



Crested Caracara

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

July/September 2012

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*

STA-5 2012 Schedule

July 16
August 18
September 18 –Fall North American
Migration Count

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 or the Clewiston Museum 109
Central Avenue, Clewiston. (863) 983-
2870.

September 10 – LaBelle -Caitlin Jacobs
presents “Research: Calf Depredation by
the Florida Panther”

October 8 – Clewiston

November 12 – LaBelle

Watch for program updates.



President's Message

Summer Greetings:

This summer message will introduce and invite you to participate in the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (BBA2) project. Last month Hendry-Glades Audubon volunteered to be the Hendry and Glades County coordinator for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas 2. This may seem like a large area, but the priority blocks are 14 eleven square mile blocks in Glades County and 16 in Hendry County. Most of the blocks have roads or are in residential communities. Once a bird is confirmed breeding in a block, the search continues for other species until 2016. This six year project began in 2011 and ends in 2016 with 90% percent of the field work at homes and area locations being surveyed during the “safe dates” when birds have fledged from May through July. This is a great opportunity for everyone to document the breeding birds in our area.

The goal of a Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) project is to map the distribution of each species that breeds (or might breed) in a defined area during a selected period of time. This data will provide a historical baseline that can be compared with subsequent Atlas projects to detect changes in the distribution and abundance of birds. Data is compiled at the conclusion of the survey on the USGS Patuxent website at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bba/>. This information is also used as a resource for FWC's online Florida Breeding Bird Atlas.

Fieldwork for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas 1 began 1 January 1986 and ended 31 December 1991. More than 1,880 participants were involved and more than 136,000 records were compiled. The Atlas project is collaborative effort of Audubon of Florida, the Florida Ornithological Society, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. More than 1,880 participants, most of them volunteers, were involved in the first Atlas conducting surveys and compiling data. During BBA1 196 species were confirmed breeding, and another 19 species were found to be probable or possible breeders in the state.

To volunteer to become a BBA2 observer please contact, Margaret England.

Margaret

863-674-0695 - cell: 863-517-0202

Hendry-Glades Audubon Conservation Award Recipient Rhonda Roff!



Well-deserved congratulations for her tireless efforts promoting conservation awareness and involvement in issues of the day. Rhonda is always a champion for environmental issues large and small. Congratulations Rhonda!

STA 5 Highlights

The highlight of the April-May STA5 trips and May North American Migration Count were the breeding birds and their young. At least 12 species were confirmed breeding including 60 Burrowing Owls with young being reported in May on the L1 Dike Road. Other confirmed breeding species at STA5 and STA6 included: Anhinga, Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Common Gallinule (Moorhen), Purple Swamphen, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Northern Cardinal, Crested Caracara, and Boat-tailed Grackle.

During the Breeding Bird Atlas 2 surveys some probable breeding birds in the STA5/6 and Blumberg Road area were reported including Swallow-tailed Kite, Purple Martin, Crested Caracara, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Northern Bobwhite, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Coot, Mourning Dove and Common Ground Dove. Others birds found in suitable breeding habitat included Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellow Throat, Eastern Meadowlark, and Brown-headed Cowbird. The search continues until 2016 for confirmed breeding bird sightings throughout Florida for the Breeding Bird Atlas 2.

Schedule and complete lists may be viewed by visiting the HGAS webpage at: www.hendrygladesaudubon.org.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory – A Great Resource Tool

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory is a non-profit organization administered by [Florida State University](http://www.fsu.edu). Dedicated to gathering, interpreting, and disseminating information critical to the conservation of Florida's biological diversity, the Inventory was founded in 1981 as a member of The Nature Conservancy's international network of natural heritage programs. Funding is provided through contracts and grants, which currently include work for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and other state and federal agencies.

Inventory staff continually builds and maintain a comprehensive database of the biological resources of Florida, which now includes more than 32,000 element occurrences of rare plants, rare animals, and high-quality natural communities. These occurrences are maintained in a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database for mapping and analysis.

The Inventory also serves as the primary source for information on Florida's conservation lands. The Inventory database includes GIS boundaries and statistics for more than 2,000 federal, state, local, and private managed areas. The database also includes information on Florida Forever environmental land acquisition projects.

Inventory staff has expertise in a range of fields, including botany, zoology, ecology; land management, environmental planning, GIS, and database management.

<http://www.fnai.org/gisdata.cfm>

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey - Bald Eagle Stamp Program

This is a fund-raising project to help offset the cost of caring for injured and non-releasable raptors at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Collectable stamps are sorted, appraised and sold to collectors by volunteers; 100% of the proceeds go to help the birds.

Collectable stamps include:

- ⊖ **Any stamp collections**
- ⊖ **Any foreign, commemoratives, airmail or special handling stamps**
- ⊖ **Any State or Federal hunting and fishing licenses stamps**
- ⊖ **Mint plate blocks (especially older ones)**
- ⊖ **Please, no current single-letter rate (\$.44): this includes Christmas Stamps**

We accept both canceled and un-canceled stamps. We can sell only undamaged stamps. We cannot use stamps that are cut, punched, torn, scuffed, thinned, with part of sides cut off, or with heavy smeared cancels. No metered stamps please (printed indicia).

Please cut the stamps from the envelopes, at least ¼" around the stamps to avoid damage. Do not include postmark. Exceptions: with commemorative envelopes, First Day issues and old (pre-1960) envelopes, send the entire envelope with the stamp attached, as the envelope may also have significant value.

Please include your name and/or the name of your organization printed legibly on the inside and outside the package. Donations will be acknowledged with a charitable contribution tax receipt. Donors wanting a professional appraisal, for tax purposes, are responsible for obtaining the value of their donation from a professional. Audubon stamp volunteers are not license appraisers; they cannot put a value on any stamps donated.

