



Peligrum

June
2024



Protect Insects, Protect Birds World Migratory Bird Day 2024

Loggerhead Shrikes by Bob Montanaro

Insects, the most diverse group of organisms on the planet, are crucial to the food web. They are not only the primary food source for a large majority of bird species around the world, but they also support other species of plants and animals. For birds that depend primarily on insects as their main food source, the ebb and flow of insect populations can greatly affect the timing, duration, and success of their migration. In fact, the timing of migration is highly dependent on when food resources, like insects, will be abundant for birds to replenish their energy reserves at stopover locations in grasslands, forests, and wetlands, along their migratory journeys.

All around the globe, insect populations appear to be declining at unprecedented rates, which can directly threaten birds and their ability to migrate, breed, and produce young. This World Migratory Bird Day, our goal is to increase awareness about the importance of insects as essential energy sources for birds, and support ways to conserve both insects and birds. (USFWS)

Upcoming Meetings, Events & Field Trips

Field Trips are space limited & require registration in advance. For more details & to register please visit PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Save the Date - Daytona Van Excursion Day Trip

Visit the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona for the John James Audubon and Clyde Butcher exhibits. Date to be announced.



John James Audubon's Birds of America was a monumental achievement of both art and ornithology. His collection of 435 prints and accompanying field notes changed the way people saw and understood bird life. A major portion of this production was Audubon's six-month expedition to Florida in 1831-32. Audubon collected and painted 36 bird species and observed and wrote about 50 more during his time in Florida. Hyatt and Cici Brown have collected over 75 original Havell prints from Birds of America, which have a Florida connection. This exhibit and accompanying catalog will display these historic prints and tell the story of his Florida expedition, where he traveled, what he observed, and what he painted. The exhibit and book will also examine how Audubon's work inspired the modern conservation movement and remains relevant today.

Visions of Florida: The Photographic Art of Clyde Butcher



Discover an undisturbed paradise that is rapidly disappearing. Through the eyes of one of America's finest landscape photographers, journey into the realm of natural Florida - a world seldom seen either by tourists or longtime residents.

Visions of Florida features the art of a photographer often called the "Ansel Adams of Florida." Clyde Butcher hopes that his large-format, black and white photography of Florida's natural landscapes will change the way people think of Florida. Just as Adams' work did for California and the American West.

Now Registering for Summer Adventure Camp at Audubon House



Pelican Island Audubon Society is offering weekly science-based summer camps for students entering 5th through 8th grades. Give your child a summer of outdoor adventure, exploration, and education. Sign up for Pelican Island Audubon Summer Adventure Camps in June and July.

Activities include kayaking, birdwatching, wildlife & plant identification, hiking, science education, and more!

Learn more & register at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Pelican Island Audubon is now on its summer schedule. General meetings in Sebastian & Vero Beach will resume in October 2024. The next Peligram will be released in September 2024. Audubon House will be open its regular hours, M-F from 9AM-1PM, including for plant sales, W-F-Sun 9AM-11AM, all summer.

Have A Great Summer!



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.

Executive Director **Donna Halleran**
Environmental Educator **Jennifer Satterly**
Office Manager **Bob Montanaro**

Officers & Directors

Officers

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Ricky Ray '25
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Appointed Board Members:
Nathan Burkett-Cadena, Ph.D.
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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

Happy Earth and Arbor Day: We Have A Water Shortage! City of Vero Beach Requests Not Watering Lawns on a Weekend.

My Hoot



Thank you, Sebastian Natural Resources Board, for your Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20th at Riverview Park. Our great non-profits and organizations, beautiful art exhibits, fun kids' activities, special live musicians, and wonderful speakers were there to entertain us. We gave away 87 free Southern Live Oaks, Mahogany, and Bald Cypress trees so we can increase native habitats for our precious Florida wildlife species.

The City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department recently put out

the following message to Vero Beach residents about high drinking-water demands for watering their lawns:

Dear residents of Vero Beach,

We hope this message finds you well. The City of Vero Beach has been experiencing high water demand due to irrigation, which has put a strain on our water supply.

In order to ensure sustainable water usage and maintain adequate supply, we have implemented water conservation measures.

Effective immediately, we kindly request that our valued customers who are irrigating using potable water refrain from doing so over the upcoming weekend (4/19/2024 - 4/22/2024). By conserving water during this period, we can collectively contribute to the preservation of our precious water resources.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Let's work together to keep Vero Beach thriving while being mindful of our environment.

