

The Warbler



The Warbler March, 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 was a big month for Broward Audubon. The highlight event on February 23rd was at Fern Forest when Bobby Harrison shared his excitement over the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas with an audience about 100. Harrison presented compelling evidence that the "Lord God Bird" lives. We are very proud to contribute to Dr. Harrison's important research. This month, Everglades BirdTrek 2006 also took place on the weekend of Feb. 24-26. An article appears in this issue describing how 115 bird species were sighted. At our regular meeting on Feb. 16th, Gil MacAdams, the Environmental Administrator of the Broward Parks and Recreation Department, described the wonder of Broward's natural places and updated us on the recovery of county parks and nature centers from Hurricane Wilma.

March is another big month when Mike Ruggieri of Flamingo Gardens speaks at our regular meeting on March 16th at 730pm. Mike is in charge of wildlife management at the Gardens. This event is followed on Saturday March 18 by the Annual Audubon Bird-a-thon, which will start out from Flamingo Gardens. Our members will be treated to free admission and a behind-the-scenes tour of Flamingo Gardens. A Bird-a-thon donation form appears on page 4 of this issue.

Water Matters Day is coming up on March 11 at Tree Tops Park. Broward Audubon plans to have a display booth on Global Warming and board members will be there to discuss the subject with you. I have been invited to speak on Global Warming at the speakers forum .

Visit our website and click on the Global Warming link. We have undertaken a campaign to encourage the Broward County Commission to begin a Global Warming Initiative by adopting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. A copy of the letter is posted on the Global Warming page of the website.

There are some changes to the Activity Calendar, so be sure to check the dates below.

Activities Calendar

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
Thurs., March 16, 2006	Wildlife Rehabilitation	Mike Ruggieri , Wildlife Manager, Flamingo Gardens
Thurs., April 20, 2006	GLOBAL WARMING: EFFECTS ON SOUTH FLORIDA	Hal Wanless, PhD , Chair, Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Mi-

BCAS Field Trips and Special Events

For info, call Ken Burgener at (954) 766-2919, email: kburgener@hotmail.com

Date	Subject	Meeting Place and Time	Notes
Sat. March 4, 2006	Corkscrew Swamp Birdwalk	Corkscrew Sanctuary Entrance at 9:00 a.m.	Call Ken for info on back country tour. Entry Fee.
Sat., March 11, 2006	WATER MATTERS DAY	Tree Tops Park 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Visit BCAS Booth
Sat. March 18, 2006	BIRD-A-THON and FLAMINGO GARDENS Special	Flamingo Gardens parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Special Event at 12 Noon	Free admission to Flamingo Gardens and insider guided tour.
Sat., April 22, 2006	EARTH DAY	Quiet Waters Park all day	Celebrate the Earth
Sat. April 29, 2006	Hugh Taylor Birch State Park—Birdwalk	First parking lot at 8:00 a.m.	Free 2-hour walk, 2-hour workshop. Fee \$20
Sat.-Sun. May 6-7, 2006	Fort De Soto State Park, St. Petersburg—Birding Trip	Contact Paddy for info: birdpaddy@yahoo.com	Fee includes Birding and Lodging: TBD

Birding Corner

Everglades BirdTrek Yields 115 Species – A Trek of a Time

By Barry Heimlich

Fifteen Everglades BirdTrekbers, led by Barry Heimlich and Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore, headed out on Feb. 24-26 to explore a wide swath of the Everglades watershed. On Friday morning we set out across Alligator Alley for **Corkscrew Swamp**. On Government Road, 2 **Crested Caracara**, several **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 3 **Sandhill Crane**, numerous **White** and **Glossy Ibis**, **Northern Harrier**, numerous **American Kestrel** and many **Egret** and **Heron** were seen. After Jason Lauritsen's talk on Corkscrew over lunch, we headed for the boardwalk. Major viewings were **Swallow-tailed Kite**, 9 **Warblers**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Wood Stork**, and courting **Yellow-crested Night-herons**. We headed south to see **Eagle Lakes Park**, which lived up to its name as an immature **Bald Eagle** flew in and perched on a tree in the large lake as we arrived. Many **Loggerhead Shrike** were on the fences. Many wading birds including **Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs** side by side, **Blue-winged Teal** and **Purple Gallinule** were seen. **Eastern Bluebird** flitted on the opposite shore of the small lake. We proceeded to **Tigertail Beach** on Marco Island. Always a hotspot for shore birds, Tigertail did not disappoint: **Western and Least Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin** and **Short-billed Dowitcher**. **Semi-palmated, Killdeer**, **Black-bellied, Piping** and **Wilson's Plover**. A **Reddish Egret** fed across the lagoon.

