680 Bermont Road)

\*WEST the parking lot of Charlotte Stadium, Rt. 776

## Welcome to New Members

WELCOME



Linda J. Wilson  
Sharon Lucier  
Conrad Kellner  
Phil Walker  
Betty Sulfridge  
Louise Grisell  
Marion Courtney

Kathy Cocino  
Leonard W. Bitant  
Robert A. Barrett  
Alan B. Sheets  
Ernest Petzel  
Lawrence H. Nalducci

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



October 2009  
*White Bird*

Check the "Exp" date on your address label!  
"1210" means your PRAS and/or National membership expires December 2010. To save the cost of sending reminders, **please** use the application below to renew your membership. If you have questions please call Phyllis Cady at 575-4009 or send an email to: membership1@peacriveraudubon.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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

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.

Bird of the Month: Prairie Warbler(*Dendroica discolor*) by Cathy Olson, PRAS President

We are lucky to have prairie warblers all year long in our part of Florida. An additional influx of migratory prairie warblers comes through in the spring and fall on their way to and from the Caribbean and some even winter with us. The Florida residents primarily inhabit mangrove swamps where they glean insects, spiders and small invertebrates from the trees. Neither the resident mangrove birds nor the migratory birds inhabit grasslands as their name suggests, both subspecies occupy shrubby forests.



### Peace River Audubon Society Membership Application / Renewal

Join us for some fun and birding. Help protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, & the wildlife we love...help us protect Florida.

New Membership

Renewal

Chapter Code: **C9ZE140Z**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \$20 Local Audubon Membership (PRAS)

Includes the "White Bird" newsletter with local news articles, local meetings, field trips, bird walks, & special events.

All proceeds stay within local chapter

\*\*\*\*Checks payable to PRAS

( ) \$20 Local and National Audubon Membership

(\$20 New Members Only, \$35 Renewals)

Includes all of the above plus National Audubon magazine.

\*\*\*\* Checks payable to National Audubon Society

( ) Additional Gift for PRAS

Please help PRAS continue our educational and conservation programs with a tax deductible contribution.

**MAIL CHECK WITH THIS FORM TO:**

PRAS, PO box 510760, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_