Best regards,

The City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department
If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department at 772-978-5220 or wsadmin@covb.org

Aquifers across the world and in the US are being sucked dry by humans. Florida has lots of water surrounding it, but it is salty. The Floridan aquifer is the source of 90% of Florida's drinking water and for most of Florida's springs. It is being depleted as water demand from urban areas continually increase taking too much water from the aquifer. Since 1940 when Florida's population was around two million, it is now about 22 million and expected to increase over 26 million in the next 20 years.

Unfortunately, 66% of our drinking water in Florida is going on our lawns! This rises to 88% in the summer! We depend on the non-salty aquifer to give us drinking water and water for our crops. We can't eat turfgrass, but we grow 3 times more of it than corn. Lawn grass is non-native to Florida and is helping to suck our aquifer dry. In this last month of drought, aquifer water is dwindling with the increased use and with more lawns being planted. Although the Floridan aquifer averages 1,000 feet thick and the freshwater can extend to a depth of 2,000 feet below the land surface, too many people are taking too much water from the aquifer to water their lawns.

Turfgrass has two-inch deep roots that need frequent watering because evaporation depletes water in the top 2 in. of our lawns. However, native Florida plants have around 12 inch roots that allow them to continue to use deeper moist earth and survive periods of drought.

Besides this reason for planting native plants instead of turfgrass, local native plants provide food for our local birds, butterflies, and bees that have not evolved to eat exotic plants that are poisonous to some of them. Yet nature is an integrated system, working together. Each species contributes to the ecosystem balance. Our birds depend upon the insects for food. The native plants depend upon the insects and birds for pollination. **Thus, the best solution to support nature is by reducing turfgrasses and planting native plants and trees that do not require so much of our drinking water.** Come get native plants at our Audubon House nursery Sundays, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-11 am. Southern Live Oaks, Mahogany, and Bald Cypress trees are free.

We Have A Fungus Among Us! MRC showed a mangrove fungal pathogen afflicting Florida's mangroves.

by Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

The Marine Resources Council (MRC) operates Florida's largest state-licensed mangrove nursery, housing over 9,000 mangroves of all three native species. The MRC is committed to planting mangroves in our Lagoon. Mangroves are essential to protecting Florida's coasts from hurricane erosion and damage to all habitat and buildings behind it. Audubon House was spared as the mangroves along the Lagoon and large Oak and Pine forests were intact, protecting us.

However, at the MRC's Earth Day educational booth, they showed Red, White, and Black Mangrove leaves having a fungus that recent studies have revealed may turn harmful under specific conditions and become pathogens. These cause leaf curling, leaf drop, and

stem canker. Photos showed some of their dead and dying mangroves in pots. These fungal diseases occur worldwide. Widespread infection from airborne pathogens have been found which may also spread through the water in our Indian River Lagoon. MRC is working with Melissa M. Deinys of the Santra Group, University of Central Florida and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami to investigate and identified the fungal pathogens affecting MRC's mangroves. Together they are working on developing an environmentally safe compound that is better than commercial fungicides to stop the killing of the mangroves.

Scientific Research is needed to protect and save our mangrove nurseries and protect our coastal mangroves in Florida, which protect us against extreme

weather and disasters, provide habitat for threatened animals, and absorb CO2 to reduce climate change.

For more information or to report infected mangroves, please contact mangroveprotection@outlook.com.



Mosquitoes, Oh My!!

by Donna Halleran,
Executive Director

&
Lauren Reeves,
Environmental Educator



Last month, Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory worked with the Audubon Advocates to teach them about the importance of mosquitoes and the stages of their life cycle. The Advocates collected aquatic larvae and pupae of the mosquito genus *Wyeomyia* from nearby bromeliads. While *Wyeomyia* do bite humans, they are not vectors for any of the mosquito-borne diseases that affect humans. The adults can be identified by the unique posture of their hind legs.

During the collection, the students find themselves empathizing and taking regard for the wellbeing of the tiny animals swimming around in the test tubes. The same animal that they would usually be compelled to slap and kill now becomes their muse. While observing the larvae under the microscopes, the students are astounded by the other-worldly appearance of the larvae and pupae.

Earlier in the month, we were educated by renowned local artist Lou Mullan who instructed the students how to draw and sketch a bird and a self-portrait. Placing themselves as part of the environment in their completed art work. Being able to draw is an important skill for any scientist. Audubon Advocates further develop their observation skills through this training. We encourage the students to tell their own stories and through, photography, writing, and sketching.

More recently, the Audubon Advocates have been exploring Round Island and learning all about the importance and uniqueness of the lagoon's ecology. The students are charmed by the many aquatic and terrestrial crabs that can be observed along the shoreline.

June is coming and the Audubon Advocates graduated; May 6-9th. The students presented what they learned during the 14-week program. We want to thank the grantors, sponsors, funders, and all those who have supported the Audubon Advocate Program- Environmental Science Outdoor Afterschool program for the last nine years, serving over 900 students!! With the end of the school season we said farewell and good luck to Lauren Reeves as she is off to study clownfish.



Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena teaches the Advocates about mosquitoes.



The Advocates explore Round Island.

After leaving the Audubon House before sunrise we ventured to meet up with other members in West Vero Beach. I was anxiously excited to experience lunch at Coffee n' Cream in the lovely town of Micanopy. (Recommended by our Gainesville Guide and friend – Alice). The menu was extensive with great choices of the day and some of their regular choices of Frito Pie – a taco salad with Fritos! I had their award-winning Chicken Salad sandwich on rye. Others found delicious other choices, no complaints, just happy bellies.

Micanopy is pronounced as if it were spelled mick-a-no-pee with the accent on the third syllable. Micanopy is a town in Alachua County, Florida. It is south of Gainesville. As of 2004, the population according to the U.S. Census Bureau was 652, and it currently isn't much more. The old town of Micanopy is a historic district, and contains a number of antique stores, book stores and great little funky stores. Several of us came home with yard decorations! We hadn't even gotten to our first birding site and everyone was getting excited.

Meeting up with our Bird Guide and friend of Bill Loftus; Alice met us at Paynes Prairie Visitor Center, spending time at the Observation Tower – overlooking the prairie, catching site of the Whooping Crane, wild horses, bison, and other birds. Several of us walked the Bolen Bluff Trail – a pine needle shady trail. Summer Tanagers entertained us for 10-15 minutes. See all the species on ebird. The elusive white-eyed vireo(s) was heard but we couldn't find them in the heavy canopy.

Several of the group descended to the sunny trail and observation platforms with sweeping vistas.

Satchel's Pizza was our next experience with delicious handmade unique pizzas and Satch salads, complimented with homemade sodas, brews and ales. Satchel's Pizza is a destination worthy of a lone trip!!! The recycled bohemian oddities on the walls, ceiling, yard, doors, and airplane cause you wandering longer than you expect. i.e. Chinese Checker sets on bathroom ceilings, hair rollers as garland, cell phone covers as outdoor wall, gadgets as mosaic-frames, ceramic tiles galore!

As we enjoyed wandering at Satchel's after our meal, we decided to go right to the University of Florida (UF) Bat Houses for the evening emergence happening 15-20 minutes after sunset. Imagine watching 450,000-500,000 bats on their nightly consumption of 2.5 billion insects (more than 2,500 lbs.) flying up to 60 miles per hour, as visitors watch in awe. The houses are located on the north side of Museum Road across from Lake Alice on the UF campus.

Time to settle in and put up our tired legs, for the evening at the Hampton Inn, Gainesville and prepare the next day outings.

After a delicious spread of breakfast-choices our group loaded up and went to Sweetwater Wetlands Park to go birding with leader, Debbie Segal; President of the Alachua Audubon Society Chapter. (Alachua Audubon Society leads a weekly birding tour every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at Sweetwater).

