

The Warbler



The Warbler,
November, 2005

Points of interest:

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barry Heimlich

Last month we wrote about the potentially devastating effects that rising sea levels caused by global warming can have on South Florida. This is why people living in South Florida must be especially concerned. We should all do what we can to be more energy efficient.

In this issue of *The Warbler*, is a new article, second in a series of articles, addressing concerns about global warming. Furthermore, we need to tell our government officials at the local, state, and federal levels about these concerns, and we can also use our votes to elect environmentally responsible representatives. Broward Audubon plans to approach county and local officials to urge government leaders to set an example by instituting more energy efficient equipment and methods in government operations and services.

Plans are being made to expand mass transit in Broward County to meet the demands of its ever growing population. Energy efficient technologies, such as electrically driven light rail and people movers and natural gas powered buses, should be utilized to provide clean transportation. We will also encourage energy efficient practices in government buildings and facilities. You can do the same at home and at your workplace.

Another way we can encourage people to address these issues, is by telling our family members, friends, and coworkers why this is important and what can be done about it. The more discussion there is about global warming at the grass roots level, the better.

Write or email us at warbler@browardaudubon.org. We will publish responsible opinions and ideas.

BROWARD BIRDING HOT SPOTS—GOVERNMENT ROAD

By Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore, BCAS Board of Directors

Government or Snake Road is found by turning north off of Alligator Alley—I-75 at the gas station. This incredible birding spot offers the best chance in Broward to locate a wide variety of species and some rare specialties. It is the closest opportunity to see central prairie birds, such as Crested Caracara, Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Meadowlark, and Turkey. The road travels along a canal that has a wide variety of wading birds, but also has great views of Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and even an occasional Stilt Sandpiper in the winter.

Blue-winged Teals and Mottled Ducks are regulars. A burrow pit on the west side of the road is wonderful for an evening fly-in of wading birds, including Roseate Spoonbills like the one pictured above, and in the day, Black-crowned Night Herons and Glossy Ibis. Look closely for side roads where you may be able to observe Grasshopper Sparrows and other Sparrows.

In the winter, a specialty of this road by traveling 14 miles north, are possible Western Kingbirds, rare Scissor-tailed and the extremely beautiful Vermillion Flycatchers. Look on the wires and along the fence line, especially at the Jumper Ranch for these western visitors. The open spaces provide great views of local Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks too.

There have also been sightings of the rare White-tailed Kite in the farm fields. This road is a great way to see a lot of species on your way to Corkscrew or to points north, such as Lake Okeechobee, WTA 5, or Archbold. Also a great Sunday drive for you or out of town guests with lots of gators too!!



Roseate Spoonbill

GLOBAL WARMING—2nd in a series of articles on global warming—

By Doug Young

BCAS Board of Directors

I chose a good week to vacation out-of-state. It's October 23 and I'm enjoying the dry air in Mariposa County, Arizona as I check reports about Hurricane Wilma as it makes its way to Florida. I glance at a September 2, 2005 clipping from the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* which says, "Hurricane seasons are busier and storms are growing stronger. Is it global warming? No one knows for sure, but there's mounting evidence climate change may be contributing to more active and intense hurricane seasons." It continues, "...according to a recent study, hurricanes have increased by about 50 percent in both intensity and duration since the 1970's coinciding with higher ocean surface and atmospheric temperatures. It's foolish to discount that kind of data."

Another clipping dated October 8, 2005 is written by Neil Santaniello of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and is even closer to home. It reads, "Rain hurts wading bird nesting. High water levels in South Florida upset eating, breeding habits, survey finds. After a

promising start wading bird nesting fell victim this year to too much rain and high water in South Florida, according to a survey." But if we "read between the lines," too much rain may have come from the record season of hurricanes and tropical storms, right?

From the *Sun-Sentinel* October 11, 2005, "Ports turn away Greenpeace ship." "A long and frustrating weekend spilled into Monday (October 12, 2005) for Greenpeace activists who were in South Florida to warn about global warming and off-shore drilling. Greenpeace was forced to cancel free weekend tours of its ship, which included exhibits on the dangers of global warming."

The Natural Resources Defense Council confirms such dangers, listing the following threats global warming poses for South Florida's people and resources:

- ◇ As glaciers melt and warming waters expand, sea levels will rise everywhere from eight inches to two-and-a-half feet over the next century. In

Florida, seawater will advance inland as much as 400 feet in low-lying areas, flooding shoreline homes and hotels, limiting future development, and eroding the state's beaches.

