

# The Warbler



The Warbler,  
October, 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*

First, let me thank you for again electing me president of Broward Audubon. Lisa Baumbach-Reardon, our immediate past president, deserves a big thank you for her tireless efforts. Furthermore, we want to acknowledge the many years of leadership provided by Fred Griffin, who resigned from the board this year for personal reasons.

This year, we will resume a more active program of monthly meetings, field trips, and overnights (**see insert**). Again, we'll be meeting at the beautiful Fern Forest Nature Center. Paddy Cunningham and Ken Burgener have stepped up to fill Lisa's and Fred's shoes as Program and Fieldtrip Chairs and we are very grateful.

An important theme of this year's conservation efforts will be global warming. We plan to raise awareness of this important issue to our membership, the community at large, and to our local government officials.

Scientific evidence is now compelling that global warming due to accumulation of greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane generated by human activity are contributing to long term warming of our planet and portend grave consequences. This year Broward Audubon, through articles in *The Warbler*, postings on our websites, speaker programs, and special events hopes to further enlighten the community about global warming. Also, we are laying plans for a major event in the spring, probably in conjunction with other environmental groups and the County Parks' celebration of either Earth Day or Water Matters Day. This edition of *The Warbler* includes an introductory article about global warming and my Op-ed on how global warming threatens South Florida's future.

We look forward to an outstanding year and we hope you will be joining us.

**I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE FLAMINGOS IN BROWARD COUNTY**

*By Barry Heimlich*

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, BCAS received an email from Ken Schneider stating that he saw 7 flamingos flying over the lake behind his home in west Miramar shortly before sunset. Ken's description was unmistakable, and I know that he's an excellent birder. I didn't think much of it at first. They were probably just passing through. Hurricane Dennis had probably blown them off course and they were on their way home.

Things got more exciting a few days later when another email from Ken reported that he saw 9 flamingos flying over a lake nearby. That did it. I had to see them for myself. I arranged to visit Ken the next day in the late afternoon. We walked along a dirt road to SW 196<sup>th</sup> Avenue to a series of manmade lakes. It was July 17<sup>th</sup>. We hung out for several hours until sunset. We were just about to leave when, WOW, a flight of 4 flamingos rose over the trees on the far side of the lake, flew toward us and then right over our heads. I snapped a picture in the low light with my digital camera. No mistaking it, they were Greater Flamingos. Ken examined them closely and concluded that they were wild birds since there were no bands on their ankles.

Several days later, Ken forwarded an email from David Tringo who lives just north of Ken. He had seen flamingos feeding in a wetland mitigation area near his home southwest of SW 196<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pines Boulevard. He got some good photos, including the one shown here.

The flamingos remained in the area until August 8<sup>th</sup> and then suddenly disappeared. Flamingos haven't been seen in Broward in decades. It just goes to show that some good things can result from hurricanes. Even more important is that mitigation areas can provide good habitat for birds and wildlife—good enough that the flamingos stayed for 4 weeks.



Picture by David Tringo

# GLOBAL WARMING 101—1st in a series of articles on global warming—

By Doug Young

BCAS Board of Directors

**What is Global Warming?** Global warming, often referred to as climate change, is the change in the earth's atmosphere and weather patterns due to climate-forcing gases like carbon dioxide and black carbon. The burning of fossil fuels, like coal and oil, is the largest contributor to global warming pollution. Impacts from climate change to our environment include increases in extreme weather events, rising sea levels and temperatures, which contribute to the spread of tropical diseases, exacerbation of smog pollution and increase in heat-related illnesses.

**Problem:** Global warming is one of our toughest environmental challenges, threatening the health of people, wildlife and economies around the world. The United States is the leading global warming polluter: with only 4 percent of the world's population, we produce 25 percent of the carbon dioxide pollution.