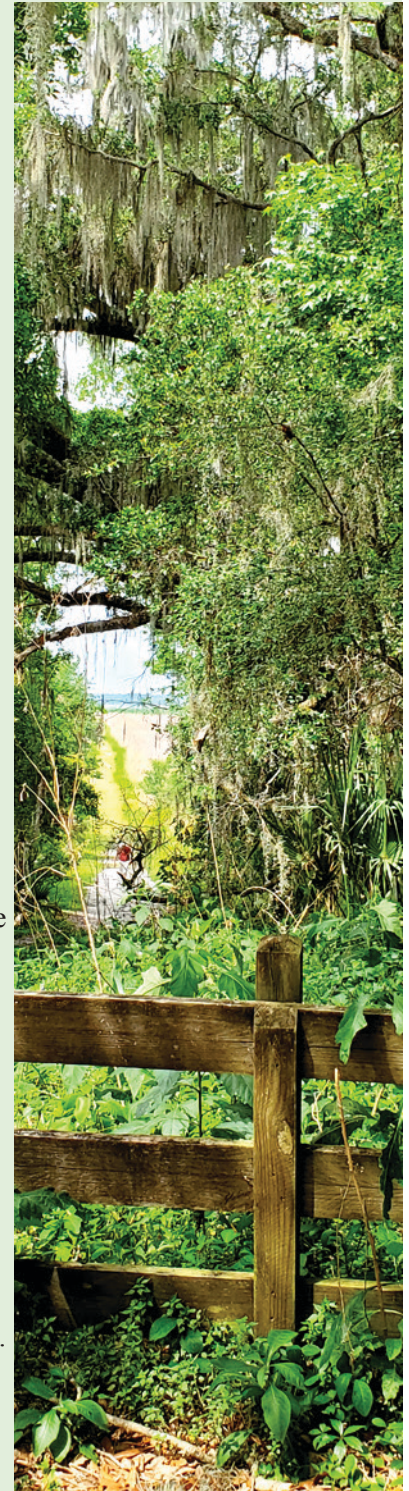
Debbie Segal, introduced herself and gave an overview of what we may see, and what birds were noted in the past week. Learning that King Rails had a couple babies walking around, the day before, but unfortunately we didn't see them.

Sweetwater Wetlands were built to remove nutrients, sediment, and trash from the creek. Water flows through 125 acres of treatment wetlands and then into Paynes Prairie and the aquifer. After walking Wetland Cell 2 and part of Cell 1, with the day heating up, the fourteen of us headed to lunch at Chop Stik, and had a lovely lunch on the veranda.

A vote was taken, and we spontaneously took a side trip to the Butterfly rainforest at the Florida Museum. After many ohhs, and ahhs, we proceeded to our last destination: The La Chua Trail – with an elevated boardwalk winds around Alachua Sink. Leads to sunny grassy trail through basin march overlooking Alachua Lake. Through the thick cool canopy we were able to photograph – The White-eyed Vireo!! Followed by many, many alligators up close and personal. After the excursion we arrived back at the Audubon House at 8:30 p.m. with pleasant and satisfied members. If this sounds like something you may enjoy, please look out for other day and overnight van excursions. The cost covers the cost of gas and helps towards the insurance needed to provide these memorable experiences.

Pelican Island Audubon Society's Overnight Van Excursion to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and Sweetwater Wetlands Park in Alachua County

by
Donna Halleran
Executive Director



"The Sky's the Limit" Bird Art Winners

Richard Baker, Ph.D. Chair and Juanita Baker, Birder in Chief

Many thanks to Katherine Larson, her staff Mary O'Neal and Carl Uttaro, of Isola Arts for partnering with PIAS staff and many volunteers at the Audubon House on May 4th and 5th for our First Annual Juried Bird Art Show and Art Fair in Vero Beach. Outdoor booths with their unique, artwork, nature and bird crafts, jewelry and fine arts were for sale ranging from cute to exquisite.

Specially appreciated and a big THANK YOU to the 25 accomplished, talented artists who submitted 68 incredible, beautiful, and unique works of Bird Art to our juried show in five categories: Photography, Oil, Acrylic, Sculpture, Mixed Media including watercolor, pastel, and also lino print. The artists also all contributed 20% of their profits to Pelican Island Audubon. Very generous!

Congratulations to the artists who were recognized as winners given at the reception were:

Photography

Dale Erickson

1st Place
To the nest


2nd Place
The Arrival



Photography

Dawn Currie

3rd Place
Barn Owl



Photography

Michele Loftus-Trzcinski

4th Place
Family



3-D Artwork

Cathy Ferrell

1st Place
Sandhill Crane Chicks


2nd Place
Skimming the Treetops



3-D Artwork

Brent Greene

4th Place
Whyatt



Watercolor, Pastel, & Mixed Media

Katherine Larson


1st Place
Cactus Wren



Watercolor, Pastel, & Mixed Media

John Davis

2nd Place
Sand Hill Crane Dance
[Linotype]



Continued on next page . . .



**Watercolor,
Pastel, &
Mixed Media**

Lana McLeod

3rd Place
Putting On
My Flair



**Watercolor,
Pastel, &
Mixed Media**

Dorothy
Buchmand

4th Place
Sun-dried
Anhinga



Oil Painting

Katherine
Larson

1st Place
I saw it in a
dream!



