

# Audugram

NEWSLETTER OF COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

All our Programs are free of charge for all attendees. Collier County Audubon Society members, non-members, and guests are welcome. Programs will be held at the **Conservancy of SW Florida's Auditorium, 1450 Merrihue Drive, Naples.** Merrihue Dr. is located off of Goodlette Frank Rd., off of 14th Ave. across from Lake Park Elementary school. Our Programs this season are on **Tuesday, Nov.18th** (this is our annual meeting), **Dec. 9th, Jan. 6th, Feb.3rd, March 10th & April 7th @ 7:30pm.** A \$3.00 donation is encouraged to defray the costs of the auditorium and programs.

We have a NEW address: **1020 8th Ave. South, Ste. 2, Naples FL 34102.**  
NEW e-mail address too: [audubon@collieraudubon.org](mailto:audubon@collieraudubon.org). If you are in the area, stop in and say hello!

### Message from the President

Until March 17, 2009 membership in Collier County Audubon Society could only be attained through the National Audubon Society. Hence residents, full or part time, of Collier County wishing to join our local chapter would register with, and pay dues to, National Audubon. However, Collier Audubon, along with many other chapters around the country, has long been experiencing two major problems with this arrangement. In the first place, National Audubon's records systems/mailling lists have been perpetually flawed with the result that Collier Audubon often received no notification about individuals who believed they had joined our organization. Secondly, the portion of dues paid to National Audubon flowing back to our local chapter has been too little to cover even the costs of maintaining our newsletter and provided no income for our programs, field trips, or conservation policy/advocacy work.

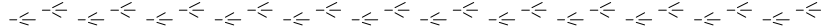
In response the Board of Collier Audubon has just completed the steps required to offer a new class of membership. We have followed many other chapters and created a *local chapter membership*. Dues for the Chapter only membership will be identical to those charged by National Audubon. Our chapter will remain an affiliate of National Audubon, but local members will not receive national publications.

We will be contacting as many of you as possible urging you to consider the options now available when your memberships expire: the new local chapter membership, the traditional (but flawed) joint membership in National and Collier County, or both. We hope that many of you will opt for the new opportunity.

 *Collier County Audubon President*

Our *mission*, in partnership with the National Audubon and Audubon of Florida is:

***"To promote an understanding of and interest in wildlife and the natural environment that supports it and to further the cause of conservation of all natural resources."***

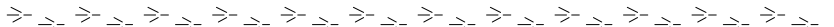


### Bird Bite

By Ted Below

### Reddish Egret

This intermediate sized wader can best be seen in the coastal shallows of the area, trying to scare up a meal. They feed on small fish both by standing and stabbing their long bills into shallow water to garb one or doing a flab-dash dance intended to get a fish to move and then be eaten. They come in two colors, white and red (really a purplish gray) and can best be identified by size and the dark gray bill (bright pink in breeding) and the dark gray legs (bright blue for a moment in breeding). The white phase is much rarer on this coast (less than one in ten) but more common in Texas (one in three). Both colors breed together have three light blue eggs) and can produce both color chicks, usually one white and two red. Although never common in the area over the last few they have been increasing while most of the smaller waders (Snowy and Cattle Egret; Little Blue and Tricolor Heron) are declining considerably. Another question to be answered.



### April's Program ***Where Have all the Honeybees Gone?***

Join us for an evening with **James Ellis, Assist. Professor of Entomology at UF Gainesville, on**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009 @ 7:30pm** at the Conservancy. Come listen to Professor Ellis talk about the problems our Honeybees are facing and how we can help them in our communities.



Visit our website@ [www.collieraudubon.org](http://www.collieraudubon.org)



### Audubon Young Birders ***Bluebird Rescue Team Project***

This project was started this year as an outreach to the Elementary schools to reintroduce Bluebirds into our area and start a bluebird trail. We currently have 3 schools that are participating in this project. I am happy to report that a nest was built in one of the nest boxes at Lely Elementary school. Thanks to the support of their principal, Katherine Stewart, and the science contact for 3-5, Althea Bryant, looks like this project has been a success. We look forward seeing more nests and more schools participating next season.



### End of the Season BBQ

Join us at Lowdermilk Park (North Gazebo) **Sunday, May 17th from 12:00-3:00pm.**



Come join us for a great day at the beach. We will present awards to thank our volunteers and outing leaders for sharing their time and talents with us, and the Young Birder of the Year awards will be presented also. Please come and share in the fun. The North Gazebo is located near the Volleyball courts. RSVP required so call 643-7822 or e-mail [audubon@collieraudubon.org](mailto:audubon@collieraudubon.org).



Audubon Cruise next year, Jan.10, 2010 with **Get Out Of Town Travel** to Antarctica. Details will be posted on our website shortly.

