

 **Audubon**
OF FLORIDA

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WINTER 2011

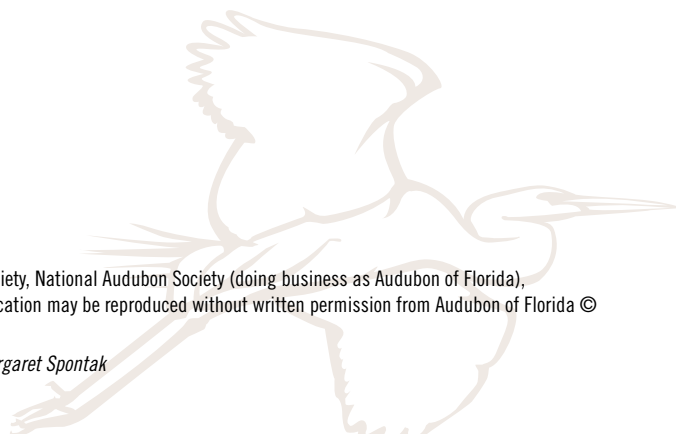
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Share Your *Passion for Nature* This Holiday Season



Photos by Scott Taylor



There is no greater pleasure than hearing the sounds of a baby owl brought back to health, seeing a multitude of Roseate Spoonbills fill the fish-filled waters of the Florida Bay, or watching a child discover the wonders of the great Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Your gift to Audubon of Florida helps make these things possible.

Discover many ways to share a gift of nature this season.

- Adopt-a-bird at the Center for Birds of Prey.
- Sponsor scholarships at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.
- Support the Everglades and Florida Bay Science needed to guide the restoration of one of the world's greatest ecological treasures.
- Sponsor a coastal bird stewarding location.

If you are age 70 1/2 or better, use your IRA Charitable Rollover option, running out Dec. 31, to fund the conservation project of your choice by making a gift directly from your IRA.

Want to learn more from someone else passionate about nature?

Contact Margaret Hankinson Spontak, Director of Development, at (352) 229-2887 or email mspontak@audubon.org to discover unique holiday giving ideas.



FLORIDA
Audubon
Naturalist

WINTER 2011-2012

**Annual
Report**

Fiscal Year
2010-2011

Passionate
About *Nature*



2011 Florida Audubon Society Leadership

Eric Draper
Executive Director, Audubon of Florida
President, Florida Audubon Society

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RJ Wiley, Audubon of Florida's photographer
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Photo by Charles Lee



**John Elting, Chairman,
Florida Audubon Society**

In this special Annual Report Edition of our Florida Naturalist, we share some of the organization's accomplishments over the past fiscal year. As I looked over the year's highlights and reflected on our recent Annual Assembly, I was struck by one observation - people are at the heart of Audubon. Our members, local leaders, volunteers, board, and staff are generous in their gifts of time, leadership and money. They truly are passionate about nature.

The bird stewards working at 23 beaches, the volunteers at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and the Center for Birds of Prey, the chapters leading local conservation projects and advocates for water and wildlife policies - Audubon is made successful by contributions of time and talent. With 35,000 Florida members and an online network of more than 16,000 people, we are the voice and the legs of Florida conservation.

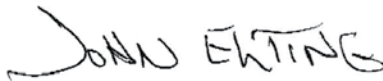
In addition to highlighting Audubon's conservation impact made possible through your support, this report allows us to thank donors who direct their checks and online gifts to Florida-based programs. Although space allows us to list only major donors, we appreciate each and every gift.

Whether you write your check to Audubon of Florida, National Audubon or you are leaving money or land to Florida Audubon Society, we want you know that funds raised and spent in our state are being used to good effect. When you donate to Audubon's Florida programs, you really make a difference.

During the coming year I encourage you to take some time to get outside and enjoy Florida's natural beauty and get involved with your local Audubon program or chapter. Your efforts will make a difference for birds and wildlife and the places that make Florida special. And you will be the heart of Audubon.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



John Elting
Chairman, Florida Audubon Society

AUDUBON ACADEMY 2012: "RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT"

March 16-18, Clewiston Inn, Clewiston, FL
Training and networking for Audubon chapter leaders.

The 2012 Audubon Academy promises to be a fun-filled weekend as leaders from Florida's 44 Audubon chapters get together in Clewiston, Florida on March 16-18. Along with learning how to build a stronger chapter and get more people involved in conservation, the Academy offers the chance to see some of the special places of the Everglades including: Fisheating Creek, Lake Okechobee and the great flocks of birds at STA 5.