Oil Painting

Scott
Woodward

2nd Place
Osceola
Gobbler



Oil Painting

Joyce Clamp

3rd Place
Big Blue At Rest



Oil Painting

Mary Brandt

4th Place
Eleven
Pipers Piping



**Acrylic
Painting**

Jill Kettler

1st Place
Eagle Watch
& Eagle Nest
Watching



Acrylic Painting

Jennifer Johnson

2nd Place
Mockingbird Garden



**Acrylic
Painting**

Sandy
Johnson

3rd Place
A Touch Of
Pink



Acrylic Painting

Vivana Molindies

4th Place
Wood Stork Of Micco



EXTINCTION: DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE EARTH IS FINAL

By R. Grant Gilmore, Jr., Ph.D.

The movie “Jurassic Park” makes us think we can bring back long-extinct organisms, but we can’t. It is only an imaginary movie that effectively and realistically introduces you to amazing animals never to walk

the earth again. Even if you brought them back you would need the ecosystem: the climate, plants, fungi, bacteria and other organisms that they evolved with to keep them alive. When a unique organism disappears from the earth it is gone forever.

A few decades ago we lost a bird unique to our part of Florida, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow (read a “Shadow and a Song: The Struggle to Save an Endangered Species” by Mark Jerome Walters, 1995). I was fortunate to have seen this bird before its extinction and had as a good friend, Dr. Herb Kale, who studied the sparrow. Herb was one of the endearing presidents of the Pelican Island Audubon Society. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow disappeared along with the unique ecosystem that supported it, the east Florida “high” marsh that was so effectively defined years ago by all the researchers at the Florida Medical Entomological Laboratory (Dr. Maurice Provost, Dr. Robert Harrington, Dr. Kale, William Bidlingmeyer, James Haeger, Larry Weber, and others). The high marsh was mostly an open savannah consisting of meadows of herbaceous succulents, Saltwort and Glasswort, and wetland grasses such as Saltgrass with interspersed stately Black Mangroves and an occasional thicket of White Mangroves. Red Mangroves that dominate today’s Lagoon wetlands were NOT major contributors to the original Lagoon wetlands and not capable of supporting Dusky Seaside Sparrows. Cordgrass and Spikerush that can dominate other wetlands throughout Florida were also strikingly absent from Lagoon wetlands.

When impounded and flooded for mosquito control, that native high-marsh savannah disappeared. Gone with it were not only the Dusky Seaside Sparrows, but the increased water levels, lower salinities and a warmer climate allowed the rapid incursion of Red Mangroves over the entire high marsh. The Red Mangrove succession eliminated an iconic fish, the Sheepshead Minnow, that was the primary prey of the huge flocks of wading birds that fed on high-marsh fishes scattered across the open savannah. The Sheepshead Minnow does not live in dense Red Mangrove forests that dominate the Lagoon south of Cape Canaveral today. So, the huge flocks of wading birds that fed in the original high-marsh ecosystem have also disappeared.

We routinely see birds and terrestrial plants. So, we know when they disappear. But, what about aquatic creatures that live below the water’s surface: “out of sight, therefore, out of mind?” My profession for the past 50+ years was to determine which fishes lived below the water’s surface in the tropical Western Atlantic. This included habitats from Florida rivers down to ocean depths of 3,000 ft. My research included determining what their habitat and ecology was like, where and how they lived, reproduced and what they ate. It was not dull because there were hundreds of interesting fish species to study. My team and I captured over 120 new fish species that no human had seen before. Some of these new species were from the Indian River Lagoon. The Lagoon, its flora and fauna were unique in many ways.

Today I am soliciting the aid of the Pelican Island Audubon Society membership to help protect from extinction several tropical freshwater fishes whose numbers have been declining as their habitat disappears due to human activities. They are small tropical fishes that are only found perennially reproducing in freshwater streams and canals that are warm even in winter, from Dade to southern Brevard Counties. You likely drive by them daily in your car as they live in Indian River County canals and the St. Sebastian River. These 16 unique fishes: the Opossum Pipefish, Bigmouth Sleeper, Spinycheek Sleepers, River Goby, Slashcheek Goby, Blotchcheek Goby, Lyre Goby, Crested Goby, Violet Goby, Mountain Mullet, Swordspine Snook, Fat Snook, Burrow Grunt, and Whitemouth Croaker, reproduce locally in our warm freshwaters. In most cases they do not reproduce anywhere else in the United States. Unfortunately, as their habitats have been degraded, our local populations have declined over the past few decades.

All the interested environmental groups along the Indian River Lagoon are pooling their resources to help protect these species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be the federal entity to receive the petition and will have the responsibility to list them as threatened or endangered. These interested groups met to learn how to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list these fish as endangered in the PIAS Audubon House in February.

