



Corkscrew
Swamp Sanctuary

Along the Boardwalk

February, 2012

www.corkscrewsanctuary.org

Volunteer activity schedule picks up

The following programs and field trips are for Corkscrew volunteers. Most volunteer field trips have a limited number of participants. Sign-up sheets for all events are or will be posted in the Bunting House.

- Feb. 6: field trip to north end
- Feb. 14: field trip to Panther Island
- Feb. 15: field trip to north end
- Feb. 17: **Incredible Insect Design** seminar with Susan Snyder, noon-1 PM in the classroom
- Feb. 18: field trip to STA-5
- Feb. 20 & 21: **Logging History in Southwest Florida** with Cesar Becerra, 1-2:30 PM in the classroom; *OPEN TO THE PUBLIC with paid admission*
- Feb. 21: field trip to north end
- Feb. 23: field trip to Fakahatchee
- Mar. 4: field trip to north end
- Mar. 5: field trip to north end
- Mar. 6: **CPR/AED/First Aid Class** for volunteers/staff, 8 AM-2 PM
- Mar. 8: **Botany Refresher Walk** with Maureen Boness, 9-11:30 AM (limited to 9 participants)
- Mar. 22: **Volunteer Recognition Dinner**, 4:30-7:30 PM

Two early February events to raise funds for Corkscrew programs

A pair of early February special events will directly benefit programs at Corkscrew.

The Naples Orchid Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a kickoff event on Thursday, February 2, at the Moorings Presbyterian Church.

The evening's featured speaker will be Michael Coronado of HF Orchids in Homestead. A silent auction and raffle will follow the program with the auction proceeds benefitting education programs at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Dinner will be catered by Wynn's Catering,

For more information, including many of the auction items, and to purchase tickets online, please visit www.naplesorchidsociety.org.

The following week, author, columnist, and investigative reporter Carl Hiaasen will be the keynote speaker at

Florida name change

In keeping with National Audubon's drive for consistency in its state affiliates' names, Audubon of Florida has been renamed Florida Audubon. Its new dynamic web site is fl.audubon.org.

the February 9 Feathers and Friends Gala at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club.

The benefit dinner and evening is jointly hosted by the Collier County Audubon Society and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Hiaasen is a Sunday columnist for the *Miami Herald* but is perhaps better known for his many novels populated with quirky characters inhabiting local and state governments and those in South Florida.

Hiaasen has received numerous honors for his journalism and commentary, including the Damon Runyon Award from the Denver Press Club and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

More information about the event, plus online ordering of tickets, is at www.collieraudubon.org/friends-feathers.html.



Quick ID Guide- Yellow birds: Blue-winged Warbler vs. Pine Warbler

Look for the following clues:

	Pine	Blue-wing
regularly winters in Florida	✓	
yellow head	✓	✓
yellow forehead	✓	✓
white undertail coverts	✓	✓
white wing bars	✓	✓
white belly	✓	
yellow belly		✓
brown line through eye	✓	
black line through eye		✓



Blue-winged Warbler, *Vernivora pinus*



Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*

In Case a Visitor Asks

Why are metal tubes on the Bunting House feeder?

The metal tubes are on the Bunting House feeder line for the same reason the large green pvc pipes are on the Blair Center feeders: to deter Black Bears from raiding the feeders.

Bears, like people, look for easy meals first, and bird seed is an easy and available meal.

Originally, there weren't the metal tubes; a series of small pvc tubes on the line was intended to discourage raccoons and other critters from attacking the feeders.

However, a Black Bear discovered the feeder and the small pvc pipe was no barrier. The bear climbed the far maple tree and using its canines and front paws, shimmied out to the feeder, which it then proceeded to destroy.

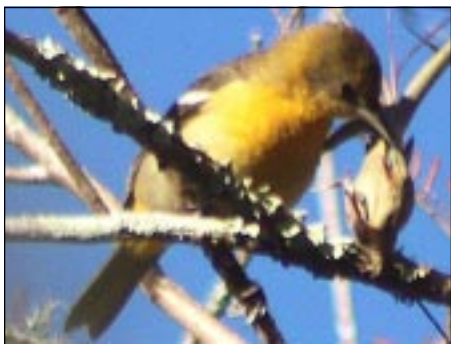
The pipes were added and anchored to the trees at either end to prevent a bear from staging a repeat performance.

The large wire cage was added to keep long-billed birds like grackles from reaching through the original wiring and monopolizing the feeder.



photo Edie Vassamillet

January Sightings



A female Baltimore Oriole looks for a meal inside a *Tillandsia pruinosa* (January 20).



A cluster of Rigid Epidendrum bloom on a Pond Apple tree at the south lake (January 6).



A male Baltimore Oriole pauses in a cypress above the Marinelli rain shelter (January 10).

Now you Know

Baby, it's cold outside: What is a wind chill factor and how is it determined?

Television weather people mentioned windchill factor several times last month. The windchill factor is the temperature that a person feels because of the wind.

