

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligrum

- 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. 8 October 2008

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

Monday, October 20, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
Vero Beach Community Center

Hunters of the Wind & Hunters of the Night

featuring
LIVE
birds of prey!

Join Pelican Island Audubon for a very special meeting entitled *Hunters of the Wind & Hunters of the Night* featuring live animals on Monday, October 20, 2008, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Avenue. Tim Brown, Director of

Education for the Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, will present a program featuring a variety of birds of prey, the hunters of the sky: hawks, owls, vultures, falcons and eagles. Learn about the unique adaptations these birds have developed for hearing, sight, hunting and flight. Designed to make the natural environment accessible, do not miss this opportunity to view these live avian hunters and learn about their lives.

The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital (TCWH) is a private not-for-profit corporation, dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and the conservation of natural habitats. TCWH goals and purposes include the rehabilitation and return to the wild of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals, as well as informational services directed toward the public at large. Founded by Jean Henry and Ruth Stanwood in 1974, the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital is the only facility of its kind serving Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach counties in Florida.

TCWH operates a comprehensive medical and rehabilitative facility for the care of wild animals. The clinic accepts literally thousands of wild patients each year, providing treatment for animals as diverse as bobcats, eagles, alligators, and songbirds. Roughly, 10 per cent of the animals treated belong to "Listed" species (Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern). Rehabilitated animals return to suitable wild habitats.

Join us for light refreshments after the program.

Turkey Vulture by Bob Montanaro.

News on Jaywatch

by Joe Carroll

Did you know that Pelican Island Audubon is counting Florida scrub-jays?

This is the second year that our chapter has participated in a program known as Jaywatch. It starts from a need in the scientific community to have help monitoring the population of the threatened Florida scrub-jay. This leads to our chapter deciding that Audubon has a role in censusing jays on private lands where possible. This role is to supplement the work of the land managers like Beth Powell in Indian River County.

The Jaywatch program of The Nature Conservancy provides the protocol and vehicle to organize volunteers into a large force state wide. The project calls for searching for Florida scrub-jays in late June and July when the newly fledged young jays can be distinguished by the brown plumage on their heads instead of the frosty blue of the adults.

We selected four areas to census this year: 1. Indian River Club/Vero Highlands, 2. South County Park 3. Vero Beach Municipal Airport and 4. Winter Beach E=W (65th Street). This census we found 2 families totaling 10 jays at Indian River Club of which 3 were raised this year. A pair of jays was found at South County park and they had no offspring this year. At the Airport we found 3 families of Jays and possibly more. The 3 families totaled 11 jays and 4 of them were juvenile birds. At Winter Beach along 65th Street we found a pair of Jays that fledged no juveniles this year.

Audubon chapter volunteers helping with this program are Brian Barnett, Dr. David Cox, Tim Towles, Billi Wagner, Rosalind James, Jens Tripson and Colonel Jack Taylor deserve our thanks. Field work is now complete for this year, but let the Pelican Island Audubon office know if you are interested for next year 2009 at 772-567-3520.

Where's the nest?

The Turkey Vulture does not build a nest but puts eggs directly on the ground in caves, crevices, mammal burrows, hollow logs, under fallen trees, or in abandoned buildings. -Cornell Lab



Turkey Vulture by Bob Montanaro.

Birding's Most Sedentary Event:

The Big Sit!

Pelican Island Audubon will be taking part in **The Big Sit!** on Sunday, October 12, 7am-7pm at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. **The Big Sit!** is a non-competitive, one-day bird-a-thon counting bird species from a 17-foot circle. Bring your own chair and binoculars (loaners available), and pack a meal. Free and open to anyone, any age, and beginning and experienced bird watchers. For more information about **The Big Sit!**, visit <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com>. To sign up, call Nancy at 772-567-8234 or the office at 772-567-3520.

October Field Trips

with Rick Lucas

October 11—Sebastian Inlet State Park Meet under the north overpass at 8am. This is the north entrance to the park in Brevard County. Bug repellent and a scope will help. Directions: US1 to CR 510, East to A1A, North to the Indian River/Brevard County Line.

October 18—Turkey Creek Sanctuary in Palm Bay.

Carpoolers meet at McDonalds located at I-95 and County Road 512 (Sebastian/Fellsmere exit) at 7:05am. We will leave McDonalds at 7:15am. Directions: I-95 North to Malabar Rd exit in Palm Bay, East to Babcock St, North to Port Malabar Blvd, East to Turkey Creek (behind Civic Center and next to Library). Alternate route is US 1 to Port Malabar Blvd West to Turkey Creek.

Call 772-567-3520 for information and reservations.

Did you know?

A "Venue" is what to call a group of vultures. Refer to a group of vultures circling on thermals of hot air as a "Kettle", because they resemble the rising bubbles in a boiling pot of water. Visit The Turkey Vulture Society, on the web at <http://vulturesociety.homestead.com/>



OUTREACH CENTER DONORS

We continue to recognize the generous donations made toward building the new Audubon Outreach Center.

