

Pelican Island Audubon Society

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- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -



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

Our 53rd Year Vol. 54 No. 3 March 2018

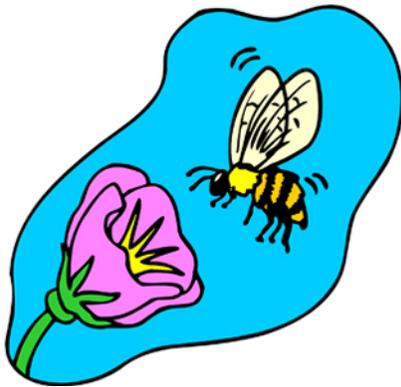
Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities, and the land and water on which they depend in Indian River County through education, advocacy, and public awareness.

March 12, 2018 ❖ 6:00 p.m.

Florida Honeybees: Challenges & Solutions For Our Local Pollinators with Stuart Rowan

North Indian River County Library
1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

Stuart Rowan, President of the South Brevard Beekeepers, will be discussing our local bee populations and how you can become a beekeeper, right in your own backyard! Save the bees! An observation hive with real bees will be displayed.

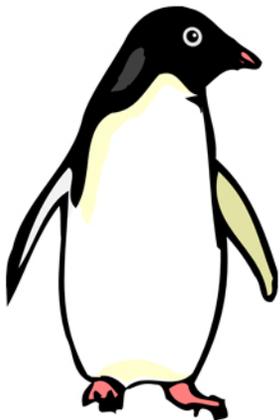


March 19, 2018 ❖ 7:00 p.m.

Malaria In Wild And Captive Penguins with Nathan Burkett-Cadena, Ph.D.

Vero Beach Community Center
2266 14th Avenue, Vero Beach

Avian malaria is a mosquito transmitted disease that threatens penguins in zoos and rehabilitation centers around the world. Since these captive penguin populations are seen as critical to the survival of some penguins species, avian malaria is a major concern for penguin conservation. The major focus of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory researcher Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena is centered on investigating host-vector ecology: quantifying the relationships and determining why different species of host animals (birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians) are preferred or avoided by different vector species. The over arching goal is to understand how these interactions drive the transmission of vector-borne pathogens.



One More Generation by Katheryne Nix



One More Generation (OMG) was founded in 2009 by 8 year old Carter Ries and 7 year old Olivia Ries. Their journey began when their aunt adopted cheetahs in honor of Carter and Olivia on a trip to South Africa. This sparked Olivia and Carter's curiosity and they wondered why cheetahs and other animals needed to be protected. This curiosity led them to learn about pressing issues surrounding endangered species, and knew they had to act.

In an effort to make a difference, Carter and Olivia started their own non-profit to help educate people about the plight of endangered species. Their intention is to preserve all species for at least One More Generation and beyond and empower youth around the world to stand up and help create solutions for the issues of today!

A few examples of their work include, collecting animal rescue supplies for the BP Gulf Oil Spill, creating a Plastic and Recycling Curriculum for elementary school students, launching environmental conservation initiatives, and much more!

One of their environmental conservation initiatives is to reduce the use of plastic straws which are dangerous to wildlife and litter our oceans. Plastic straws are made of petroleum which means once discarded, they will sit in our environment for hundreds of years, or even worse, end up being ingested by animals who will ultimately die. In fact, each year 100,000 marine animals and over 1 million sea birds die from ingesting plastic. In the U.S., we use 500 million plastic straws every day which is enough to fill 270 large school buses! That is enough to circle the earth 2.5 times in one day! As a partner in this campaign, Pelican Island Audubon Society encourages all our members to sign the One Less Straw pledge at www.onelessstraw.org. This is a pledge to not use plastic straws for 30 days or longer. In addition, the pledge requests that you talk to a local restaurant and ask them to only hand out straws upon request. This will help to reduce the amount of straws in the environment and help protect wildlife. To learn more about OMG visit <http://onemoregeneration.org/>.

Carter and Olivia are an inspiration to us all, and we are so fortunate to have them come speak to our Audubon Advocates at Audubon House on Earth Day, Saturday April 21st. Seating is limited so we will be giving our Audubon Advocates a chance to register before opening it up to PIAS members. More information about this event will be forthcoming at the beginning of April.

Masthead photo: Bald Eagle by Bob Montanaro.