- ◇ As saltwater encroaches, inland freshwater supplies feeding Florida's cities, agriculture, and tourist centers will be at risk of contamination.
- ◇ Saltwater encroachment will also likely inundate coastal wetlands, gravely threatening the lower Everglades and its wildlife.
- ◇ Tourism will likely suffer.
- ◇ Global warming will pose health threats to Florida's citizens, particularly seniors, likely increasing heat-related illness, poor air quality, perhaps spreading infectious diseases.
- ◇ Forest wildfires likely more common, doing more damage. Also, global warming increases threats to forests from invasive species and plants.

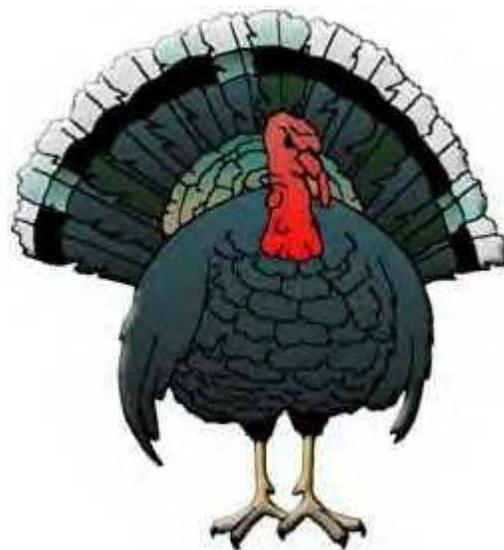
This topic continues in future Warblers!

BROWARD BIRD OF THE MONTH—WILD TURKEY—*Meleagris Gallopavo*

By Ken Burgener, BCAS Field Trips Chair

The Wild Turkey is a very different bird from the one we will dine on this month. The Mexican Indians domesticated the Thanksgiving Turkey hundreds of years ago. The Spanish took the bird to Europe where it was somehow confused with a fowl from the country of Turkey, hence the name. The Wild Turkey population started declining as soon as settlers arrived from Europe due to over hunting and habitat destruction. The 1940s saw the lowest count of Turkeys, estimated below a half a million birds. With the Federal and several State Governments stepping in with strict hunting regulations and breeding programs, the Turkeys' numbers have grown to over seven million birds.

The Turkey is a shy bird of forested lands. It avoids people and is very difficult to see in the wild. Turkeys can be seen along the Florida Turnpike, back roads and fields surrounded by woods. The chances of seeing a Turkey here in Broward are slim to none. Broward lacks the forested hills that the Turkey likes. The Turkey eats seeds, nuts, acorns, small lizards, snakes, and frogs. A large Tom may eat up to a pound of food a day. Give thanks that the Thanksgiving Turkey is on your table, and the Wild Turkey is doing well in outdoor habitats!



Broward Audubon Sponsors for 2005-2006

Please add your name to our growing list of sponsors.

Great Blue Herons

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Ellen and Barry Heimlich
Richard and Sue Tomlin

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Sandra Hankin

Rita Heck
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Activities Calendar November 2005—February 2006 (Mark your calendars!!)

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
Thurs., December 15, 2005 <i>Rescheduled due to Wilma</i>	SANDHILL CRANES OF THE PLATTE RIVER <i>Favorite Birds Show & Tell</i>	Barry Heimlich, President Broward Audubon
Thurs., January 19, 2006	WONDERS OF ASIA AVIARY-METROZOO	Ron Magil, Community Ambassador, Miami MetroZoo

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

Date and Time	Place	Subject
Sun., December 18, 2005 All day	Throughout Broward County	ANNUAL XMAS BIRD COUNT
Sat.-Sun., January 14-15, 2006	Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge	WEEKEND FIELDTRIP
Sat., February 4, 2006	Anne Kolb Nature Center	10 th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER
Fri.-Sun. February 24-26, 2006	Corkscrew Swamp, Rookery Bay & Everglades National Park	EVERGLADES BIRDTREK

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
Fri. November 11, 2005 <i>Canceled</i>	Big Cypress National Preserve	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 6:00a.m.	Fee \$35
Sat. December 3, 2005	South Florida Parrots & Specialties	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 11:30 a.m.	With Tropical Audubon Society (Miami)
Sat. December 10, 2005	Broward Everglades	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 7:30 a.m.	
Sun. December 18, 2005	Xmas Bird Count	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 7:30 a.m.	
Sat.-Sun. Jan. 14-15, 2006	Space Coast	TBD	Fee TBD
Sat. January 28, 2006	Everglades Natl. Park	Coe Visitor Center 9:00am	

Gifts For The Birder

By Ken Burgener
BCAS Field Trips Chair

What to get your birding friends or relatives for the holidays is an easy question to answer if you are a birder. If you are not into birding, it can be a challenge to find something that your receiver does not have or would find useful.

A field guide would be a great gift for someone who is not a birder yet. A young person would benefit from the most popular guide **A Field Guide to Eastern Birds** by Roger Peterson. A more advanced birder will like either book by David Allen Sibley **The Sibley Guide to Birds** or **Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior**.

