The South Florida Water Management District is escorting bird trips in STA-1W from 8:30 to noon on the following Saturdays: February 5, February 19, March 12, March 19, April 9 and April 16. Admission is by reservation only (no fee). STA-1W is just west of 20-mile Bend on S.R. 880. For reservations and instructions call Lois Chapman at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 561-734-8303.

This should be an ideal opportunity to observe wintering ducks and other waterfowl.

Who is LILA? LILA means Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment and Dr. Gawlik is our special guest speaker to tell us about this project, which studies water levels and vegetation relative to wading birds and other wildlife. Each February our speaker enlightens us about some aspect of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge as part of the Everglades system. It is like a prelude to our "Everglades Day!"

Dr. Gawlik calls himself an avian ecologist and wetlands specialist. He received his B.S. at U. of Wisconsin Stevens Point, M.S. from Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina (loggerhead shrikes and kestrels) and his Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M in 1994 (geese). He has been involved with Everglades restoration for several years and is currently at Florida Atlantic University in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Please join us to learn about LILA on February 1, at 7:30 PM, at the Howard Park Community Center.

Lake Worth Lagoon Boat ride - March 20! Our sunset boat ride to the Audubon Sanctuary Islands is scheduled for 5:30 PM. If you wish, bring a picnic dinner. The fee is $20 per person. You must have reservations. Please call Claudine at (561)655-9779 for further information.
PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS by CLAUDINE LAABS

This should have appeared in the January newsletter - Happy New Year a little late!

The year 2005 marks two important centennials for the Audubon Society. In January 1905, the National Committee of Audubon Societies incorporated as the "National Association of Audubon Societies" (shortened to national audubon society in 1940) and located its headquarters in New York City and chose William Dutcher, a prominent ornithologist as its first president. Sadly, the other event was the killing of the Audubon warden Guy Bradley by poachers in Florida Bay in July 1905.

The following is an Audubon timeline:

1886 The prototype Audubon Society
George Bird Grinnell, editor of Forest and Stream, invites readers to write in and sign a pledge against harming any bird. Close to 40,000 people respond and Grinnell names the fledgling group the Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds. Grinnell later disbands the group when membership grows too rapidly.

1887 First Audubon Magazine
Published by Grinnell under the auspices of Forest and Stream, an annual subscription costs 50 cents.

1896 Massachusetts Audubon Society founded
Harriet (Mrs. Augustus) Hemenway of Boston begins a campaign urging fellow socialites to stop wearing feathered hats, a practice that resulted in the slaughter of millions of birds, especially egrets and other wading birds. Her efforts lead to the founding of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Later that same year, the Pennsylvania Audubon Society was founded.

1897 State Audubon Societies multiply

1899 Bird-Lore magazine launched
Frank M. Chapman, bird curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, publishes the first issue of Bird-Lore, true predecessor to the modern Audubon magazine. Cost is 20 cents an issue, $1 for a year's subscription.

1900 First Christmas Bird Count
Through the pages of Bird-Lore, Chapman suggests an alternative to the traditional Christmas hunt of birds; a non-lethal, all volunteer population census of early winter birds. Twenty-seven people in twenty-five localities take part in the first Christmas Bird Count.

1900 Lacey Act passes
With support from Audubon members, Congress passes legislation introduced by Congressman John F. Lacey of Iowa, making interstate traffic in illegally killed birds and animals a crime, and prohibiting the importation of non-native species.

1901 State Audubons band together
Thirty-five state Audubon groups affiliate in a loose national federation.

1905 National Audubon Society founded
Guy Bradley, among the first Audubon wardens hired to protect wading bird colonies in South Florida, is murdered by poachers. His death becomes a rallying point for conservationists.

(For more information, go to www.audubon.org/nas/timeline.html)

It took a lot of people working together to protect our birds and their habitat. Please volunteer to help a committee in the New Year!

Christmas Bird Count
by Linda Humphries, Community Relations

On January 2, 2005 approximately 40 observers participated in the Palm Beach County Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count is carried on all over the Western Hemisphere between December 14, 2004 and January 5, 2005. This marks the 105th year of the count. The Christmas Bird Count for Palm Beach County was a great success with a total of 146 species. There was a total of 15 warblers seen on count day.

Brian Hope found a Chestnut Sided Warbler on Jan 1, 2005 at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. This will be included with the count week total.

The participants had a great time counting the birds, it was quite windy, but the sun made it a beautiful day. The Christmas Bird Count is very important because it helps show the rise and decline of species over a period of time.

Some of the more unusual birds seen were:
- MacGillvray's Warbler
- Wormeating Warbler
- Oystercatchers
- Snail Kites
- Short Tailed Hawk (dark phase)
- Lesser Black Backed Gull
- Greater Black Backed Gulls
- Black Bellied Whistling Ducks
- Scrub Jay
Thank You

On behalf of the board of directors of our chapter we want to thank all who have responded to our annual appeal. If your name does not appear here, rest assured that you will be mentioned next month. We are grateful for taking time to help us.

Hank and Irma McCall
Odile L. Vanderklaauw
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Sam Gordon

Sixth Annual Everglades Day Festival

"Flora, Fauna, and Fun" is this year’s theme for the day long event

Come join the fun on February 12, 2005 (8am - 4pm) at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge for a day of celebration. "Flora, Fauna, and Fun", Wildlife in the Everglades, is the theme for the Sixth Annual Everglades Day Festival. Last year's event was attended by over 3,000 people. This year will be even more exciting with many live animal presentations. Everglades Day is a way for people of all ages to experience a day of fun in the Everglades.

Canoeing and kayaking, nature walks, photography workshops, children activities, exhibits, and live music are just some of the fun activities. Presentations on bears, fish, eagles, alligators, barn owls, bats, snakes, panthers, birds of prey, bird identification, and native plants will be ongoing throughout the day with a chance to see many of these species live. There are also many interesting exhibits. Food will be available from Havana Restaurant and the Santaluces High School. Again this year there will be Spanish interpreters who will offer some Spanish presentations.

Ron Magill, from the Miami Metro Zoo, will be the main speaker at noon followed by a rehab bird release. Evan Hirsch, Director of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, will also give a special presentation.

This event is being sponsored in partnership with the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR, The Audubon Society of the Everglades, and Friends of the Loxahatchee NWR.

The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is located at 10216 Lee Rd, Boynton Beach off State Road 7/US 441 (2 miles south of Boynton Beach Blvd).

For more information, contact the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge at 561-732-3684 or visit their website at:

http://www.loxahatchee.fws.gov

You Are Invited

to

Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, Art Preview and Auction

Thursday, February 10, 2005
6:00 P.M.

Harriet Himmel Gilman Theater at City Place
to benefit

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and The Palm Beach Zoo

Donation $50.00 per person

For additional information and/or tickets please call Leah Schad, 848-9984.

This event is being sponsored by our chapter along with the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Treasure Coast Chapter and the Harriet Himmel Gilman Theater. Please help us in providing funds to help repair the damages inflicted by two hurricanes.
Deadline for submissions for the March 2005 issue is February 10th.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Recreation Center in West Palm Beach.
The phone number for the Recreation center is: 561-835-7055. The public is welcome to attend.

Deadline for submissions for the March 2005 issue is February 10th.

The Everglade Kite is published 12 times a year

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