



Crested Caracara

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

July/September 2016

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-5/6 2016 Schedule

September 10
October 8
November 5 & 19

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

No meetings scheduled until September

Monday September 19th
7pm "Visit to Amazonia"
with Janet Falk and Marty Valiant



President's Message

Congratulations Hendry-Glades Audubon.

HGAS has been a recognized Audubon Chapter since January 15, 2006 and organizer of the World Famous STA 5/6 Birding Tours since November 2005. HGAS is an active 501 (c) 3 registered with the IRS and Florida Non-profit. Chapter officers and most members live and in Hendry, Glades or Okeechobee County. HGAS is a member of the LaBelle and Clewiston Chambers, Glades County Economic Development Commission and Everglades Coalition. I represent HGAS on the Hendry County Tourism Council. Chapter representatives participate in advisory committees for various Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests.

Opportunities

There are opportunities to organize field trips, to volunteer to lead groups or help with registration for the STA 5/6 Tours resuming September 10, to set up information tables or present programs at various events. Clewiston residents have requested birding programs once a month on a weekday morning during the winter season featuring local birds and birding opportunities. Please, contact me if you are interested in helping with the STA 5/6 Tours, informational tables, programs or participating on advisory committees for various committees.

Keep in touch with Facebook and through our Website. Visit, submit photos, post and Like the HGAS Group: Facebook@Hendry-Glades Audubon Society or www.hendrygladesaudubon.org.

10 Year Recognition at Audubon Assembly:

HGAS will be recognized for their 10 year Anniversary at the Annual Audubon Assembly to be held **October 28, 2016** to **October 29, 2016** in **St. Petersburg, FL** at the Sirata Beach Resort. Tickets are available at <https://florida-audubon.ticketleap.com/audubon-assembly-2016/>

Happy Birding,

Margaret

mleighthouse@embarqmail.com, 863-674-0695 - cell: 863-517-0202, 380, Riverview Drive, LaBelle, FL 33935



Sam Jones Trail Dedication & Celebration

Join us for the unveiling of the Sam Jones Trail permanent bronze marker in Devil's Garden, followed by a celebration at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum!

August 14, 2016

1 pm – Unveiling Ceremony in Devil's Garden
Presentation by Chairman James E. Billie

2-4 pm – Reception at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Guest Speakers, Live Music, Native Food, & More!
See the Museum's Struggle for Survival Exhibit
Weapons and Martial Arts Demonstrations
Historic Maps and Trails Displays

Location of the Unveiling Ceremony

On CR 833, a quarter mile south of the intersection of CR 832 and CR 833
In the Devil's Garden area next to the Old Forestry Tower
Parking will be marked and directed by staff

For more information, contact Tiffany Cochran
(863)983-6549 ext. 12275



34725 West Boundary Road, Clewiston, FL 33440

www.stofthpo.com • www.ahtahthiki.com • (863)902-1113



Anyone interested in carpooling from Clewiston or LaBelle for this historic occasion, contact Margaret England, 863-517-0202.

The Devil's Garden

Varied accounts of the connection between the naming of Devil's Garden and Abiaki (Sam Jones) have been passed down for over 150 years. One account in particular that has been accepted credits frightened US soldiers during the Seminole Wars telling tales of eerie sounds coming from the area during the night.

Legend also states that fruits and vegetables grew in abundance here in the fertile dark soil. Hungry soldiers, distracted by the abundance of crops gave the Seminole Leader his nickname of "The Devil" due to his ability to vanish quickly and re-appear again always eluding capture.

As this area of the Big Cypress was solidly Sam Jones' domain, it has been presumed that these two elements contributed to the name "Devils Garden".

Abiaki was never captured and died a free man in the Big Cypress around 1860, reportedly well over 100 years old.

STA 5/6 Update

No scheduled trips for June, July or August. The next scheduled trip will be September 10th.

STA 5/6 has been quiet over the summer. With no scheduled escorted trips since June, it will be exciting to return to see how the dynamic of this oasis has progressed without our intrusions.

Trips will resume September 10th provided there is enough interest with at least reservations of at least five people. Reservations are made through www.HendryGlades.org through Eventbrite or by contacting Margaret England.

We look forward to another spectacular season of hosting our esteemed visitors. For schedule or registration for the free driving trips hosted by Hendry-Glades Audubon volunteers go to: www.hendrygladesaudubon.org Contact: sta5birding@embarqmail.com

Swallow-tailed Kites - Keep your eyes to the skies for a final glimpse

Swallow-tailed Kites are being reported "staging" in various locations in Florida for their flight back to South America.

There have been 15 on SR 29 near Sears Road south of LaBelle each day for the past week.

Several groups have also been observed flying over neighborhoods in Clewiston.

Until next year.....

Species Spotlight



Photo by Dan Scolaro

Did you know...

