



May 2023

Live Meetings, Walks and Events (see backside or 2nd page)

Website <http://peacriveraudubon.org>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PRASaudubon>

WhiteBird PRAS Monthly Newsletter

Piping Plover returns to breeding grounds after wintering at Ft DeSoto

I am THRILLED to report that our famous New Jersey banded Piping Plover Momma STUMPY who spent all winter on Outback Key 2nd year in a row has hit the Jersey shore about a 3rd of a mile south of last year's breeding location in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge!! She's alive and well and already being courted! 🍷
 She left about March 21st so about 2 weeks to get home!!! Thanks for the report Todd Pover!



Peace River Audubon Society Membership Application/ Renewal Chapter Code: C0ZE140Z

New Membership
 Renewal

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Annual Family Membership @ \$20
 3 Year Family Membership @ \$50
 Lifetime Family Membership @ \$250
 *****Checks payable to PRAS
 Additional Gift for PRAS

Please help PRAS continue our educational and conservation programs with a tax deductible gift.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail check with this form to:
 PRAS
 PO Box 510760
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0760

Or pay online on our website at:
www.peacriveraudubon.org

Become a member and help us in our mission to foster an awareness of Florida birds and other wildlife through exploration and conservation

4 Birds that Build Giant Nests: Bald Eagles, Hammerkops and Social Weavers

The largest **Bald Eagle** nest on record near St. Petersburg, FL measured over nine feet wide, 20 feet deep, and weighed over 4,400 pounds! Another in Ohio was used by a pair for 34 years and weighed over two tons. Their nests are huge because eagle pairs reuse the same nest for decades, adding new material every breeding season, constructed with large sticks and lined with moss, grass, & seaweed. The average bald eagle's nest is six feet wide and three feet deep.



Photo by Mike Dotta

Woodstork nests are enormous platform structures made of twigs and grass, measuring more than 9 feet deep and 6 feet wide. Two African birds build giant roofed nests! The **smallest stork at 2 feet tall**

Hamerkop builds a giant roofed nest which may measure up to 6.5 feet wide, 6.5 feet deep and weighs over 100 pounds. It is named for its stout flattened bill that gives the head the shape of a hammer. This **Sociable**



Weaver's giant nest is spectacular. The Sociable Weaver (*Philetairus socius*) is found in Namibia and Botswana. This specie constructs large compound community nests that resemble huts, complete with a sloping thatched-grass roof that sheds rain. These nests are the most populated tree houses, with some weighing up to a ton or more and measuring up to 20 feet wide and 10 feet tall. Built around large and sturdy structures like acacia trees, they provide shelter from direct sunshine, rain, drought, and cold.



They are large enough to house over a hundred pairs of birds, consisting of several generations at a time. Each breeding pair tends to its own compartment with its private entrance and line the interior with soft downy plant material. These entrances are packed closely together and when seen from below, the communal nest has a honeycomb appearance. These birds are constantly making home improvements, adding new nesting chambers, and some nests have remained occupied for over a century.

2022-23 PRAS Link

<https://peacriveraudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Updated-2023-Brochure-Trifold-1.pdf>

2022-23 PRAS Organization
President - Bren Curtis
Vice President - Vikki Carpenter
Treasurer - Sandy Artman
Secretary - Nancy Leipold

Board of Directors

Phyllis Cady
Sue French
Pete Quasius
Mike Krzyzkowski
Rob Mills
Kerry Bower

**Nature Walks - Saturdays
8:30 am with Rob Mills**

Audubon Pennington Park

**1153 Alton Rd, Port Charlotte
miamibikes1@gmail.com**

**Tony Licata's
Thursday Bird Walks
aflicatao2@gmail.com**

Free Speaker Program

Everyone is Invited
Thursday May 18
Doors open 6:15 pm for social
gathering with refreshments
Speaker 7 pm
Owls
With Eileen Gerle

First Alliance Church
Side Driveway Portico Entrance
20444 Midway Blvd.
Port Charlotte
Indoor Covid Protocol Observed
Masks Provided

Birdsong Transcribed to Music by Alexander Liebermann

CBS Sunday Morning featured some amazing birdsongs!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spNoufBL_po



Apalachee Audubon's Lake Elberta Park is one of Tallahassee's best kept birding secrets!

Tucked away in a historic African American neighborhood between Florida A&M University and Florida State University. Believe it or not, Lake Elberta Park, a storm water area ranks #4 in terms of bird species observed at a given place in Leon County. With help from a grant it has been restored with Purple Martin Gourds, Bat house and Chimney Swift Tower! Students from 2 universities serve as ambassadors. Go to <https://www.apalachee.org/lakeelberta>

