

The Warbler



The Warbler February, 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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barry Heimlich

February is a big month for Broward Audubon. The highlight event is on February 23rd at Fern Forest when Bobby Harrison will share his excitement over the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas. You may have heard that there is some controversy over the discovery. Harrison will present us with the compelling evidence that the "Grail Bird" lives. **Don't miss this exciting event.** Your \$20 donation will go to supporting Dr. Harrison's research. Bring your kids – the donation for children aged 13 and younger is \$10. Registration forms are available at the browardaudubon.org website or call me at 954-963-2428.

This month is also when Everglades BirdTrek 2006 takes place on the weekend of Feb. 24-26. At our regular meeting on Feb. 16, Gil McAdams, the Environmental Administrator of the Broward Parks and Recreation Department, will update us on the recovery and repair of county parks and nature centers that suffered serious damage in Hurricane Wilma.

Be sure to visit our website and click on the Global Warming link. There you will find links to articles and websites to inform you on the most serious environmental challenge facing not just Americans, but the entire world. In this issue is another article by Doug Young and a checklist of what you can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that you generate.

Water Matters Day is coming up on March 11 at Tree Tops Park. Broward Audubon will have a display booth with information on Global Warming and our representatives will be there to discuss the subject with you. I will be speaking in the speakers forum on Global Warming.

We have also begun a campaign to encourage the Broward County Commission to begin a Global Warming Initiative by adopting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. This agreement has already been adopted by 194 cities across the country including Broward cities of Hallandale Beach, Hollywood, Lauderdale, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, and Tamarac. We want to see the county government and the rest of Broward's cities endorse this agreement. Under it, cities commit to reducing energy consumption and converting to alternate energy sources in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Activities Calendar

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
Thurs. February 16, 2005	BROWARD'S NATURAL AREAS	Gil MacAdam , Environ. Admin, Broward Parks
Thurs. February 23, 2005, 8pm	<i>SPECIAL EVENT !!!</i> REDISCOVERY OF IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER	Bobby Harrison , one of two scientists credited with making the first confirmed sighting
Thurs., April 20, 2006	GLOBAL WARMING: EFFECTS ON SOUTH FLORIDA	Hal Wanless, PhD , Chair, Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Miami

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

Date and Time	Place	Subject
Saturday, March 11, 2006	Tree Tops Park	WATER MATTERS DAY
Saturday, March 18, 2006,	FLAMINGO GARDENS	A behind the scenes tour
Sat., April 22, 2006	Quiet Waters Park	EARTH DAY

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

Date	Place	Meeting Place and Time	Notes
Sat. March 4, 2006	Corkscrew Swamp	Sanctuary Entrance at 9am	Day Trip
Sat. March 18, 2006	Bird-a-Thon	Flamingo Gardens	FREE admission Flamingo Gardens With insider's guided tour
Sat. April 29, 2006	Hugh Taylor Birch St.Pk.	Beach Parking Lot at 8am	Free 2-hr walk, 2-hr Workshop \$20
Sat.-Sun May 6-7, 2006	Fort DeSoto St.Pk. St. Petersburg	TBD	Fee TBD

Broward County Audubon Society Embraces Global Warming / Climate Change as Conservation Theme for 2006.

By Doug Young, Vice President and Member, Board of Directors BCAS

Since Fall 2005, you have begun to read articles and editorials in *The Warbler* about Global Warming and its effects on South Florida with a specific focus on Broward County and the Everglades. You will learn more about the topic and related subjects as the year progresses. As our conservation theme we are actively calling upon local government, other environmental / conservation organizations and the scientific and academic community to join forces to lead the way in public education but more importantly to look for and find solutions to this most serious problem.

On Friday, January 20, 2006, Barry Heimlich, BCAS President, and I attended the Global Climate Change conference presented by the South Florida Association of Environmental Professionals at the Kovens Conference Center, FAU, Biscayne Bay Campus. This was the first such meeting to discuss and explore the human aspects and natural systems related to Global Climate Change. The one-day conference proved to be an excellent networking opportunity for us. We have now begun the process of approaching the Broward County Commission with a proposal to undertake a Global Warming program and join the League of Cities initiative.