The next morning, we headed eastward across Tamiami Trail in pouring rain. The rain was subsiding by the time we arrived at **Shark Valley**. There were more wading birds than either Paddy or I have ever seen along the tram route: **Great, Snowy** and **Cattle Egret**, **White** and **Glossy Ibis**, **Wood Stork**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, and both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Nightheron**, many immature and many adults in breeding plumage. As we approached the Observation Tower, Paddy spotted 2 **American Bittern** flying, a **Limpkin** feeding, then another flying. On the return from the Tower, we saw **Purple Gallinule** and nests of **Anhinga** and **Double-crested Cormorant**. **Alligators**, some over 12 feet, were everywhere including some newborns. The 10-footer pictured to the left caught a 3 lb. large mouth bass for lunch. Everglades birds are certainly thriving in this area. We stopped along the Tamiami Trail to watch a pair of **Snail Kite** hunting over the sawgrass. Two caught snails and perched close by to feed as if on cue. We met a birdwatching family from New



York City whose young sons were so excited to see these endangered kites. They were so grateful that we pointed them out.

On the way to the Main Section of **Everglades National Park**, a **Merlin** was spotted in Redlands. After watching the video and orientation at the Coe Visitor Center, the group headed for **Anhinga Trail**. Upon arrival, myriad **Black** and **Turkey Vultures** were kettling above the parking lot. One bird soaring very high was smaller with a short fan-shaped tail. It was identified as a **Short-tailed Hawk (dark phase)**. It swooped down right over our heads and seemed to be looking us over. As we walked the Anhinga Trail, the cormorants are so tame, you can go right up to them as the picture in the next column testifies. Some of the cormorants displayed double crests shown only at breeding time. **Anhinga**, **Great Blue**, **Little Blue**, and **Tricolored Herons** were all in high breeding color. We got close looks at

nestlings of **Anhinga**, **Green-backed Heron**, and **Double-crested Cormorant**. Last but not least, a **Great White Heron (white phase of Great Blue Heron)** waded in the slough near the Visitors Center.

At **Lucky Hammock** there were **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Whip-poor-will** and an uncommon **Swainson's Hawk**. The sighting of a **Barred Owl** perched on a telephone wire by the Annex created much excitement.

Early Sunday morning, we headed back to **Everglades National Park**. We stopped briefly at **Lucky Hammock** and saw 2 immature **Painted Buntings** and a pair of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. Then it was a beeline for Flamingo to catch low tide. Thousands of shorebirds covered the mudflats, including **American White Pelican**, **Brown Pelican**, **Caspian** and **Royal Terns**. Hundreds of **Black Skimmer**, **Willet**, **Short-billed Dowitcher** undulated in a low flying dance over the flats. A lone **Marbled Godwit** sat among the sandpi-

pers and terns. **Great**, **Snowy** and **Reddish Egret** and **White Ibis** were wading in the shallows. **Osprey** nested on the telephone tower.

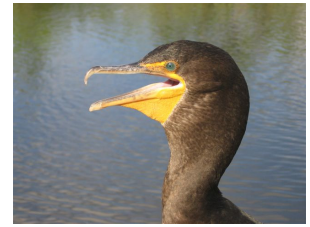
The Flamingo area suffered a lot of damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Both produced storm surges that flooded the area. The Flamingo Lodge is condemned and there is doubt about whether it will be rebuilt anytime soon. Grass and trees were devastated by saltwater. I took a look at Eco Pond. It is dead. No vegetation, no birds, nothing. It looks like a water-filled crater on the Moon. Saltwater inundated it, and it will take years to recover. There is no evidence of life at Mrazek Pond either.

We drove down a side road near Flamingo to look for Mangrove Cuckoo without success, but we received a fabulous treat instead: 5 **American Swallow-tailed Kites** soared overhead. These birds are so breathtaking. Suddenly they started maneuvering at fantastic speeds. Two swooped down very low to the mangroves and when they re-emerged, they were dog fighting with a **Peregrine Falcon**. How startling to see the kites and falcon in territorial combat.

At **Paurotis Pond**, **Wood Stork** and **Great Egret** were nesting in the mangroves. Several **Roseate Spoonbill** in high breeding color flew over the mangroves to nests on the other side of the mangroves.

We picnicked at **Long Pine Key** by the lake. **Eastern Towhee**, **Northern Flicker**, and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** stopped by to visit. A brief search for Brown-headed Nuthatch was unsuccessful. We stopped at Robert's Fruit Stand for their famous milkshakes before the long drive back to Fort Lauderdale.

Everglades BirdTrek was a great success. In total, the group sighting 115 species, many of them uncommon or endangered. At each place, it was if the birds came out to show off for us. Everyone raved about the trip, and we added some funds to the coffers too.



Double-crested Cormorant



Swallow-tailed Kite

Special Event



Audubon BIRDATHON!

Please participate in Audubon Bird-a-Thon as a Birder, Sponsor or Donor

By Ken Burgener:

Broward Audubon is sponsoring a Bird-a-thon from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18. Proceeds will go to support our important conservation and education programs. For those looking for a team or someone to go with, we will meet at Flamingo Gardens parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to organize carpools.

We will break for picnic lunch (bring your own) at Flamingo Gardens. Participants receive free admission to the park and we will be treated to a behind the scenes tour of the gardens and aviary.

An award ceremony and dinner (Dutch treat) will follow at Secret Woods Nature Center from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This will be a fun opportunity to share stories and discuss the birds found. Prizes will be given out for the best team score.

Birders: Help Broward Audubon Society raise needed funds, by doing what you love most -- birdwatching (beats walking). Contact Ken Burgener (see below) to join a birding team. Sign up sponsors using form on the next page.

Sponsors: If you wish to sponsor a birder, contact that birder and offer them your sponsorship. If you don't have a birder to sponsor, then please sponsor Ken Burgener by contacting him at the email address or telephone number below.

Donors: For those wishing to make a donation to the chapter, please use form on the next page.

For information,
Contact Ken Burgener:

Email: kburgener@hotmail.com

Telephone: (954) 766-2919

KEEPING AMERICA BIRDIFUL

A Trek of a Time — Photo Gallery



Yellow-crowned Nightheron

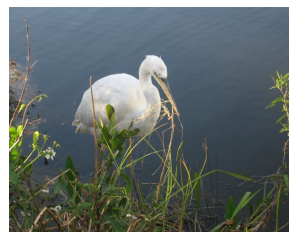
A few highlights from
Everglades BirdTrek 2006



Wood Stork



Great Egret



Great White Heron



Great Blue Heron



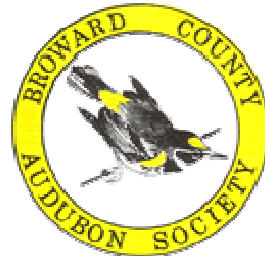
Do you see the baby green-backed herons in the picture to the left?



Little Blue Heron



Special Event



Official Sponsor Sheet

Broward County Audubon Society – 2006 Bird-a-thon

100% of all donations go directly to support Audubon's mission of conservation, education and advocacy, protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.
Please Print Clearly – MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Broward County Audubon Society

SPONSORED BIRDER: _____

Sponsor's Name	Address	Telephone	Pledge per Species \$	Gift \$	Corp. Match \$	Amt Paid \$

Your Donation Would be Appreciated

100% of all donations go directly to support Audubon's mission of conservation, education and advocacy, protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.
Please Print Clearly – MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Broward County Audubon Society
 Mail to: P.O. Box 9644, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-9644

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Donation Enclosed:	\$

Of Interest

Broward Audubon Raises Funds for Ivory-billed Woodpecker Research

By Barry Heimlich

Bobby Harrison, recognized as one of the first people to rediscover the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge of Arkansas' Big Woods, addressed a crowd of about 100 people on the evening of February 23rd at Fern Forest Nature Center. Donations from the attendees provided a significant contribution to support Harrison's research in conjunction with the Cornell Ornithology Lab. Harrison's slide presentation was both informative and very entertaining. He explained how this magnificent bird was driven to the edge of extinction, thought to be extinct for 50 years, and excitedly rediscovered in 2004. He presented compelling video and audio evidence that the "Lord God Bird" still lives and told us about the joint efforts of the Cornell Ornithology Lab, Nature Conservancy, and other conservation groups to further document its survival and to learn about its living and breeding habits in order to help the species recover.



