



Crested Caracara

October/December 2010 **Hendry-Glades Audubon Society**

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.

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President's Message

Fall Greetings:

Thank you all for helping make our chapter and bird counts successful. We appreciate the Hendry County IFAS Extension <http://hendry.ifas.ufl.edu> and Clewiston Museum <http://www.clewistonmuseum.org/> for providing meeting space for our monthly meetings. Thank you for letting HGAS use these facilities. Check out the IFAS and museum websites for information about their activities and programs.

Thanks and appreciation to the seventy-two volunteers who participated in the 5th Annual Hendry-Glades North American Migration Count on September 18th. The Florida NAMC is sponsored by the Florida Ornithological Association. Twenty-four tally sheets were submitted for 13 areas in Hendry and Glades County by teams and home counters. New count areas added to this year's Fall NAMC were: Lake Okeechobee Glades and Hendry Counties, Pioneer and Felda/C Road. These counts, which give a snapshot of birds in our area, reported 130 species and 20,500 individuals. Area tallies are available at <http://www.hendrygladesaudubon.org>

A special thanks to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Reservation who will be providing a booth for Hendry-Glades Audubon's at the American Indian Arts Celebration November 5-7. If you would like to help at the HGAS booth please contact Margaret England. For information about this celebration of traditional Native American arts, dance and music from across the county, go to <http://www.ahtahtiki.com/pdf/AIAC2010.pdf>

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual STA5-Clewiston (FLSO) Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 18th. To check out the past three year's data go to: <http://birds.audubon.org> Volunteers are needed for the 15 mile FLSO circle.

Happy Birding,

Margaret

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

STA-5 2010 Schedule

Oct 16
Nov 13
Nov 27
Dec 4
Dec 18 (Christmas Bird Count)

Meetings

7:00 p.m. second Monday of the month September - May. Please check for updates and meeting locations. Most meetings will be held at Dallas Townsend Agricultural Extension located at 1085 Pratt Blvd., LaBelle or Clewiston Museum 109 Central Avenue Clewiston, FL 33440-3701 (863) 983-2870.

**Next Meeting: October 11, 2010
at the Clewiston Museum,
Clewiston .**

Birding Western Palm Beach County

Several groups of birders descended on the sod and agriculture fields of western Palm Beach County in August to find an abundance of birds.

Along Gladeview road off of SR 880, there were reports of both shorebirds and waders. Most notably were the Gull-billed and Black Terns, American Avocets, and at least four Wilson's Phalaropes. Other birds sighted were Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers. Long & Short billed Dowitchers, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstones, Stilt Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts and Lesser Yellowlegs. On the sod fields east of Brown's Farm Road, Upland Sandpipers were also spotted.

Along with the surprises found on Gladeview Road, three separate sightings of the Smooth-billed Ani were reported on Brown's Farm Road approximately three miles from the entrance.



Photo by Kim Willis

13th American Indian Arts Celebration

Join the Seminole Tribe of Florida at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Reservation November 5-7 for the 13th American Indian Arts Celebration.

The Hendry-Glades Audubon Society has been invited to have a booth again this year. If you would like to volunteer at the HGAS booth, please contact Margaret England mleighthouse@embarqmail.com 863-674-0695.

For information about this celebration of traditional Native American arts, dance and music from across the county go to <http://www.ahthahthiki.com/pdf/AIAC2010.pdf> .

STA 5 Highlights

Summertime at STA-5 brought forth the usual fare of birds with a few surprises. It seems each visit brings at least one new addition to the increasing STA-5 185 count Checklist of Birds. This summer was no exception. Added to the list were the Orchid Oriole and Short-billed Dowitcher. Some of the highlights of the STA5, September 18 North American Migration count included: 27 Snail kites, 41 Limpkin, 6 species of duck, 2 Great Blue Heron (White Morph) and 77 Bobolink.

Twelve volunteers reported 61 species and 12,635 individual birds at STA5 and Blumberg Road.

Sept. 30th update from Brian Garrett, SFWMD:

There are still three Snail kite nests in STA-5. These same nests have been present for weeks. One nest still only has eggs within it, but the adults are defending the nest, therefore the snail kite monitors from UF are still calling it an active nest at this time. The other two nests have large juveniles that will likely begin fledging within a week. The estimation is approximately 15 to 20 days before the birds have fledged before activities may resume in STA-5 Cell 2 but we will have to get the "all clear" from USFWS before activity is permitted.

