

# White Bird

April 2010 Volume 33, Issue 8

Dave Lancaster, Editor

Dan Artman, Dispatcher



www.PeaceRiverAudubon.org

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	Starr Zachritz '10	941-766-7686

**Fort Desoto Field Trip  
Saturday 17 April 2010  
With Eleanor Marr**

Field Trip – Fort DeSoto –Saturday 4/17/10

The April field trip will be to Fort DeSoto where we hope to have good luck again with spring migration. If the migration is between waves, birds on the shore in breeding plumage make a good consolation prize. Last year we hit a very good day and most of us didn't check out the beach. Meet at the Peachland Mall, behind

McDonald's at the east end of Peachland Blvd., at 7 AM. Bring lunch, hats and sunscreen. Plan for a long day!



**Tuesday 4 May 2010 Walkabout  
Deep Creek Park & Preserve with Phyllis Cady**

The address of this park is 10797 SW Peace River Street, Arcadia, Florida 34269, across from the Nav-A-Gator Grill. From the parking lot, we will be walking into the Preserve, through oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods. There is also a small marsh, adjacent to Deep Creek, that might produce some good birding. There are restrooms available, before we head back to our cars. We will proceed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> access point into Deep Creek Preserve, only 1.5 miles back up Peace River Street. We will continue our walk through an improved pasture, then into the pine flatwoods, across a creek, and into a stand of mature oaks.

We will be meeting in the parking area for the boat trailers at 8:00. Please dress for the field, and bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and water. If you have any questions, please call Phyllis Cady at 941-286-7638. The public is welcome. Hope to see you .

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010 Walkabout  
Yucca Pens  
with Eleanor Marr**

Yucca Pens– Walkabout Tuesday, April 6  
The April Walkabout will take place at the Yucca Pens unit of Babcock-Webb WMA. Located on Zemel Road, the road to the entrance drives past the sanitary landfill. Not only do we find birds in Yucca Pens, the landfill provides additional opportunities as we pass by, particularly when the winds are from the south and the birds are overhead! To get there, head south of Punta Gorda to Zemel Road on the right. Zemel Road is about 8 miles south of Burnt Store Road (or 3 miles past Tuckers Grade). Yucca Pens is about a mile down Zemel Road, on the right, There is a \$6 per car fee, unless the car has a Florida plate and the driver is over 65. Meet at the entrance on Zemel Road at 8 AM.

Directions: From I 75 take exit 170, or Kings Hwy. (769) east, toward Arcadia. At Walmart, continue on 769 for 3 more miles. Turn right when you see the sign for The Nav-A-Gator at SW Peace River St. Continue towards the Peace River, about 1.5 miles to the parking area for the boat ramp. We will park near the restrooms on the right.

**15 April Thursday Meeting 6:30 PM  
Swallow Tail Kites with Gina Zimmerman**

Gina Zimmerman, of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute in Gainesville Florida will present

“Life History and Conservation of the Swallow-tailed Kite”, which will focus on nesting biology, migration, and latest management actions supporting kite conservation throughout their range.

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

April 15, 2010      Gina Zimmerman  
                             **Swallow-tailed Kites**  
 May 20, 2010      **Film on life of James**  
                             **Audubon**

**Meetings are held at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.**

**Remember social at 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:00 PM Free to the public and non-members are welcome.**

**2010 Walkabout & Field Trip Schedule**

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 CharlotteCountyNatureAlert.

April 6: *Walkabout* Yucca Pens  
                             Eleanor Marr  
 April 17: *Field Trip* Fort DeSoto Park  
                             Eleanor Marr                      \*North  
 May 4: *Walkabout* Deep Creek Preserve  
                             Phyllis Cady  
 May 15: *Field Trip* TBA-Kayak Trip  
                             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

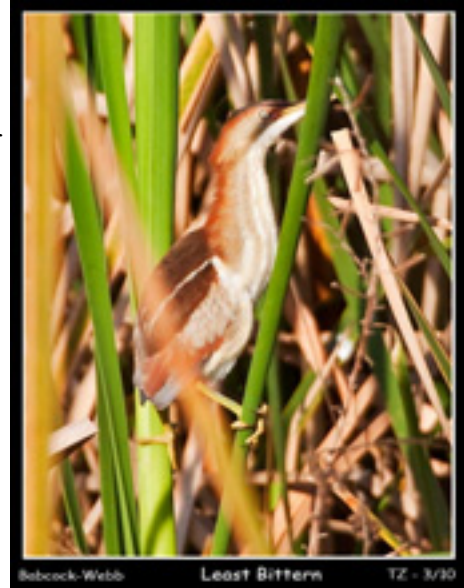
**February 20th Field Trip Report  
by Stu Lewis**

Unfortunately, the field trip to Myakka State Forest was canceled due to the road system being too wet to drive. Instead, a group of 26 people went to Ollie's Pond where we saw a total of 42 species; highlights were 6 sora rails, yellow-throated warbler, black and white warbler, parula, a group of pine warblers, 2 blue-headed vireos, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellowthroat, hooded mergansers, ring-necked ducks, blue-winged teal, etc.

