



The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

December, 2023-January, 2024

Volume 8, Issue 2

Notepad

Wanted: birders

Angel will lead most of the new monthly birding walks (dates at the right), but she needs volunteer leaders when she is unable to lead in January and February.

Contact Angel for information, and sign up to help in TiF.

Just for volunteers

With the recent changes in CREW Trust staff, the activities listed in the last newsletter (first Friday speakers, December social) have been cancelled.

A volunteer cookout/potluck social will be scheduled sometime after January.

Spread the word

A job description and application for a new CREW Trust Trail Operations Coordinator are posted online. Please spread the word.

www.crewtrust.org/about/careers

Information please

An index to online information for volunteers is on page 4.

It includes reference material posted on the CREW Trust website and an index of past articles in the *The Buzzard Bulletin*.

2023-'24 hunt dates

Hunting by permit occurs in CDT and non-trail parts of FPS.

- Dec. 3-Jan. 1: small game
- Mar. 4-7 & 8-12: spring turkey

Volunteer help still needed, please

Volunteer help is needed at each of the following events. Information and sign-up will be posted in Track-it-Forward (TiF).

It's been difficult filling guide/sweep positions for several of the hikes. If interested in leading some of these in the coming months, please sign up in TiF. Volunteers who would like to start doing so, please contact Bob to get trained.

Weekly Guided walks

(October-May except holidays)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: CMT

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: CDT

Wednesdays: BRS

Saturdays: FPS

Saturdays: tabling/walk at BRS

Monthly Guided walks & rides

(October-May except * Nov-May)

2nd Saturday: Family hike, CMT, FPS

3rd Sunday: Hike the Loop, BRS

* 1st Saturday: Bike the Loop, BRS

Special events

Apr. 20: Earth Day after Hours, CMT

Specialty walks

Jan. 6: Cypress Loggers, CDT

Jan. 27: Then & Now, Bonita Springs

Mar. 16: Spring Blooms at Sunset, CMT

Apr. 6: Intro to Geocache, CMT

Strolling Science Seminars

Mar. 2: Herpetology for Kids, FPS

Mar. 23: A to Z of Biodiversity, CMT

First Friday Birding Walks

The first Friday each month through

April, 8-11 AM. The sites are

BRS: February, April

CMT: December, March

FPS: January

New Education Coordinator on board

Piper Jones officially joined the CREW Trust on November 6 as the new Education Coordinator.

She has been an ecologist at Passarella & Associates for the last three years and previously served as a park naturalist in Michigan.

She earned a B.S. in Biology at Bowling Green State University and is currently a member of the SWFL Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals.



CMT chronolog stations record one year's changes

Visitors using the four chronolog stations at CMT have recorded the seasonal changes. Watch the time-lapse photographs using the links below.

www.chronolog.io/site/CRW101

www.chronolog.io/site/CRW102

www.chronolog.io/site/CRW103

www.chronolog.io/site/CRW104



SFWMD adds staff to help on CREW trails

Laura Adams has joined the District's CREW field station team, coming on board at the end of October and filling a vacancy created when James retired last year.

The District's team has been short-staffed since that time which has impacted its ability to carry out a lot of trail maintenance projects it would normally have undertaken.

Laura has a big to-do list trying to catch up on trail maintenance. Please tell her "Hello" and thank her when encountering her on the trails.



Staying connected

People

Bob Lucius

831-236-5518

rlucius@crewtrust.org

Piper Jones

239-229-1088

education@crewtrust.org

Angel Kelley

ee@crewtrust.org

Web sites

www.crewtrust.org

www.trackitforward.com (hours & events)

The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information for CREW volunteers and is emailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

Trail improvement projects underway

New benches ready for CMT, BRS, FPS sites

Nineteen new benches have arrived at the CREW office and are awaiting installation. Eight will be installed at the CREW Marsh Trail outdoor classroom, eight will be spaced out along the Bird Rookery Swamp trails, and the final three will be installed along the Flint Pen Strand trails.

Help will be needed for the CMT installation. Sign up will be in TiF.



Shipping container coming to FPS for equipment

A 20-foot shipping container has been ordered and will be placed in the main parking lot at FPS.

It will be utilized to stage tools, equipment, and supplies for trail maintenance.

It will also provide overnight parking for CREW Trust's Polaris Ranger

UTV and a new 44-inch, 14.5-hp Kawasaki pull-behind rough-cut mower/trail cutter.