Keep an eye on www.AudubonofFloridanews.org for registration information or contact Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org or Joyce King at sjoyceking@comcast.net.

Passionate About Nature

“We’re passionate about nature. We share knowledge and experience and involve others in taking care of the places people and wildlife need.” – Eric Draper



Photo by Mac Stone

Eric Draper with Paige at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

The past few years have produced some painful setbacks for Florida’s environment. But let me tell you that there is good reason to be optimistic about Florida’s future.

Take for example the dialogue on public lands recently convened by Audubon with a select group of conservation leaders, ranchers and foresters, legislators, and agency land managers. I was so pleased to see how much these diverse participants voiced the same feelings for Florida’s special places and eagerness to do more to reenergize the state’s public land acquisition and management programs.

Or, how about the Audubon Assembly where more than 200 local Audubon leaders and staff co-mentored college students from four universities. We learned more about how to engage young people as the students experienced our passion for nature and the places people and wildlife need.

You only need to take a look at the successes evident in this annual report to understand where our optimism comes from. Audubon’s work is making a difference as we focus on three major conservation priorities:

- Rallying Support for Florida’s Special Places
- Stewarding Our Coastal Habitats
- Restoring the Greater Everglades Ecosystem

Approved during the Assembly as our conservation action agenda, these three broadly focused campaigns will continue to direct our

work over the next year. Using science to guide our policy positions and using solution based advocacy, Audubon of Florida will call on our members, local chapters and allies to work together to advance our conservation goals.

We are ready to take our case to the public and policy makers. Conservation needs Audubon’s voice – your voice, so:

- Show up - bring friends and family.
- Share your passion.
- Make a difference.

Thank you for all that you have done to help birds and wildlife and to help others enjoy the places that make Florida special. Let’s have another great year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Draper'.

Eric Draper
Executive Director, Audubon of Florida
President, Florida Audubon Society



Photo by George Willson

Restoring the Greater Everglades Ecosystem



Improving the health of the Everglades ecosystem is a top priority for Audubon as we strive to recover wildlife abundance through this largest wetlands ecosystem restoration project in the world.

Everglades restoration has made great strides over the past year as all authorized projects got underway benefiting Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks and wading bird colonies. In the Southern Everglades, construction of a bridge over US 41 (Tamiami Trail) will unblock water flowing south into Everglades National Park, and canals are being plugged to allow fresh water to sheetflow across the Western Everglades and into Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay.

In the Western Everglades, road and canal removal is returning a 55,000 acre failed subdivision to a natural forested wetland.

Water quality and storage projects being built south of Lake Okeechobee and near the St. Lucie River will provide clean freshwater

to the Everglades and its estuaries.

With Audubon's support, 150,000 acres of ranchland in the Northern Everglades, home to Crested Caracara and Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, are proposed for protection as part of the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge.

Protecting our Winged Treasures

In the spring and summer Audubon also drew attention to the plight of the critically endangered Everglade Snail Kite and urged new state and federal commitments to restrict the use of irrigation water from Lake Okeechobee to increase nesting survival of this iconic Everglades species.

Audubon scientists monitored 69 Spoonbill nests – down from 233 the year before. The information is being used to design restoration projects that will enhance nesting and foraging conditions in the Everglades.

Declining Florida Grasshopper Sparrow population counts in the Northern Everglades prompted Audubon to push for best management practices for wet and dry prairies.

Managing Private Lands for Everglades Improvements

Audubon of Florida has championed a new wave of cooperative conservation by successfully advocating for 8 projects that will retain over 1.5 billion gallons of water on private lands tributary to Lake Okeechobee. This is in addition to a previously approved project that will store 11 billion gallons of water.

We are working with landowners to shape the future of habitat conservation for the Florida panther (whose population has rebounded from 35 individuals to 100-120) by ensuring that panther corridors are not lost to development.



Photos (all) by Mac Stone

Advocating for Public Lands

Audubon of Florida called for expanding public lands in the Northern Everglades to protect habitat, water quality, and wildlife corridors. Audubon Executive Director Eric Draper appeared before Congress to advocate for a 150,000 acre Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and conservation area while thousands of Audubon members submitted comments and showed up for public meetings. We drew attention to invasive species including Burmese Pythons and advanced solutions in state law.

