

# The Warbler



The Warbler  
January, 2006

- Come to BCAS exciting activities, events, field trips, and programs!
- Meetings held at Fern Forest Nature Center
- The Warbler is also available online at [browardaudubon.org](http://browardaudubon.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Barry Heimlich*

Hopefully by now, you have recovered from the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Broward Audubon is back in full swing again. We held the November meeting on December 15, and I'm happy to say that the video presentation of my trip to Nebraska to see the Sandhill Crane migration was a big success. Also, we held a couple of field trips and the Xmas Bird Count, with 110 species sighted.

We have outstanding programs scheduled for January, February and March. Don't miss the January 19th meeting when Miami MetroZoo's extremely popular Ron McGil will tell us about the *Wings of Asia* Aviary. He's always full of surprises and an especially enjoyable speaker. On February 16th, Gil McAdam, the environmental administrator from Broward County Parks, will give us an in-depth view of natural areas throughout the County.

We have an extraordinary Special Event planned for February 23rd with Bobby Harrison, who made front page headlines in newspapers across the country and the world when he and Tim Gallagher of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology confirmed that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still lives. Harrison will share video and audio recordings, sightings, and his own emotional response to one of the most exciting conservation achievements in recent years.

Time is running out to sign up for Paddy Cunningham's Jan 14-15 excursion to Merritt Island NWR. Also the deadline for enrolling for Everglades BirdTrek is January 24th. There is still room, so don't miss out and these highly acclaimed trips.

See the schedule below for chapter activities through March.

## Activities Calendar

**Meetings** (at Fern Forest Nature Center, 7pm unless stated otherwise)

Date	Subject	Speaker
Thurs., January 19, 2006 <b>NOT TO BE MISSED</b>	<b>WONDERS OF ASIA AVIARY-METROZOO</b>	<b>Ron Magil</b> , Community Ambassador, Miami MetroZoo
Thurs. February 16, 2005	<b>BROWARD'S NATURAL AREAS</b>	<b>Gil McAdam</b> , Environ. Admin, Broward Parks
Thurs. February 23, 2005, 8pm	<b>SPECIAL EVENT !!! REDISCOVERY OF IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER</b>	<b>Bobby Harrison</b> , one of two scientists credited with making the first confirmed sighting

**Special Events** (See website for details, fees may apply)

Date and Time	Place	Subject
Fri.-Sun. February 24-26, 2006 <b>LAST CALL</b>	<b>Corkscrew Swamp, Rookery Bay &amp; Everglades National Park</b>	<b>EVERGLADES BIRDTREK</b> See ad above for contact info.
Saturday, March 11, 2006	<b>Tree Tops Park</b>	<b>WATER MATTERS DAY</b>
Saturday, March 18, 2006,	<b>FLAMINGO GARDENS</b>	<b>A behind the scenes tour</b>

**BCAS Field Trips** For info, call Ken Burgener at (954) 766-2919, email: [kburgener@hotmail.com](mailto:kburgener@hotmail.com)

Date	Place	Meeting Place and Time	Notes
Sat.-Sun. Jan. 14-15, 2006 <b>LAST CALL</b>	<b>Merritt Island Natl. Wildlife Refuge</b>	Sheridan Street TriRail at 6:30am. Call Paddy at (954) 926-5458	Fee: \$140—incl. carpool, expert guided birding, 2
Sat. January 28, 2006	<b>Everglades Natl. Park</b>	Coe Visitor Center 9:00am	Day Trip
Sat. March 4, 2006	<b>Corkscrew Swamp</b>	Sanctuary Entrance at 9:00 a.m.	Day Trip
Sat. March 18, 2006	<b>Bird-a-thon</b>	Flamingo Gardens	Free admission to <b>Flamingo Gardens</b> and insiders

# Global Warming and Hurricanes

Opinion by Barry N. Heimlich, President, Broward County Audubon Society

There have been more major hurricanes in the Atlantic basin between this year and last than in any two year period since records were kept. There is uncertainty as to the cause of this increase in frequency and intensity. Some say that it is due to normal weather cycles and that there is insufficient evidence that the major contributing cause is accumulation of greenhouse gases. There are many objective observations that the planet is warming at an alarming rate and the only theory that explains what is happening is the greenhouse effect. Global warming can only increase the potential for major hurricanes and melting ice caps. Nobody theorizes that global warming will cause hurricanes to subside.

The United States produces more greenhouse gases by far than any other nation. It is only with the leadership of the United States that global warming can be slowed and hopefully stabilized or reversed. It is irresponsible for the United States to do otherwise.