The additions will make it much easier to keep the trails well maintained. Both the UTV and mower will be moved and used at all CREW trails whenever they are needed.

CREW Trails Challenge starts in January

The CREW Trust has been working with Southwest Florida's Blue Zones Project (BLZ) to create a public challenge to encourage visitors to hike the CREW trails.

It will be part of BLZ's "Track Your Trek" campaign and will run through the end of May. CREW will co-host an

event at FPS in April to jointly celebrate National Walking Day.

The CREW Trails Challenge encourages visitors to walk 10 different marked trails across the four CREW trail systems. Those who complete the challenge will be entered for a prize drawing for several sponsored prizes.

CREW Trust education programs a big winner

This year's Stanley Hole Golf Tournament at The Forest Country Club at the end of October grossed over \$50,000 dollars for CREW Trust education programs.

A big thank you to all who volunteered and helped make this year's tournament the best one yet. Below are CREW Trust volunteers **Rick Skrivan**, **Dick Brewer**, and **Sean Hunt** at the left, CREW Trust Executive Director **Bob Lucius** at the right, and volunteers from Blue Fox Accounting in Melbourne, Florida. Blue Fox is the CREW Trust's accounting firm.



Bird trivia...

Shake it up, baby

Birds shuggle. *Shuggle* means to shake, and when a bird does it, it looks like a shiver has run from head to tail. A shuggle lets air through the feathers and removes dust, straightens feathers, and/or shakes off rain drops.



Eleven new species discovered in CREW

Eleven new species were added to the FWC list of wildlife present in the CREW wildlife management area since the start of September. All were identified in FPS.

A new bird species was a Stilt Sandpiper, pictured below.

Five new dragonfly/damselfly species were Vesper Bluet, Blue-striped Spreadwing, Great Pondhawk, Metallic Pennant, and Variegated Meadowhawk.

Moth and butterfly species were Painted Lady, Hammock Skipper (lower right), Southern Spragueia Moth, and Stained Glass Moth.

The other insect was a Texas Bow-legged Bug.



CREW's falcons come in four sizes

Four members of the falcon family frequent CREW lands. The American Kestrel and Crested Caracara nest in Florida while the Merlin and Peregrine Falcon are only here in the winter months and migrate elsewhere to breed. Each of the four was photographed in Flint Pen Strand, which is where they are more commonly observed.

American Kestrel (S)

wingspan: 22"

slightly larger than Screech Owl



Peregrine Falcon (L)

wingspan: 41"

slightly larger than Red-shouldered Hawk



Merlin (M)

wingspan: 24"

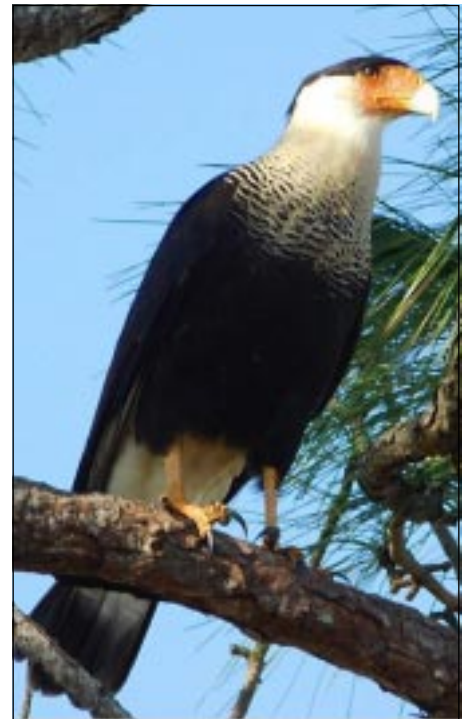
slightly larger than Boat-tailed Grackle



Crested Caracara (XL)

wingspan: 49"

larger than Great Horned Owl



References available online for CREW Trust volunteers

A plethora of reference materials to assist volunteers whether on the trails by themselves or leading groups is available at two web sites.

The primary site is the CREW Trust website at www.crewtrust.org. Click on the “Volunteer/Intern” section and then on the “Volunteer Resource Library.” Those materials are listed below.

A secondary web site has all past issues of the CREW Trust volunteer newsletter, *The Buzzard Bulletin*. That web site is www.dickbrewer.org. Click on “Crew volunteer reference” and scroll to the bottom of the page. Indexed articles are listed in the column at the right.

