

The Warbler



The Warbler,
March, 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>

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Activities Calendar	1
Science Fair 2005 Winners	1
Loxahatchee Field Trip: Sat. 3/12/05	2
Conserv. News: State & Regional	2&3
BIRDATHON 2005: Sat. 4/9/05	3
Exciting Eagle Story Reported & Special Event!	3&4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lisa L. Baumbach-Reardon

Greetings in this beautiful time of year, when we are fast approaching Spring time! There are an abundance of migrating birds in our area, and many trees and bushes are starting to blossom.

This month, we focus on Water Conservation as our major topic of concern. There is no more precious resource than our water supply in this state and within the South Florida region. As we continue to work and support the efforts to restore the Everglades to their natural state, water conservation and the restoration of natural flow ways and storage areas of water from the Kissimmee Valley down through the Everglades are at the heart of the matter. Please read more about this in the **Conservation News** in this newsletter.

We are sponsoring a major event on Thursday, March 17th that very much focuses on water conservation and our appreciation of our water resources in our state! The event will be at Fern Forest Nature Center and will be the "kick-off" to Broward County Water Matters Day. The event begins at 6:00 pm with a nature walk at Fern Forest, followed by special presentations, and viewing of an award-winning film "**Water's Journey**," which tells the journey of water in the Florida aquifer. Please see the special section on the event in the newsletter.

We have other exciting news! Bill Conway, past-president of Broward County Audubon Society and long-time member, bequeathed a piece of property in Coconut Creek to our chapter many years ago. This land has been sold to Broward County under its Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program passed in 2000. We will honor Mr. Conway at our March 17th event.

We are sad to see one of our most helpful BCAS Board members leave us. Vice-president Jacqui Sulek is moving up to North Florida to enjoy the quieter life up there. No doubt she will continue her good works in Alachua County Audubon Society! **Jacqui-we thank you for all you have done for our chapter-we will miss you greatly!**

Please check our newsletter and website for upcoming birding fieldtrips and April Birdathon!

BROWARD COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY RECOGNIZED FOUR WINNERS FROM THE BROWARD COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR 2005 RECENTLY HELD THIS YEAR AT CORAL RIDGE MALL!!
1ST PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL-CORBIN BURNSTEIN; 2ND PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL-SHEIKH INSANALLY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION-CAYLIN DREWS-1ST PLACE; AND MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION-JESSICA STEFFAN-2ND PLACE
CONGRATULATE THESE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS!!

Activities Calendar for 2005
(Mark your calendars!!)

Meetings

Thurs., Mar. 17, 2005
Sat., May 21, 2005

Fern Forest Nature Center
Tree Tops Park

Special Event- "Water's Journey"
End-of-year Meeting and Picnic

Weekend Events

Sat., Mar. 19, 2005
Sat., Apr. 9, 2005
Sat., Apr. 16, 2005

Tree Tops Park
Flamingo Gardens
Quiet Water Park

Water Matters Day
Bird-a-thon and Flamingo Gardens
Broward County Earth Day Celebration

Fieldtrips

Sat., Mar. 12, 2005
Sat., Sun. Apr. 30-May 1
Sat., May 21, 2005

Loxahatchee/Wakodahatchee
Fort DeSoto Weekend
Tree Tops Park

Birdwatching, Canoeing (maybe)
Spring Migration Weekend
Birdwalk and Picnic

CONSERVATION NEWS: STATE NEWS AND REGIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

By Lisa Baumbach-Reardon

President and Conservation Chair

STATE NEWS FROM AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

Every year Audubon of Florida engages decision makers in Tallahassee and throughout Florida's home legislative districts to conserve, restore, and protect Florida's ecosystems for birds, wildlife, and our communities. With your help we are able to stave off misguided proposals that will have negative impacts on our natural areas, and quality of life. Working with concerned citizens, Audubon members, and other allied organizations we can effectively support progressive initiatives that will leave a natural legacy for Florida.

The Florida Legislature convenes on March 8, 2005. Committee meetings are currently taking place leading up to the session. There are 19 new House members and several newly elected Senators (elected from House seats). Audubon staff and volunteers are working now to create new and build on existing relationships with the leadership of most committees with jurisdiction over

environmental and growth issues. We are also hoping for a more balanced approach from House Speaker Allan Bense and Senate President Tom Lee.