Mail your donations to: Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

Bald Eagle Stamp Program

1101 Audubon Way

Maitland, FL 32751

Note: to save even more on postage, mail your donation "Media Rate" (book rate) from US Post Office

Fall North American Migration Count 2012

September, 2012 - Contact Margaret England for specific details and meeting times.

863-674-0695 - cell: 863-517-0202 <mailto:sta5birding@embargmail.com>

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT



Photo by Kim Willis

Did You Know...

The Florida population of Carolina Wrens is larger, stouter, and darker rusty chestnut above and more deeply colored below.

A single, captive male Carolina wren reportedly sang some 3,000 times in one day.

Three subspecies of the Carolina Wren breed in Florida: *T. l. ludovicianus* in the Panhandle; *T. l. miamensis* in the peninsula; and *T. l. nesophilus*, which occurs only on Dog Island off the Franklin County coast

The Carolina Wren is the State bird of South Carolina

A group of wrens has many collective nouns, including a "chime", "flight", "flock", and "herd" of wrens.

Carolina Wrens are known to build multiple nests to confuse predators.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

A shy, adaptable, vocal little bird of the tangled, dense underbrush of habitats ranging from forests to neighborhoods, summer brings the nearly ear-splitting *tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle* call of the Carolina wren. With its rich cinnamon color, bold white eyes strip and upward cocked tail, this little bird delivers amazing decibels for its small size.

Attractive and energetic, Carolina wrens frequent vegetated habitats such as brushy thickets, lowland cypress swamps, bottomland woods, and ravines choked with hemlock. They gravitate toward shrubby, wooded residential areas, overgrown farmland, dilapidated buildings, and brushy suburban yards.

Feasting mainly on insects and spiders, their diet also consists of caterpillars, moths, stick bugs, leafhoppers, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, and cockroaches. Carolina wrens occasionally eat lizards, frogs, or snakes; small quantities of plant matter, such as fruit pulp and seeds from bayberry, sweet gum, or poison ivy are also consumed.

Nesting takes place in open cavities 3–6 feet off the ground, in trees, overhangs and stumps, with the male and female both participate in nest-building. Near homes, they are versatile nesters, making use of discarded flowerpots, mailboxes and other attractive human-made spots. Females lay about four eggs and incubate them for two weeks while their mates bring them food. Both parents feed their chicks for an additional two weeks before they gain independence. A mating pair of Carolina wrens may have several broods each year.

Photos



Northern Cardinal male – Just beautiful! Photo by Larry Frogge



Bald eagle in the stormy sky - Photo by Kim Willis



An unexpected visitor showed up at Riverside Retreat recently. A Florida Black bear was sighted wandering about this past May.



Bulletin Board

Gatorama Alligator Hatching Festival

Mark your calendars: August 18th to August 27th, 2012!

Late August means Alligator Hatching at Gatorama and you're invited! You can witness thousands of young, chirping alligators emerge from their shells. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime. Beat the rush of visitors and arrive early.

For information: 863-675-0623 www.gatorama.com

Hatching programs will be presented at 10:45, 12:00 and 2:30 Monday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday programs will be 10:45, 12:00 2:30, and 3:45. Sunday programs are 10:00, 12:00, 2:00 3:30 and after the 4:30 show. This year we will be staying open later to accommodate after school visitors. Monday through Thursday the last hatch is at 7 p.m.



Margaret and her little friend -
Gatorama Alligator Hatching
Festival 2011



Upcoming Florida Festivals

September 26, 2012 - September 30, 2012 [Florida Keys Birding & Wildlife Festival](#) - This year's festival features Bill Thompson III, editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, as our Keynote speaker and tour guide. As in previous years, we will hold our featured field trips to the Dry Tortugas National Park, National Key Deer Refuge, Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock State Park and numerous other national, state and private natural areas.

September 28, 2012 - September 30, 2012 [Wings & Wildflower Festival](#) - Birds flock to Lake County, which is home to thousands of acres of preserves and passive park lands – including Ferndale Preserve, Emerald Marsh and the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area. Lake County has enticing outdoor recreational opportunities, particularly for birders, and the Wings and Wildflowers Festival will offer visitors an opportunity to fall in love with Lake County's birds, wildflowers and natural areas.

Join Hendry Glades Audubon Society

When you become a member of Hendry-Glades Audubon Society (HGAS) using the form below, all of your membership fees are put to use supporting local projects: Educational programs, Christmas Bird Count, North American Migration Counts, field trips and conservation activities "Voluntary" memberships receive the quarterly **Crested Caracara** newsletter either e-mail or in print if requested. Make check payable to Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, Inc. (HGAS)

YES! I want to become a member of HGAS.

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

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

Enclosed is my check payable Hendry-Glades Audubon Society.

I would like to save HGAS postage and printing costs. Please send my **Crested Caracara** via email.

Additional Donation to HGAS Enclosed

National Audubon Society Membership \$20 annually (**C0ZE510Z**) Enclosed is my check made payable to National Audubon Society.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

National Audubon Society Membership

When you join HGAS through the National Audubon Society, you receive the quarterly **Crested Caracara via e-mail unless print copy requested** 6 issues of **Audubon Magazine**, Florida **Naturalist** and membership in Hendry-Glades Audubon. Membership dues sent to **NAS** for new members are returned to HGAS if Chapter Code C0ZE510Z is on the form. Less than \$2 per membership is returned to HGAS for renewing memberships. Mail the completed form and check to:

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

380 Riverview Dr. LaBelle, FL 33935