Why are the fishes endangered? Regional freshwater ecosystems have been taking a great beating lately from a wide variety of human activities. Poor watershed-management practices including small dams, badly designed culverts and water-control structures diminish the available habitat for the fishes. The ubiquitous use of pesticides and herbicides that inadvertently end up in drainage ditches and canals throughout our region of Florida create toxic water. Water quality declines precipitate toxic cyanobacteria blooms, such as *Microcystis*. Toxic water also kills seagrass and the good algae that not only keep the creatures of the Indian River Lagoon healthy and prosperous, but also affects human health. Atmospheric gas released by *Microcystis* bacteria can be harmful to humans and their pets. You do not have to eat the fish to be affected. Our fish have no choice but to “breathe” in toxic water.

I routinely observe federally protected wading birds feeding on fishes in our local canals and streams. What effect does toxic water have on their health?

If we list our unique local aquatic freshwater animals as “Endangered” it should bring attention to the need to improve freshwater water quality and protect aquatic habitat. Freshwater flows to the Lagoon and affects valuable organisms there: seagrass, sea turtles, manatees and dolphins, our saltwater fisheries and ultimately birds and us!



Poison in the Indian River Lagoon:

Immediate treatment is needed or the patient will die

by Michael Walther, M.S., P.E.



Article 1 – Overview:

Healthy blood is critical to sustaining every organ of our bodies, just as healthy water similarly sustains all life on Earth -- including within and around the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).

Blood delivers oxygen, nutrients and hormones throughout our body while removing carbon dioxide and other waste products. Blood poisoning occurs when bacteria, viruses or fungi get into the

bloodstream and, if left untreated, can lead to sepsis, resulting in organ failure and death in as little as 12 hours from the earliest signs of infection.

Comparably, water might be characterized as the blood of the Earth, where water is essential for all life. Water dissolves nutrients to enable vital chemical reactions in animals, plants, and microorganism dependent on healthy water to survive. The waters of the IRL – as a medium for the functional exchange of oxygen and nutrients - support life in the Lagoon. As blood poisoning can result in our death, excessive pollutants, like poisons in our bodies, can lead to the death of our Lagoon.

The Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) characterizes “Monitoring conditions in the Lagoon is equivalent to what doctors do for patients. They use the information they get from their monitors to determine what is wrong with a patient and ensure that whatever they are doing makes the patient better and not worse.” Unfortunately, few water-quality monitoring locations exist in Indian River

County (IRC), and even where sampled, data are commonly limited to weekly or monthly sampling that does not capture highly variable spatial and temporal conditions. As a result, monitoring provides strong indicators of the poisons within the Lagoon – sufficient to treat known sources – but a much greater effort is needed to ensure restoration and survival of the Lagoon.

In a series of articles to follow, we’ll explore:

- Article 2 – Indian River County Water Resources
- Article 3 – Poisons in the Lagoon
- Article 4 – Organ Failure is Imminent
- Article 5 – Abbreviated History of Public Action
- Article 6 – Immediate Action needed to save the Lagoon

This series is intended to raise awareness of (a) the Lagoon’s condition as a threat to all Indian River County residents, and (b) the need for public funding to undertake all the efforts needed to preserve our quality of life, our economy and the associated property values that depend on a healthy Lagoon.



Pelican Island Audubon Welcomes Our New Environmental Educator

We’re delighted to introduce **Jennifer Satterly** as the newest member of our team at Pelican Island Audubon Society!

She will be joining us as the Environmental Educator, and we couldn’t be more thrilled to have her on board. Jen comes with an immense amount of environment and nature education experience. Jen will be an inspiring educator for our Superior Outdoor Science Nature Outdoor Afterschool program – Audubon Advocates, and will begin by teaching the Nature Summer Camps.

June 17-23, 2024

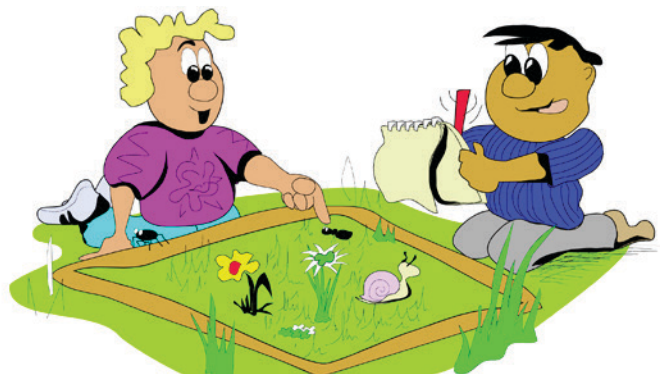


pollinator.org

RiverkidZ Nature Club- Under Construction

RiverkidZ is in the process of rebranding and coming up with opportunities for more kidZ to participate, in environmental learning activities, leadership building, field trip excursions, and activism.

