



The Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligram

- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -

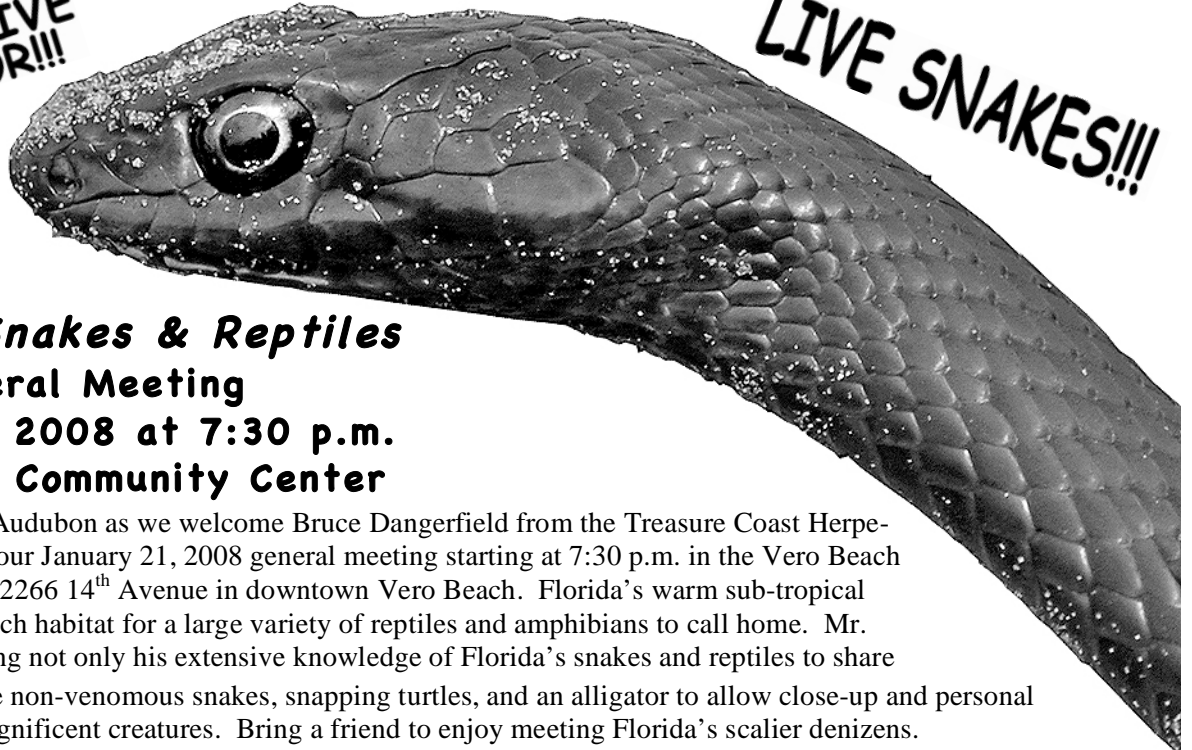
P.O Box 1833, VERO BEACH, FL 32961 772-567-3520 www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

Our 44th Year Vol. 44 No. 1 January 2008

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities in Indian River County through advocacy, education, and public awareness.

TOUCH A LIVE ALLIGATOR!!!

LIVE SNAKES!!!



Florida's Snakes & Reptiles

General Meeting

January 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Vero Beach Community Center

Join Pelican Island Audubon as we welcome Bruce Dangerfield from the Treasure Coast Herpetological Society to our January 21, 2008 general meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Avenue in downtown Vero Beach. Florida's warm sub-tropical climate provides a rich habitat for a large variety of reptiles and amphibians to call home. Mr. Dangerfield will bring not only his extensive knowledge of Florida's snakes and reptiles to share with us, but also live non-venomous snakes, snapping turtles, and an alligator to allow close-up and personal viewing of these magnificent creatures. Bring a friend to enjoy meeting Florida's scaliest denizens. Light refreshments will be served following the program. *Photo: Black Racer at PINWR by Bob Montanaro.*