Many U.S. mayors have already begun to take the lead on global warming including some cities in Broward County such as Sunrise, Tamarac, Pembroke Pines and Hollywood. As of December 2005, 194 mayors in 37 states had signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, vowing to meet or beat the Kyoto goals. Hurricanes, floods, droughts, and killer heat waves all have major economic consequences (as we well know in South Florida), which explains why cities as varied as Las Vegas and New Orleans (before the devastation of Hurricane Katrina) have promised to reduce

greenhouse gases by curbing sprawl and investing in clean energy.

As a matter of fact, four months before Hurricane Katrina pulverized the Gulf Coast, New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin warned that his was "the North American city most vulnerable to the effects of climate change." Whether Katrina's impacts are directly attributed to global warming is not certain, but we know that a key ingredient of intensified hurricanes, warmer water in the Gulf of Mexico, is a strong possibility.

With the hurricane season of 2005 that we had in South Florida, most Broward cities are no longer willing to wait to find out, nor can they afford to.

Broward County Audubon Society is encouraged to pursue participation by our County government in supporting and leading Global Warming programs and initiatives because of the success that was initiated by the efforts of Seattle mayor Greg Nickels. Seattle is on a path leading to the elimination of its net greenhouse-gas emissions from municipal operations by 2006.

Watch for the efforts of your *Broward County Audubon Society* as we initiate and lead the way toward engaging the right people to help find solutions for today and tomorrow. We urge you to reach out and join us by helping in our efforts through everyday efforts such as conserving energy, participating in education programs or engaging your political leaders. **Refer to the Global Warming Checklist in this issue of *The Warbler* for everyday ideas of things that you can do to help out with offsetting the effects of global warming.**

Global Warming Checklist

Tips at School or Work	Encourage your organization or school to recycle, to use energy- efficient lighting.	Make energy-saving suggestions.	Turn off lights when not in use.
Tips for Home	Use insulation with a high 'R' factor, use caulking or weather-stripping around doors and windows.	Insulate water heater and keep it at 120°F.	Keep refrigerator coils clean and check door seals.
	Use energy saving 'fluorescent' light bulbs	Recycle newspaper, paper, glass, plastic, cans, etc.	Get an energy 'audit' and follow its advice.
Shopping Tips	Buy recycled or recyclable products.	Buy reusable products, rather than disposable ones such as razors and diapers.	Avoid buying exotic woods – teak or mahogany. Their harvest can cause deforestation.
	Avoid meat imported from developing countries that clear forests for grazing.	Avoid products containing CFCs or halon.	
Tips for Travel	Get your car tuned and serviced regularly.	Don't drive when you can walk or use a bike.	Drive smoothly and at a moderate speed to save gas.
	Use public transportation or car pool whenever possible.	Choose cars that get good gas mileage.	


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



Broward Audubon's Online Nature Store
Helps Support BCAS
<http://store.browardaudubon.org>



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Birding Corner

The Fishermen that hook the Terns

Mark Foley, Park Ranger, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Member BCAS

I was visiting Sebastian Inlet State Park on my way back from Bird Conservation training. I was on a high, just having had an intensive few days with brilliant and accomplished birders, including biologists and authors of wildlife conservation publications. I was looking to hone in on some of my newly sharpened birding skills and migrate through our state parks. My first sighting brought me to a group of about 8 Royal Terns.

At first the birds all seemed content. Their stealthy bodies, hobbled up and down the beach, or just rested with bright orange beaks tucked under their wings. It was not long before I noticed a few of the birds bobbing and shaking their heads oddly, but it was heart wrenching to discover what was causing this peculiar behavior. From the beaks of 3 (out of 8) birds were hanging fishing wire, and one of the birds had a hook noticeably fastened onto it. Upon further inspection these birds appeared a bit more frazzled than the rest in their flock. Their feathers were more unkempt, and it was clear that they were not moving as comfortably as the other terns, undoubtedly taxed of energy and suffering. These birds would most likely die. What was most shattering to me was the realization that there was nothing that I could do about it. Not 100 foot away I could see a host of people on the pier happily fishing on a beautiful sunny day, unaware of the harm they might be causing.

I was so heartbroken, and then angry, at the scenario that I reported the wounded birds immediately to the rangers at the historical Fishing House. Ironically a conference was being held at the center on "how to better your fishing". I became livid when I heard the host

encouraging specific bait and lures and only lightly mentioning the threat that increased fishing was posing on wildlife. I stood up and voiced my pain. It was met with too little concern.