HGAS Education Programs

Join us, Monday, October 11, 2010, 7 PM, at the Clewiston Museum, 109 Central Ave. Two birding tour opportunities in southern Hendry County will be the topic of presentations at Hendry-Glades Audubon's educational program. Everyone is invited to learn about Doug Zipperer's new "Birds of Devil's Garden" <http://floridawildbirds.com/> and to hear an update on STA5 from BJ Kattel, South Florida Water Management District Recreational Planner whose topic will be 'Restoration to Recreation – Birding on STA5'.

FWC Wildlife Hotline

Many of us frequent the outdoors on a regular basis. Sometimes during our time out we may encounter wildlife in distress, misplaced or violations being committed that need the attention of the Florida Wildlife Commission. Keeping the FWC Wildlife Hotline stored in your cell phone ensures that you will always have help available at your fingertips for just such occurrences. The number is 888-404-3922.

Still looking for ideas for chapter field trips

Is there someplace special that you visit that you would like to share with chapter members? Camping trips, birding trips, day trips or tours. We are looking for ideas or suggestions for HGAS chapter field trips. If there is someplace that you have visited or would like to visit please send an email to Margaret England at mleighthouse@embarqmail.com and make your suggestion.

Fisheating Creek Outpost



Camping weather is just around the corner! Fisheating Creek Outpost is just the place to get back to nature. Camping facilities to suit every taste and canoe or kayak rentals available.

Join the Fisheating Creek Outpost for another Big Moon Paddle to the Memorial Cypress, Friday, October 22, 2010. Call 863-675-5999 for details.

HGAS Newsletter on the Florida Audubon Blog at www.audubonoffloridanews.org/

Sign Up for Audubon email "**Action Alerts**"
<http://audubonaction.org/audubon/home.html>

HGAS Websites

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society Website:
<http://www.orgsites.com/fl/hgaudubon/>

Join the **Hendry-Glades Audubon Society** group on Facebook. Share your pictures and post discussions.

Gulf Oil Spill is Just the Latest Threat to Blue fin Tuna in the Gulf

Long before BP's Deepwater Horizon oilrig plunged its drill into the deep blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico, surface loglines scoured Gulf waters in search of yellow fin tuna and swordfish. This wasteful fishing gear not only catches these target species, but government data also indicates that it injures and kills many non-target marine animals such as blue marlin, sailfish, leatherback sea turtles and Western Atlantic blue fin tuna. The Gulf provides important habitat for many marine species and it is the only known spawning area for Western Atlantic blue fin tuna. Blue fin have declined by 82% since 1970 and populations of many other species that are caught incidentally by surface loglines are also severely depleted.

In the wake of the Gulf oil spill disaster, finding ways to protect the health of the Gulf ecosystem has never been more important. Prohibiting the use of surface loglines in the Gulf is one simple way to protect depleted marine species like blue fin tuna. And because there are more selective types of fishing gear, such a prohibition does not have to put fishermen out of business. **Help get the Gulf of Mexico on the road to recovery by going to http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/stoplonglinefishing_june?source=llpartner and tell the National Marine Fisheries Service it's time to switch gears in the Gulf.** For more information, please visit www.pewenvironment.org/gulftuna or email Cameron Jaggard at cjaggard@pewtrusts.org.



Photo credit: Oceana/Keith Ellenbogen

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

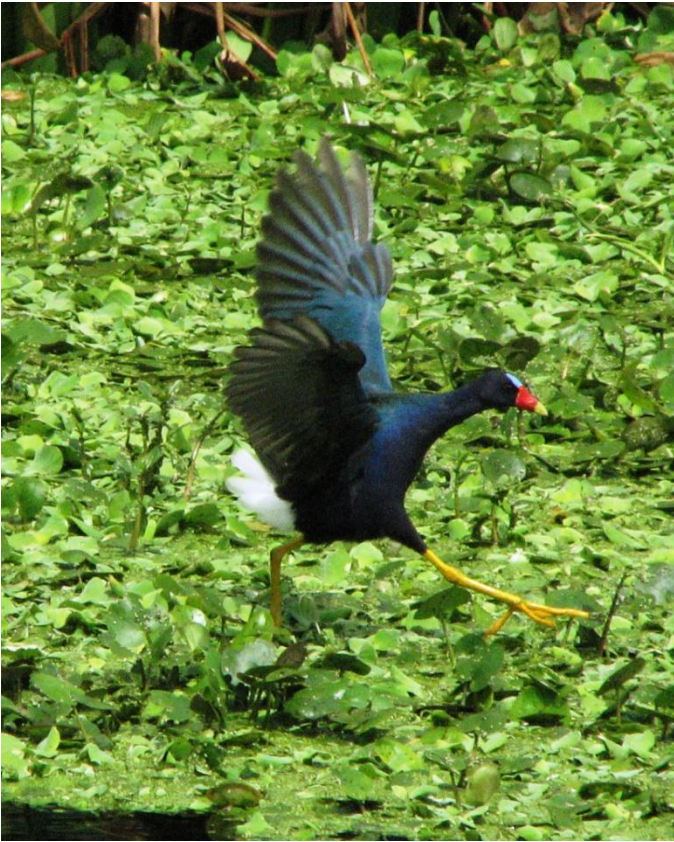


Photo by: Kim Willis

Purple Gallinule(Porphyrio martinica)