© Mark Godfrey, The Nature Conservancy

Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is the most exciting conservation story in many years. It shows the importance of preserving large tracts of wilderness to provide habitat for wildlife. The Ivory-bill requires large territories. If it hadn't been for the preservation of over 100 square miles of old growth cypress-tupelo forest, who knows if this magnificent bird would have made it into the 21st Century.

The event was jointly sponsored by Broward County Audubon Society and the Broward County Parks and Recreation Department.

Science Fair Winners Recognized

by Marti Reynolds

The 32nd Annual Broward County Science Fair was held on February 16-19 at a local mall with many outstanding projects produced by 650 students for 61 area schools.

Four top projects were selected from a range of topics ranging from The sensitivity of organisms to salt stress in our ecosystems; to how physical factors on beach restoration might impact living organizations; to which hurricane shutters hold up best; to determine the effect of pH levels in our waterways on living organisms.

The 2006 first place high school winner is Faheema Abdul Ghany, and the first place middle school winner is Nicholas Levy. Broward County Audubon will recognize these outstanding young students at our April 20th meeting and receive a \$50 savings bond.

Ft. Lauderdale, King Tut, and the Sacred Ibis

By Ken Burgener

Have you been to see the King Tut exhibit in Fort Lauderdale yet? If you keep an eye open for the different birds you will see inscribed in and around the artifacts brought over from Egypt, you will conclude that the Ibis played an important part in the lives of the ancient Egyptians. The religious belief is that the Ibis was the bird that incubated the egg that hatched the Universe. Over seven million Ibis have been found mummified in Egypt.

The Egyptian Ibis is a different species. It is called the Sacred Ibis and has an all black head, and a body of white. It is about the same size as those found here.



Our White Ibis is one of 33 different Ibis species that make up the Family *Threskiornithidae*. You can see them anywhere in Broward County or in the State of Florida. The Ibis are a warm weather bird, and is mostly found in Florida, with some going into the Gulf Coast.

White Ibis used to be the most common wading bird in Florida, (Cattle Egret is now



more common). The Ibis eat crayfish, crabs, insects, fish, mollusks, and I have seen them eat popcorn at Disney World. You may see them in large flocks eating insects in your yard. Next time you see the Ibis, it should remind you to go visit King Tut. The exhibit is at the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art on Los Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue until it leaves on April 23rd, but the White Ibis will be around these parts for a long time.



Photo: Herb & Carol Wolf

Broward County Audubon Society expresses its sincere appreciation to **Alfred E. Griffin Insurance Agency**, **Lander's Nursery** and **Runway Growers Inc.** for their support.

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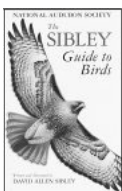


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Field guides, binoculars, scopes, birding supplies, birdfeeders, software and more.



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

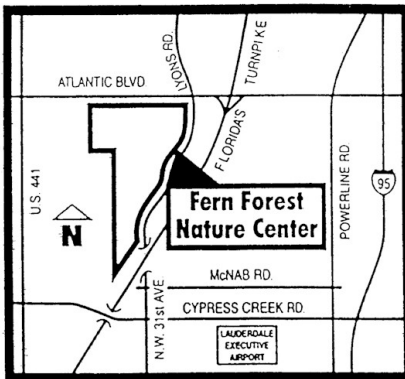
From I-95 and Atlantic Blvd: Go west to South Lyons Road, go south to entrance of Nature Center.

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



The Warbler

The Newsletter of the Broward County Audubon Society

We're on the web:
browardaudubon.org

Volume 51
Issue 6
March 2006

Inside this issue:

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- King Tut and the Sacred Ibis
- **NEXT GENERAL MEETING—**
THURS., March 16, 2006

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:

7:15 PM—Refreshments

7:30 PM—Meeting

Conservation, Community, Commitment

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER
THURSDAY, March 16, 2006 AT 7:30 PM
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation
Mike Ruggieri, Wildlife Manager
Flamingo Gardens

Mike Ruggieri manages the care and treatment of hundreds of birds and animals at the magnificent Flamingo Gardens. He will tell us about the wildlife collection at the Gardens and how wounded and ill wildlife brought to the Gardens are cared for.