This is of course one of countless examples of human activity that is contributing to the sickness of the natural world. This is not an attack on fishing in and of itself, but a sharp look at the cause and effect of our actions, especially when taking into consideration the numbers of our species and our rate of consumption. As such, we should be reminded often how recently our species emerged out of the planet in comparison to her entire life history. The ecological depreciation our species has exacted over the past 200 years is unprecedented when analyzing the past 10,000 years of climate and biota change.

We gather the deep travesty imposed upon the biodiversity of our planet when we KNOW ourselves as finite in physical form yet inexorably tied to the Infinite Life Force that permeates all things throughout the Earth and the Cosmos. All of our species with all other animal species and all plant life are one, collective process. It is not us and them. It is we together. If there is a truth that we claim to be pure and sacred, it cannot be centered upon our species' transcendence alone, but must be tied to the undeniable power that gave rise to our species as well as all other life forms. Unfortunately, it would seem, that a vast majority of us are greatly disconnected from this understanding.

With all of this in mind, everything we do outwardly within our environment is part of that sacred process. There are direct ways that

we can be part of the ecosystem and take to sustain our health and comfort, as well as return to maintain sustainable balance.

Just as ingesting certain foods or chemicals into our bodies contributes to its balance or imbalance, so too must we have a consideration for what we are doing in our immediate environments. We must ask what world we are supporting in our very homes with energy and water consumption or use of chemicals and materials or on our land with consideration to native and exotic animal and plant life that we either encourage or introduce.

The question remains, to what extent does knowledge of these self-evident facts affect our lifestyle choices? How are we being part of a turning tide of solutions to an ailing world rather than part of the parasitic onslaught of problems that we have collectively created? We must consistently ask ourselves, at so many different levels, if we are like the fishermen that unwittingly hook the terns.

Mark E. Foley is a Florida State Ranger at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. He is also a columnist for the Express News. Mark has been writing about spiritual and holistic topics for a number of years and is deeply involved with earth-based consciousness and environmentalism.

HOT SPOT OF THE MONTH — JOHN WILLIAMS PARK

By Paddy Cunningham Pascatore, Program Chair, Birding Adventures

A little known oak hammock located in central Hollywood is John Williams Park. For those who find T.Y. Park too crowded for birding on the weekends, try this intact oak canopy which is a magnet for **warblers** and **songbirds** during migration. Also observed in the canopy are **Screech Owls**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and wintering **Coopers Hawks**. It is a great place with a paved trail for the less able birder, power walking, or taking the dog. It has a playground to keep the kids busy while you check out the warblers. *John Williams is located just west of 441 on the north side of Sheridan Street-6101 Sheridan Street.*

A nice compliment for a morning of birding would be Snake Warrior Island, a wetland restoration park (see description on website). *Turn west on County Line Road and your first right just west of 441.* If you've gone past the Winn Dixie you've gone too far. I predict if more people bird these areas in the future, rare birds will be found. Good Luck Birding!!!



Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Brought to you by: **Broward County Audubon Society** and **Broward County Parks and Recreation Department**

Bobby Harrison

Associate Professor at Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala.

February 23, 2006, 8-9pm

Fern Forest Nature Center

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek 33063

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February 23, 2006
Bobby Harrison
on Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers
Fern Forest Nature Center

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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

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February 2006

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NEXT EVENING MEETING—
THURS., FEBRUARY 16, 2006

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:

7:00 PM—Refreshments

7:30 PM—Meeting

Conservation, Community, Commitment

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER

THURSDAY, February 16, 2006 AT 7:30 PM

Broward's Natural Places-After Wilma
Gil MacAdam, Environmental Administrator
Broward County Parks & Recreation

Gil MacAdam, one of Broward's premier Naturalists, will speak about the recovery, rebuilding and reopening of Broward's natural areas and nature centers after Hurricane Wilma. Although Hillsboro, Pineland, and Snake Warrior Island are up and running, many sites are still not open due the devastation. Large sections of the boardwalk were destroyed at Fern Forest and Tall Cypress. Woodmont had many of its slash pines snapped. Please attend this important meeting to hear about the current status and future for our precious Broward natural areas.