



The Pelican Island Audubon Society

Peligram

- founded in 1964 to serve Indian River County -

P.O. Box 1833, VERO BEACH, FL 32961 772-567-3520 Fax 772-567-3521 www.pelicanislandaudubon.org
Our 43rd Year Vol. 43 No. 3 March 2007

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities in Indian River County through advocacy, education, and public awareness.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

More information on all these events may be found at www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

Sat March 10 – 9:00am-4:00pm Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, Riverview Park, Sebastian

Sun March 18 – 8:00am-12:00pm ORCA canoe trip. Meet at the FMEL boathouse 200 9th St. S.E. (Oslo Road) east of U.S. 1. Reservations are required. Call 567-3520 to sign-up.

Mon March 19 – 7:30pm Annual Meeting at Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Ave. TOPIC: Beach-Nesting Birds with FWC biologist Sarah Johnson plus elections and awards. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Thursday March 22 – 7:00pm Indian River Photo Club, Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Avenue, Topic: Curtis Jensen to speak on Panoramic Photography plus photo contest & refreshments

March 23-25 Third Annual Audubon Academy, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, for info visit www.audubonofflorida.org

Sat March 31 – 10:00am-4:00pm Goby Fest, St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park

Sat April 14 – 9:00am-3:30pm Hibiscus Festival, 14th Avenue in downtown Vero Beach

Buy a copy today!

You can now purchase your copy of *Reflections of Blue Cypress* on our website using Visa or Mastercard! Visit us at pelicanislandaudubon.org to see how!!

◆ ◆ **IMPORTANT** ◆ ◆

ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 19

ELECTIONS, AWARDS, & BEACH-NESTING BIRDS

The March 19 general meeting of the Pelican Island Audubon Society to be held at the Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. will be the annual meeting of the Society. The Nominating Committee will put forth a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors to be voted on by the membership attending the meeting. Nominations for candidates will also be accepted from the floor. Please see page two for a complete list of candidates and positions.

Awards will also be given out to various individuals and/or groups who have made a difference for the environment this past year. Do not miss this opportunity to honor those who have helped make Indian River County a better place to live. For a list of previous award winners, please visit www.pelicanislandaudubon.org

The guest speaker for the evening will be Sarah Johnson, Assistant Regional Biologist with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Ms. Johnson's presentation will cover Florida's beach-nesting birds and the FWC beach-nesting bird monitoring website. The FWC is looking for volunteers in our area to help monitor rooftop and ground colonies of beach-nesting birds.

Ms. Johnson graduated from the University of Central Florida with a B.S. in Biology and works for the FWC as the Assistant Regional non-game biologist out of the Northeast Regional Office in Ocala (the region includes St. John's south to Indian River County). She handles anything from striped newt surveys to gopher tortoise permitting.

Pelican Island Audubon Society

Officers

President, **Richard H. Baker**
1st Vice President, **Lynne Larkin**
2nd Vice President, **Robert Adair**
Recording Sec., **Darlene Halliday**
Cor. Sec., **Deborah Ecker**
Treasurer, **Andrew Barr**

Directors

Jens Tripson	'09	David Cox	'09
Nancy Irvin	'07	Robert Smith	'07
Susan Boyd	'08	Joseph Carroll	'08

Board

Janice Broda	Kevin Doty	Melissa Tripson
Joel Day	Tina Marchese	Paul Tritaik
	Sue Richardson	

Founding Member & President Emeritus **Maggy Bowman**

Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State

YOU ARE INVITED

The Occasion: The Board of Directors meetings of this local Audubon chapter

Time: 7:00 PM,

Date: Monday, March 12th

Monday, April 2nd

Monday, May 7th

[Note: Our meetings are almost always the first Monday of each month.]

Place: Audubon office, Downtown Vero Beach
14th Avenue between 18th and 19th streets,
middle of the block, west side

RSVP: Not required

You are welcome to attend our board meetings. In fact we want you to. We want you to meet the directors of this Audubon chapter, hear discussions of the issues on our minds and, after we have finished our business, share with us your ideas.

CANDIDATES FOR MARCH 19 ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee composed of Jens Tripson, Debby Ecker, and Sharon Marable has put forth the following slate of candidates for the annual elections to be held during the March 19 general meeting. Nominations will be allowed from the floor. Don't miss this important election to have a say in how your Audubon Society is run.