Informing Everglades Conservation with Audubon Science

Sound science is a cornerstone of Audubon's conservation work. Audubon scientists identified shallow wetland loss as detrimental to Wood Storks and other wetland-dependent species. The failure of federal and state wetland mitigation policies to replace lost Wood Stork foraging habitat is now identified as a major reason for plummeting


nesting success. Audubon science and policy experts are now working to develop and promote a practical, science-based solution to this problem.

A Gateway to the Western Everglades


More than 86,000 people were thrilled by the spectacular experience at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in 2011, along with 5,000 students participating in educational programs. A gateway to the western Everglades, the sanctuary is known for its historic Wood Stork nests. Sadly, the Wood Storks did not nest this year.

The preservation of Corkscrew's backcountry benefited this year from the acquisition of 4,300 acres at Panther Island, a nursery where birds and wildlife can breed and raise their young. As animals reach adulthood, they broaden their horizons and expand their territory to include the public areas like Corkscrew's Boardwalk Trail. The backcountry nursery promotes natural wildlife behavior, resulting in a more authentic outdoors experience for visitors.

MAKE A *Difference*

 **Join** an Audubon Chapter in your county to participate in education and advocacy activities. Go to http://fl.audubon.org/who_chapterList.html for a list of chapters.

 **Sign-up** to receive the *Restore* online newsletter to hear the latest news on the Everglades and ways you can advocate for restoration progress: <http://www.Audubon-ofFlorida.org/signup>

 **Visit** www.RestoreFloridaBay.org to learn many ways to get engaged with protection and restoration of Florida Bay.

 **Donate** to support Audubon's Everglades policy work at <http://ow.ly/6q9Wg>.

 **Volunteer** at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Call (239) 348-9151, ext. 112 or 108.

Stewarding Florida's Coastal Habitats

"[Audubon bird stewards] are the hardy souls who are the doers of the work – not just the talkers of the work or the readers of the work. These are... the folks who have mud on their boots and sand between their toes."

*~ Commissioner Brian Yablonski,
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

Photo by R.J. Willey

Alive with birds, Florida's coasts historically supported beach-nesting species such as Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers, as well as shorebirds like Red Knots and Piping Plovers, which winter in Florida or stop over on hemispheric migrations. Raptors follow the coastal dunelines as they work their way southward. And coastal hammocks and scrub habitats are often the last southbound jumping off points, and first northbound landfalls, for neotropical songbird migrants facing the

daunting odds of long overwater flights.

Our irreplaceable coasts are major sources of Florida's economic vitality and quality of life. Yet these habitats and their wildlife are jeopardized by human activities including beach "management," construction, coastal armoring, dredging and filling, beach grooming, recreational disturbance, oil exploration and climate change. The singular importance and vulnerability of Florida's coastal habitats have elevated them to one of Audubon's top priorities.

unteers statewide logged more than 6,400 hours in service of these vulnerable birds. On beaches in places such as Pinellas and St. Johns counties, our stewards (with support from Audubon staff Monique Borboen and Marianne Korosy) even spent hours after dark on July 4th, protecting the birds from disturbance during beach fireworks displays. Audubon-funded research by Eckerd College's Dr. Beth Forsy further documented what has long been suspected: posted areas and stewards are essential practices to reduce devastating disturbance to these species.



Photo by Christina Evans

Insuring Bird Colony Success

The small sand-colored eggs and chicks of beach-nesting birds are no match for the crush of recreational use on Florida's beaches. That's why Audubon's bird stewards lend their time and talents to chaperoning these colonies—protecting them from disturbance while educating beachgoers about these remarkable Florida natives. This year, Audubon expanded our network of volunteer bird stewards and sites, protecting nesting colonies in the summer sun and watching over Red Knots on migration at twenty-three beaches statewide. This partnership has expanded to include 12 coastal Audubon chapters. Hundreds of vol-

Protecting Species Through Citizen Science Data

Audubon's citizen science networks provided valuable data and observations ensuring species like Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Snowy Plover and American Oystercatcher remain in the highest category of state protection. At the meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) where the species' Threatened status was presented, commissioners praised Audubon specifically for the work of our citizen scientists. Data on these birds is so valuable that



MAKE A *Difference*

🐦 **Become** an Audubon bird steward.
Email flconservation@audubon.org for information about sites and opportunities near you!

