



Bay County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1182
Panama City, Florida 32402

CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

This newsletter is published 5 times each year: Jan., Mar., May, Sept., and Nov. -SAVE THIS ISSUE UNTIL JANUARY, 2013
Our Motto is *“From Birding to the Total Environment”* Website Address: <http://www.baycountyaudubon.org>
Celebrating Bay County Audubon Society’s 50th year of continuous successful operation

it out!!! BayCountyAudubon.org; Audubonaction.org. Also, follow us on Facebook

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WELCOME NEW BCAS MEMBERS
August – September, 2012

Whanda P. Galeos, Dolores R. Brown, Keith Bissell, Alison C. Harnett, Annie Thompson, Mark Vanderlofske, Michael X. Rohan, Rachel Vesely, Meyrle Peppler, Jerome Bechtle, and Judy Bolger

WELCOME BACK TO BCAS

Margie Watford, Carol Berzsonye, F. Weckherlin, Jeffery Gore, Mary McHale, Patrick M. Kelley, and Ann Boyko

We look forward to seeing you at our BCAS meeting November 12, 2012 at the Panama City Garden Club at 7 p.m.

Membership Renewals: The local chapter does not handle renewals—only new memberships. Please use the form sent by National Audubon for renewal. Also, please include our chapter code, C2ZE200Z, on the “for” line on your check.

Your expiration date of membership can be found on your newsletter on the top line of your address. Example: Mr. John Smith 6/31/13

NEW MEMBERS FORM (Not for renewals)

Yes, please enroll me as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter, Bay County Audubon Society (C2ZE200Z) (Be sure to put this number on your check). Please send Audubon magazine, Conservation Chronicle, and my membership card to the address below.

\$20 One-year introductory membership \$30 Two-year introductory membership \$15 Friend (*The Conservation Chronicle* only)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please make your check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail this application to the local chapter:
Bay County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1182, Panama City, Florida 32402



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY PROGRAMS –

**** December program will be held at ****
**** special location & time – see details inside. ****

Monday, Nov. 12 – 7:00 p.m. at the Panama City Garden Club, 810 Garden Club Drive. Ron Houser will narrate a 20 minute video by Audrey Parker about the beginnings of the Bay County Chapter. This program is part of our 50th year celebration. (*This program is free & open to the public.*)

Monday, Dec. 10 – 6:00 p.m. at the **Bonefish Grill** on 23rd Street. **Seating is limited** so send your \$25 check in to Bay County Audubon Society. See details inside.

FIELD TRIPS

Sat., Nov. 3 – Conservation Park Bird Walk. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Conservation Park parking lot. Directions: Take Back Beach Road past Hwy. 79; turn right just past the La Quinta Motel; parking lot is on the left at the end of the street. See inside for more details.

Saturday, Nov. 17 - This BCAS field trip will be to beautiful Cape San Blas in Gulf County. Meet at the Panama City Mall theater sign at 6:15 a.m. for a prompt 6:30 departure or by the old Bagel Maker shop in Callaway by 6:45 on our way toward Port St. Joe. First stop will be bay side in Port St. Joe, then birding along our route to Cape San Blas, with stops along the cape and wind our way to the T H Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park and, time permitting, do some birding in the park. The entry fee for the park is \$6.00 per vehicle so we will try to carpool as much as possible. We will lunch at a local restaurant. Bring water and a snack. It will be an easy walking field trip. Please check with trip coordinators or our Facebook page for cancelations. Phone contacts: Jim & Beth Miller.(850-872-7080H or 850-832-8465 C) or Tony Menart (850-234-8042). We do have some binoculars to loan should you need a pair for the outing.

Saturday, Dec. 15 – Christmas Bird Count. Embrace the Tradition! Join us in this annual Audubon tradition. Begun over a century ago, the Christmas Bird Count has been a beloved part of our local birders’ holiday season for 49 years. Come celebrate the birds, your fellow birders and the beauty that we call home. Don’t worry if you are a beginner; if you love birds, you qualify. To learn more about the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) or to sign up, contact CBC Coordinator Lisa Keppner at Lkeppner@bellsouth.net or (850) 769-6247. It’s a great way to kick off the holiday season!