Please. Keep your eye out for a list of new exciting activities you will want to get involved in August, 2024.





BABY OWL SHOWER

Each year Audubon hosts a Baby Owl Shower to raise funds and offset increased costs incurred during baby season. Please consider making a donation of 2024 wish list items to help our feathered friends in need.

Eco-friendly items are appreciated (i.e. green cleaning products, etc.)

EVERYDAY ITEMS

- Cases Of Paper Towels
- Dawn Brand Dishwashing Liquid
- Bleach
- Outdoor Decking Screws (various sizes, star bit)
- Scotch-Brite Heavy Duty Scrub
- Sponges
- Toilet Paper
- 33-Gallon Trash Bags
- Lysol Brand Wipes

EQUIPMENT

- Plastic Astroturf Door Mats
- Roofing Nails
- Commercial Rubber Garden Hose
- Sisal Rope 3/8" And 1/2"
- Duct Tape

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Zip Ties
- Latex Gloves (Small And Medium)
- 4" By 4" Gauze Squares
- Black Electrical Tape
- 70% Rubbing Alcohol

EDUCATION

- Owl Pellets
- 8" by 10" Canvas Packs
- Kid-Sized Nitrile Gloves
- Tissue Paper (Colorful)
- Disposable Table Cloths
- Glue Dots
- Fabric Paints (New)
- Watercolor Sets (New)
- Compostable Plates And Bowls

GIFT CARDS

Gift cards are useful for buying supplies throughout the year. We most appreciate gift cards from the following stores:

- Amazon
- Lowe's
- Ace Hardware
- Walgreens
- Home Depot
- Staples
- Skulls Unlimited
- Michael's
- Walmart

About the Audubon Center For Birds Of Prey: Located in the city of Maitland and the Town of Eatonville, this urban environmental Audubon Center focuses on the rescue, medical treatment, rehabilitation and release of Florida's raptors.

Learn more at <https://cbop.audubon.org>

Other items are available on our Amazon Wish List:

<https://a.co/eVay3Nh>



Looking up

by

Linda Chancellor



Great Crested Flycatcher by Bob Montanaro

It was around 7:30 am when I heard the shrill, sharp whee-eeep whee-eeep call. I recognized it as the sound a Crested Flycatcher makes. Such a distinct sound that is definitely not a song. I heard him again and tried to spot him through my back porch screen door. There he was perched on one of the bare branches of the Gumbo Limbo tree. His long tail bobbed up and down when he repeated his shrill call. Then to my surprise another crested flycatcher flew in and perched on a branch close to the first bird. I watched as they would lift up, hover, snatch something and then return to their perch. The next few mornings, around the same time, I heard their call again. I had to lean my head way back to search the branches of the Gumbo Limbo and sometimes I never could spot them. Then one very overcast morning I heard the call again and so with head bent back I searched the Gumbo Limbo again. I located him but then he flew out of my line of sight. I scanned the branches again and spotted him perched on a very low limb right where I could easily view him from below. Now I could clearly see the lemon yellow feathers on his breast and one white wing bar on his dark wing. He bent his head and I could see his gray crest. I could even see the whiskers that surrounded his long narrow beak. After he flew I decided that for the next several mornings I would get up around the same time again and listen for his call.

FYI – The little whiskers are called rictal bristles. When birds are gleaning for insects it is thought that these bristles might help the bird control its orientation and its speed while in the air. In the Spring issue of the Audubon magazine there was an article on tips on identifying Flycatchers. It explained the reason behind the strange call of most flycatchers is that the muscles that control their syrinx, the sound producing organ, are simpler than those in songbirds. They may not be physically capable of producing songs.

Monarchs and Native Florida Milkweeds

by Donna Halleran, Executive Director

Most everyone I know love butterflies. The monarch is a favorite of many people. They have a need to be cared for as their story is incredible. It takes four generations of monarchs to make its' annual migration from Mexico to the North American Border.

Every Fall, millions of monarchs will leave their northern homes and start a 3,000-mile journey to their overwintering sites in central Mexico.