🐦 **Register/Signup** for Audubon of Florida's Coastal Strand and The Advocate online newsletters to learn how you can get involved. Enroll at <http://www.AudubonofFlorida.org/signup>

🐦 **Donate** to Audubon's coastal conservation programs at <http://ow.ly/7xaiB>.

the FWC designed a custom database so that volunteers can more easily contribute their observations documenting the birds' declines and planning for their conservation.

Restoring Habitat in Tampa Bay

Audubon's Richard T. Paul Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary received a major upgrade with the installation of a 425-foot reef system to protect the sanctuary's Bird Island from boat wake erosion. The sanctuary is home to over 10,000 pairs of nesting birds ranging from White Ibis and Brown Pelicans to American Oystercatchers. However, the islands are rapidly eroding as a result of ship wakes generated in the adjacent shipping channel. Installation of a wave attenuation system for the sanctuary's Sunken Island began this fall. Already, mangroves and seagrasses are taking root and invertebrates are recruiting to the structures.

Partners & Sites

While many chapters statewide support our coastal work, the following chapters have stepped forward to survey beaches for nesting birds or to coordinate bird colony stewarding:

Apalachee Audubon
Audubon of St. Johns County
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Choctawhatchee Audubon
Clearwater Audubon
Collier Audubon
Duval Audubon
Flagler Audubon
Halifax River Audubon
Manatee County Audubon
Peace River Audubon
St. Petersburg Audubon
Sarasota Audubon
Tampa Audubon
Venice Area Audubon

The following 23 beaches were the sites of Audubon nesting season bird stewarding in 2011:

PANHANDLE COAST

Deer Lake State Park
Grayton Beach State Park
Gulf Islands National Seashore
St. George Island State Park
St. Joe Peninsula State Park
Navarre Beach County Park
Tyndall Air Force Base

SOUTHWEST GULF COAST

Anclote Key Preserve State Park
Anna Maria Island
Clearwater Beach
Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge
Fort Desoto Park
Fort Myers Beach and Little Estero Critical Wildlife Area
Gasparilla Island
Indian Shores
Knight Island
Lido Key
Siesta Key
Shell Key Preserve
Tigertail Beach and Big Marco Pass Critical Wildlife Area

ATLANTIC COAST

Fort Matanzas National Monument
Huguenot Memorial Park
Nassau Sound Bird Island
Summer Haven Beach

The following is a sampling of the many partners without whom our coastal conservation work would not be possible. Our heartfelt thanks to all our partners and supporters.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Shorebird Alliance
Florida Park Service (including the staff of 17 state parks)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Defense
Florida Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (including the staff of aquatic preserves in eight counties)
St. Johns County
Volusia County
Santa Rosa County
Charlotte County
Collier County
Hillsborough County
Lee County
Pinellas County
Pasco County
Manatee County
Sarasota County
Polk County
Palm Beach County
Citrus County
City of Jacksonville
City of Anna Maria
City of Clearwater
City of Fort Myers Beach
City of Tampa
City of Marco Island
City of Safety Harbor
Port Manatee
Tampa Port Authority
Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Eckerd College
University of West Florida
Northwest Florida State College
University of South Florida
Florida State University
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Florida Master Naturalist Program
Tallahassee Community College Green Guide Program
Florida Sea Grant Program
Department of Transportation
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Amelia Island Plantation
St. Augustine Eco Tours
Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary
Anna Maria Turtlewatch and Shorebird Patrol Inc.
Turtle Time Inc.
Tampa Bay Conservancy
Tampa Bay Watch
Sarasota Bay Watch
Lee County Bird Patrol
Friends of Tigertail

Rallying Support for Florida's Special Places



Photo by John Moran

A year has passed since Audubon announced the beginning of the Florida's Special Places campaign – a project designed to get people to enjoy Florida's conservation lands and waters. Anticipating that a stingy legislature would cut funding from public lands programs, Audubon is encouraging people to use our special places or lose them. By getting people into the parks with family and friends and then sharing those experiences through photos and online posts, a new wave of public lands advocates is arriving – just in the nick of time.

Audubon kicked off the Special Places campaign in the precious Sandhill Lakes region of the Florida Panhandle. The sugar-sand hills and crystal blue lakes in this region were the first of scores of projects to make Audubon's list of special places.