This year has a number of challenging issues. Audubon is focusing on routine priorities such as the Everglades and Florida Forever, the state's primary public land preservation program, while playing some defense and offense on brewing growth management and water policy issues. We are never able to anticipate every issue, but this is a brief report of our current focus. **Save this article as a reference as Audubon reports on these important issues:**

Everglades
Lake Okeechobee
Florida Forever
Public Land Management
Rural Lands
Coastal Habitat
Growth Management
Transportation
Transmission Lines and
Cell Phone Towers

Northwest Florida Water
Environmental Resource Permit
Water Quality
Water Policy
Center for Birds of Prey

As BCAS Conservation Chair,

I would like to briefly highlight two of these critical areas:

Water Policy: To keep Florida's fast growing population and associated development from using the water that is vital to our natural systems for landscape irrigation and other wasteful practices, we need new policy and funding. Audubon has recommended to a stakeholders process organized by the Senate Environmental Preservation Committee the removal of the sales tax exemption on metered water-water delivered to utility customers. This would generate \$216 million that could be used for conservation, capture and reuse of storm water, reinforce consumer water conservation measures, and potentially get more reuse of reclaimed wastewater by large users.

(cont'd on top of p. 3)

March 12, 2005—Loxahatchee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Field Trip

By Fred Griffin, Fieldtrip Chair

Mark your calendars to join us Saturday, March 12, 2005 for a terrific field trip to Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge!!

We will meet at the visitors center parking lot at 8 a.m. We will walk the boardwalk and then the impoundment area. Afterwards, we will drive over to Wakodahatchee for a short walk there.

We should be done by noon.

Bring your own lunch and drinks. Bug spray is always wise. Please dress accordingly.

We will look for warblers and small birds on the boardwalk as well as woodpeckers, on the impoundment walk, ducks and wading birds are featured.

To get to Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, west of Delray Beach, take the Turnpike to Delray Beach Exit SR 806 or Atlantic Avenue, exit and go west to US41. Take a right on US41 and go north about 3 miles, look on the left for a sign indicating the Refuge. There is an entrance fee. Wakodahatchee is north of Atlantic on Jog Road about 2 miles.

If you are going, please contact Fred Griffin to let him know; call (954) 587-8008, or email aeg1933@aol.com. A donation to Broward County Audubon Society (BCAS) is always appreciated.

This is a great trip, don't miss it!!

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Broward Audubon Sponsors for 2004-2005

Please add your name to our growing list of sponsors.

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Ellen and Barry Heimlich
Richard and Sue Tomlin

Roseate Spoonbills

Lisa Baumbach-Reardon
Thomas Henneforth
Caroline Seabright

Snowy Egrets

Sandra Hankin
Rita Heck
Kathryn and Thomas Henneforth

Warblers

Sandra Hankin
Rita Heck
Georgina Whitton

Cynthia Cone

Jane and Ken Czubay
Margaret L. Green
David and Sue Hagan
Margaret Harris
Lawrence Kassan
Beth Owen
Lynne and Bruce Warshal

Conservation News (cont'd from p. 2)

By Lisa Baumbach-Reardon
President and Conservation Chair

The Florida Homebuilders have joined the challenge to Florida's Water Resources Implementation Rule that specifies how water can be "reserved" to preserve natural systems. Audubon, the Everglades Foundation, and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida have intervened in that challenge initiated by the Florida Association of Community Developers. The developer group says it will drop the challenge if it can secure legislation that gives certainty to water supply for future growth.

Environmental and Everglades Advocacy: Audubon of Florida works very closely with chapters and allies in the environmental community. The main approach is to strive to be collaborative, solution oriented, and to share accurate data.

Audubon will issue regular updates on these and other issues throughout the legislative session. **Call us at (800) 753-5499 for more information on what you can do to further this conservation work.** Our legislative team is:

Eric Draper edraper@audubon.org
Charles Lee chlee2@earthlink.net
Shannon Mayorga smayorga@audubon.org
Jamie Furgang jfurgang@audubon.org

Please note that if you have not already subscribed to receive Audubon of Florida updates, you can sign-up at www.audubonofflorida.org through the e-newsletter sign-up feature on the homepage.

Visit the web address below, and tell your friends about the Advocate e-newsletter and Audubon of Florida's Online Advocacy Center!