The problem is carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollution, mainly from cars and diesel engines, power

plants and other industrial sources that burn fossil fuels, collecting like a blanket in the atmosphere. As a result, the planet is getting warmer. In fact, 2002 was the second warmest year on record, according to NASA (right behind 1998 and just ahead of 2001). Across the Southeast we are seeing impacts to human health and the environment from global warming:

- ◇ Sea levels along Southeast coastlines are rising much faster than the average rate over the past 3,000 years and in places will likely rise by 20 inches during the next century.
- ◇ Catastrophic storms, such as hurricanes, are more likely as the climate changes and will contribute to excessive erosion, flooding, loss of human life, devastating losses to property and increases in insurance costs.
- ◇ Rapid temperature increases, changes in precipitation and sea level rises will lead to losses of landscape, prime real estate, water quality, and species diversity in special

nature areas like the Everglades.

- ◇ Hotter, more humid conditions will likely encourage the spread of tropical diseases, may increase heat-related illnesses and death from more frequent heat waves and may exacerbate regional smog levels.
- ◇ Power plants are the largest United States source of global warming pollution, producing 2.2 billion tons of heat-trapping pollution every year.

**Solutions:** More than 61 percent of our electricity in the Southeast comes from decades-old, dirty coal-burning power plants which pollute hundreds of millions of tons of global warming gases. These dinosaurs can be phased out, cleaned up or replaced with cleaner sources, such as renewable energy or "green power." Relying more on green power, such as wind, solar, landfill gas methane and certain types of biomass, would dramatically reduce global warming pollution.

*This topic continues in future Warblers!*

**Source for article:** [www.cleanenergy.org](http://www.cleanenergy.org)

## OCTOBER 2005 AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

By Dr. Barbara K. Pryor, BCAS Board of Directors, Editor, *The Warbler*

### Audubon Assembly Goes to the Beach!!

#### Saving our Birds: October 20-22, 2005

Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife, and habitats. Register by September 28 and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 28th, all inclusive package is \$125.

**The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. Make your hotel ac-**

**commodations directly with the Holiday Inn. Call 1-800-206-2747 or log onto**

**<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&>**

Daily resort fee waived and parking is free. Participants get reduced rate through September 28, up to 4 in a room. Oceanfront suites/lofts can be reserved if available at prevailing rates.

Field trips courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. More details in *Florida Naturalist* and online at [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org).

**See you there!!**

Source: Jacqui Sulek, Chapter Coordinator

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# 2005-2006

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
Thurs., October 20, 2005	<i>A BIRD FOR ALL SEASONS</i>	Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore, Birding Adventures
Thurs., November 17, 2005	<i>SANDHILL CRANES OF THE PLATTE RIVER</i> <i>Favorite Birds Show &amp; Tell</i>	Barry Heimlich, President, Broward Audubon
Thurs., January 19, 2006	<i>WONDERS OF ASIA AVIARY-METROZOO</i>	Ron Magil, Ambassador, Miami MetroZoo
Thurs., February 16, 2006	<i>AUDUBON OF FLORIDA VISION &amp; MISSION</i>	David Anderson, President, Audubon of Florida
	<i>BROWARD NATURAL AREAS UPDATE</i>	Gil MacAdam, Environmental Administrator, Broward County Parks & Recreation
Thurs., April 20, 2006	<i>GLOBAL WARMING: EFFECT ON SOUTH FLORIDA</i>	T.B.A.
Sat., May 20, 2006 <i>Annual Meeting and Picnic At Tree Tops Park</i>	<i>Hike</i>	Led by Paddy Cunningham
	<i>SEMINOLES INDIANS-A HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVE</i>	Victor Suarez, Broward County Parks & Recreation, Naturalist

