



Crested Caracara

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

July/September 2015

Audubon mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitat for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Officers

Margaret England, President
Butch Wilson, Vice-President
Kim Willis, Secretary
Janet Falk, Treasurer

Board Members

Julie Jeffords
Martha Valiant
Rhonda Roff
Sonny Mowbray
Terri Lazar
Add Austin
Ann Starck
Mel Karau

STA-5 2015 Schedule

August 9
September 13
October 11

Meetings - 7:00 p.m. second Monday
of the month September - May
Meetings held at the Dallas Townsend
Bldg., located at 1085 Pratt Blvd.,
LaBelle.

July – August – No program

September 14 – “Audubon’s Hog
Island Camp” – Margaret England

October 12 – Add Austin Perce,
Bonaventure Island and its Gannets

November – TBA



President’s Message

Greetings!

On January 15, 2016 Hendry-Glades Audubon will celebrate the 10 year anniversary as an official Audubon Chapter. I feel that it's important to share the HGAS Board Meeting Notes with our members and friends.

Our chapter has over 100 members who live in Hendry, Glades, or Okeechobee County. Information about upcoming events is posted on Facebook: Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, Website: www.hendrygladesaudubon.org, email, or through the quarterly "Crested Caracara" newsletter. We host nine monthly programs featuring speakers, lead 25 STA 5/6 trips, and several field trips each year.

HGAS Board Meeting Notes

The HGAS Board met July 19, 2015 to beginning planning for the upcoming year. Future board meetings with a will be held. Before the 7:00p.m. Regular programs. This next board meeting will be held September 14 from 6:30p.m.-7:00p.m. At the Extension office in LaBelle. The Annual HGAS Chapter Report is due November 1st. Surveys will be sent to members to help plan the 2025-2016 chapter goals. A 50% scholarship for Hog Island Audubon Camp for National Audubon was awarded to Margaret England. HGAS matched the scholarship and provided travel funds for Margaret to represent our chapter. Annual memberships in the LaBelle Chamber, Clewiston Chamber, Glades EOC, and Everglades Coalition plus insurance have been paid. HGAS historian, Julie Jeffords, has organized and created scrapbooks of 10 years of HGAS photos and articles. The scrapbooks will be displayed at meetings. Treasurer, Janet Falk, reported the bank balance was \$4,061.87. HGAS is receiving a percentage or new and renewed memberships through National Audubon. Other HGAS funds are from gifts, chapter only memberships, and STA 5/6 donations. Sanibel-Captiva Audubon donated \$200 as a thank you gift for HGAS organizing the STA 5/6 trips. The Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum has invited HGAS to lead a free 7:00 a.m. Bird Walk on their boardwalk on November 7 as part of the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation. Rhonda Roff and Kim Wills have volunteered. Other volunteers are needed. There are 2 openings on the HGAS Board.

E-mail or text your suggestions for agenda items for future board meetings or to volunteer as board or committee member.

Happy Birding!

Margaret

mleighthouse@embarqmail.com, 863-674-0695 - cell: 863-517-0202, 380

Riverview Drive, LaBelle, FL 33935

eBird iOS App Release is Now Mobile

The eBird app is finally here for iOS users. The mobile app can be found at the link below for Apple users.

Development has also begun for Android, and eBird mobile should be available on that platform in the coming months.

What's new with eBird mobile?

- Free—eBird mobile is free.
- Single global version—eBird mobile is available in a single consolidated version that works anywhere on earth.
- Expanded languages—Offers species common names in many local languages, in parallel with the eBird web site.
- Four-letter quick entry—based on common name and scientific name for all taxa globally, as on eBird.
- Show rarities—rare species are now indicated on the checklist view, prompting observers to provide more detail.
- Refined start up screen—the 'home page' of the app has been reworked from a usability standpoint, making it clear how to get started entering data.
- Continuity—App updates don't cause you to lose existing un-submitted lists or personal locations and start-up is not delayed by taxonomic updates.
- Data quality improvements—the app more closely matches functionality of eBird web for protocols, and prompts users to be more precise about location plotting.
- Trip summary—improved trip summary functionality makes keeping track of your trip list and day list fast and simple.

[Download the eBird app](#)

STA 5/6 Update

There are 3 ways to visit STA 5/6: Hendry-Glades Audubon Driving Trips, Clewiston Museum's (<http://www.clewistonmuseum.org/>) Friday Van Trips, or walk/bicycle on your own Friday-Monday.

To register for the free STA 5/6 bird trips organized by Hendry-Glades Audubon Google "**STA-5/6 Driving Bird Tour**" or click on the link on the Hendry-Glades Audubon website. Volunteers are needed to help check in visitors or lead groups of birders during the November through March STA 5/6 trips. Summer is always great birding during the monthly trips to STA 5/6. It is an ideal time to see young Snail Kites, Crested Caracara, Common Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Purple Swamphen, Egrets, and other birds that breed in the impoundments. Between 50 and 70 species are reported during trips and more people are walking or bicycling on their own around the public access levees Friday through Monday. Some of the highlights during the past few months include large numbers of Snail Kites, 5 to 20 Swallow-tailed Kites, and 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo near the gate on Deer Fence Road, Roseate Spoonbills, and wading birds. Go to the eBird website at: <http://ebird.org> then select Birding Hotspots and type "Stormwater Treatment Area 5" to see all of the posts from visits to STA 5/6.