Furthermore, it makes good economic sense to be less dependent on foreign energy, less dependent on declining fossil fuel resources, and more independent by shifting to alternative renewable energy. If economic competition with emerging nations is of concern, then it is in the United States' long range strategic interest to use its economic and technological prowess to develop solutions to the world's energy and environmental problems while putting itself at a competitive advantage in the long run where energy is concerned. Those that lead in developing alternative energy will have a competitive advantage in 50-100 years when fossil fuels are depleted and exhausted and energy costs soar.

Global warming is not going

away by itself and there are no easy solutions. The longer we wait, the more difficult it will become. Some scientists raise concerns there might be irreversible climatic thresholds that could have devastating global effects. There isn't time to wait until there is irrefutable evidence that the cause is greenhouse effect. By that time it could be too late to reverse the consequences. It's imperative to deal with this immediately. It's like a car speeding unknowingly toward a concrete wall in the middle of the night. If the driver continues at 80 mph until the wall comes within the reach of his headlights giving him proof of the hazard before he steps on the brakes, it might be too late to stop. It is only by recognizing the possible risks of an uncertain future and taking appropriate precautions that the driver can avert disaster.

A lot of politics revolves around the global warming issue. We shouldn't take the short-term view of politicians and business leaders whose primary concerns are whether they are reelected or the current quarter's corporate earnings, and whose philosophy is "Let the good times role." Instead we must take a long view and assure the well being of the planet and its inhabitants for generations to come.

**Everglades  
BirdTrek**  
Spoonbills, Storks  
and Ecosystems  
February 24-26, 2006



Nesting Great Egret in full display


**Everglades National Park  
& Big Cypress Swamp**  
IN FEBRUARY WHEN THE BIRDS ARE  
ABUNDANT AND THE WEATHER'S GREAT

- Naturalist guided birding: over 100 species expected
- 2 nights deluxe lodging
- 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Motorcoach from/to Fort Lauderdale
- Speakers on Everglades birding, wildlife, ecology and conservation

**For information:**

- <http://birdtrek.browardaudubon.org>
- Email: [birdtrek@browardaudubon.org](mailto:birdtrek@browardaudubon.org)
- Call or fax: (954) 963-2428

**For Your Insurance Needs**  
**Alfred E. Griffin Insurance Agency**



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## Broward Audubon Sponsors for 2005-2006

Please add your name to our growing list of sponsors.

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### **Snowy Egrets**

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Rita Heck  
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Sandra Hankin  
Rita Heck  
Georgina Whitton

### **Warblers**

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Jane and Ken Czubay  
Margaret L. Green  
David and Sue Hagan  
Margaret Harris  
Lawrence Kassin  
Beth Owen

# Birding Corner

## BROWARD BIRD OF THE MONTH

### Ivory billed Woodpecker—

*Campephilus principalis*

By Ken Burgener, BCAS Field Trips Chair

What would be your chances of seeing the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Broward County today? What about a hundred years ago? Has the Ivory-billed ever flown here in our county? The woodpecker requires a substantial area of swamps or hammocks for its survival. Broward County certainly had that terrain in the past, before the Europeans arrived in the 1500's. The Native Americans sought the Ivory-billed



for its skins and beak, which reduced the Woodpecker's numbers, even before the forest were cleared for agriculture and human habitation. A warden reported an Ivory-billed at Royal Palm Hammock (Dade County) in May 1917, and a specimen was taken in

Monroe County in July 1888. According to The Birdlife of Florida (Stevenson, Anderson, 1994) a specimen was taken in Palm Beach County. No sighting in Broward County was mentioned, but it would stand to reason, that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker lived in Broward County at one time, but no Ivory-billed Woodpeckers live in Broward County today.

But we will have **Bobby Harrison** tell his tale of wading through hip-deep, boot-sucking mud and canoeing through meandering sludge-brown bayous where deadly cotton-mouth water moccasins abound, finding the "Grail Bird" in Arkansas' Big Woods. Mr. Harrison and his partner Tim Gallagher were the first qualified observers to positively identify the Ivory-billed Woodpecker since 1944.

## Discoverer of Ivory-billed Woodpecker to Speak at Fern Forest

By Barry N. Heimlich, President

Bobby Harrison is one of two people who made the first confirmed sighting in Arkansas's Cache River National Wildlife Refuge of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in over sixty years. He sent us an email a few months ago. He is speaking nationwide to tell the most exciting conservation story in years in order to raise funds for further research into the woodpecker's habitat, behavior, and nesting needed for its protection and conservation. I jumped at the opportunity, immediately obtained BCAS board approval, and arranged for him to speak to us on Thursday, Feb 23, 2006 at 8 pm at the Fern Forest Nature Center in Coconut Creek, FL.