Laidlaw workdays for this season are December 15, February 9, and April 6.

PROTECT OUR NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS
REPORT INVASIVE ANIMALS

From pythons to tegus to lionfish, many of the invasive animals spreading throughout our state pose significant threats to native wildlife and ecosystems. As a network of citizens across the state with keen eyes and an appreciation of our most precious ecosystems, our chapter members are perfectly-suited to assist Audubon’s efforts as “eyes and ears” on the ground. Visit the website (<http://fl.audubon.org/invasive-species-task-force>) to learn how to easily identify and report non-native animals that you see while out birding, visiting your favorite park or even along highways or in your own community. Reporting only takes minutes online or using a simple smartphone app and can make a big difference to land managers who are trying to get a handle on these growing populations. You can also stay on top of invasive species news through the monthly ‘Invader Updater’ series on the Audubon Florida News Blog (<http://audubonoffloridanews.org/>). New invasive animals are literally showing up every day here in Florida, and it is up to us to help detect and report them before populations establish or grow out of control!

Shawn E. Liston, Ph.D.
Research Manager, SW Florida
National Audubon Society

THOSE BLOOMING NATIVES
By Candis Harbison

“Can you suggest native plants that bloom continuously?” was the question asked of Lisa Keppner at the October meeting as she wrapped up her informative discussion of using native plants in the landscape. In the limited time left, no one came up with any good answers. I would like to suggest one plant that has color for months, is loved by butterflies and hummingbirds, and which is practically bullet-proof once it is established. That is the Firebush (*Hamelia patens*). This becomes a woody shrub that stands several feet tall, but it dies back in the winter, then re-emerges in spring. It can also be pruned. Not only does it feed hummingbirds and zebra longwing and gulf fritillary butterflies, but song birds eat its black berries. After planting, water it until established, then it is drought tolerant. It is most colorful in full sun, but it adapts to partial shade and any well-drained soil.

BAY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES ITS
50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

MONDAY DECEMBER 10th at 6:00PM

BONEFISH GRILL
641 WEST 23RD STREET
PANAMA CITY, FL.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
ERIC DRAPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUDUBON FLORIDA

\$25 Per Person
Dinner with Choice of Entrée
Bang Bang Shrimp Appetizer and Edamame
Bonefish House Salad
Entrée Choices:
Norwegian Salmon
Snake River Rainbow Trout
Lily's Chicken
Chicken Marsala
6oz Sirloin
Cash Bar

LIMITED SEATING - FOR RESERVATIONS
MAIL CHECK MADE OUT TO: BAY COUNTY
AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1182
PANAMA CITY, FL. 32402

CONSERVATION PARK BIRD WALKS
By Ron Houser



Panama City Beach Parks' Dale Colby and members of BCAS have conducted several bird walks at the PCB Conservation Park off Back Beach Road. This photo of a Cecropia Moth was taken on one of our first walks. The

walks are offered to the public and are well attended by residents and vacationers. The next bird walk will be Saturday, November 3.

Here are a few highlights from the bird list for the park: Wood duck, blue-winged teal, sharp-shinned hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, broad-winged hawk, great horned owl, eastern screech owl, white-eyed vireo, blue-headed vireo, purple martin, northern rough-winged swallow, house wren, summer tanager, white-throated sparrow, indigo bunting, orchard oriole, warblers: northern parula, yellow-throated, prothonotary, hooded, Connecticut and yellow-breasted chat. The pied billed grebe, house wren, screech owl and Connecticut warbler are new to the list. We have identified 64 species so far.