You can sign up for Audubon of Florida Advocacy Center at: <http://ga1.org/natureadvocate/home.html>

REGIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST— Some of the most important issues facing us within our South Florida region is the continuing battle between the placement of the Scripps Biotechnology Park on the Mecca Farms site vs. the Briger Tract in West Palm Beach, the new proposed State Growth Management Bill and how it effects our region, and the continuing saga and battle over proposed expansions at the Ft. Lauderdale Airport. **For more information on all or any of these issues, or to join the Conservation Committee, contact Lisa Baumbach, BCAS President and Conservation Chair, at 305-880-8924 (pager) or lbaumbac@med.miami.edu.**

EXCITING EAGLE STORY!!

By Fred Griffin, Field Trip Chair

We had an exciting experience to report with respect to the BCAS daytrip on Saturday, January 22, 2005 shared by a large group of about 40 people. When we arrived at West Lake and only saw two or three birds, we waited around for a while and were planning to leave, but just as we did, we heard two raptors quarreling, looked up and there, right overhead, 100 feet away was an osprey chasing a bald eagle!!

The eagle flew away, shook off

the osprey and circled back to us, dropped his talons, as a plane does when coming in for a landing, cocked his head around, folded his wings to reduce the lift and dove down on a fish, missed, and powered on to regain height. Sure enough, he looked around at the same spot, adjusted talons, and down he came, with talons into the water and a hard flap or two, out pops a very nice sunfish, and off he flies.

Everyone cheered; it was a sight none of us had witnessed before!!

BIRDATHON 2005 Saturday, April 9, 2005 Until Noon, Then Meet At Flamingo Gardens For Picnic Lunch!!

What: Birdathon is a one morning event with the objective of counting as many species as possible and having friends and associates pledge a per species donation. Average count will be about 35.

Why: Have fun, watch Spring Migration, and help raise funds for BCAS to help fund scholarships for teachers.

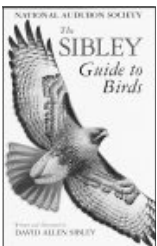
How: Get your favorite birding friend (s) or party together and count birds. Stick to Broward County, but anywhere is fine. Bring your list to a picnic lunch supplied by BCAS, your list is your lunch ticket, and then get the supporters to send their checks to Broward County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 9644, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-9644.

When: Saturday, April 9, 2005 til noon and then meet at Flamingo Gardens for picnic, prizes for most species, and other activities!!

Where: Anywhere you want, such as the Beach, the Parks, your backyard; just stick to Broward County. In your appeal letter to friends and associates, let them know the dollars raised will go toward helping a local teacher or two go to a summer camp where environmental issues will be studied. This in turn will help them be better teachers and communicate the issues our children will have to face and deal with in the future.

Please let Fred Griffin 954-587-8008, aeg1933@aol.com, or Ken Burgener kburgener@hotmail.com, know how many are coming. We need this info by Thursday 4/7/05 at 5 pm so we can order the picnic which will be a variety of hoagies from Publix and sodas, water, etc. See you at Flamingo Gardens Noon Saturday April 9th!!

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.



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The Newsletter of the Broward County Audubon Society

Inside this issue:

- President's Message
- 2005 Meeting Schedule
- BCAS Recognized Four Broward County Science Fair 2005 Winners
- Exciting Eagle Story Reported During Recent BCAS Daytrip
- Conservation News
- Loxahatchee/Wakodahatchee: Field Trip—Sat., 3/12/05
 - ◊ BCAS Sponsors:2004-2005
 - ◊ Birdathon 2005—Sat.4/9/05

BCAS SPECIAL EVENT—3/17/05

FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER:

- 6:00-7:00 PM—Nature Walks
- 7:00-7:30 PM—Refreshments
- 7:30 PM—Program Begins

We're on the web:
browardaudubon.org

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Conservation, Community, Commitment.



FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005, 6:00 PM—9:30 PM

BCAS SPECIAL EVENT—"WATER'S JOURNEY"

"Kick-Off To Broward County Water Matters Day"

6:00—7:00 PM—Nature Walks At Fern Forest Nature Center

7:00—7:30 PM—Refreshments—2nd Floor, Nature Center

7:30 PM—Program Begins—Highlights Of Program Below—Come Join Us!!

- ◊ BCAS Winners, Students, Broward County Science Fair 2005, Environment
- ◊ Special Awards to Bill Conway & Saralyn Nemser, Esq.—BCAS Land Sale
- ◊ Mayor Kristin Jacobs—Remarks:Brwd.Cnty Water Matters Day & Env.Issues
- ◊ Eric Draper, Audubon of Florida—Presentation:Imp't Florida Issues&Policies
- ◊ Showing of "Water's Journey" (30 minute version)—An award winning film of the journey of water in Florida through the Florida aquifer!!