Hundreds of people told their own online stories of Florida's incredible natural beauty and public lands. From awe-inspiring wildlife to family memories and picture-perfect sunsets, Florida's Special Places connect people with nature.

Rallying for Florida's State Parks

Last winter Audubon and others responded to state proposals to close 53 state parks. In just a few days the Florida's Special Places Facebook page and the Audubon of Florida News blog were bursting with comments and testimonials in support of these cherished public lands. Led by former Florida Audubon President Clay Henderson and journalist Lucy Tobias, Audubon launched a tour of 53 Parks in 53 Days. Advocates held rallies and tours and celebrated the importance of these special places to our families and neighborhoods.

After significant media attention and public response, Governor Scott backed away from the proposal.

The grassroots advocates who showed such determination earlier in the year were soon tested again when a proposal was announced to build golf courses in state parks. Using the Florida's Special Places network, Audubon worked with local chapters and other conservation groups to rally opposition until that plan was also withdrawn.

Connecting People with Florida's Special Places

Audubon staff and volunteers hosted and guided numerous events connecting people with and increasing public engagement for Florida's Special Places.

- Hosted the Northwest Florida Water Festival introducing more than 100 people to the waterways of the Panhandle.
- Guided a sunset cruise through the famed bird islands of Coastal Islands Sanctuaries.



Photo by John Moran

Photo by George Willson

“My heart swelled with uncontrollable delight...”

-John James Audubon describing his visit to Florida



- Led chapter bird walks and field trips getting thousands of people outside watching wildlife and enjoying Florida’s Special Places.
- Attracted flocks of visitors to the Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in the Western Everglades – Special Places showpieces.

Defending Florida’s Springs

Few special places in Florida feel more immediately magical than our renowned freshwater springs, and Audubon has been their staunch defender this year. This summer when the Florida Park Service proposed to build extensive RV campgrounds in three springs parks, including the fragile cavern system for Wakulla Springs, Audubon rallied the Florida’s Special Places network to oppose the plan at three lively public hearings. After much media attention, the proposal was pulled by state officials.

Audubon led the fight to kill a bill that would have reversed the ban on land disposal of sewage sludge from septic tanks and a bill

that would end replacement of septic tanks in springsheads and other areas.

Managing Centers and Sanctuaries

Audubon manages a Florida sanctuary network of 100,000 acres of lands and water for the benefit of wildlife and people including a Ramsar designated vital Wetland of International Importance at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples.

This year the Center for Birds of Prey treated more than 500 injured birds including 64 Bald Eagles and many other other raptors. The Center’s EagleWatch mobilized more than 250 citizen scientists keeping close eye on more than 25% of the state’s nesting population. Thirty thousand individuals were inspired through the Center and its education programs this year, creating a culture of conservation for birds of prey and the habitats that support them.

MAKE A *Difference*

Join the Florida’s Special Places community in nominating your favorite natural spots in Florida. Be ready to speak up when your voice is needed to defend our iconic wildlife and signature landscapes. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/FloridasSpecialPlaces>

Visit a public park, refuge, or conservation land today. Take 5 for Florida’s special places: Take yourself to one of Florida’s Special Places. Take friends and family. Take pictures, take notes. Take time to share your experience with others. Take action to protect the places that make Florida special.

Sign-up to be the first to receive breaking environmental and conservation news in your inbox – sign up for the free Audubon Advocate today: <http://www.AudubonofFlorida.org/signup>

Audubon Assembly

Celebrating the Year: Snapshots from the 2011 Audubon Assembly

Oct. 13-15, Lake Mary, FL



Conservation Leadership Initiative

Twenty-seven students from area universities brought new life to the Assembly thanks to competitive scholarships from Disney. Partnering with Audubon members for a mutual learning experience, the next generation of environmentalists explored Florida's special places through walking workshops and forged connections with the leaders in their field. Audubon members agreed that the students were "an inspiration," and gave them valuable insight into how Audubon can appeal to a young, energetic audience. To get a copy of the full report email flconservation@audubon.org.