BIRDBATH TIPS
By Ron Houser

Along with food and shelter, a water source for your birds to drink and bathe is essential if you want to attract birds and keep them around. But it's also essential that you keep the birdbath clean and refilled with fresh water frequently. In hot summer months when birds are trying to cool off, you may have to refill the basin once a day or more. A good stiff bristled scrub brush works great to eliminate mold and other buildup. Bleach usually is not required but if you do use it, be sure to rinse it off thoroughly and let the bath air dry. The other reason to keep your birdbath clean is to reduce the mosquito population. Mosquito larvae only need a few days to hatch into adults, so cleaning your birdbath during the warmer months will need to be done every 3 days or so for that reason alone. Remember that a perfect birdbath needs to be only 1 to 2 inches deep. Anything deeper prevents most birds from bathing because their legs are too short. A nice addition is a dripping water source from a container or hose, but it's not required.

BCAS – 50 YEARS AGO: THE ORGANIZATION
By Lisa Keppner

According to the recollection of Charter Member, Nancy Roberts, the idea of Bay County Audubon Society (BCAS) was first conceived through a discussion she had with Mr. Roy Hallman. Roy Hallman was well known in the field of ornithology for his bird studies in eastern Florida but moved to Panama City in about 1955. Nancy's husband, Willbur, was the grandson of renowned ornithologist and author of *Birds of Minnesota*, Thomas S. Roberts, and grew up bird watching.

Nancy, always a nature lover, took to birding naturally when she and Willbur married and moved to this area in 1961. It was inevitable that these three bird enthusiasts would become acquainted and share their common interest. The first BCAS meeting was held on December 5, 1962. At that time, it was still customary for women to go by their husband's name. This was reflected in the minutes of the organization so for this article, the names have been left as they appear in the minutes to preserve the "flavor" of the era.

Mrs. Niles Leuck hosted the first meeting in her Grand Lagoon home. Attendees Dr. and Mrs. Myron Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Craig McKinnon, Mrs. Nancy Roberts, and Mrs. Leuck adopted the organization's name and bylaws and elected the following officers: President, Mr. Matt Whisenhunt; Vice President, Mr. Craig McKinnon; and Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs. Niles Leuck. At the next meeting in February 1963, it had become necessary to replace Mr. McKinnon (the reason why was not recorded) so Dr. Elliott was elected as Vice President. President Whisenhunt presided at the February, March, and May meetings but his work and eventual transfer out of the area resulted in Dr. Elliott acting as President in April then from June through December 1963 to finish out the organization's first year of existence. Dr. Elliott's wife, Marian Elliott, served as acting Secretary/Treasurer from September through December 1963.

The following people were listed as wishing to be charter members: Dr. and Mrs. Myron Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Craig McKinnon, Mr. Roy Hallman, The Reverend Mr. Hearn, Mrs. Nancy Roberts, Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Olson, Mr. Matt Whisenhunt, Mrs. Niles Leuck, and Mr. and Mrs. David Todd. Additional members within the first year were Mr. Scott, Duane Dillin, Mrs. Jane Patton, Mrs. Evelyn

Lumpkin, Coleman, McReynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Ackermann, and Miss Hewett Parkman. Membership dues were \$1.

During the first year, meetings were held on the first Monday of the month at the homes of Roy Hallman, Sallie Leuck, the Panama City Garden Club, and the V-A room of the library at Gulf Coast Junior College. For June and subsequent meetings, members voted to change the meeting day to the second Monday of the month so they could use the Red Cross Headquarters on 15th Street as their regular meeting place. In the first year, the highest attendance recorded for a meeting was 28 individuals and the financial report at the end of the year indicated total receipts for dues was \$17.00 with \$1.80 worth of expenditures for a total of \$15.20 on hand.

NAMC FALL COUNT RESULTS
By Mary Jo Capra



environment for birds.

A great big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who participated. I especially want to thank our first time counters. Everyone did a great job. Our participation doubled from last fall. We had 10 teams with 22 people participating. They spent a total of 31 and half hours counting birds! As a result the teams counted 102 species and 2261 individuals. Jim and Beth Miller counted over half of the total number of species and almost half of the individuals. Deer Point Lake is a great

Mark your calendars now for the Spring 2013 count on May 11, 2013. Hopefully, even more bird counters will volunteer for Spring count.