Bird of the Month by Juanita Baker

Yes, this is your ordinary, common Double-crested Cormorant with its brilliant emerald eye surrounding the dark pupil in a breeding adult. For a brief time, with its new darker feathers and more intense orange facial skin, the adult may grow two short tufts of feathers to attract its mate, for which it is named - 'double-crested.' Yet those crests are visible only when erect, resulting in an infrequently seen, poor field mark. The word 'Cormorant' comes from Medieval Latin (*corvus marinus*, literally "sea-raven"), an apt name as it often rides the water surface looking for fish before diving to grasp a fish with its strong bill. The hooked bill tip allows a better grip.

Thousands of North American Double-crested Cormorants migrate south in fall on both the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways to join Florida's permanent residents along rivers, lakes, and coastal areas to forage for prey. Some migrants continue south to the Gulf of Mexico, Belize, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Often, cormorants roost and nest along coastal areas but fly inland during the day to freshwater habitats to forage.

Being black may serve to enhance their stealth in capturing fish but absorption adds to heat stress in Florida's sun. They can always dive into the water to cool, or, especially when incubating eggs on nests, they flutter (~500 flutters/min) their gular (throat) skin to bring air over mucous membranes of their mouth and esophagus to find relief. After fishing, cormorants climb on a nearby spot to spread their wings to dry, not because it is too hot, but because they have to dry their wings to fly with less weight. Their fishing cousin, the Anhinga, does likewise. We can readily distinguish the species by their bills: hooked vs. spear-like, and by their tails and necks: short vs. long.



The Lookout © J.R. Williams
Viera Wetlands-Rich Grissom Memorial
Wetlands Canon 50D, f/8, 1/320 second, ISO: 200.
Exposure Bias: 1 stop, 400 mm



© J.R. Williams

Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

Order: SULIFORMES

Family: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Warblers by Linda Chancellor

Warblers - what is the fuss about warblers? They are small little birds that flit here and there. They are too fast for me to locate in my camera nor follow in my binoculars. Yet I am curious about these little birds. Last May my husband and I had registered for a Road Scholar trip that included learning about warblers. The trip had also peaked our interest because the location was at Sagamore - the summer great camp of the Vanderbilt's. The main building was built in 1890 by William Durant at the edge of a lake. The camp buildings are unique wooden buildings built using logs, with their bark left intact, and the trim painted a bright red. In spite of the chilly, rainy weather we managed to take one and sometimes two bird walks each day. Our guides, John and Pat Thaxton, were warbler experts and knew the birds by sight and song. We visited several different habitats including deep old forests, bogs and pine woods. It was a learning experience as we tried



to locate the tiny birds in our binoculars while swinging our heads up and down as we followed the birds as they flitted from tree to tree. I saw a beautiful Blackburnian Warbler with his amazing fire orange throat, Green throated warblers, Tennessee warblers, Chestnut-sided warblers, Pine warblers and Ovenbirds. I also learned that different species of warblers inhabit different levels in the forests. The birding was great but it I also enjoyed learning about the many interesting plants that grew beside the trails. I had never seen the beautiful bark of Striped Maples or beautiful Painted Trilliums. I definitely developed a new appreciation for the tiny warblers but was also thrilled to hear and see Loons on the lake when we returned to camp.

FYI: Winter Warbler season in Florida is winding down as most of them will be heading North in March.

2018 The Year of the Bird



"If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world," stated Thomas Lovejoy, Biologist and Godfather of Biodiversity. The National Audubon Society, National Geographic Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Life International, The Pelican Island Audubon Society and 150 other organizations heartily join together to proclaim **2018 The Year of the Bird**, because it's the centennial of passing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), our most powerful and important

bird-protection law. **The MBTA makes it illegal to kill birds** except under certain circumstances such as hunting game birds. The MBTA was enacted in response to outcries against the continued plume hunting for women's hats of bird feathers as well as just wanton killing of thousands of birds. Today the law holds industries accountable for such environmental catastrophes as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico estimated to have killed over a million birds and decimated beaches where birds could no longer nest.

The importance of birds to our own quality of life is featured in the January 2018 issue of *National Geographic* in an article entitled "Why Birds Matter" by Jonathan Frazen. The *National Geographic* also publishes a Bird Guide that features profiles of 50 of North America's most popular birds, and kids.nationalgeographic.com features Quiz Whiz, fun exercises with fascinating games about birds and other animals. In addition, every month this year they have special bird articles. "We're not going to have very many birds unless we change things, are creative, and start making things happen. What's important is getting back to nature and, culturally, that's what we should do" -Jonathan Baillie, National Geographic Society.