Slate of Nominees for 2007

Officers:

President:	Richard H. Baker
1 st Vice President:	Robert Adair
2 nd Vice President:	Susan Boyd
Recording Secretary:	Darlene Halliday
Corresponding Secretary:	Jean Catchpole
Treasurer:	Andrew Barr

Director for 2008:

Debby Ecker

Directors for 2010:

Nancy Irvin

Susan Richardson

CAN YOU NAME THIS BIRD?

A black cap,
gray body,
and long
blackishtail
with rufus or
reddish
brown under-
tail coverts,
help identify
bird. Fairly
common, but

usually heard before being seen as it frequently is in thick undergrowth and bushes, where it eats invertebrates, including insects, and berries. Named after the characteristic catlike meow sound it makes, it can produce a variety of sounds. Some controversy whether or not individuals mimic sounds from other birds, amphibians, and even machinery or makes its own sound. Taxonomy it is placed in the family *Mimidae*, which also includes thrashers and mockingbirds also well known for their ability to mimic other species' songs. Generally found solitary, but is a monogamous breeder.



ANSWER: Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*

BRINGING A COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO WORK CREATIVELY TOWARDS AGREED UPON GOALS

I really liked Kenric Ward's February 1st editorial in the *Press Journal* (available on our website pelicanislandaudubon.org) where he asked an excellent question: "Is bigger really better?" Sometimes we need to think more broadly about how we can live up to our ideals to make our community better.

- How can we fulfill our highest values and shape our county to allow all our residents' creative and caring potentials to flourish?
- Our county could be paradise! Are we getting there?
- Are we making our county the ideal place to live?
- Are our county's assets sustainable?

First we have to decide, "What do we want?" Then we need to consider, "Are we doing what is needed to achieve that?" Science has determined that to find out how we are doing and whether we are making progress, we should measure the goals objectively. Consistently measuring year-to-year indicators of our quality of life can then become our basis for constructive community action.



Let's have a community dialogue. What is important? How should we assess "quality of life" in Indian River County? Bhutan has won international attention for basing its assessments of quality of life on their people's overall happiness. The World Health Organization has a Quality of Life Index. UNICEF examined 40 factors, such as poverty, deprivation, health, education, happiness, relationships, and risky or harmful behavior (e.g. drug and alcohol use, sexual activity) and reached the conclusion that the United States and British children are at the bottom of the list of 21 wealthy nations in which to be a child. How do our county children fair on these factors?

Wouldn't it be great to provide quality of life statistics once a year, for all people, not just children living here? Our newspapers could first carry out a

public survey to identify environmental and community components that our citizens consider important to their quality of life. Next the survey could measure each person's rating of his or her own sense of well being and rate their ideas of our community's quality of life in general. It would not be easy, but we should try, to obtain a statistically sound sample of the community's demographics -- not leaving any group out, including the homeless.

After obtaining an idea of what to measure, perhaps high school classes guided by college students and professors (along with community retirees) could take on the project. Opening up a community dialogue on what and how to measure the values comprising the county's quality of life, could be an exciting, real-life learning experience for the whole community. The challenge would be to set up measurements in --

- Economics (citrus, meat, seafood, and other food production; numbers of houses built and sold; shopping access; advertising spending; and small business startups)
- Geography and Politics (disparities in income and opportunity, language diversity, urban poverty, sanitation, and corporate responsibility)
- Physical & Environmental Sciences (air, water, soil, and environmental quality; kinds and amounts of pesticides in run-off, fish, water supplies, health of ecosystems, soundness of coral reefs, birds, plant diversity, mangroves, forests, groundwater adequacy, mercury pollution and connecting greenways)
- Social Sciences (mental health, homeless, day care, after school activities)
- Medical & Health Services (insurance coverage, HIV/AIDs, TB, heart and stroke and other diseases, prevention efforts, infant mortality, obesity; safety, accident rates, and disaster preparedness)
- Sports and Recreation (parks, bicycle paths, hiking trails/sidewalks, exercise facilities), gardens (beautiful trees and plantings in business and residential areas), and entertainment (movies, theater, music, and folk productions),
- Art (including photography, sculpture, architecture, and inspiring spaces),
- Education (early education, lifespan opportunities, and quality of graduates).