A brilliantly colored bird of southern and tropical wetlands, the Purple Gallinule can be seen walking on top of floating vegetation or clambering through dense shrubs. It's extremely long toes help it walk on lily pads without sinking. Its flight is labor and slow with dangling legs and it retreats quickly under cover if disturbed.

The Purple Gallinule is found in the south Atlantic and Gulf states and occasionally as far north as Maine and New York and Wisconsin and as far south as the West Indies, Mexico, Central America and northern South America to Brazil.

The Purple Gallinule prefers wet marshes, waterways and lakes. It swims on the surface of the water like a duck and walks on floating vegetation like a chicken.

The nest of the Purple Gallinule is made from dead stems grasses and leaves built low above the water among dense vegetation. Five to ten buff to pink eggs marked with brown are laid with incubation ranging from 22 to 25 days. Both parents assist in the incubation process.

Purple Gallinules are omnivorous, feeding on a wide variety of vegetable and animal matters. It feeds on seeds, leaves and fruits, but it also consumes insects (grasshoppers, beetles, water bugs, bees and wasps), frogs, snails, spiders, earthworms and fish. It may eat the eggs and nestlings of herons and jacanas.

Purple Gallinule populations are probably decreasing in their range, due to freshwater wetland loss in the United States, and in South and Central America. Birds have been destroyed in rice fields by aerial spraying with pesticides. They also are preyed upon by alligators and turtles. At the present time, this species is not considered to be globally threatened.

Did you know.....

Both parents of the Purple Gallinule assist with the feeding of young.

Purple Gallinule chicks are completely independent for food at 21 days old. They are able to fly when they are 5 to 7 weeks old.

Purple Gallinules' can live up to 22 years.

Purple Gallinules' are members of the rail family, Rallidae.

Photos



Purple Swamphen. July 2010 at STA-5. Photo by John Whitehead.



Juvenile Great Blue Heron
Photo by Larry Frogge.

Photo by Don Hamilton



Floral Beauty

Photos Don Hamilton



Calling all Shutterbugs!

If you have photos that you would like to share, please submit them for our newsletter. We would love to share your photos with everyone.

Plan to celebrate Forest Awareness Day at OK Slough

Saturday October 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. come to the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest for a free presentation about wild land firefighting in Florida and see firefighting equipment used. See some of the invasive exotic plants found in the forest and learn what we are doing about them and the problems they cause. Also, learn about some of the endangered plants found in the forest. Practice your GPS skills at the Geocaching course. Try your hand at tree drawing, learn about Cooperative Forestry Assistance and step back in time to view old time forestry equipment. Hop aboard a van where you will learn about OK Slough's wildlife, plant life and past/current/future forest management. It all happens at the Okaloacoochee Slough Field Office next to the Keri Fire Tower at 6265 CR 832 Felda. From LaBelle go south on SR 29 to CR 832 (Keri Road), turn east and go approximately four miles. The office will be on the south side of the road or take 82 east to SR 29, go north to CR 832.



Submitted photo

See Old Florida at its best at the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

Speakers & Presentations

November 8, 2010 Dallas Townsend, LaBelle: Gene McAvoy, Hendry/Glades IFAS Agriculture Extension and a short presentation by Cameron Jaggard who will present information on "The Pew Gulf Long line Project"

December 13 2010 Clewiston Museum: Bob Montanaro' "Critters, Cows and Cowboys"

Upcoming Events

The 2010 Florida Audubon Assembly will be held in St. Petersburg at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park, Oct. 22-23, 2010. Special Florida Audubon rate of \$109 per night. Interactive workshops, special presentations and the discussion of our conservation agenda will be balanced with fantastic fieldtrips, networking and recognition of our outstanding volunteers, partners and achievements.

The 2010 Audubon Academy will be held in Gainesville at the Paramount Hotel, March 18-20, 2011.

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual STA5-Clewiston (FLSO) Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 18, 2010. Volunteers are needed for the 15 mile FLSO circle. Contact Margaret England at mleighthouse@embarqmail.com 863-674-0695 if you are interested in participating.

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