BINOCULARS, EYE RELIEF AND YOUR GLASSES
By Ron Houser

One of the most important specifications to look for in a pair of binoculars if you wear eyeglasses while birding is eye relief. Bigger is better here. This is a number in millimeters (mm) that says how far your eye can be from the eyepiece and still see the full field of view. 20mm eye relief, or, about ¾ of an inch, is about the distance most peoples' eyes are from the eyepiece with the rubber eyecup folded back if they are wearing glasses. Of course, if you don't wear glasses, a much smaller number is sufficient – possibly 8-10mm, since you can get closer to the eyepiece. If you are looking through a pair of binoculars with glasses on and the eye relief of that particular pair is only 10 –12 mm, you will lose part of the view and it will seem like you are looking through narrow tubes. That makes it difficult to find birds or anything else for that matter. So always look for the largest eye relief you can find. Over 15mm is adequate but 20mm or more is better. You can find specifications of most any pair of binoculars on the internet, such as Nikon's web site or go to Amazon. The specs for all binoculars are listed there. The recommended way to do it, however, is to try out a pair of good quality binoculars at the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Hwy 77. They can advise you how to find the perfect pair of binoculars for you and will be glad to sell you a pair that will last many years. Don't make the mistake of buying cheap binoculars that you'll regret later after you look through better ones. You get what you pay for, but you should plan on spending at least \$150 or more.

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER TIPS
By Ron Houser

Most of us who regularly feed hummingbirds make our own solution of sugar water (without any food coloring!). The usual ratio is one part sugar to 4 parts water (1:4 ratio). But an article in *Birding Magazine* – June, 2012, suggests that during hot weather, the hummers need more water and are prone to dehydration, so a ratio of 1:5 is best during the summer months. In cold weather, the article advocates making the sugar solution more concentrated – as much as 1:3 to provide more energy for the little birds. But a good all-round ratio continues to be 1:4 if you want to just stick with one ratio. Make sure you clean your feeders every few days and don't wait until the solution becomes cloudy. Bacteria and fungus can be present at significant levels before it becomes noticeable. Some designs are easier to clean than others and are even dishwasher safe. To clean out the small holes, a nice little brush is available from Wild Birds Unlimited, which also has a good selection of high-quality feeders.

2013 FILM SERIES
By Jeff Palgut

All films begin at 7 p.m. at the J.R. Arnold High School auditorium, 550 Alf Coleman Road, Panama City Beach. Here is the line-up: (Note the date for the 3rd film has changed.)

Thursday Jan., 10 - In the Footsteps of Marco Polo, by Dennis Belliveau & Francis O'Donnell -- *Chronicles the journey of two ordinary guys; Belliveau, at the time a wedding photographer, and O'Donnell, an artist and former Marine;-as they set out to follow Polo's historic route.*

Thursday, Jan. 17 - America's Natural Wonders, by Bob DeLoss - *From Hawaii to Maine the natural wonders of America fascinate nature lovers from young to old.*

Thursday, Jan. 31 - Barbados: Island in the Sun, by Steve Gosner -- *Barbados is a sophisticated tropical island with a rich history and plenty to capture the attention of visitors.*

Thursday, Feb. 14 - The Real World of Fiji, by Rick Howard - *Once known as the terrible cannibal islands to sailors the world over, the Fiji Islands are now considered to be the friendliest islands in the Pacific.*

Sponsorship donations provide a major portion of the income for us to present these films. If you know of any potential sponsors, let me know. To order tickets, fill out the information below, enclose your check (**\$20 please note: previous published amount of \$15 did not reflect 4th film**), and mail it to:

Bay County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1182, Panama City, FL. 32402. We will send your tickets by return mail.

No. of season tickets _____ x \$20.00 per ticket= _____

Name: _____

Address: _____