Several guides have been updated, so a new guide can be helpful to the birder. A great book for someone who lives in Florida is **A Birder's Guide to Florida** by Bill Pranty.

Several magazines are written just for birders. Other magazines are more nature oriented, such as **Audubon** (800) 274-4201.

WildBird (800) 365-4421, **Birder's World** (800) 533-6644, or **Bird Watcher's Digest** (800) 879-2473 are also all good gifts for the birder. These magazines are particularly suited for the amateur bird watcher and are very entertaining with good articles and good pictures.

I would not recommend getting binoculars or other gear for a gift. Binoculars should be a personal choice. The person needs to study and test several pairs before making such a purchase.

A check that would be used toward the purchase price of the binoculars would be a better idea. Birding software is also a gift that needs the okay from the receiver. With the many types of programs and the different systems needed to run them, software is better purchased with a gift certificate.

Whatever gifts you exchange for the holidays, enjoy.
Happy Holidays!!

BIRDING TIP OF THE MONTH—BIRD BY HABITAT—CENTRAL PRAIRIES

By Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore, BCAS Board

The central prairies which provide open farm field, scatter Cypress and Oak forests and lots of grass, is where you go to find birds like Sandhill Cranes, Crested Caracara and Meadowlarks. Central prairies are inland in the state from both coasts. Look for Crested Caracara walking in the fields or kettling with Vultures with white patches on their wings. Sandhill Cranes with their bright red crest can be heard from afar

and recognized by their large size in flight with outstretched necks. Listen for the sweet song and bright yellow breast of Meadowlarks in fields or thick grass.

If you want to find Turkeys in Florida, you need to bird in open fields near Cypress Swamps. Try Government Road north of Alligator Alley I-75 at the gas station. Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area north of Yeehaw Junction is a great place to find these birds and is home to the graceful, tall Whooping Cranes. For your best bet, go to Joe Overstreet Road. **Good luck birding!!**

Everglades BirdTrek
Spoonbills, Storks and Ecosystems
February 23-26, 2006



Roseate Spoonbills

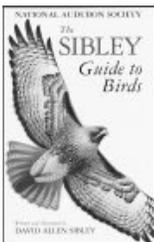
Everglades National Park & Corkscrew Swamp
IN FEBRUARY WHEN THE BIRDS ARE ABUNDANT AND THE WEATHER'S GREAT

- Naturalist guided birding, 100+ species including many South Florida specialties
- All inclusive incl. lodging, meals, and transportation from/to Fort Lauderdale
- Speakers on Everglades birds, wildlife, ecology and conservation

For information:

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

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



BCAS Online Nature Store



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For Your Insurance Needs
Alfred E. Griffin Insurance Agency



7320 Griffin Rd, #100
Davie, FL 33314
(954) 587-8008
AEG1933@aol.com

105th Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18, 2005
The Xmas Bird Count effectively gave birth to the modern conservation movement in North America in 1900. Nearly 2000 groups across the world found a total of 63,523,744 birds!! You can help with the count on December 18. **Please call Ken Burgener (954) 766-2919 a.s.a.p.** for your team assignment.

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

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Meetings At: **Fern Forest Nature Center**

201 Lyons Rd. South
Coconut Creek 33063
(954) 970-0150

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, continue across Atlantic Blvd to entrance of Nature Center.



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The Newsletter of the Broward County Audubon Society

Inside this issue:

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NEXT EVENING MEETING—
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:

7:00 PM—Refreshments

7:30—9:00 PM—Program

We're on the web:
browardaudubon.org

Volume 51
Issue2
November 2005

Conservation, Community, Commitment

Sandhill Cranes and Show and Tell at December 15, 2005 Meeting

Come to the BCAS meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 7 p.m. at Fern Forest Nature Center and bring your favorite bird pictures!! The evening will be highlighted by our own president Barry Heimlich's presentation about his trip last spring to central Nebraska's Platte River to see the Sandhill Crane migration. Barry took some fantastic digital video to capture the breathtaking sights and sounds of tens of thousands of cranes as they flew in to their river roosts at sunset. Barry was also up before dawn on those frosty Nebraska mornings to capture the cranes taking off for the fields of leftover corn and wheat.



You will thrill to the joyous trumpeting of tens of thousands of cranes as they simultaneously take off. It's a primal experience—one that celebrates the miracle of life and the birds' 2000-3000 mile springtime journey to the north slopes of Alaska and Siberia as they have for millions of years. Join us for a thrilling experience!! Don't worry, Barry has edited his video down to about 10 minutes of the good stuff. You can get an idea from Barry's article and slideshow on our website at http://www.browardaudubon.org/photo04_Special_SHCranes.html.

See you there on November 17th!!