We will miss you Alan Murray



Thanks and appreciation to STA 5/6 Volunteer Leader and good friend Alan Murray for the past 10 years of service leading over 200 birding trips.

We will miss him and wish him all the best as he moves to be close to his family in New Hampshire.

New STA 5/6 Signs Installed on CR 835 & CR 833



Back in May 2015, Hendry County maintenance staff install two brand new signs on CR 835 for STA 5/6.

Thank you Hendry County for installing these directional signs for STA 5/6 on CR 835 and CR 833 and a street sign for Deer Fence Road.



Bulletin Board

June Challenge 2015

Congratulations to those brave Hendry/Glades County participants who ventured into the sweltering Florida heat for this year's event. With heat indexes upwards of 100 plus degrees on many days, this year's participation truly was a challenge.

Nevertheless, our little neck of the woods produced four participants; three from Hendry County and one from Glades County. For Hendry County, Kim Willis with 84 species, Alan Murray with 76 species and Margaret England with 54 species. For Glades County, Ann Starck with 74 species. Not too shabby for South Florida summer.

Overall, 102 submissions were received from 24 Florida counties as well as an additional 24 submissions from 11 counties in seven other states.

Again, congratulations guys! Let's do it again next year.

Museum Day Live! September 26, 2015

Museum Day Live! is an annual event hosted by Smithsonian magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Live!

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>

The Museum Day Live! Ticket provides free admission for two people.

In the spirit of the Smithsonian Museums, which offer free admission on September 26 including Ah-Ta-Thi-Ki Museum and Boardwalk.

Mark your calendars for American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) November 6th and 7th

7AM – 8:30AM – Active Birding on Museum Boardwalk (1+ mile long). Come join our birding experts on the boardwalk!

8:30AM-10AM – Take a drive down to Billie Swamp Safari for breakfast before the celebration.

10AM – AIAC CELEBRATION begins on Saturday morning. Entry is \$10 for non-Tribal members.

Hendry Glades Audubon will be celebrating 10 years as a chapter on January 11, 2016. Within this newsletter is an interest survey that we have prepared for the upcoming 2016 year. We are hoping for some exciting new programs and events for the upcoming year and would appreciate your input by submitting this survey. Please feel free to add any other interesting ideas that you may have as well.

Please forward your completed survey to Margaret England at: mlelighthouse@embarqmail.com by email or 380 Riverview Drive, LaBelle, FL 33935 by mail.

Thank you for your interest.

Species Spotlight



Photo by Ed Doyle

Did you know...

The King Rail was first described in 1834 by American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter John James Audubon. It is the largest North American rail.

When it catches food on land, it often takes the item to water and dunks it before eating it.

They interbreed with the Clapper Rail where their ranges overlap; some researchers believe that these two birds belong to the same species.

The adult King Rail molts completely after nesting and is flightless for nearly a month.

The male King Rail presents food to its mate during courtship. One male was observed to catch seven crayfish within two hours, and he presented five of those to his mate.

A group of rails are collectively known as a "hill" and a "rumor" of rails.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

The King Rail is a large rail with an orange-based slightly down-curved bill. The King Rail is a chicken-like bird with a short tail, compact body with a rufous chest, neck and back. Black and white stripes adorn the flanks and belly. Often heard and not seen due to their secretive nature, their vocalization is often heard as "kek". Searching for the King Rail is equivalent to looking for a needle in a haystack.

King Rails are found in the United States, Central America and the Caribbean. Its large range stretches from the Midwestern United States to the Atlantic Ocean. Typically living in its southernmost range year round, in the summer it migrates to the northern parts of its range to breed. In Florida, Kings Rails remain year round.

King Rails inhabit freshwater marshes, shallow water wetlands, rice fields and brackish marshes; preferring freshwater. They forage throughout most of the day in areas concealed by vegetation or areas where it blends in with its surroundings and a few steps away from cover.

Being an omnivore, the King Rail feeds on aquatic insects, small fish and crustaceans with a favorite being crayfish. Kings rails also will feed on frogs, clams and the seeds of marsh plants. They feed among the floating or emergent vegetation and stay well hidden, only straying into the open edges of the marsh searching for food.

Nesting takes place in spring with a clutch size of 6-15 pale buff colored spotted eggs. Nests are placed in a clump of dense marsh grasses elevated just above the water. The incubation period is for 21-23 days.

Nestlings are covered with black down and typically leave the nest within one day. Both parents feed the chicks for about three weeks before they start finding their own food. After two months, young King Rails are able to fly on their own.

Declines of populations have been related to loss of wetland habitat with severe declines in the northern part of its range. However, populations appears stable in southern states, especially Louisiana and Florida.