Assembly Highlights

- The Flyway Fiesta at the Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL, kicked off the year's Assembly in style with food and wine, talks from Audubon's excellent staff, and roving raptors taking in the evening's proceedings.
- The Theodore Roosevelt Award for resilience, resolve, and courage on behalf of Florida's environment was presented to Senator Bill Nelson, who spoke during the Take Action Luncheon.
- Outstanding Learning Sessions covered a range of topics, from Everglades Restoration plans, to Citizen Science, to Ecosystem Services.
- Keynote speaker John Moran, a noted Florida nature photographer, celebrated Florida's Special Places during the Awards Banquet.
- A Photo Journey through Florida's Special Places featured stunning artwork from some of Florida's best nature photographers
- Marine Biologist Dr. Ellen Prager highlighted her book, *Sex, Drugs, and Sea Slime: The Ocean's Oddest Creature and Why They Matter*, to close out the assembly.



Prager





Bell



Tschinkel



Pantano



Laakkonen



Dean



J. Walker

Annual Award Winners

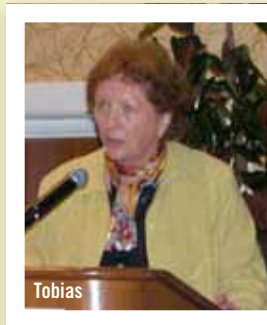
This year's honorees included Colonel Alfred A. Pantano, Jr. (Champion of the Everglades), the late E. Thom Rumberger (Lifetime Champion of the Everglades), Keith Laakkonen and the late Missy Christie (Guy Bradley Award), Victoria Tschinkel (Florida Woman in Conservation), Henry Dean (Florida Special Places), Rayonier (Distinguished Corporate Philanthropy), Chingos Foundation (Distinguished Foundation Philanthropy), Louise Courtellis (Distinguished Individual Philanthropy), Jackson Walker (Artist of the Year), Rod J. Wiley (Nature Photographer of the Year), and Mac Stone (Exceptional Nature Cinematography).



B. Walker



Clearwater



Tobias



Alachua



Pelican Island



St. Petersburg

Chapter and Volunteer Awards

Well-deserving chapters and individuals were recognized throughout the Assembly and during the Chapter Awards Luncheon, including St. Petersburg Audubon (Best Chapter Display), Clearwater Audubon (Best Education Project for the Clearwater Audubon Explorers Club), Alachua Audubon (Best Conservation Project for their role in 53 Parks in 53 Days, Payne's Prairie and Bird Island Management), and Pelican Island Audubon (Best Chapter). Chapter Milestones were celebrated for West Volusia Audubon (50 years), Ridge Audubon (50 years), and Hendry-Glades Audubon (5 years). For more details go to pages 12-13. Volunteers of the year included Barbara Walker (EagleWatcher) and Lucy Tobias (Florida Special Places volunteer blogger and photographer).

The 2011 Audubon Assembly – *Made Possible by Generous Support from our Sponsors*

Gold



Silver

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY • FLORIDA ENERGY PIPELINE ASSOCIATION • THE PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP
FLORIDA GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY • MOSAIC • WILSON & ASSOCIATES

Photos by: Marianne Korosy, Charles Lee, Larry Rosen, Mac Stone, and Celia Westbrook



Local Conservation Leaders: Making an Impact

Photo by Arnette Sherman

Northwest Florida

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society was awarded a TogetherGreen grant this year for the Hurlburt Field Youth Center in Fort Walton, Florida. The Center provides quality care for the children of airmen, airwomen, and civilians. Butterfly gardens, terrariums, ponds, and vegetable gardens help children and parents connect with nature—a powerful healing force for those coping with the hardships of war. Center staff and chapter members are also using the grant to restore a degraded wetland stream on the property.

Bay County Audubon Society has a Memorandum of Agreement with Florida Audubon Society to manage the Beulah A. Laidlaw Preserve, 272 acres of land in Washington County that are home to the Swainson's Warbler, flame azalea, and gopher tortoise. The chapter has received grants for amenities such as boardwalks, a pole barn shelter, birdhouses and signage. A management plan, developed by chapter leaders, promotes wildlife through topography enhancement of swamp, bog, uplands, and clearings that support a rich and diverse flora and fauna. Due to limited access, the property is currently open by appointment only. Visit <http://www.baycountyaudubon.org>.

Apalachee Audubon, in collaboration with Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, hosted the "Go Green for God!" Youth Environmental Empowerment Summit, which taught youth from Tallahassee's South side community the importance of environmental stewardship. The youth, ages 6-18, took part in hands-on, minds-on activities that included ways to preserve nature and protect the environment using a biblical perspective on the "Go Green" movement.