.....Continued on page six➔

AUDUBON'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENT

This past month both the Indian River County Professional Services Advisory Committee and the Planning and Zoning Board approved amendments to the county's Land Use Regulations proposed by your members from your Audubon chapter. *These will now come for a vote by – The Board of County Commissioners*

Tuesday morning, 9:00 AM, March 20th

Commissioners' Chambers. County Administration Building

27th Street and 20th Avenue.

Your attendance will be appreciated!

A topical summary of the proposed changes:

Preservation of water resources

- New regulations governing new irrigation systems – e.g. landscape designs must identify low, medium and high water need areas and install systems to match.
- Berms must reduced runoff -- by using permeable soils, greatly reduced slopes and broad plateaus.
- Reconfigured water retention areas with wetland plantings between lawns and water.

Native Trees and Shrubs

- In landscape plans, 50% of all trees and two-thirds of all shrubs must be native
- In 15-foot deep roadway strips 75% of plantings must be native.
- Appendices providing developers with lists of native trees and shrubs with identification of those suitable for coastal and inland areas (i.e. east and west of US Highway 1).

Ground Covers

- Turf grass limited to 50% of an irrigated, landscaped area
- Turf grass to be irrigated on separate zones
- Appendices listing native ground covers, flowers and preferred grasses.

Vines

- 50% of vines used along fences and walls must be native.
- An appendix listing native vines.

Elimination of invasive species

- All invasive, exotic plant species must be removed before a certificate of occupancy or completion will be issued
- An appendix listing these species.

Aesthetics

- Walls requiring wildlife passages.
- Fences that conform to those for corridors

- Increases in sizes of new trees and in the numbers to be planted in roadway buffers
- Single-file, single species, rows of shrubs replaced by double, off-set rows and a diversity of species.
- Increased greenery along all roadways -- deeper landscape strips, more dense plantings

NANCY IRVIN DOES IT AGAIN!

Jens & Melissa Tripson report on PIAS Board member Nancy Irvin's continuing efforts to protect our birds.

Melissa and I were visiting a lady at Oak Harbour this afternoon and when we were leaving there was Nancy Irvin by the guard house and so we stopped to see what was going on. Well, Mr. Abel the guard had been watching this hawk swooping on a nest of great horned owls and two owlets fell out of the nest. Some how Mr.



Abel got Nancy's phone number. The babies had been on the ground for 4 days and he had been watching the mom and dad feed them and was worried about coons or bobcats. Well Nancy made a make shift nest out of a plastic basket and secured it in a crotch in the tree where the nest is (the nest was too high and precarious to climb to). She secured a living palm frond (still on the cabbage palm) on the most exposed side to offer a little protection. Then she was on her way to the eastern end of the Barber Bridge to meet a police officer to rescue an injured brown pelican.

HEALTH NOTE

We are often told to flush unused or expired medications down the toilet. This is not a good idea. Tests on the nation's waterways are detecting trace levels of the chemicals commonly found in prescription drugs. Medications like hormones and antidepressants may be harming the fish. If you are unable to find a doctor or pharmacy that will dispose of them for you as hazardous waste, it may be necessary to dispose of them with your household trash. If so, you should keep the medication in its original container, scratch out your name for security reasons, add a small amount of water to pills or an absorbent material like flour to liquids, and put the pill bottle into a larger container to conceal it.