The super monarchs are twice the size of a regular monarch butterfly that do the annual return trip, and can live up to seven months. They fly very high in the sky, up to a mile, and can smell the nectar flowers they need to refuel every day.

After overwintering in Mexico, they look for a mate, while looking for milkweed to lay their eggs then die. On average monarch butterflies only live two to five weeks, while traveling north they follow the native milkweed in bloom. They are always on the move.

Our Florida monarchs, are also on the move, passing through to their summer and winter places. There are many native milkweeds for them to feast on, however; Tropical milkweed has been introduced and blooms year-round, creating a place to stay year-round. Unfortunately, many of these monarchs that stay and feast on Tropical milkweed become infected with a

deadly parasite known as *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, called OE .

Florida, monarch infection rate can be very high, and some reports state it can be 90% due to monarchs not continuing on to migration sites. More research is needed and there is lots of controversy, place it safe, and buy local native milkweed plants from a native plant nursery.

On average, two caterpillars can devour a milkweed plant. Pelican Island Audubon Society- Audubon House Garden sells a variety of native milkweeds, get them while they are in stock. You can try your green thumb at growing your own milkweed. Seeds are available through www.FloridaNativeWildflowers.com.

And don't miss Pelican Island Audubon October 14, 2024 meeting at the North County Library in Sebastian when Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation will give a special talk on monarchs and milkweed.



Pelican Island Audubon Society Volunteers are vital to our mission and success

I want to recognize the impact of our many volunteers and their hours of service and the power of volunteering to tackle society's greatest challenges. Volunteers help build community and are a force that can transform the world. Organizations like ours offer many opportunities for volunteers, ranging from pulling weeds, leading hikes, and field trips, building maintenance, environmental education about the value of native plants, working with children to experience nature, kayaking, and photography, to name a few.

Each opportunity to volunteer is personally rewarding, and allows additional resources/employee hours to be utilized more effectively.

I have been fortunate enough to work with some amazing volunteers through the years. With the leadership of our volunteer coordinator; Lorna Thibeault, Pelican Island Audubon's volunteer base has grown with her enthusiasm and outreach. I have witnessed the benefits to the Audubon Advocates, seasonal campers, community at large, and the overall increase in the health of our environment.

The value of volunteers is immeasurable in what they offer our organization, communities, businesses, county municipalities, schools, homeowners, and other non-profits. We work with a volunteer's personal schedule, and offer opportunities for socializing that can be a great way to meet others concerned for the health of our planet. Volunteering has benefits and rewards that are endless.

I would like to thank ALL the Pelican Island Audubon volunteers, and express gratitude for their willingness to enhance the lives of the people around them by contributing their time generously to serve others. You are transforming the world for all of us. With grace, thanks, and blessings, *Donna Halleran, Executive Director.*



Volunteer!

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!

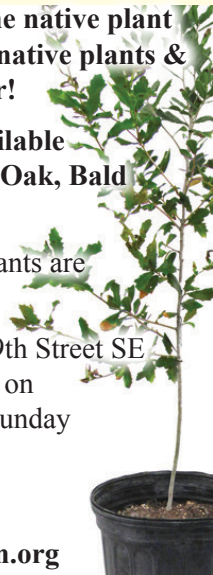
Stop by and browse the native plant nursery - over 24,000 native plants & trees distributed so far!

Free Native Trees Available in 1 gallon pots - Live Oak, Bald Cypress, Mahogany

A selection of native plants are available at low prices.

Audubon House - 195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, on Wednesday - Friday - Sunday from 9AM to 11AM

More at PelicanIslandAudubon.org



Volunteer opportunities include:

- Office help, Newsletter: fold, stuff envelopes
- Join the air potato pullers
- Audubon House Maintenance- classroom, bathrooms, breezeway
- Landscaping, Trees for Life Project, watering plants
- Field Trip Leader
- Fundraising

Come join the Tree/ Native Plants Team!

Wed/Fri/Sun 9AM-11:00AM
Help Green IRC!!!

A big thanks to everyone who makes it all work!

Pelican Island Audubon Society Membership Form

Enclosed is my:

\$_____ \$30 for annual membership

\$_____ \$35 for family membership

\$_____ \$100 Scrub-Jay sustaining membership

\$_____ \$200 Osprey sustaining membership

\$_____ contribution

\$_____ TOTAL

Please mail this completed form with a check made out to:
Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833
Vero Beach, FL 32961

Or join online using a credit card at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org