January Field Trips

Saturday, January 5, 2008—Merritt Island NWR in Titusville. Carpoolers meet at McDonalds located at I-95 and County Road 512 (Sebastian/Fellsmere exit) at 6:50am. We will leave McDonalds at 7:00am. Directions: I-95 North to SR 406 (Garden St), East to MINWR. Leader: Rick Lucas

Sunday, January 6, 2008---ORCA canoe trip - 8:00am to noon - Meet at the FMEL boat-house, 200 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd) east of US-1. Call 772-567-3520 for reservations. Leaders: Richard Baker & Alice Rowe. Fee: \$5 members/\$20 non-members

Saturday, January 12, 2008—Pelican Island NWR. Meet in Welcome & Orientation Area on Jungle Trail at 8am. Directions: US 1 to CR 510, East to A1A then North 3.7 miles to Jungle Trail, turn left, proceed to first parking lot on left. Leaders: Rick Lucas & Bob Montanaro

Saturday, January 19, 2008—Wakodahatchee/Loxahatchee/Green Cay Wetlands. Carpoolers meet at back of Wendy's on SR 60 east of I-95 at 6:20am. We will leave Wendy's at 6:30am. Directions: I-95 South approx 115 miles to Boynton Beach Blvd, West to Jog Road, South to Delray Beach Water Treatment Plant (+5miles) on East side of Jog. Leader: Rick Lucas

**Call
772-567-3520
for more
information**

Officers

President, **Richard H. Baker**
1st Vice President, **Jens Tripson**
2nd Vice President, **Susan Boyd**
Recording Secretary, **Darlene Halliday**
Corresponding Secretary, **Jean Catchpole**
Treasurer, **Robert Adair**

Elected Directors

Joe Carroll '08 **Nancy Irvin '10**
David Cox '09 **Roz James '09**
Debby Ecker '08 **Susan Richardson '10**

Appointed Board Members

Joel Day **Melissa Tripson**
Tina Marchese **Craig Weyandt**
Neil Stalter

Advisory Board Members

Janice Broda **Bob Smith**
Kevin Doty **Paul Tritaik**
Lynne Larkin **Billi Wagner**

Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Membership benefits include subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine, *Florida Naturalist*, and the PIAS newsletter *The Peligram*. Additionally, members have full borrowing privileges to the PIAS nature library and much more!

- \$20 one-year membership
- Donation \$ _____
- \$20 Friend (receive *The Peligram* only)
- Check box if a *MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL*.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the "**Pelican Island Audubon Society**" to: Pelican Island Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

2008 Field Trips

Pelican Island Audubon welcomes Rick Lucas as our new field trip coordinator and leader. Rick plans interesting birding trips scheduled throughout the year that will meet the desires of birding enthusiasts at all levels of experience. From overnight treks to local jaunts, each month's field trips bring natural Florida to light.

Field Trip Schedule

1. Jan. 5 – Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
2. Jan. 12 – Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
3. Jan. 19 – Wakodahatchee, Loxahatchee, GreenCay
4. Feb. 2 – West County Wastewater Treatment Facility
5. Feb. 16 – Viera Wetlands
6. March 6 – T.M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area (WMA)
7. March 15 – Jonathan Dickinson State Park
8. April 5 – Captain Forster Hammock Preserve
9. April 12 – Turkey Creek Sanctuary
10. April 19 – Fort De Soto Park, St. Petersburg
11. April 26 – Turkey Creek Sanctuary
12. May 10 – Captain Forster Hammock Preserve
13. May 24 – Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
14. June 5 - T.M. Goodwin WMA
15. June 21 – to be announced
16. Sept. 13 - Captain Forster Hammock Preserve
17. Sept. 20 – Turkey Creek Sanctuary
18. Oct. 11 – Sebastian Inlet State Park
19. Oct. 18 – Turkey Creek Sanctuary
20. Nov. 15 – Viera Wetlands
21. Dec. 13 – Sebastian Inlet State Park

Details for each month's field trips will be posted in the *Peligram* in advance. For more information, please call 772-567-3520 or visit www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



A large flock of Blue-winged Teal take flight during the Dec. 8, 2007 Viera Wetlands field trip.
Photo by Bob Montanaro.



