



Peligrum

May
2021



A wary and alert Wilson's Snipe blends in amongst the plants © Andrew Liu

3/16/2021 Green Cay Wetlands

On the cover

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

by Juanita N. Baker, Ph.D.

Wilson's Snipe are so elusive that many practical jokes have been played on youth, leading them to go at night into the wilderness "Snipe Hunting" with instructions to crouch down and hold their bag to catch them as they are flushed their way. Duped again, holding the bag! Thus, the colloquial term, "Oh, that's a Snipe Hunt!" means that it is a fruitless direction or mission. Snipe exist! In fact, it's one of the most abundant shorebirds in North America! They lurk camouflaged amongst the reeds along mud shores. Excellent birders can also miss them. Yet, when a snipe fears a predator is near, they explode into the air with zigzag flight. Thus challenged, hunters favor hunting them—killing over 100,000 in the U.S. yearly.

Belonging to the family of sandpipers, they similarly have sensory pits near the tip of their unusually long beak. These pits help detect prey as they probe deep, moving their beak up and down in the mud like sewing machine needles. Their name "snipe" is derived from the Dutch term *Snip*—meaning movement of long needles in sewing. They thrust their beak into the mud, their tip uniquely openable, allowing them to slurp up snails, worms, and crustacea. It busies itself in search of crustaceans, often probing that so long beak into the mud, even up to its eyes, or deeper. Its eyes are set unusually back in its head, so that when dipping into the mud, they not only have side views but full vision behind and above allowing them to see any predators. With its sensitive beak tip, snipe systematically cover the fabric of soil.

With a long lens Andy Liu waited patiently. Despite being rarely seen, the snipe stepped from behind the curtain of reeds onto the mudflats stage revealing its marvelous costume of white-striped back feather pattern.

During the twilight hours of the evening and morning a strange drumming, haunting huh-huh-huh-huh sound (called winnowing) was heard by residents. Only later it was determined that most often on breeding grounds a snipe makes this drumming sound as it rattles its tail feathers together aided by the wind while diving towards the ground. Sometimes they start drumming to distract a threat. Such diverse characteristics, so cleverly evolved for its narrow wetland habitat!

Submit your photos to the Birds Need Plants Photo Contest

Visit PelicanIslandAudubon.org for all the details.

Morning Nature Walks

Watch for upcoming weekly "Morning Nature Walks from 8:30-10:00" to local town parks & nature areas of interest. Get your morning walk, explore habitats, and let's see what's there! Want to lead a group, (masks, social distancing), to your favorite spot? Let Pelican Island Audubon Society know! Email us at piaudubon@yahoo.com

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.

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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.

Audubon House

195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd.), Vero Beach

M - F | 9AM - 1PM

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

Phone: 772-567-3520

E-Mail: piaudubon@yahoo.com

Website:

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Thank you to everyone who donated to Pelican Island Audubon Society to support our many programs.

Native Plants For Sale

Large variety of native plants and trees for sale:

\$5 – 1 gallon/1 quart (or greater)

\$3 – 3-inch pots, anything under 1 quart

2 for \$3 – Plugs/2-inch pots

Order online at PelicanIslandAudubon.org



Creating a Humane Yard

Our grass turf lawns are causing Florida and the world a lot of trouble. In the U.S.:

- 64% of drinking water goes to irrigation (88% in summer)
- 800 million gals. of gas and oil for lawn equipment
- 41 billion lbs. carbon dioxide emitted from blowers & mowers
- 13 billion lbs. toxic & carcinogenic air pollutants
- 100 million lbs. pernicious lawn chemicals & fertilizers
- \$45 billion lawn care

But what about our friends, children, pets, and wildlife? What does it mean to be **Humane**? Some define it as exhibiting tenderness, compassion, and sympathy in a manner that causes the least harm to people or animals.