PIAS began marking the Year of the Bird with its successful conference "Transforming landscapes for a Sustainable Nature" on January 19-20 with great speakers: Prof Doug Tallamy, (author of *Bringing Nature Home-How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*), Dr. Edie Widder, Steve Turnipseed, Tod Winston, Tary Evans, Robin Pelensky, Nickie Munroe, Jacob Ensor and Dr. Juanita Baker. It celebrated the beauty and variety of birds and highlighted their dependence on native plants and insects that are important to our own health and well being, including functioning ecosystems, clean air and water. **Solution? Landscape with native species in our yard, garden, patio, or balcony** to provide food and shelter for both migrating and our nesting resident birds. **National Audubon** has a great article "Grow These Native Plants So Your Backyard Birds Can Feast-Native plants beat even the best bird feeder. Here's what to put in your garden to transform it into a year-round wonderland" <http://www.audubon.org/news/grow-these-native-plants-so-your-backyard-birds-can-feast>. **There are two websites that can help you decide, which native plants are appropriate** for our area using our zip codes: National Audubon Society Plants for Birds <http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds> and the National Wildlife Federation <https://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder>

Speaking to the **Annual Meeting of the Moorings Vero Property Owners' Association**, I provided a review of the January Transforming Landscapes conference. Vero

Beach City Councilwomen Laura Moss, who attended the conference, had a meeting with the City Manager and others to discuss planting native plants around the city's buildings. Most ambitious is a new future project that PIAS and three other organizations (Environmental Learning Center, Indian River Land Trust, and the Ocean Research Conservation Association) are planning: planting 100,000 Live Oak Trees in Indian River County. We want everyone to plant at least one Live Oak Tree in their yard. Let's all plant a forest in our backyards.

The world is hazardous for our birds. They must navigate around wind turbines, cell towers, skyscrapers, walls of glass, escape invasive species (cats and boa constrictors), poisons contaminating their food sources, disappearing wetlands and native uplands, and climate change. **Bird Life** featured "How alien plant invaders crowd out native birds. It's not just cats and rats: invasive plant species can also uproot ecosystems and drive extinctions." <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/invasive-plants>

Let's convince our elected officials that our love of nature and birds will drive our voting at election time. We want habitat protection and clean energy for the good of birds and people alike. Our yards are important even for migratory species that stop here briefly to refuel on insects, caterpillars, spiders, and fruit before flying thousand of miles to nest or to winter. At the same time, we'll add native plants and nest boxes to our yards and our neighborhoods for resident species and advocate for bird-friendly practices at the community level.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology hosts the websites feederwatch.org and www.allaboutbirds.org that provides bird information and includes bird cams, tips on identifying birds and feeding them. **They also** say "A Yard Full of Native Plants Is a Yard Full of Well-Fed Birds- Native plants provide berries in winter and insects in summer and the more the merrier." <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/its-true-a-yard-full-of-native-plants-is-a-yard-full-of-well-fed-birds>

The closest native plant sources are Butterfly Flowers, (321)626-73866, in West Melbourne which bring native plants on Saturdays to the Oceanside Farmer's Market at Humiston Park, and **Maple Street Natives**, (321)729-6857, also in West Melbourne. Butterfly Flowers are planning to be at the Audubon House on the third Friday morning of the month for our Audubon Activist meeting. Both nurseries consult, design, and install plantings. **Plant Native plants!** Increase the demand for them, and they will be more available.

Finally, I would like to thank all who called or emailed Florida Representatives Erin Grall and Carlos Trujillo. The Senate and House have approved \$100.8 million, which is less than the \$300 million/year we had for over 20 years, but more than the allocations over the last seven years. We will do our best to work with Erin Grall to impress upon her the importance of protecting environmentally sensitive lands. With Florida's current and growing population, we are losing our bird and fish habitats rapidly. We must protect our natural resources, which are the basis for our economy.

And of course, many, many thanks for supporting our effort to stop the Oslo boat ramp dredging and road paving! We are now working with others to have the area designated a fish sanctuary because it is a unique nursery area for four major game fishes in the Lagoon.