Gulf Coast

Citrus County Audubon, collaborating with other chapters, Audubon staff, and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), adopted the Potts Preserve, an 8,500-acre tract of land between the Withlacoochee River and the Tsala Apopka chain of lakes – a rallying point for public land surplus concerns. It is part of the state's protected conservation lands, acquired for protection and restoration of their natural integrity. The chapter's first survey of the area's birds revealed enormous variety of both common and rare species. This data should help to preserve this Florida special place.

Clearwater Audubon, winner of Audubon's Best Education Project Award, has es-

tablished the Clearwater Audubon Explorer's Club in a bold move to inspire the conservationists of tomorrow. The project taps into the potential of 10-14 year olds to become ambassadors between birds, their friends, and their families.

Southwest Florida

Collier County Audubon Society participated in the First Annual Florida Panther Festival this October in Naples, which helped to educate the public about the best ways to live alongside wildlife. The largest number of Florida panther live in the area, making livestock protection a critical concern of landowners. Over 1,000 people attended.

Collier Audubon's next big event in partnership with Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary features well-known author and columnist Carl Hiaasen. The Feathers and Friends Gala, scheduled for Feb. 9 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, is filling up fast. Go to www.collieraudubon.info/friends-feather.html for details.

Hendry-Glades Audubon along with the Southwest Florida Regional Conservation Committee will be hosting the 2012 Audubon Academy. One of our newer chapters, they are celebrating their 5th Anniversary this year!



Payne's Prairie Photo by Greg Stephens



Potts Preserve
Photo by
Brad Cornell



Potts Preserve
Photo by
Lorraine Margeson



Panther Festival Photo by Brad Cornell



Photo by Sandra Marraffino

Northeast Florida

Alachua Audubon joined the Partnership for Payne's Prairie State Park (PPSP) this year, combining efforts to manage the vital wetland that hosts up to 5,000 migratory birds every winter, including the rare Whooping Crane. While the state park has a well organized Friends of the Prairie group, chapter volunteers will focus on habitat quality.

Alachua Audubon volunteers plan to play a key role in the future management of the Prairie. Members are planning the first Florida Crane Festival which will be held in January 2012. The Chapter was recognized for their Conservation work at the Audubon Assembly in October.

Central Florida

West Volusia, Seminole, and Orange Audubon Societies designed and hosted a series of stimulating Walking Workshops and field trips for the 2011 Audubon Assembly. Locations featured Special Places and successful partnerships such as Orlando Wetlands Park, Lyonia Preserve, Volusia Blue Springs, and Helena Springs in Seminole State Forest.

Pelican Island Audubon won the Audubon Best Chapter Award with 2011 Callison Award Winner Dr. Richard Baker at the helm.

Their Quality of Life Indicator Project was designed to measure and motivate progress towards a sustainable future. Led by Dr. Graham Cox, with the help of 23 county advisors, this innovative, inclusive, community-based process surveys quality of life indicators to guide the county towards an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable lifestyle.

West Volusia Audubon and Ridge Audubon were recognized at Audubon Assembly for their 50 years of conservation work, confirming their role in Florida's conservation history.

South Florida

Tropical Audubon Society, under the leadership of Rafael Galvez, stepped in to save the 12-year-old Keys Hawkwatch program, building a coalition of volunteers that included partners from Space Coast Audubon Society, Florida Keys Audubon Society, Hawk Migration Association of North America, Florida Ornithological Society, Leica Sport Optics, William H. and Patricia M. Kleh, Carlton Fields – Attorneys at Law, and the Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival. <http://floridakeyshawkwatch.wordpress.com>

Tropical Audubon Society, a Together Green grantee, is creating an outdoor educa-

tion center with interpretative signage, trails, and a computer kiosk system explaining the benefits of native plant landscapes and the dangers posed by invasive species. A nursery area will provide native tree seedlings to Adopt a Tree and TREEmendous, groups that will donate them to cities, schools, and neighborhoods. The project aims to increase urban tree canopy, connect wildlife corridors, and reduce carbon footprints.

Find a Chapter Near You

If you would like to make an impact through your local Audubon chapter, go to http://fl.audubon.org/who_chapterList.html. Visit chapter web sites for more details on how local Audubon leaders are making a difference in Florida.