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

Date and Time	Place	Subject
Sat., October 8, 2005, 8am-1230pm	Hugh Taylor Birch State Park	HIKE & BIRDING WORKSHOP – BIRD ID
Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 20-22, 2005	Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort	AUDUBON ASSEMBLY
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 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER
Fri.-Sun. February 24-26, 2006	Corkscrew Swamp, Rookery Bay & Everglades National Park	EVERGLADES BIRDTREK
Sat., March 11, 2006	Tree tops Park	WATER MATTERS DAY
Sat., March 18, 2006	Long Pine Key and Silver Trail	BIRD-A-THON
	Flamingo Gardens	FLAMINGO GARDENS: A BEHIND SCENCE LOOK
Sat., April 22, 2006-EARTH DAY,	Quiet Waters Park	EARTH DAY
Sat., April 29, 2006, 8a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Hugh Taylor Birch State Park	HIKE & ADVANCED WORKSHOP BIRDING BY EAR

**BCAS Field Trips:**

Contact: Ken Burgener (954) 766-2919, [kburgener@hotmail.com](mailto:kburgener@hotmail.com)

Date	Place	Meeting Place and Time	Notes
Sat. Sept. 17, 2005	Bill Baggs State Park, Key Biscayne	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 7:30 a.m.	
Sun. October 2, 2005	Keys Hawk Watch	Sheridan Tri Rail Station at 6:00a.m.	
Sat. October 8, 2005	Hugh Taylor Birch State Park	Beach Parking lot at 8:00 a.m.	Free 2-hour walk, 2-hour work-shop. Cost \$20
Sun. October 23, 2005	John U. Lloyd Park	first southeast parking lot at 8:00 a.m.	Free 2-hour walk, 2-hour workshop. Cost \$20
Fri. November 11, 2005	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	
Sat. February 11, 2006	Tree Tops Park	Lake parking lot at 8:00 a.m.	
Fri.-Sun. Feb. 24-26, 2006	Everglades Bird-Trek	Griffin Road Tri-Rail at 6:30 a.m.	For details see <a href="http://bird-trek.browardaudubon.org">http://bird-trek.browardaudubon.org</a>
Sun. March 5, 2006	Corkscrew Swamp	Sanctuary Entrance at 9:00 a.m.	
Sat. March 18, 2006	Bird-a-thon and Flamingo Gardens	Flamingo Gardens	Free Admission and inside look at Flamingo Gardens.
Sat. April 22 2006	Earth Day Event	Quiet Waters Park	
Sat. April 29, 2006	Hugh Taylor Birch State Park	Beach Parking lot at 8:00 a.m.	Free 2-hour walk, followed by two-hour workshop. Cost \$20
Sat.-Sun. May 6-7, 2006	Fort De Soto, St. Petersburg	TBD	Fee TBD
Sat. May 13, 2006	Green Cay Wetlands	Parking lot at 7:30 a.m.	
	Boynton Beach		
Sat. June 10, 2006	Miami MetroZoo	Zoo parking lot at 10:00 a.m.	Zoo Entry Fee. Wings of Asia Aviary

# Global Warming Threatens Future of South Florida

By Barry N. Heimlich  
BCAS President

## Global Warming Threatens Future of South Florida Opinion by Barry N. Heimlich, President, BCAS

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, Earth's average temperature has been steadily rising. Consequently, glaciers and polar ice caps are rapidly melting, ocean levels are rising, and climatic changes are occurring that cause warmer winters, hotter summers, draughts, more tropical storm activity, and major shifts in ecological systems. The overwhelming majority of scientists today accept evidence that a major contributing factor is the measurable rise in greenhouse gases especially carbon dioxide. Have you considered the possible consequences to South Florida?

Sea levels are projected to rise by as much as 12" to 18" over the next 50 years or so. Considering that much of South Florida has an elevation above sea level of 10' or less, the prospect of rising sea levels is of major concern. Coastal shorelines would recede. Saline water would extend further north in the Everglades changing the ecological landscape. Most of our fresh water comes from the Biscayne Aquifer fed by rainfall over our land and the Everglades. A rise in sea level

of just a few inches could cause significant saltwater intrusion of the aquifer and jeopardize our primary freshwater source.