Let's all work together to plant trees and other native plants in our yards this spring for Arbor Day. Let's "Bring Nature Home!"

Field Trips 2018

For more information, call 772-567-3520
or email piaudubon@yahoo.com

March 13 - Tuesday - Lagoon Greenway - Offered in partnership with the Indian River Land Trust - Start time 9:00AM - Guide: Felicity Rask - Start time 9:00AM - This property boasts an ecologically diverse three-mile trail system for hiking, jogging or bike riding. Location: Lagoon Greenway - NE Intersection of Indian River Blvd & 8th Street - No signup required.

March 15 - Thursday - Combined Trip: Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Rd., Delray Beach, & Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Boynton Beach - Guide: Bill Loftus - boardwalks over wetlands/expect to see numerous species of waterbirds & other wildlife - Meet at 6AM at the TA Truck Stop, corner of SR60 and 90th Ave, for carpool. Lunch at Flakowitz Deli or on your own. Return to Vero at approximately 5PM - Call 772-567-

3520 to register.

March 24 - Saturday - Kashi Ashram - Guide: Felicity Rask - Meet at 11155 Roseland Rd, Sebastian, at 7AM - Park in the event parking lot - Approximately two miles of total walking through areas of hardwoods, pines, oaks, and a section along the St. Sebastian River - Mid-morning break at 10:30AM - Includes tour of temples and an explanation of the Kashi mission - Tour ends at 12:30 or 1PM - Call 772-567-3520 to register

March 24 - Saturday - North Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area (ORCA) - Guide: Barbara Riebe - Start time 9:00AM - ORCA is comprised of approximately 300 acres of varied tropical habitats including mesic hammock, scrubby pine flatwoods, and coastal wetlands. This two hour tour covers 1.5 miles of trails and the far

destination is an observation deck over impounded wetlands often teaming with wading birds. Location: North ORCA: Located on the north side of East Oslo Road - No signup required.

March 28 - Wednesday - Bee Gum Point - Offered in partnership with the Indian River Land Trust - Guide: Rody Johnson - Start time 9:00AM - Situated on the Atlantic Flyway, this 111-acre property is part of an important block of conservation lands acquired by the Land Trust along the Indian River Lagoon in 2011. It was one of the last unprotected wetlands on the barrier island and includes a mile of Lagoon shoreline. DIRECTIONS - At the blinking light on A1A in Indian River Shores, turn west onto Fred Tuerk Drive and proceed to the end of the road. Entrance is on the left by the electrical substation. - No signup required.

A New Monthly Free Course Series! At the Audubon House

195 9th St. SE (Oslo Road), Vero Beach, FL

Friday Mornings 9 am -12:00 pm

Attend classes & field walks to enhance your Environmental Understanding and Skills

More info at

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

March 16	Choosing the right native plants to beautify & bring our landscapes to life - Chris Waltz - Conradina Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society - plus ORCA walk
April 20	Flora & Fauna of the Indian River Lagoon followed by seining for fish in the IRL - Dr. Grant Gilmore
May 18	Blood Suckers followed by finding them at ORCA - Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena

Join or renew your membership in Pelican Island Audubon Society

Membership benefits include:

- Monthly Peligram newsletter
- Monthly meetings on the environment and wildlife
- Birding field trips led by expert guides
- Opportunities to volunteer to help the environment
- . . . and much more!

For more information and to join, visit

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

or mail in the application ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

Pelican Island Audubon Society Officers & Directors

Officers	Elected Directors:
President	Graham Cox, Ph.D. '20
Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.	Bill Halliday '20
1st Vice-President	Nancy Irvin '19
Donna Halleran	Bill Loftus, Ph.D. '18
2nd Vice-President	Toni Robinson '19
David Cox, Ph.D.	Bonnie Swanson '18 —
Recording Secretary	Appointed Board Members:
Darlene Halliday	Susan Lovelace
Corresponding Secretary	Tina Marchese
George Glenn	
Treasurer Steve Goff	

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.

Pelican Island Audubon Membership

\$100 Florida Scrub-Jay Level \$200 Osprey Level

\$25 Individual \$30 Family

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

Join National Audubon Society
for an additional \$20 a year.

I want to make an additional tax deductible
donation of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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

or join online using your credit card at:

<http://www.pelicanislandaudubon.org/membership.html>

Questions: call 772-567-3520 or e-mail piaudubon@yahoo.com