In Memory of Ken Morrison

Audubon lost a special friend this year when Ken Morrison, President Emeritus of Florida Audubon, Former Editor of Audubon Magazine and founder of Ridge Audubon passed away. Ken contributed a lifetime of service on Audubon's behalf helping with Audubon Assembly literature and programs.

Thank You

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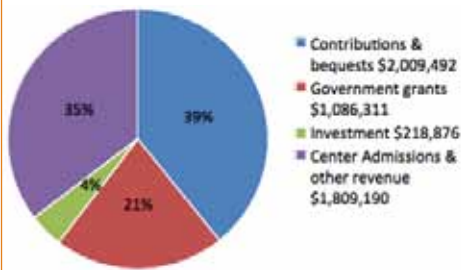
Audubon of Florida & Florida Audubon Society Financials

JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

National Audubon Society and Florida Audubon Society work together and fund conservation programs operating under the name Audubon of Florida. Funds received by Audubon of Florida are spent exclusively on Florida conservation.

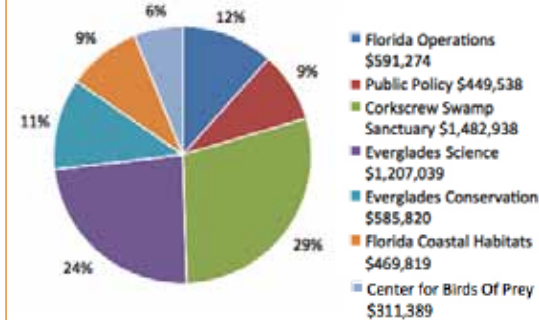
Audubon of Florida

Revenue Sources



Total Revenue \$5,123,869

Expenses by Program



Total Expense \$5,124,523

Florida Audubon Society Assets and Liabilities

Florida Audubon Society is an independent non-profit that owns sanctuaries, manages endowment fund and provides support to Audubon of Florida through chapter and membership training programs and conservation and other funds.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets - As of June 30, 2011

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash		126,907.87
Cash - Restricted		540,238.53
Account Receivable		171,352.85
Naples Capital Investment Trust		2,514,719.13
Total Current Assets		3,353,218.38
Other Assets		
Land		3,034,379.00
Building & Improvements		2,247,386.97
Furniture & Equipment		154,971.83
Accumulated Depreciation		-830,260.05
Total Other Assets		4,606,477.75
TOTAL ASSETS		7,959,696.13
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		16,810.95
Equity		
Land-Preservation		503,612.00
Aquisition Fund		2,307,155.00
Unrestricted Net Assets		738,107.57
Retained Earnings		3,848,292.31
Net Income		545,718.30
Total Equity		7,942,885.18
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		7,959,696.13

Audubon of Florida Staff

Audubon of Florida

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vjohnston@audubon.org

Public Policy Office

http://www.audubonofflorida.org/conservation.html
308 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-222-2473

Local Audubon Chapters

http://fl.audubon.org/who_chapterList.html
Jacqueline Sulek
(850) 251-1297 • jsulek@audubon.org

EVERGLADES CONSERVATION

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Ed Carlson, Sanctuary Director
375 Sanctuary Rd. West, Naples, FL 34120-4865
(239) 348-9151

Everglades Policy

Julie Hill-Gabriel, Director of Everglades Policy
305-371-6399, ext. 136

Everglades Water Quality

Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy
(407) 620-5178

Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program

Paul Gray, Ph.D., Science Coordinator
863-655-1831

Southwest Florida Collier Audubon Policy Office

Brad Cornell, Big Cypress Policy Associate
239-643-7822

Everglades Science Center

Jerome Lorenz, Ph.D., State Director of Research
305-852-5318

Keys Environmental Restoration Fund

Jeanette Hobbs, Manager
305-289-9988

BIRDS AND COASTAL STEWARDSHIP

Coastal Wildlife and Habitats

Julie Wraithmell, Director of Wildlife Conservation
850-222-BIRD (2473)

Important Bird Areas

Marianne Korosy, Florida IBA Coordinator
(727) 742-1683

Coastal Islands Sanctuaries

Ann Paul, Tampa Bay Area Regional Coord.
813-623-6826

FLORIDA SPECIAL PLACES

Center for Birds of Prey

Katie Warner, Center Manager
1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751-5451
407-644-0190

Full a full directory of staff and locations go to
www.AudubonofFlorida.org