I would like to give a great shout out to the **Humane Society of the United States**, which is well known for protecting animals that share our homes and are a huge part of our lives, from pain, suffering, and neglect. In addition to this important mission, like Audubon, the Humane Society promotes and wants us to create humane backyards that protect our wildlife and, similar to our pets, also visit us and give us pleasure:

1. **Provide fresh water** year-round, like a birdbath or a small pond.
2. **Offer natural food sources:** native plants, bushes, and trees have fruit, seeds, and they draw insects for wildlife.
3. **Skip the lawn chemicals:** avoid using chemical-laden fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that are harmful not only to wildlife but to pets and children.
4. **Make your windows bird-safe** as 2 billion US birds fly into them and are killed annually.
5. **Shrink your lawn.** Plant native plants or stop mowing parts. This creates less work for you plus better habitat for wildlife.
6. **Build a brush pile** out of leaves, tree limbs, and other yard debris to provide extra shelter for wild animals. This recycling provides insects for birds and saves our landfills.
7. **Be a friend to bees.** These pollinators are vital to farms and gardens but are in serious decline. Put up little bee abodes. Nothing to fear. If you leave them alone, they will leave you alone.
8. **Put up a bat house.** Bats pollinate plants, disperse seeds, and eat insects. Thus, give them a safe place to roost.
9. **Make your swimming pool safe** for children as well as wildlife.
10. **Help out bugs (they are animals, too).** Insects make up 70 percent of the animal kingdom. Most of them are harmless, essential food for nestlings. Attract beneficial insects to your yard, garden, park, place of worship. Use eco- and animal friendly approaches to insect control.
11. **Keep cats inside** for their own safety as well as that of wildlife. Cats kill 2-4 billion birds every year!
12. **Change with the seasons;** keep your yard wildlife friendly as the seasons change.
13. **Find humane solutions to any wildlife problems.** Birds, bats, and squirrel's outdoors are great, but not so much in

our attic. Have effective, humane solutions to any wildlife problems you might encounter.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all followed these humane ways to create a **Humane Yard**? Unfortunately, many folks are not aware of how to adopt these Humane actions.

We definitely need to have new landscaping and tree ordinances in our county and cities to support this.

PIAS is working with others to bring Indian River County, Vero Beach, Fellsmere, and Sebastian landscape and tree ordinances up to aid nature.

To provide for a humane yard, the Florida Native Plant Society has created a model landscape ordinance intended to assist communities in developing local ordinances that will encourage use of native plants in the urban landscape, conserve water, and honor the natural heritage of Florida. Check out the Model Native Plant Landscape Ordinance Handbook: https://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/pubs/model_landscape_ord_final_022407.pdf. Changes include:

- For private property, the city or county shall require a minimum coverage of 80-90% native vegetation in all newly landscaped private areas.
- Require the property owners to remove any invasive plant and tree species that are deemed to be a public nuisance.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, or permanently damage any existing appropriate native tree that is four (4) caliper inches or larger without first obtaining a Tree Removal Permit from the appropriate local government. All existing appropriate native trees designated as remaining in their original placement as a part of the landscape plan shall be protected during construction and land clearing from permanent damage to any part of the tree. A landowner who removes any native tree species from a site shall replace that tree with a replacement tree or a number of replacement trees in sum that are equal to or greater to the diameter of the tree that was removed inch for inch.
- No permanently installed landscaping irrigation systems.
- Adapt the Gainesville Turf Swap Plan that compensates existing homeowners to remove turf grass to reduce water consumption.

In spite of all the political division, let's work to have a **Humane Yard** for us and all animals and plants to enjoy. Come to our Audubon House to get your Trees for Life/Plants for Birds! <https://pelicanislandaudubon.org/home-page/trees-for-life-plants-for-birds/>. Please join and/or support our efforts to get the above landscape and tree ordinances and Turf Swap Plan passed and enforced in your community. Let's manage storm and wastewater runoff and take individual actions that will reduce our climate change and biodiversity loss problems. We now risk losing up to 50% of all land-based species in this century.



Trees for Life/Plants for Birds

Select Plants and pay Online

pelicanislandaudubon.org/trees-for-life-plants-for-bird-purchase-form/

Schedule Pickup at the Audubon House

195 9th St SE. (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, FL 32962

Mask required.