During the nonbreeding season, the White-tailed Kite roosts communally. More than 100 individuals have been counted at some roosts

Although some populations vary regularly in size, it is uncertain whether the White-tailed Kite is migratory, nomadic, or both.

The oldest recorded White-tailed Kite was at least 6 years old when it was found in California.

A group of kites has many collective nouns, including a "brood", "kettle", "roost", "stooping", and "string" of kites.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

Formerly known as the Black-shouldered Hawk, the White-tailed Kite is a medium-sized hawk of open grasslands and savannas. It is readily identified by its bright plumage, long, narrow pointed wings, black shoulders, long white tail and its habit of hovering while hunting for its prey. The White-tailed Kite has a white face and underside and red eyes. Juvenile birds are similar to the adult, but have buffy streaks on the breast and head and gray in color with white tipped feathers on its back. The juvenile birds have yellow eyes.

Common in northwest Africa, southern Asia, the East Indies, Arabia, and Africa south of the Sahara. In North America, the White-tailed Kite occurs along west coast of the U.S., Texas, Florida, and throughout much of Mexico.

White-tailed Kites are commonly found in savanna, open woodlands, marshes, partially cleared lands and cultivated fields.

They feed primarily on small mammals, but will rarely prey on birds, lizards and insects. While hunting for prey, the White-tailed Kite typically will hover up to 80 feet off of the ground and drop straight down onto its catch. The "hovering" behavior has come to be called "kiting".

White-tailed kites typically will nest in the upper third of trees that may be as tall as 160 feet. These trees are open-country trees growing isolated or trees on the edges of a forest. Both the male and female help choose the nest site and either the female or both will participate in nest building.

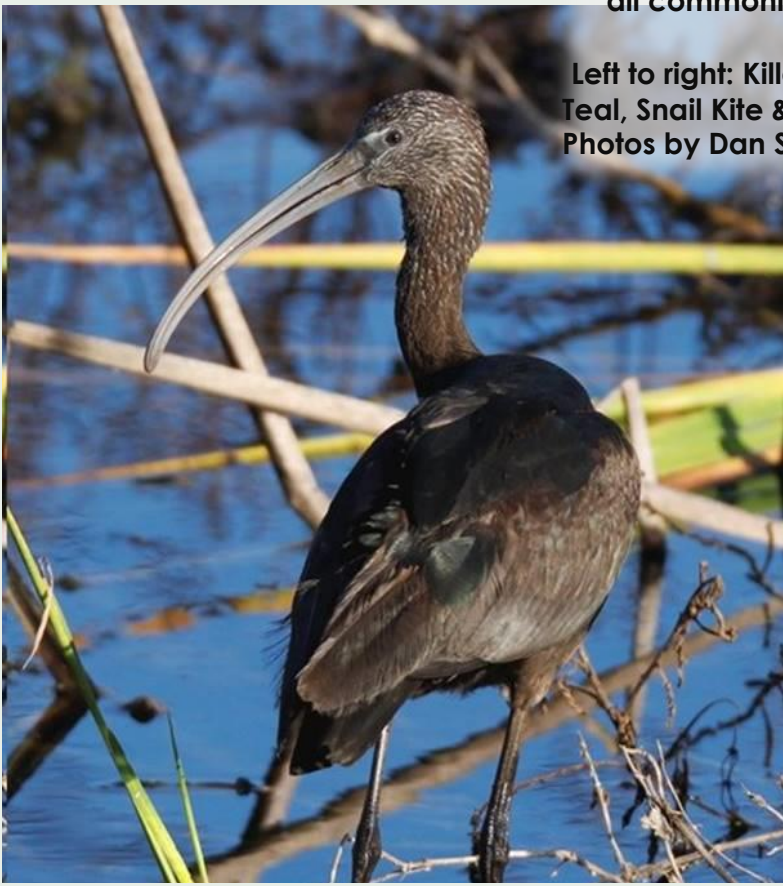
A clutch typically of four eggs are laid in a nest that is a shallow bowl made mostly of small twigs lined with grass, moss or leaves. The incubation period is between 30-32 days with a nesting period of 38-35 days. The male brings food to the female as she incubates the eggs. Once hatched, the male continues to bring food to the brooding female.

As recently as the 1940s, this graceful bird was considered rare and endangered in North America, restricted to a few sites in California and Texas. In recent decades, it has increased greatly in numbers and spread into many new areas where it was not known historically.

Photos



All very different species but they all have one thing in common; they are all commonly found at STA 5/6.



Left to right: Killdeer, Blue-winged Teal, Snail Kite & Glossy Ibis.
Photos by Dan Scolaro



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 E51 is on the membership form or the Chapter E51 Hendry-Glades AS is selected from online menu.

National Audubon Society Membership \$20 Annually E51
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 E51

380 Riverview Dr. LaBelle, FL 33935

863-674-0695