**Babcock-Webb Field Report on 3-20-2010**

On a beautiful spring morning at the Babcock Cecil-Webb Wildlife Management Area, 7 birders witnessed a pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers leave their nest trees at 7:30 AM to begin their day of foraging in the Pine Flatwoods. A stroll off the main road produced a mixed flock of warblers with a couple Brown-headed nuthatches mixed in. We watched a pair of Bluebirds who were building their nest in a tree cavity. Further along the road, at the water dike, a American bittern flew over the marsh. A Least bittern answered our call and was only seen by Joan Kufirin. The other

notable birds were Brown thrasher, Great crested flycatcher and White eyed vireo. We all enjoyed the morning at the Webb. Dave Lancaster



**Volunteer of the Month-Louise Lewis**

The PRAS Board of Directors has selected Louise Lewis as volunteer of the month. Last month Louise created exquisite centerpieces for our banquet. Each table had a glass vase with an image of a Florida panther. She topped it off with a palmetto frond; the end result was amazing! One lucky person from each table got to take it home. Louise has created the centerpieces for the last couple of years and done a wonderful job. It is details like these that make the banquet such a special event. Thank you, Louise!



## President- Cathy Olson's report of the 18 March PRAS Banquet

The 2010 An Evening with Audubon was a wonderful success! Dennis Giardina, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was an engaging, entertaining speaker, the food prepared by the folks at the Cultural Center was delicious and there were all kinds of goodies to bid on! There were restaurant gift certificates from local restaurants, including the highly coveted one for dinner for 6 from Carrabba's Italian Grill, gift certificates from local stores, passes to museums and theme parks, artwork, books, and an assortment of other great things, all announced by our emcee, Gil MacAdam. And last but not least, the much anticipated winners of the photography contest were announced! Something for everyone!

Extra special thanks to the artists who donated their art for the cause! Ron Mills donated 5 pieces of his artwork including 3 custom toons, a squirrel tree frog and a bookshelf. Carol MacDougal donated a beautiful framed photograph of a great blue heron. Louise Lewis not only created and donated the table centerpieces with the painted Florida panther, she donated an exquisite print of great blue herons. Rod Bovee donated a framed close up photograph of a mature bald eagle. Kathy MacAdam will paint a realistic portrait from a photograph of Sandy's choice (the winning bidder). Kathy had several portraits on display which were quite life-like. Linda Moreau donated 2 sets of greeting cards she had created with her photography. It is so generous for each of you to donate items that you created. Many of us wish we had your talents!

Thank you too to all the people who diligently worked to pull the banquet and silent auction together! Without you the event could not have happened. Sandy Artman took the lead, researched the potential venues and took care of all the details for the Cultural Center. Phyllis Cady kept track and solicited reservations for the event and made place cards. Chuck Steele solicited and kept our guest speaker in the loop. Many members donated items from their homes or spoke to businesses requesting donations. Extra special thanks to Kathy Kelle who traveled to quite a few Charlotte County businesses requesting donations and Cathy Olson who requested tickets from scores of theme parks, museums and sports teams, tracked the items and created bid sheets and certificates. Silent auction set up was done by Sandy Artman, Larry Behrens, Dave Lancaster, Jackie Lancaster, Eleanor Marr, George Ruby, Chuck Steele and Starr Zachritz. Our auction raised \$2600 for Florida panther conservation and our youth environmental education programs. Listed below are the businesses that are part of our community and provided many of the items. Be sure to thank them when you use the donated item and be sure to patronize these businesses!

Alli-gators, Babcock Wilderness Adventures, Bobcat Trail Golf Club, Bok Tower Gardens, Busch Gardens, Cap'n and the Cowboy, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Circus Sarasota, Delaware North Companies Parks and Resort's Kennedy Space Center, Dillard's, Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Farlows, Fegers Health Foods, Florida Everblades, Florida Native Plant Nursery, Grande Tours, GWIZ the Science Museum, Imaginarium, Kallis European Specialties, King Fisher Fleet, La Esperanza, Luigi's Italian Restaurant, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Miami Dolphins, Macy's, Mote Marine, Naples Zoo, Outback Steakhouse, Port Charlotte Natural Foods, Portofinos, Riverwood Country Club, Ruby Tuesdays, Sabal Trace Golf Club, Sonny's Bar-B-Q, Starbucks, Sweetbay, Table 209, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Target, The Florida Aquarium, Tropic Star of Pine Island, Twin Lobsters, Walmart (Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda), Winn Dixie, Worden Farm.

Finally, thank you for continuing to come to our events, sharing the passion we have for birds, and contributing time, energy and money to our club.



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

Non-profit Organization  
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*April 2010  
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

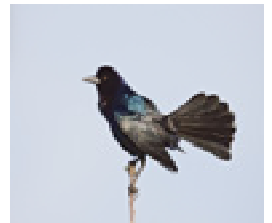


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C & R Graphics (folding donated)

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: Boat-tailed Grackle (Ouiscalus major) by Cathy Olson, PRAS President**

Boat-tailed Grackles are common Florida birds which can be found both in natural areas and in urban areas. The sexes are quite different in appearance: males are iridescent purple-black and females are brown and almost half the size of males. Eye color varies with location; most Atlantic coast birds (north of Florida) have straw colored eyes, those in Florida have dark eyes and those west of Louisiana have dark eyes. Nests usually are built over water and fledglings that fall in can actually use their wings as paddles and swim for short distances. I always know I'm back in Florida after traveling since I seem to be greeted by boat-tailed grackles (no matter which airport I use).



**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: **C0ZE140Z**

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

Additional Gift for PRAS

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

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

**MAIL CHECK WITH THIS FORM TO:**

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