Because of our location, South Florida is especially vulnerable to tropical storms. In 1992, Category 5 Hurricane Andrew, one of the strongest hurricanes in recorded history, caused extensive damage in South Florida. But Andrew was relatively small in size, fast moving, and caused relatively little flooding. A hurricane as large, slow, wet and with a major storm surge like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita striking South Florida could be far more catastrophic than Andrew. If greenhouse gases are contributing to warmer ocean temperatures, and if warmer ocean temperatures cause stronger and more frequent hurricanes, then it is likely that global warming is an important factor contributing to these devastating storms. South Floridians should have special interest in encouraging the use of alternate energy sources and other technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are interested in your opinions. Write to us at our PO box or email us at [Broward\\_Audubon@yahoo.com](mailto:Broward_Audubon@yahoo.com).

## BROWARD BIRD OF THE MONTH— WHITE IBIS—*Eudocimus Albus*

By Ken Burgener, BCAS Field Trips Chair

Here in Broward County, you can see these wading birds feeding along the river, or in your yard. An all white bird with a bright orange curved bill and legs, it is easy to identify. Ibises forage in groups by walking slowly with heads down, looking for crayfish, crabs and other aquatic food. On your lawn, the Ibis will eat insects, worms, and lizards. I have seen Ibis eating popcorn at Los Olas River Front, while frolicking along

the bricks. If you are a fan of University of Miami, then you know the Ibis is the school's mascot. The Ibis is also called the hurricane bird, supposedly last to leave before the storm and first to arrive after the hurricane. The range of the White Ibis in the U.S. is near the coast in the Gulf States, and north up the Atlantic shores into North Carolina.

There are 33 species of Ibis in the world. In Egypt, millions of Ibis have been found mummified and buried in temples with pharaohs. Look outside your window and spot Ibis in Broward!!

## BIRDING TIP OF THE MONTH— MEDIUM SIZED HAWKS

By Paddy Cunningham Pascatore, BCAS Programs Chair, Birding Adventures

October is the peak for Hawk Migration and fast flying medium sized hawks can pose some difficult identification.

Focus on the overall shape or silhouette of the bird and flight pattern.

First, decide if they are Accipiters or Falcons. Falcons have boomerage, angle shaped wings and are consistently flapping. Accipiters have rectangle or box shaped wings, long tails and a consistently flap-flap-glide. Remember, I said consistently, not always.

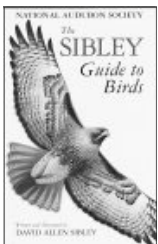
Merlins are Falcons that have an overall dark brown color. Their angled wings allow for the Falcon's excellent diving ability. If you see them perching, do not confuse them with the smaller Kestral with two sideburns, or the larger immature Peregrine Falcon with one upside down shaped L sideburn.

Cooper Hawks are Accipiters with long tails, along with rectangular wings which flap, flap gliding in flight. Not all, but most (90%) have a curved edge to the tail. If perched look for a flatness to the head, along with differences between male and female.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are usually smaller than Coopers Hawks, but they do share the small length at one point. In flight, Sharp shins usually (90%) have a squared tail. When perching, look for a rounder head, and shorter beak. In both Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks when perched, the long tail is a clue for an Accipiter as it hangs far below the talons.

**Good Luck Birding!!**

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  
(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.



# The Warbler

## The Newsletter of the Broward County Audubon Society

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**NEXT EVENING MEETING—  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005**

**FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:**

7:00 PM—Refreshments

7:30—9:00 PM—Program

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

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Issue 1  
October 2005

*Conservation, Community, Commitment.*



**FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005 AT 7:30 PM**  
***A BIRD FOR ALL SEASONS***

Paddy Cunningham Pascatore, *Birding Adventures*, will give a terrific presentation based on the topic *A Bird For All Seasons!* The cycle of the seasons although subtle in Florida is a profusion of variety and color throughout the year for birds. Travel through the seasons as we watch in amazement and wonder of one of the top birding spots in the world—Florida. Find out where and when to find rare and migrating birds. Also, we will learn about this years exciting birding field trip opportunities!!

Arrive early for refreshments, meet our guest speaker, and get front row seat!!