Or: Call 772-567-3520 9 am-1 pm M-F & Request

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL: _____

\$5 x _____ = \$ _____

\$3 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Pay Via (CIRCLE ONE):

Credit Card Cash Check # _____

CC# _____

EXP _____ CCV _____

VISA/MC-3 digits on back / AMEX-4 digits on front

BILLING ZIP: _____

FREE PLANT

6-inch - FREE

FIREBUSH

\$5 - 1 gallon, 1.5 and 2.5 quart (Qt)

\$3 - 3-inch and 6-inch pots

#	size	VINES
	1GAL	Coral Honeysuckle
	1GAL	Cross Vine

#	size	FLOWERS/GROUND COVERS
	3-inch	Frogfruit
	3-inch	Sea-Purslane

#	size	PALM
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	1GAL	Cabbage Palm
\$5 - 1 gallon, 1.5 and 2.5 quart (Qt)		
\$3 - 3-inch and 6-inch pots		

#	size	FLOWERS
	6-inch	Blanket flower
	3-inch	Dune Sunflower
	1GAL	Horsemint
	6-inch	Lance-leaf Coreopsis
	3-inch	Leavenworth's Coreopsis
	3-inch	Stokes Aster
	3-inch	Tropical Salvia

#	size	SHRUBS
	1GAL	Beautyberry
	1.5 Qt	Coontie
	1GAL	Florida Privet
	1GAL	Seagrape
	1GAL	Shiny Leaf Coffee
	1.5 Qt	Simpson's stopper

FREE TREES

Sign "Trees for Life" form

1 gallon - FREE

	BALD CYPRESS
	MAHOGANY
	SOUTHERN LIVE OAK

TREES - 1-gallon pots - \$5

	BUTTONBUSH
	DAHOON HOLLY
	GALLBERRY/INKBERRY
	LONG-LEAF PINE
	MYRTLE OAK
	SALTBUSH/GROUNDSEL
	SAND LIVE OAK
	SAND PINE
	SLASH PINE
	WALTER'S VIBURNUM
	WAX MYRTLE

Pelican Island Refuge Highlight

National Wildlife Refuge | Florida

by Eddie Perri (Refuge Ranger) and Aleksandra Simmons (SCA Intern)



Honey Bee on
Prairie Fleabane
(*Erigeron strigosus*)

Photos by
Sandy Peterson/USFWS



Florida Grass Skipper on
Purple Thistle
(*Cirsium horridulum*)



Honey Bee on
Rose of Plymouth
(*Sabatia stellaris*)

Growing up we always heard the saying, “April showers bring May flowers,” and would repeat it word for word with a singsong effect as if reciting a nursery rhyme. That saying is true! A trip to Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will allow you to see these “May” flowers in full effect. Wildflowers of various shapes, sizes, and colors can be seen all over the Refuge this spring. Our trail system here at Pelican Island affords our guests an opportunity to see a wide variety as each trail travels through a different type of habitat. From the mangrove wetland trails filled with spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), sea oxeye daisy (*Borrchia frutescens*), and coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) to our freshwater and upland areas full of Rose of Plymouth (*Sabatia stellaris*) and prairie fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*). A walk on our trails here at Pelican Island this time of year may cause you to look down at the ground more than expected and you may notice that those April showers have brought more than just May flowers. As John Muir once wrote, “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” Oh boy is this true!! If you try to pick out a single rose of Plymouth bordering our Centennial trail you may find a small grass skipper (Family *Hesperiidae*), honey bee (*Apis sp.*), or maybe a cassius blue butterfly (*Leptotes cassius*) clinging on tight. The interconnectedness of nature is awe inspiring! It amazes and surprises us every day here at the Refuge and we invite you to let it do the same by taking a closer look at the changes that occur here as time goes by. We especially love spending time in the butterfly garden. The native plants donated by the Pelican Island Audubon house do a great job of leading us into a wild garden full of winding paths; a different perspective at every turn. Take some time to look a little closer and see these connections John Muir was speaking of. Hopefully they amaze and surprise you, too.