Prof. Harrison will tell the exciting story behind the rediscovery and explain plans for further work including obtaining clear photos, video and audio to find the bird's roosting or nesting spots.

For Harrison, an associate professor of art at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, the re-discovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker was the culmination of a thirty year dream. Following his initial success, he has continued his efforts to learn more about this elusive bird, placing remote video cameras around decoys at various locations within its habitat. Since his original sighting, Harrison has observed the bird numerous additional times.

More information about the event is available at the Broward County Audubon Society's website at

<http://www.browardaudubon.org> or call 954-963-2428. Tickets are available with a tax deductible donation to Broward County Audubon Society of \$20 per adult or \$10 per child under 14. Proceeds go to support Harrison's research.



© Mark Godfrey, The Nature Conservancy  
Bobby Harrison mounts decoy in Cache River NWR

## HOT SPOT OF THE MONTH — JOHN U. LLOYD STATE PARK

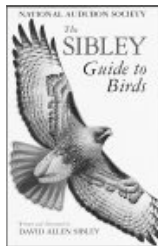
By Paddy Cunningham Piscatore, BCAS Program Chair, Birding Adventures

One of the last beach areas with natural vegetation in Broward County is at this beautiful, popular park. It contains several different habitats, including coastal hammock, mangroves, sand dunes and beach front. Birdwatching is best during the week or either early or late in the day on weekends when the park is less crowded.

A great place to start is the coastal hammock nature trail from the first parking lot. The large fig trees provide fruit for migrating **warblers** and other **songbirds**. Also, look on the forest floor for **thrushes** that like cover. Watch for **Northern Waterthrush** on the mud bank in the mangroves. Cross the bridge over Whiskey Creek to find **shorebirds** in the surf and along the wrack. **Seabirds** can often be seen from the beach, including **Northern Gannet**, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **Brown Pelican**, and assorted **gulls** and **terns**. **Wading birds** can be found along the creek including **Reddish Egret**. Go to the jetty at the northern end of the park to look for **seaside shorebirds** such as **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **sandpipers**, **plovers**, etc. and for offshore seabirds.

Take Sheridan Street from I-95 to US1, north several blocks to Dania Beach Blvd, then east to AIA, turn north to the entrance of the park.

Field guides, binoculars, scopes, birding supplies, birdfeeders, software and more.



**Broward Audubon's Online Nature Store**

Helps Support BCAS

<http://store.browardaudubon.org>

Broward County Audubon Society  
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Published six times a year by  
Broward County Audubon Society,  
Inc. non-profit corporation  
since January 12, 1956

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FT. LAUD., FL  
PERMIT NO. 1126

Meetings At: **Fern Forest Nature Center**  
201 Lyons Rd. South  
Coconut Creek 33063

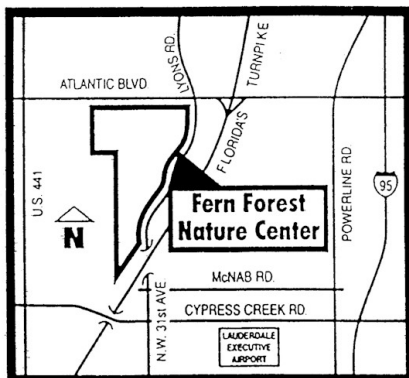
**From I-95 and Atlantic Blvd:** Go west to South Lyons Road, go south to entrance of Nature Center.

**From US441/SR7 and W. Atlantic Blvd:** Go east to South Lyons Road, go south to entrance of Nature Center.

**From South by Florida Turnpike:** Exit at Atlantic Blvd. Go west one light to South Lyons Road, go south to entrance of Nature Center.

**From North by Florida Turnpike:** Exit Pompano Beach, go right at light onto Coconut Creek Pkwy. Go West to S. Lyons Rd (NW 46th Ave). Turn left,

Celebrating  
50 Years



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*The Newsletter of the Broward County Audubon Society*

We're on the web:  
[browardaudubon.org](http://browardaudubon.org)

Volume 51  
Issue 4  
January 2006

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- Broward Birding Hot Spot — John U. Lloyd State Park

**NEXT EVENING MEETING—**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006**

**FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:**

7:00 PM—Refreshments

7:30—9:00 PM—Program

*Conservation, Community, Commitment*



**FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006 AT 7:30 PM**  
***MASAI MARA MAMMAL MIGRATION***  
***RON MCGIL, Goodwill Ambassador, Miami MetroZoo***

Everyone loves Ron McGil. Come listen to this dynamic speaker tell us about his experiences in Kenya's Masai Mara. Also. Ron will share his up close view of the shy and elusive Mountain Gorillas and much more. He will also update us on the Wings of Asia Aviary at Miami MetroZoo.