For example, if a thermometer reads 35°F outside and the wind is blowing at 25 miles per hour, the wind-chill factor causes it to feel like it is 8°F. In other words, a 98-degree body loses heat as if it were 8° outside.

When the wind blows across the exposed surface of skin, it draws heat away from our bodies. When the wind picks up speed, it draws more heat away, so skin exposed to the wind cools more quickly than it would have on a still day.

That's the same effect as blowing on hot soup or hot chocolate to cool it down. The movement of the air in-

creases the liquid's loss of heat by convection, so it cools down faster.

Although high winds can make those with a pulse feel more miserable than normal, the winds don't have the same effect on inanimate objects. Lower wind chills mean that inanimate objects cool to the air temperature more quickly, but even high winds can't force the object's temperature below the air temperature. That means that if the actual temperature is 40 degrees, even though your skin might think it's 28 degrees, water in a bird bath will still be a balmy 40 degrees.

In reality, variables like body type and whether there's a head wind or a tail wind affect how cold people feel. The wind chill formula makes some simplifying assumptions to get its numbers. Basically, the wind chill factor

assumes that an exposed face is roughly five feet off the ground, it's night, and a person is walking directly into the wind in an open field at about 3 mph.

For someone who does a lot of night-field-walking, that's realistic. Otherwise, maybe not.

Many factors can mitigate the reported wind chill. A weatherman may say it feels like 50 below outside, but if you're dressed warmly, standing in the sun, or in an area with cover like buildings and trees that block the wind, you will feel significantly warmer.

The Fahrenheit formula is $WC = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75V^{0.16} + 0.4275TV^{0.16}$ where T is the air temperature and V is the wind speed in miles per hour. Wind-chill temperature is only defined for temperatures at or below 50°F and wind speeds above 3.0 mph.

Yellow Rat Snake

Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata



Yellow Rat Snakes are long slim snakes with a head only slightly wider than their body and are the most common color morph of rat snakes in Peninsula Florida. They are typically yellowish with four brownish black stripes along the body. The forked tongue is black and the iris is yellow-colored.

They are also known as chicken snakes because they are sometimes found in chicken coops where they seek out eggs and poults.

The average Yellow Rat Snake is between three and a half to six feet long, but some can exceed seven feet in length. Growth in length is rapid preceding sexual maturity and then slows down. Rat snakes have a life span of 20 years and up.

The majority of Yellow Rat Snakes are shy and will hide most of the time. They are quite slow movers and freeze rather than run when they sense danger. When frightened, they often assume a “kinked” posture and may vibrate the tail and expel a malodorous musk.

The musk has a strong, pungent odor and both wild and domestic cats respond to it much as they do to catnip.

Yellow Rat Snakes are very active at night, more so than during the day. If handled carelessly, they may bite but they are non-venomous.

Preferred habitats are pine flatlands, slash pine scrub, coastal hardwood hammocks, oak hammocks, cypress swamps, and deciduous hardwoods. They are also commonly found around citrus groves, pastures, and abandoned buildings.

They are the best tree climbing snake in the state and can often be seen sticking their heads out of holes in trees. Their belly scales are slightly keeled, allowing them to move up rough tree trunks easily and even climb brick walls.

Their range includes coastal regions of North Carolina south along the

coast through South Carolina and into Georgia and Florida.

Adult rat snakes primarily eat mice, rats, other small mammals up to Gray Squirrel size, small birds, and bird eggs. They are a common predator on Wood Duck eggs. Juveniles eat small frogs, lizards, and small rodents.

They are constrictors, so they suffocate their prey like pythons and other boa species. They present no threat to humans unless they feel threatened. If cornered, they will strike and bite where the only danger is possible infection from the wound.

Sexual maturity is determined by size rather than by age, and most begin to reproduce when they reach approximately half of their eventual size.

Late April, May and early June are the breeding months. Five weeks after mating, the female lays a clutch of about 12 to 20 oblong eggs, usually in rotten logs. The eggs hatch in about 65 to 70 days. The young Yellow Rat Snakes are grayish rather than yellow, have blotches rather than stripes and are from 11-17 inches long at birth. Sex is determined by the incubation temperature; warmer temperatures result in males and cooler temperatures favor females.

Yellow Rat Snakes are a very beneficial species, acting as natural exterminators in barns and other agricultural settings by curbing rodent populations. Environmental and habitat degradation are their major threats, but they also fall prey to human persecution, mostly due to people’s lack of knowledge and fear of snakes in general.

FUN FACTS

- Yellow Rat Snakes will climb to heights of 60 feet in trees searching for prey.
- Yellow Rat Snakes also spend time underground prowling through rodent burrows.



