



Crested Caracara

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

October/December 2014

Audubon mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitat for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Officers

*Margaret England, President
Butch Wilson, Vice-President
Kim Willis, Secretary
Janet Falk, Treasurer*

Board Members

*Julie Jeffords
Martha Valiant
Rhonda Roff
Sonny Mowbray
Terri Lazar
Add Austin
Ann Starck
Mel Karau*

STA-5 2014 Schedule

November 22
December 13
December 27

Meetings - 7:00 p.m. second Monday of the month September - May
Meetings held at the Dallas Townsend Bldg., located at 1085 Pratt Blvd., LaBelle or the Clewiston Museum 109 Central Avenue, Clewiston. (863) 983-2870.

Dec 8 - Love in the Swamp" with Big Cypress Preserve Ranger Amy Washuta.



President's Message

It is easy to give AUDUBON magazine as a gift and it makes the perfect gift for that nature lover in your life. By giving the gift of Audubon membership your friend or family member will automatically receive AUDUBON magazine as part of his or her membership benefits. If you are interested in giving the gift of Audubon, go to National Audubon's website (select Chapter Code E51) or use the attached form.

On November 18th the Hendry-Glades Audubon Board prepared the annual report for July 2013-2014. and discussed plans for the 2014-2015 chapter projects.

Some of the past year's accomplishments included:

- Increased the number of HGAS volunteers at the Big "O" Birding Festival
- Participated in Earth Week Field Trips for LaBelle area Elementary Students
- Nine Entertaining Educational programs for members and guests
- Organized and Coordinated Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Count
- Lead organized bird trips to STA5 with over 1,000 participants during the past year
- Conducted Breeding Bird Atlas II Surveys (2011-2016)

The top 3 proposed goals for 2014-2015 are:

- Volunteer to help insure a Successful Big "O" Birding Festival
- Raise Public Awareness of Great Florida Birding Trails in Hendry and Glades County: STA5, OK Slough State Forest, Fisheating Creek,....
- : Create Bird Photo Contest and display for youth.

Please e-mail or phone to volunteer to help HGAS accomplish their 2014-2015 goals.

Margaret England mleighthouse@embarqmail.com 863-674-0695

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts --Tis the season for the Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count

Put your citizen science skills to work and work off those pesky holiday pounds by getting out and joining in a Christmas bird count near you.

The 115th count will begin on Sunday, December 14th, 2014. The count period runs from December 14 to January 5 every year.

The Hendry-Glades Audubon Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday January 3, 2015. If you would like to participate, contact Margaret England: mleighthouse@embarqmail.com , 863-674-0695 - cell: 863-517-0202



<http://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count-find-count-near-you>

Hendry County Eagle Nest

We are very happy to report that the Hendry County Bald Eagle nest on "old Hwy 27" east of Clewiston is rebuilt and back in business.

Back over the summer after several days of severe thunderstorms, the nest was destroyed and missing from the nest tree. Happily, the pair returned to re-build and we are looking forward to a successful nesting season.



STA 5 Update.

Google "Top Birding Spots in Florida" to view Visit Florida's online article featuring STA5.

"STA5/Lake Okeechobee - It's not a National Park or a National Wildlife Refuge, but STA-5 is one of the best birding spots in South Florida. Stormwater treatment areas are designed to filter out excess nutrients that would otherwise flow to the Everglades, but they also turn out to be excellent places for birding. To access STA-5, you'll need to register a visit with one of the local Audubon Society chapters. The birding is fantastic year-round, and you'll definitely add a few life-listers at STA-5."

Some of the most requested "target" birds for the life-listers include Snail Kites, Purple Swamphens, and Fulvous Whistling Ducks.

FSU researchers reported more successful Snail Kite nests at STA5/6 than any location in Florida in 2014.

The average number of species observed during the summer was 60. On November 22 over 70 species were observed with Tropical Audubon reporting 3 Snow Geese flying overhead during their visit to STA5.

Dick Pritchett Real Estate Eagle Cam

It is Bald Eagle nesting season and the Dick Pritchett Real Estate cam is active and Ozzie & Harriet are sitting pretty on the nest waiting for their young ones to arrive. There are two cameras that film the birds 24/7 and stream live video directly to this site.

"Eagles are wild birds and anything can happen in the wild. The Southwest Florida Eagle Cameras do not interfere or intervene and allow nature to take its course. You will see life and you might see death, but this is nature at her finest."

<http://dickpritchettrealestate.com/eagle-feed.html>





Bulletin Board

Everglades Birding Festival January 15-19th, 2015

Journey through South Florida in search of an array of beautiful and rare birds while gaining advanced birding skills with expert birding guides.

Field trips to some of South Florida birding "hot-spot" locations.

Various workshops – Photography, field techniques & birding by ear.

For information or to register www.evergladesbirdingfestival.com or Paddy Cunningham 754-201-1141

Wet Walk at Big Cypress National Preserve with Fisheating Creek FTA Sub-Chapter

Saturday December 20 at 9:00 am -1:00 p.m. Wet Walk (Moderate Hike)

Big Cypress (National Preserve) Welcome Center 33000 Tamiami Trail East Ochopee, Florida

Everyone Welcome (Hikers, Photographers, Birders) to this Free event hosted by the Fisheating Creek FTA Sub-Chapter.

Carpool from Barron Park in Labelle at 7 a.m. or meet at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center at 8:45 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. Ranger talk and film then travel to wet walk site. Walk from 11:00- 12:30 or 1:00.

Bring snack to hold you over until lunch after the hike. Bring water, lunch, long pants, closed toed shoes, **sunscreen**, camera, and binoculars. Join the Florida Trail Association during the event in order to receive a \$5 new member's discount.

For information call or email Betty Robart Loomis 863-532-9339 or Margaret England 863-517-0202

Big Cypress (National Preserve) Welcome Center 33000 Tamiami Trail East Ochopee, Florida 24141

Friday December 12 – 9:00 am – 12 pm Ranger talk and easy stroll along a boardwalk

Everyone Welcome (Hikers, Photographers, and Birders) to this free event hosted by Hendry-Glades Audubon. Carpool from Barron Park in Labelle at 7 a.m. or meet at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center at 8:45 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. Ranger talk and film that will begin promptly at 9 a.m., followed by a leisurely bird walk on a nearby boardwalk. Bring water, snacks, lunch, closed toed shoes, sunscreen, camera, and binoculars. Expect to see resident and wintering birds.

Mark your calendars for a wild Columbian experience – Santa Marta and Caribbean Specialty Tours March 22-30 2015 – Tour is limited to 10 participants

Book your flights with our friends at Capricho Travel, who specialize in trips to Colombia, feel free to also contact Ernest Leupin in case you have any questions regarding the Festival or the Colombia trip by email at eleupin@colombiawild.com.



Only four months away! Get ready for the 14th Annual Big "O" Birding Festival March 11 – 16, 2015. Join local bird guides at 9 Hendry & Glades counties birding locales, enjoy photography workshops, programs, keynote speakers & Eco-tours. Find rural Florida's Specialty birds.

For information email: bigobirdingfestival@gmail.com or call 863-675-0444.

Festival in the Woods at Picayune Strand State Forest – Fire Ecology in Southwest Florida

Saturday, January 24, 2015 10:00 am -3:00 pm

Guides hikes, guided bicycle tours, wildlife presentations, children's activities, environmental exhibitors & vendors.

For information contact: Heather Ferrand 239-690-3500 ext. 104 or Heather.Ferrand@FreshFromFlorida.com

Species Spotlight



Photo by Kim Willis

Did you know...

During the breeding season, adults American White Pelicans grow an unusual projection or horn on the upper mandible near the tip of the bill.

American White Pelicans have a wingspan of 9 feet and they can weigh as much as 30 pounds !

American White Pelicans must provide roughly 150 pounds of food to nourish a chick from its birth to the time it's ready to forage on its own.

Pelicans are big birds that can overheat when they're out in the hot sun. They shed heat by facing away from the sun and fluttering their bill pouches—which contain many blood vessels to let body heat escape. Incubating parents may also stretch their wings wide to aid cooling.

American White Pelican embryos squawk before hatching to express discomfort if conditions get too hot or cold.

A group of pelicans has many collective nouns, including a "brief", "pod", "pouch", "scoop", and "squadron" of pelicans.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

One of the largest birds in North America, the American White Pelican is a snow white bird with black flight feathers seen during flight. The legs and the bill are a yellow-orange color. Juvenile birds are similar except have a dusky head, neck and back.

American White Pelicans are found in shallow wetlands in the interior of the continent. They spend winters on mainly coastal waters, bays, and estuaries, or areas a little inland.

American White Pelicans feed from the surface, dipping their beaks into the water to catch fish and other aquatic organisms. They often dabble as a dabbling duck, feeding much differently than the plunge-dive of their counterparts, the Brown Pelican. American White Pelicans work in unison when feeding. They coordinate their swimming to "herd" schooling fish toward the shallows where they can then easily scoop up these corralled fish from the water.

One may find large flocks of these enormous birds soaring inconspicuously very high up. They are exceptional at soaring especially since they are among the heaviest flying birds in the world, and often travel long distances in large flocks by soaring. When flapping, their wing beats are slow and thorough.