September donors include:

John Beidler	Rhoda Frank
Ralph Brown	Bud Kleckner
Bob Bruce	Richard Sakai
William Collins	Jack & Virginia Waaler

Thank you to all who contributed so far! We are still in need of an additional \$25,000. If you have not done so, please consider giving to this wonderful cause to enhance environmental education in Indian River County.

The President's Hoot

Put County First!



Here They Go Again! Less than 2 months after the county commission primary election, the Liberty Park 991 house development is coming back on the commission agenda. Pulled just before the primary, it is coming back! This Developer is taking advantage of a huge Comp Plan loophole to build a large 586 acre Planned Development Traditional Neighborhood Design outside the Urban Service Line (USL). This type of development can be considered “inside the urban service area” if any tiny portion of land straddles the USL, which can cascade deep into our finest agriculture lands eventually leading to sprawl. Hopefully, our commissioners, all who ran on keeping development inside the USL, will not approve this 88% outside of the USL, where our county is required to provide services, e.g. water and sewer.

Moreover, this project also wants to transfer density rights from 70 acres (unbuildable wetlands, actually) located inside the USL out to their 516 acre low density land outside the USL. Unfortunately, this is completely the reverse of good planning. These developers want to move density from inside the USL where roads, businesses, fire and police, and water and sewer are readily available into the county’s productive agricultural area where they are not.

Besides bad planning, this makes no sense especially now when we have so many existing vacant homes and lots available. This Development will require new sources of drinking water since current capacity has been based on houses that are already in the pipeline. County roads in and around the U.S 1, CR 510 and 66th Ave area already require upgrading without the addition of 991 homes, with taxpayers paying, of course.

Once developments are approved, they often come back to get approval of even less desirable adjustments (e.g. Pointe West development, thought originally to be a part of the “New Neighborhood Traditional Urbanism” has now been approved to have standard gated-communities). This could happen to Liberty Park as well, but more importantly it sets a bad example for future new Villages.

Instead our county commissioners should:

1. Reject Liberty Park, as it sets a dangerous precedent for unwanted and unneeded development outside our boundary area that burdens our natural resources and taxpayers.
2. Direct planning staff to a) Establish guidelines for transferring development rights to and from the urban service area. b) Revisit all zoning regulations for loopholes such as this one.

Please Email your County Commissioners:

Sandra Bowden - sbowden@ircgov.com,
Peter O’Bryan - pobryan@ircgov.com
Wesley Davis - wdavis@ircgov.com
Joe Flescher - jflescher@ircgov.com)
Gary Wheeler - gwheeler@ircgov.com



or call them at 567-8000 ext 1490 and tell them you want them to put the County First!

Richard Baker, President

Visit Padgett Ranch

Friday, October 24, 2008

Join Pelican Island Audubon on October 24 for a tour of Padgett Ranch in Indian River County. Recently acquired as conservation land, this working cattle ranch features over 900-acres of Florida hammocks and scrub home to diverse species of wildlife and birds. Expert birders Jens Tripson and Billi Wagner will lead the tour, which starts at 7:00 a.m. and will last approximately three hours.. Do not miss this rare opportunity to see a bit of old Florida.

The trip is limited to 20 persons. There is no fee. Reservations are required. Call 772-567-3520 to reserve a spot. Participants will receive carpool directions from Vero Beach with confirmation of reservations.



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

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Who is this?

Yes, it is a butterfly. Part of this insect's common name comes from its being found far out over water in the Gulf of Mexico. Striking in color, its brilliant orange and white body is exquisite to behold. Accord-



ing to the UF Institute of Food & Agricultural Services (IFAS), this butterfly is common across the extreme southern portions of the United States though occasionally in spring and summer adults move temporarily northward as far as the central U.S. from which they have to migrate southward again to escape the killing frost of winter. This butterfly flutters over all of Florida in open, sunny habitats in both rural and urban settings. Breeding occurs year-round with multiple generations annually occurring in Florida.

*Photo by Bob Montanaro. View color images at
www.floridacattleranch.org*

Answer: Gulf Fritillary

Coastal Cleanup Wrapup

Pelican Island Audubon thanks the hundreds of volunteers who came out on September 20 to help cleanup Indian River County's beaches and islands. Thank you to: the site coordinators Terry O'Toole, David Cox, Tina Marchese, Elsbeth Eibs, Darlene Halliday, Nancy Irvin, Susan Richardson, and Jens Tripson; to Treasure Coast Refuse for the use of their dumpsters; to Baystreet Pharmacy and Perkins Pharmacy for donating gloves and first aid kits; to the Cities of Vero Beach & Indian River Shores and the Indian River Mosquito Control District. See images of the Cleanup at www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

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1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President
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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: _____

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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**