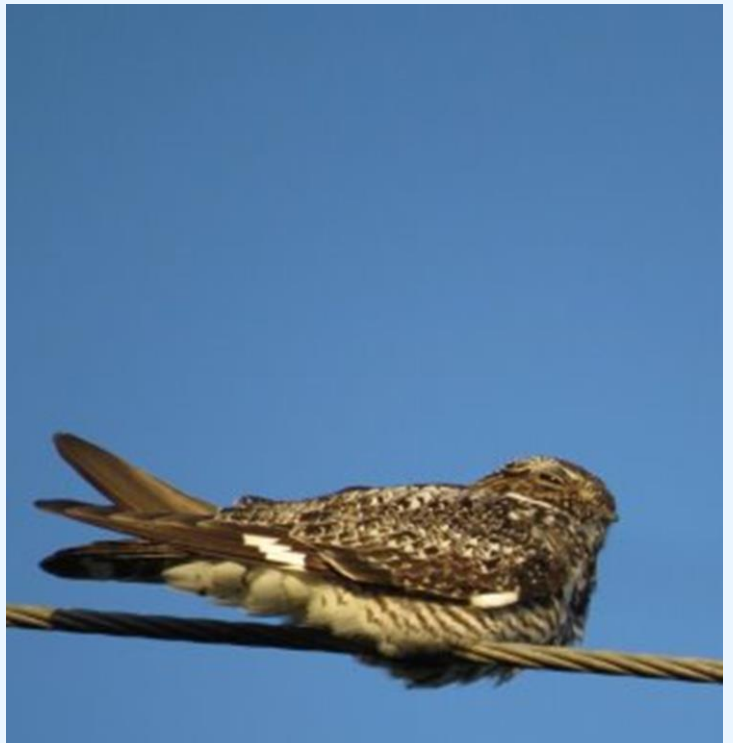
Photos



Could it be possible? Are the Smooth-billed Ani making a comeback into the glades? There have been reports of a possible breeding pair in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Larry Frogge



Key Deer, seen roaming Big Pine Key like neighborhood dogs. Photo by Kim Willis



A sure sign of summer- the Common Nighthawk. Photo by Dale Goebel



Hendry/Glades Audubon Interest Survey: 10th Anniversary January 15, 2016.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check any of the following that apply to you or list your ideas and submit to
melighthouse@embarqmail.com.

- Plan 10th Anniversary January 2016 program**
- Create HGAS scholarship or Audubon student membership for High School or College Student**
- Host birding activity on private land**
- Lead or organize field trip to: Archbold (spring), Ding Darling, CREW (wildflower hikes)**
- Lead or organize Dark Sky event**
- Participate (in field trips)**
- Participate in Birding 101 classes**
- Teach Birding 101 class to adults or children**
- Create Photo contest for youth before February Great Backyard Bird Count**
- Create a Binocular exchange program**
- Lead bird trips and Birding 101 Classes at Big Cypress and/or Brighton Reservation**
- Lead monthly early morning bird walks at Ah-Tah-Tik-Ki Museum Boardwalk**
- Prepare local bird guide using photos provided with permission by local photographers**
- Represent HGAS at the Audubon Assembly in October**
- Submit birding and meeting articles with photos to local papers**
- Submit birding articles or photos for quarterly "Crested Caracara"**
- Develop bird ID sign/s at Public Park or boat ramp**
- Participate in developing a nature park or birding trail in Clewiston**
- Volunteer to install and monitor Purple Martin nest boxes**
- Volunteer to assemble, install and monitor 10 Bluebird nest boxes**
- Learn to enter your birding date during an eBird workshop. (Bring your laptop or tablet)**
- Help Marine Ecology team learn to identify birds**
- Participate in the Big "O" Birding Planning Committee**

Join Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, Inc. (HGAS)

You may choose between two types of membership:
"HGAS Chapter Only Voluntary Member" or both National Audubon and HGAS

1. "Voluntary" memberships receive the quarterly Crested Caracara newsletter by e-mail. Voluntary membership funds and donations support local educational and program opportunities.

YES! I want to become a "Voluntary" member of HGAS.

"Voluntary" Hendry-Glades Audubon Individual Membership \$10 Annually

"Voluntary" Hendry-Glades Audubon Household Membership \$15 Annually

Please send my Crested Caracara via e-mail.

Additional Tax Deductible Donation to HGAS (501c3) is enclosed.

Enclosed is my check payable to HGAS (Hendry-Glades Audubon Society)

2. You may join or renew your HGAS membership through the National Audubon Society using a print form or online at:

<http://support.audubon.org/> Select Chapter Code: E51 Hendry-Glades AS

With this type of membership, you receive the quarterly Crested Caracara (via e-mail), 6 issues of Audubon Magazine, the Florida Naturalist magazine and membership in the National Audubon Society and Hendry-Glades Audubon Society.

All dues for new memberships through the National Audubon Society and a portion of renewal dues are returned to HGAS if the Chapter Code C5ZE510Z is on the membership form or the Chapter E51 Hendry-Glades AS is selected from online menu.

National Audubon Society Membership \$20 Annually C5ZE510Z

Enclosed is my check payable to the National Audubon Society.

Mail to:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society Chapter Code C5ZE510Z

380 Riverview Dr. LaBelle, FL 33935

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