A breeding pair of White Pelicans nest on the ground; choosing a site on gravel, sand, or soil near other pelicans at the same stage of the breeding cycle. In more southern, drier regions, they nest amongst scant vegetation. In more forested regions, nesting sites may be under small shrubs or trees. Two eggs are laid with an incubation period of 30 days and a nesting period of roughly 70 days. After leaving the nest, the young gather in groups called 'crèches.' Parents continue to feed their young until the chicks leave the colony at 10-11 weeks of age.

Most populations of the American White Pelican are migratory with the exception of birds breeding in Texas and Mexico. Populations breeding west of the Rocky Mountains typically move south to California and the west coast of Mexico. Migrants move north in March and south from early September to late November.

American White Pelicans are extremely sensitive to human disturbance of breeding colonies. Disturbance may cause adults to expose eggs and young to predators and temperature stress or to abandon nests altogether.

Photos



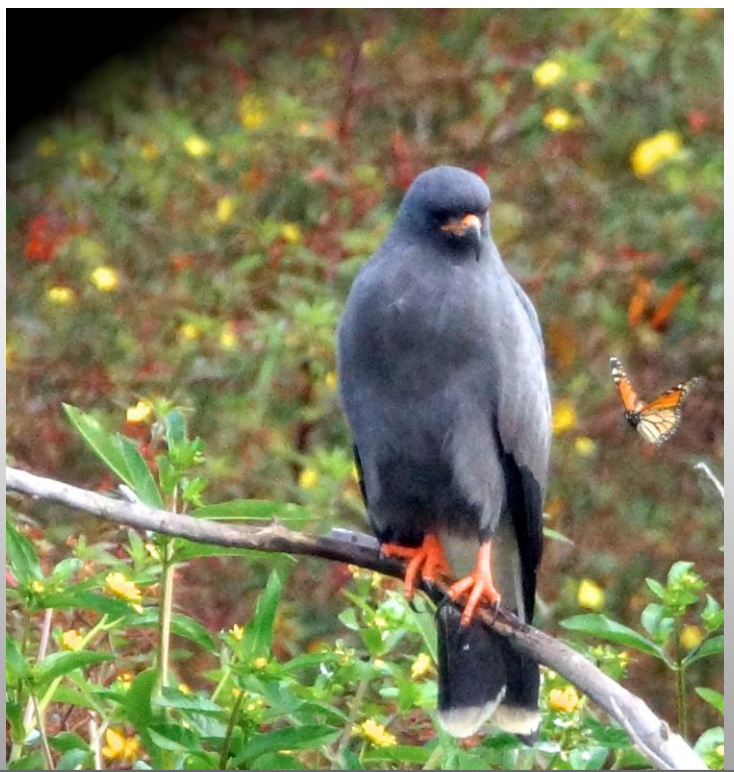
Just in time for Thanksgiving! This flock was strolling along the side of Deer Fence Canal road. Guess they are not worried that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Photo by Kim Willis



Definitely a better fisherman than me! The Green Heron is lure in fish using small items such as twigs or insects as bait. Photo by Larry Frogge.



Our official state bird, the Northern Mockingbird is capable of over 200 songs and sounds. They continue to add songs to their repertoire throughout their lives. Photo by Larry Frogge



Curious or contemplating a different kind of snack? This male Snail Kite looks upon a fly-by by his little butterfly friend at STA-5. Photo by Judith Bird

Join Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, Inc. (HGAS)

You may choose between two types of membership:
"HGAS Chapter Only Voluntary Member" or both National Audubon and HGAS

1. "Voluntary" memberships receive the quarterly Crested Caracara newsletter by e-mail. Voluntary membership funds and donations support local educational and program opportunities.

YES! I want to become a "Voluntary" member of HGAS.

"Voluntary" Hendry-Glades Audubon Individual Membership \$10 Annually

"Voluntary" Hendry-Glades Audubon Household Membership \$15 Annually

Please send my Crested Caracara via e-mail.

Additional Tax Deductible Donation to HGAS (501c3) is enclosed.

Enclosed is my check payable to HGAS (Hendry-Glades Audubon Society)

2. You may join or renew your HGAS membership through the National Audubon Society using a print form or online at:

<http://support.audubon.org/> Select Chapter Code: E51 Hendry-Glades AS

With this type of membership, you receive the quarterly Crested Caracara (via e-mail), 6 issues of Audubon Magazine, the Florida Naturalist magazine and membership in the National Audubon Society and Hendry-Glades Audubon Society.

All dues for new memberships through the National Audubon Society and a portion of renewal dues are returned to HGAS if the Chapter Code C5ZE510Z is on the membership form or the Chapter E51 Hendry-Glades AS is selected from online menu.

National Audubon Society Membership \$20 Annually C5ZE510Z

Enclosed is my check payable to the National Audubon Society.

Mail to:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society Chapter Code C5ZE510Z

380 Riverview Dr. LaBelle, FL 33935

863-674-0695