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Summer Adventure Camp 2021

Give your child a summer of outdoor adventure, exploration, and education.

Activities include: kayaking, wildlife & plant identification, outdoor adventures, hiking, science education, and more! Your child does NOT need to know how to swim.

Session 1	(Ages 10 to 17)	June 7th - 11th
Session 2	(Ages 10 to 17)	June 14th - 18th
Session 3	(Ages 10 to 17)	June 21st - 25th
Session 4	(Ages 10 to 17)	July 26th - 30th

- **Programs run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m**
- **Before & aftercare are available for an additional fee of \$20 per day**
- **Camp is held at Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd)**

Special: 2020-2021 Audubon Advocates only \$100 per week!

Camp cost is \$200 per week; sibling and/or additional weeks are \$185. Space is not guaranteed until full payment is made and confirmation is received. Limited scholarships are available. Please contact the Audubon office at 772-567-3520. Space is limited to twelve children per session.

More info plus register online at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Volunteers Needed!

Visit

PelicanIslandAudubon.org to view the list of volunteer positions. Fill out the form online and let us know what you are interested in.

Working together we can do great things for the environment!

Volunteer opportunities include:

- #1 - Office help, Newsletter: fold, stuff envelopes,
- #2 - Pullers: Join the potato pullers: (invasive species)
- #3 - Audubon House Maintenance- classroom, bathrooms, breezeway
- #4 - Landscaping, Nursery, Trees for Life Project, repotting plants
- #5 - Field Trip Leader
- #6 - Fundraising, Grant Writing
- #7 - Publicity
- #8 - Trail Maintenance

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Our Peligram newsletter reaches over 900 people! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to reach a whole new audience at the rates quoted below.

Advertising Rates Per Issue

Business Card Size (3.5"x2") = \$30

1/4 page (3.75"x2.5") = \$85

Half page (7.5"x5") = \$165

Full page (7.5"x10") = \$330

Special discount: Less 5% for nine issues

Contact Information

Office: 772-567-3520

Email: piaudubon@yahoo.com

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Quenching a thirst

by Linda Chancellor

I have planted many non-native plants in my yard that I had chosen for their flowers, fragrance or visual appeal. I had not considered if they provided a benefit for birds and other wildlife. One morning I was surprised to see a mockingbird fly into the center of my White Bird of Paradise plant and land on one of the beautiful large flowers. He perched on the lower part of the flower which is shaped like a shallow boat. He lowered his bill into this area, lifted his head to swallow and then repeated the process several times. I thought maybe the flower held water but it had not rained for weeks. It occurred to me that on two other occasions I had spotted a squirrel and a red-bellied woodpecker doing the same thing.

I was curious to learn more about these unique flowers. The flowers arise from the axils of the large green leaves that grown on opposite sides of the 15 to 20 foot stalks. These large flowers are composed of several parts. The lower boat shaped part, of the flower, is the bract and the color is a blend of dark purple and blue. When the bract pops open one blue and several white inflorescences rise up and these resemble the feathers of a bird. Inside each of these inflorescences are the true tiny flowers of this giant of a plant. A clear nectar is found inside the bract which sometimes spills out and runs down the side of the flower. This nectar appeals to some birds and insects. According to the Audubon Guide at least fifty-three North American birds drink nectar. These include hummingbirds, orioles, mockingbirds, grosbeaks, tanagers and several warblers. This nectar must quench my mockingbird's thirst for he frequently visits the flowers.

Field Trip -May 4 – Tuesday – 7:00AM Three Lakes Wildlife Management

Area – Guide: Ricky Ray – Meet at 7AM at the Knights Inn Vero Beach West, 8800 20th St. (Rt. 60). We won't carpool. We'll meet there so people can follow us to Three Lake in case they are uncertain of the location. Much of the birding will be from our cars but we plan to hike approximately three to five miles along an oak hammock trail to Lake Marian and back. Birds of interest are Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, various waterbirds, Snail Kite, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Return time to Vero about 2:00 pm. – Registration required at

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

More Trees for Life/Plants for Birds Available thanks to our fantastic volunteers!