The President's Hoot

How Special Our Chapter Is!

Let's give a big hoot for Pelican Island Audubon getting this year's "Best Chapter Award" from Audubon of Florida. ! It's thanks to so many of you who volunteer and everyone working together!

We have a terrific Board of Directors:

- Jens Tripson (1st VP, strong advocate at meetings, field trip leader, saving the gopher tortoise from live entombment, generous donor of time and money)
- Susan Boyd (2nd VP, organizing the Audubon Academy to be held here April 4-5)
- Darlene Halliday (Recording Secretary, phone tree organizer)
- Jean Catchpole (Corresponding Secretary, member of landscaping committee)
- Bob Adair (Treasurer, Co-chair on sustainable agricultural, and water issues)
- Joe Carroll (Organizer to form an Indian River Coalition to save our Lagoon, scrub jay watch)
- David Cox (Co-chair on the SJRWMD/Corrigan land exchange, county's salt- brine disposal issues, landscaping ordinance, and leader on the gopher tortoise coalition)
- Joel Day (An educational, humanitarian, and fund raising trip to Cuba, Trinidad trip)
- Debby Ecker (Chair, Landscape Ordinance Committee)
- Nancy Irvin (Special Projects Chair, booth attendant at festivals)
- Roz James (Birding trips)
- Tina Marchese (Librarian and book sales manager)
- Sue Richardson (Program chair, student education activities)
- Neil Stalter (Getting 60 new members at Grand Harbor)
- Melissa Tripson (Field trip leader, great cookies & warm hostess chair)
- Craig Weyandt (Liaison, Moorings Club, birding trips)

Active Advisory Board members:

- Janice Broda (Education issues and along with husband Bob Bruce a big contributor to our new Outreach Center efforts),
- Lynne Larkin (legal counsel)

- Bob Smith (Development)
- Paul Tritaik (Coordinator with Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge)
- Billy Wagner (Injured wildlife, member of landscaping ordinance committee)

Office manager: Bob Montanaro (Essential to our smooth operation, field trip photographer, website designer)

Tireless volunteers:

- Alice Rowe (Co-leading our monthly canoe trips for over five years)
- Nita Baker, Elsbeth Eibs, Bud Kleckner, Sharon Marable, and Judy & Bob Treloar (all of whom, for so many years, have generously contributed their time and financial contributions to a wide variety of Audubon activities)
- Rick Lucas (taking charge of a very ambitious birding trip schedule)

We are most thankful to Bonnie Swanson, who donated her \$25,000 Volvo Award to PIAS, part of which will enhance Pelican Island Audubon's Martha Winger Reflection Park and Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Audubon of Florida was impressed with our special fundraising efforts this year. *And we are well on our way to the construction of our \$400,000 Audubon Outreach Center on the grounds of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory adjacent to the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area.*

Thanks to the assistance of the Fundraising Committee and the assistance of Bill Halliday, Chair; John Orcutt, Jens Tripson, George Christopher, Dale Simcheck, Seth Coren, and Debby Ecker we have raised \$182,000 of the \$200,000 needed to qualify for matching state funds for a \$400,000 building. We still have time to get the remaining \$18,000. If you have not yet contributed, please do, all amounts are welcome (and a big thank you to donors---see the contributors list on page 4).

I know there are some of you who would like to volunteer that haven't had the chance and others who might like to do something different. So let us know!

With supporters like we have had this year, we will maintain our dynamic "Best Chapter" status!

Happy New Year!

Richard Baker, President

Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833
Vero Beach, FL 32961-1833

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Who is this?

Southerners may know this large, dark water bird as the snake-bird, so named because of its long slinky neck. The males are mostly black while the feathers on the female's neck are a light brown. A graceful swimmer, underwater it catches fish by stabbing them with its sharp pointed bill. This bird is fairly common along waterways in Florida where it is often seen drying its feathers with outstretched wings. Look up for this bird enjoys soaring to great heights with ease. *Photo by Bob Montanaro.*



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*Thank you to
all who have
contributed so
far!*