***Our Chapter Only membership renewals will be based on the expiration dates of your current membership. CCAS will send out letters at least two months prior to your membership expiration. If you would like an e-mail reminder, please e-mail Lori, at [audubon@collieraudubon.org](mailto:audubon@collieraudubon.org) We will try and make this transition as smooth as possible. Thank-you for your support!***

Collier County Audubon Society  
Established 1961, Chapter Code E38  
Phone: 239-643-7822

e-mail: [audubon@collieraudubon.org](mailto:audubon@collieraudubon.org)

To contact a Board Member, Committee Chairperson or Staff, visit our website [www.collieraudubon.org](http://www.collieraudubon.org)

## Economy and Ecology: Can we make lemonade?

Economic adversity has certainly tried the patience and even the endurance of almost everyone across the globe. As a conservation organization, let's examine the economic consequences to our ecological goals:

- Collier Audubon's "endowment" is disappearing without even spending it – yikes! Plus, it's tough for all charities to realize their usual fundraising results.
- Developers are hurting, too, so immediate pressure on wetlands and habitat is lessened. Thus, we have time to take a break from permit fights to see the "big picture": improve protection policies, work on mutual resource strategies with landowners, and hopefully set the stage for a better overall outcome when the building resumes.
- Land prices have dropped significantly, including vital conservation land – step up the acquisition process. Of course, tax revenues are way down for acquisition programs, like Conservation Collier and Lee's 20/20 program. Nevertheless, cover as much ground as possible (Lee has \$150 million of land approved for purchase but only \$15 million per year to spend; Collier still has a full plate, as well, with a 2013 deadline.)
- Florida Forever is in a great position to also make conservation progress, if only the state's budget woes weren't so dire. Yet, Governor Crist vetoed cutting FF this year since its \$300 million is bonded and costs are minimal. That's hopeful!
- Gov Crist's landmark Everglades purchase of 180,000 acres of US Sugar lands is sailing into the economic wind now. Land purchases on this scale for storage and treatment of Lake Okeechobee water is essential, but huge impediments remain. Too early to know the end of the story, despite knowing what it must look like.
- Economic and ecological crises is incubating what appears to be a tidal wave of entrepreneurial innovation and industry aimed at shifting the nation to renewable and sustainable energy sources, like wind, solar, hydrogen, biofuels, etc. Simultaneously, momentum is building to recast our communities and lifestyles more sustainably, with focus on energy and resource conservation (think buildings, water, and transportation.) Right here, Collier Audubon and many business, civic and conservation allies have formed Resilient Collier to bring about just that conservation result. The Obama and Crist administrations are strongly supporting this vital transition which might not have seen reality without crisis. Watch for more on this!
- Efforts to provide economic stimulus and restoration is targeting ecological restoration as well – witness funding for several Everglades projects, including our own 55,000 acre Picayune Strand (South Golden Gate Estates).

On the whole, it appears adversity is the mother of considerable action and invention. Let's just not do this too often.

-Brad Cornell, Southwest Florida Policy Associate



### What has CCAS funded and supported for Environmental Education?

- \* Funded bus transportation for over 3,500 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in a Florida Gulf Coast University "Wing of Hope" Florida Panther Posse and CREW Hiking adventure.
- \* Funding for local school fieldtrips was cut from the school district budget.
- \* Florida Bird programs in Collier & Lee County schools.
- \* Supplies for educational programs
- \* Educational Science journals and bookmarkers for elementary and college students.
- \* Infrared motion camera supplies that helps with panther, bird and wildlife research and elementary to college environmental educational programs.
- \* "Nature Rocks" signs that encourages students and their families to bring a painted rock (Message: What does nature mean to me?) to CREW hiking trails. "Connecting families with the Nature"
- \* Part time environmental education instructor for Panther, CREW and bird programs.
- \* Awards and art supplies (Elementary and High school art students) for educational poster contests that led to the Gopher tortoise named and adopted as a new symbol of Florida by Governor Crist.
- \* Distributing floating boat key chains with the message of "Don't cut the line when you catch a Pelican".
- \* CCAS Young birders program
- \* CCAS Educational Community programs held every month at the Conservancy.

Many more additional funds for environmental education and awareness. By becoming a member of CCAS and supporting our Educational Programs, you build bridges of hope for wildlife and the environment, by supporting our South Florida backyard.

### Save the Date!

- April 7th– Adult FT– Collier Reserve Golf Course (Reservations Required)
- April 11th– Adult FT– Eagle Lakes Park
- April 18th–AYBC Field Trip–Location TBA
- April 18th–Adult FT– FL Panther Refuge Swamp Buggy Trip
- April 25th–Adult FT– Sand Dollar Island -Call Ted Below @ 643-2249
- August 22nd– Adult FT–Sugden Park-NEW
- September 5th– Adult FT–Sugden Park-NEW
- October 3rd– Adult FT–Sugden Park-NEW

### THE FORESTER GROUP

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

1193 Sun Century Rd. #4 ~ Naples, Florida 34110

Phone (239) 566-8899 ~ Fax (239) 566-9692

Thank-you to **Jim Forester** and **The Forester Group** who Donated supplies to build Bluebird Nest Boxes for our Young Birders Club **Bluebird Rescue Team** Project, and to **Gregg Beall** for building them. The Young Birders Club is currently working with local schools to document data for a establishing a Bluebird Monitoring Trail. We currently have 3 elementary schools participating in the project and hope to get more next season.



We would like to thank **Whole Foods Marketplace** for supplying all our refreshments at our Programs this season. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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