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Collier County/Naples
www.corkscrewsanctuary.org

*For all program reservations, call
 348-9151 x 108*

Early Bird Walk (limited to 12);
 8-11 AM; cost \$15
 • Feb. 7 • Feb. 21 • Mar. 6

Morning Walk (limited to 12);
 9-11 AM; cost \$15
 • Feb. 2 • Feb. 9 • Feb. 16
 • Feb. 23 • Mar. 1 • Mar. 8

Sunset Stroll (limited to 10)
 cost \$25
 • Feb. 1 (5-7 PM)
 • Feb. 29 (5:15-7:15 PM)

Guided Night Walk (limited to 10)
 cost \$25
 • Feb. 8 (6:30-8:30 PM)

Basics of Nature Photography
 (limited to 10); 9-11:30 AM; cost
 \$20 Audubon members, \$25 non-
 members (discount for more than
 one class)
 • Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

Deep Sky (astronomy, limited to 10)
 cost \$20
 • Feb. 21 (7:30-9:30 PM)
 • Mar. 20 (8-10 PM)

Solar Observations (astronomy)
 free with paid admission
 • Feb. 18, 10 AM-1 PM

Corkscrew on Canvas (limited to 10)
 cost \$13 National Audubon
 members, \$15 non-members. No
 instructor! Reservations required.
 • Feb. 4 (9 AM-3 PM)

Better Bird Watching (limited to
 15) cost \$15; 3:30-5 PM

Yoga at Corkscrew (limited to 8)
 cost \$15 Audubon members, \$18
 non-members; 10-11:30 AM; each
 Saturday in March

*For more activities and events, visit the
 web page and click "Calendar."*



Collier County Audubon

Collier County/Naples
www.collieraudubon.org

Monthly programs at Naples Botani-
 cal Garden, 7:30 PM; free for mem-
 bers, \$3 for non members

- Feb. 7: "Black Bears"
- Mar. 6: "Everglades Snail Kite"
- Apr. 3: "The Endangered Sawfish"

Adult Bird Outings

Trips are open to anyone interested
 in birding, wildlife, or exploring
 the outdoors. No reservations are
 necessary unless noted on the web
 site (click on Trips to download trip
 descriptions and requirements).

- Feb. 8: Panther NWR swamp buggy
- Feb. 18: Harn's Marsh
- Feb. 25: Tigertail Beach
- Mar. 3: Everglades Nat'l. Park
- Mar. 10: Fakahatchee
- Mar. 17: Wakodahatchee/Green Cay
- Mar. 24: Bonita Bay East Club
- Apr. 2: Colliers Reserve
- Apr. 7: Panther Refuge
- Apr. 14: Sugden Park

Audubon Young Birders Club

For ages 6-18; a \$10 seasonal mem-
 bership includes field trips; trips begin
 at 8 AM; reservations requested.

- Feb. 11: Ding Darling NWR
- Feb. 18: Harn's Marsh
- Mar. 17: Bird science @ FGCU
- Apr. 14: Tigertail Beach

Big Cypress National Preserve

Collier County/Naples
www.nps.gov/bicy/index.htm

Weekly Ranger-led activities through
 April. Reservations required. For
 information, visit the web site, click
 "Things to Do" and then "Ranger-
 led activities."

More...

Hendry-Glades Audubon

Hendry & Glades Counties/ Clewiston
www.hendrygladesaudubon.org

STA-5 tours led by Hendry-Glades
 Audubon. Each trip limited to 60.
 Registration required. \$1 donation
 requested.

- Feb. 4 • Feb. 18-20
- Mar. 10 • Apr. 7 • Apr. 21

Rookery Bay

Collier County/Naples
www.rookerybay.org

Lecture series, noon-1 PM; members
 free, \$8 non-members; call 417-6310
 for reservations

- Feb. 1: "Ground penetrating radar
 at Shell Island"
- Mar. 7: "Everglades History"

Beginning Birders Workshop:

8 AM-noon; limited to 20; cost
 \$20 members, \$25 non-members
 • Feb. 3 • Apr. 5

Batfish Bash for the Bay: Mar. 24

Fakahatchee Strand State Park

Collier County/Copeland
www.friendsoffakahatchee.org

Guided swamp walks through April
 on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays.
 Cost \$50/60 depending on length of
 walk (children \$15 with adult).
 Reservations required; call 695-1023

Coastal Cruise

- Feb. 25, \$75/person, call 695-2905
- Mar. 10, \$75/person, call 695-2905

Art in the Preserve ~ en plein Air

Free, 10 AM-2 PM; call 695-4593
 for more information

- Feb. 18 • Mar. 17 • Apr. 21

Festivals & More

Feb. 4-5: Everglades City Seafood
 Festival

Feb. 11-12: Collier-Seminole State Park
 Bluegrass Festival

Feb. 18-20: Clyde Butcher's
 President's Day Muck-About

Feb. 21-24: Marjorie Stoneman
 Douglas Festival, Everglades City
 Museum

Mar. 10: Art-in-the-Glades, Everglades
 City Home Tour

Mar. 10-17: Panther Refuge Week

Mar. 28-31: Big O Birding Festival
 (www.bigobirdingfestival.com)