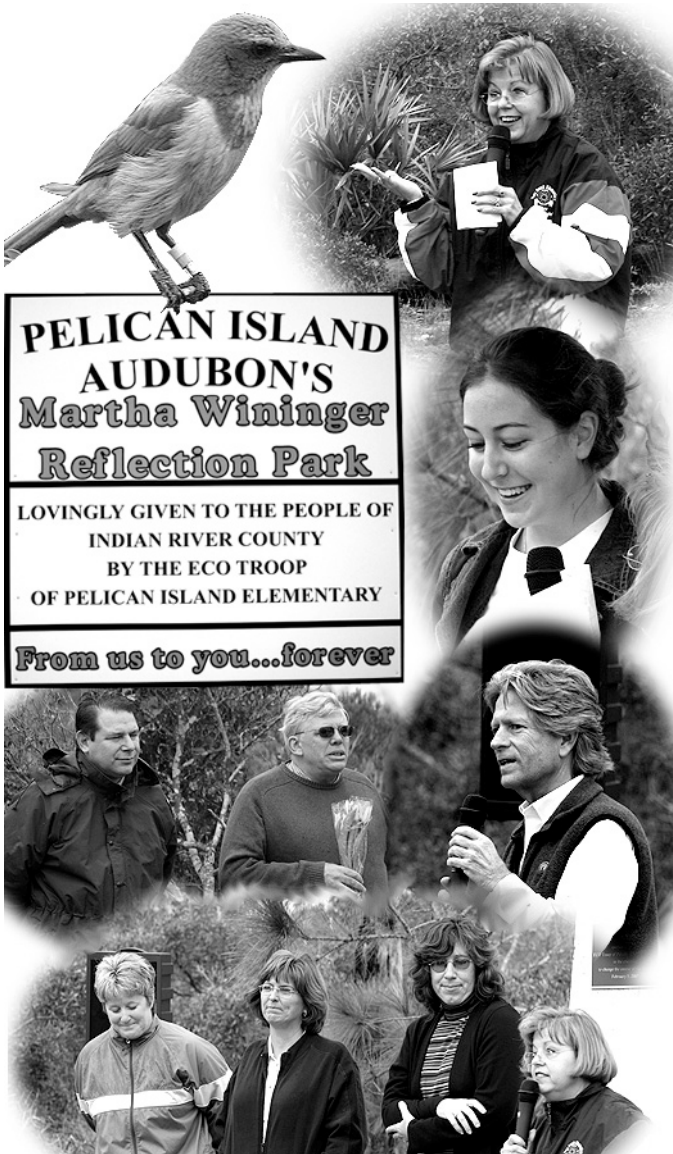
---from *The Community Church of Vero Beach* newsletter

Audubon-Wininger Park dedication

A ceremony to dedicate Pelican Island Audubon's Martha Wininger Reflection Park was held on February 5, 2007. The event celebrated the accomplishments and legacy of Pelican Island Elementary School's Eco Troop. Formed in 1997, the Eco Troop through hard work and dedication began fundraising and applying for grants from the Dept. of the Interior to purchase and preserve scrub habitat near the school for the jays and other wildlife that live there. The park, located at Barber St. & Schumman Drive in Sebastian, is open to the public who are invited to walk the Aloa Lorton Nature Trail to view a small piece of the real Florida.

The pictures show, starting clockwise from upper left, a Florida Scrub Jay; Bonnie Swanson, the former principal of Pelican Island Elementary who turned the children's dream into reality; Rochelle Henf, an original member of the Eco Troop, reviews the accomplishments of the Eco Troop; Dr. David Cox of PIAS provided the scientific support along with designing the informational kiosks to be placed in the park; Teachers Deb Berg, Terry Baird, & Diana Diagiacoamo inspired the students to work on the project; Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge manager Paul Tritaik, left, and Jens Tripson, past president of PIAS who realized the importance of protecting the habitat allowed the Society to act as Trustee of the land and Treasurer for the project; BELOW, a group shot of the original Eco Troop Troop students who are now in junior and senior high schools.

To view more pictures and information about the event, please visit www.pelicanislandaudubon.org



Pelican Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1833
Vero Beach, FL 32961-1833

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IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

Please check the expiration date on the mailing label at right. If the expiration date is in red this will be your last issue of the Peligram and it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form at lower right to renew. Thank you!

→ *Presidents Hoot, continued from page 3*

- Energy and Transportation (gasoline and biofuel consumption, vehicles and bicycles sold, buses available, air travel, solar and wind power, and climate trends),
- Communication (Community TV and Radio availability, Internet and cell phone use)
- Conflict (number of violent conflicts, including murders, rapes, thefts, and divorces)

Is our paradise lost, or being saved and growing? If we can first assess where we are, we could then go about planning on where we want to be and how to get there. We can then discuss alternative ways of bringing about a change in our county of which we all could be proud and wholeheartedly choose to live. If you are interested in helping with a project to measure our county's quality of life, I would very much like to hear from you.

Richard H. Baker, President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help run the Society booth at upcoming events. Please see calendar for event listings. This is a fun way to meet people and help out the Society at the same time. Please call 772-567-3520 if you are interested.



Catbird images taken at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership benefits include subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine, *Florida Naturalist*, and the PIAS newsletter *The Peligram*. Additionally, members have full borrowing privileges to the PIAS nature library and much more!

\$20 one-year membership

Donation \$ _____

\$20 Friend (receive *The Peligram* only)

Check box if a *MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL*.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your name and address along with a check payable to the "**Pelican Island Audubon Society**" to: Pelican Island Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961