We have amazing volunteers who come out Sundays, Wednesday, or Fridays from 9 am-noon to enjoy the fun of gardening, watering and potting plants: Barbara Riebe, Ed McCool, Steve Palmquist, Ricky Ray, Hadi Shalhoub, Rondalyn Reeser, Vin Gemmiti, Kathy Cunningham, Sandy Perri, and others. They help prepare plants we have given away or sold, now over 7,200 native plants and trees. You can come these times to pick up a free tree (Southern Live Oak, Mahogany, Bald Cypress) and for \$5 a pot of Buttonbush, Dahoon Holly, Gallberry/Inkberry, Long-leaf Pine, Myrtle Oak, Saltbush, Sand Live Oak, Sand Pine, Slash Pine, Walter's Viburnum, Wax Myrtle, and many other native vines, flowers, ground covers, palms, shrubs. These will all help restore our natural environment and wildlife, essential for our enjoyment and survival. View what is available at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org



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May 17, 2021 7:00 PM General Meeting on Zoom: OSPREYS 2021 – The Revival of a Global Raptor with Dr. Alan Poole, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Pelican Island Audubon's May 17, 2021 general meeting starting at 7:00PM on Zoom features Osprey researcher Dr. Alan Poole giving an update on the status of the Fish Hawk around the world. The past 50 years have seen an extraordinary resurgence in Osprey numbers globally -- from Florida to Scotland and from Finland to Australia. This good-news story has been triggered not just by cleaner waters and less contaminated fish, but also by greening cultures -- dedicated groups of people who have built and protected nest sites for Ospreys and have brought the species back to regions where it has been missing for decades. Alan Poole, author of a recently published book on the species (*Ospreys: the revival of a global raptor*; Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2019), will lead us through this story with dazzling looks at some of the places where Ospreys are found, and with introductions to a few of the colorful characters who have helped make this Osprey revival possible. Part travelogue, part biography, part scientific detective story: this talk will bring us up to date on one our best-loved birds of prey.



Osprey photo © Bob Montanaro

ALAN POOLE, an Associate of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, was editor of the *Birds of North America* life history series (18 volumes, 18,000 pages) for 22 years. He lives along the Osprey-rich coast of southeastern Massachusetts, has been studying Ospreys for over 35 years, and has written two books on the species.

Register at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Wills and Living Trusts

Many people like to leave a gift to charity in their will or revocable trust, because it is a way to plan for a significant contribution, even if you feel that the time is not right for one today. A charitable gift through your will or trust can factor in your current lifestyle and commitments, and at the same time, ensure future support for Pelican Island Audubon and the birds you value.

Including a Bequest in Your Will or Trust

The language below provides a template for including a gift to Pelican Island Audubon in your will. Please contact Pelican Island Audubon for more information. You may also wish to consult with your attorney.

How to Say It

I bequeath _____
(*dollar amount or percent of estate*) to the Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with its principal offices located at 195 9th Street SE (Oslo Road), Vero Beach, FL 32961, for its ongoing environmental conservation and education purposes.
Tax ID# 59-6197617.

Go Green!

Members may sign up to have the Peligram emailed to them. Saves postage and paper. Email piaudubon@yahoo.com with your name & email address with "Peligram" in the subject line.



Pelican Island Audubon Society Membership Form

_____	Enclosed is my:
NAME	\$_____ \$25 for annual membership
_____	\$_____ \$30 for family membership
ADDRESS	\$_____ \$100 Scrub-Jay sustaining membership
_____	\$_____ \$200 Osprey sustaining membership
_____	\$_____ contribution
CITY, STATE ZIP	\$_____ TOTAL
_____	Please mail this completed form with a check made out to:
E-MAIL	Pelican Island Audubon Society
	P.O. Box 1833
	Vero Beach, FL 32961
	Or join online using a credit card at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org