There is also a small library of reference books and field guides in the CREW Trust office that volunteers can check out for short periods of time.

Volunteer Resource Library materials

RESOURCES

- BRS wildlife checklist
- CDT wildlife checklist
- FPS wildlife checklist
- Wildlife profile articles
- Volunteer resource materials list
- Checklist of vascular plants
- Websites for wildlife information
- List of field guides, local history books

TRAINING BULLETINS

- CREW Trust 101
- Lightning
- Mosquitoes and Zika Virus
- Service dogs
- Dogs at BRS
- Trail safety
- Trail steward
- Reluctant victim training
- Alligator training
- FPS guided hike leader guide
- Insect quiz

FWC PUBLICATIONS

- Living with Alligators
- Living in Bear Country
- Panther safety tips

NEW VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

- CREW volunteer handbook
- Volunteer handbook quiz
- Track-it-Forward directions
- Volunteer resource materials
- Volunteer resource field guide

Index to The Buzzard Bulletin articles

SAFETY ON THE TRAILS

- Biting Flies (2021-Aug)
- Fire Ants (2020-Apr)
- Heat & dehydration (2020-June)
- Heat index (2021-June)
- Heat related illnesses (2022-June)
- How to cool down fast (2023-Aug)
- Lightning (2019-June)
- Poison Ivy (2019-Oct)
- Stinging caterpillars (2021-Aug)
- Sunscreens (2020-Aug)

INFORMATION TO HELP ANSWER VISITOR QUESTIONS

- Birds: Barred Owl & Great Horned Owl (2022 Feb)
- Birds: CREW's four falcons (2023-Dec)
- Birds: general trivia (2020-Feb)
- Galls: cypress-oak-bay-poison ivy (2021-Oct)
- General: dry-downs & wildlife (2019-Dec)
- General: hunting on CREW lands (2020-Dec)
- Habitat: glossary of wetland terms (2022-Oct)
- Habitat: wet prairie, marsh differences (2022-Oct)
- Insects: Horse's Paper Wasp (2021 Oct)
- Insects: Pine bark beetles (2021-June)
- Insects: Thread-waisted Wasp (2021 Dec)
- Mammals: River Otters (2019-Aug)
- Plants: Coastal Plain Willow (2021-Apr)
- Plants: natural plant succession (2021 Dec)
- Plants: pollen, especially pines (2021-Apr)
- Plants: Things with thorns: Hog Plum & Smilax (2022-Apr)
- Reptiles: Alligator questions (2019-Apr)
- Spiders: zipper web weavers (2021-Apr)

QUICK ID TIPS

- Birds: Anhinga & Double-crested Cormorant (2022-Dec)
- Birds: how to age juvenile Bald Eagles (2021-Feb)
- Birds: Downy & Hairy Woodpecker (2020-Dec)
- Birds: juvenile night-herons (2020-Aug)
- Birds: male-female woodpeckers (2022-Aug)
- Birds: Mourning Dove & Common Ground Dove (2022-Dec)
- Birds: Short-tailed Hawk/white & Oprey (2022-Dec)
- Birds: Short-tailed Hawk/dark & Black Vulture (2023-Feb)
- Birds: Small white waders: CAEG-LBHE-SNEG (2021-Apr)
- Butterflies: Monarch & Viceroy (2021-Oct)
- Butterflies: dark swallowtails (2023-Aug)
- Holes in ground: Ant Lion & Fire Ant (2020-June)
- Mammals: Cottontail & Marsh Rabbits (2022 Apr)
- Shells: Florida Apple Snail & Island Apple Snail (2022-Oct)
- Reptiles: common black snakes (2020-Oct)
- Reptiles: large black snakes (2020-Apr & 2020-Oct)
- Scat (2023-Oct)
- Tracks (2022-Oct)
- Treefrogs: Green & Squirrel (2021 Aug)
- Turtles: Red-bellied & Peninsula Cooter (2021-June)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Accessibility project (2022-June)
- Book review: *Mirage* (Florida water history) (2021-Feb)
- Lessons learned from an experienced trail guide (2020-Dec)
- Mortenson trail cam photos (2021 Oct)
- New species on CREW lands (2023-Feb/June/Dec)
- Trail gear (2018-Aug/Oct/Dec)
- Volunteer jobs (2016-Oct/Dec, 2017-Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct)