



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

August-September, 2024

Volume 8, Issue 6

## Notepad

### Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Ken Bouck** and **Ian Hardy**.

### Sweeps needed

Volunteers are needed as sweeps for three upcoming FGCU Service Learning trips. Please sign up in TiF.

### Trail Work Tuesday

Work details continue in August and September. Locations will vary depending on need. Sign up in TiF.

### Final four Summer Lecture Series

The final four summer lecture series this season are below. There is a cost for the general public but volunteers can attend for free by signing up in TiF.

- Aug. 10: "Guardians of the Land," 2:30-4 PM, Bonita Springs Library
- Aug. 24: "How to Start a Backyard Revolution" 2:30-4 PM, Bonita Estero Realtors
- Sept. 4: "The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly," 6:30-8 PM, Estero Rec Center
- Sept. 19: "Florida Cracker Bees & the Europeans Around Them," 6:30-8 PM, Bonita Estero Realtors

### Logging hours

Please log in to Track-it-Forward regularly to keep up to date on entering volunteer hours.

## Learning, training opportunities for volunteers announced

Topics, dates, information, and registration for 2024 learning opportunities for volunteers are posted in Track-it-Forward. All sessions are free.

For additional questions, please contact Robin at [robin@crewtrust.org](mailto:robin@crewtrust.org)

### Flora & Fauna at the Trails

- Oct. 19 - Cypress Dome
- Nov. 15 - Marsh Trails
- Nov. 21 - Flint Pen Strand
- Dec. 18 - Bird Rookery Swamp

### Fire & CREW Land Management

- Oct. 5

### Interpretation: Deepening a Visitors' Understanding of CREW

- Sept. 6
- Dec. 4

### Butterfly Watch

- Oct. 24: Identification workshop
- Oct. 31: Training on the trails
- Nov. 7: NABA butterfly count

### CREW Watershed Essentials

- Nov. 9

### Tools & UTV: Trail Work Safety

- Dec. 10

## Where do birds go during hurricanes?

Birds have the same choices that people do as a hurricane approaches: evacuate or stay put.

Birds can sense small environmental changes that indicate a storm is coming, like shifts in temperature, wind, and barometric pressure. When those shifts indicate a storm, birds can take early action to stay safe.

They deal with hurricanes the best way that they can.

Some avoid dangerous storms by flying miles away ahead of time. Others may use the strong winds to ride the storm, winding up hundreds of miles away (think flamingos in Ohio).

Birds that stay put seek shelter. One option for small birds is taking advantage of "microhabitats." The de-

crease in wind speed can be huge by sheltering on the lee side of trees, structures, or thick hedges. As long as the birds stay put, they are not actually buffeted much by the wind.

Woodpeckers may cling to the downwind side of a sturdy tree trunk or hide inside a hole. Other cavity nesters like flycatchers and nuthatches may shelter inside their holes.

Perching birds will land on a thick branch very close to the trunk on the side most pro-

ected from wind and rain. The smaller birds can find a spot deep in dense thickets where they're mostly protected from strong winds.

In suburban areas, birds may seek shelter in low vegetation on the downwind sides of houses and buildings.



A Burrowing Owl shelters on a porch during Hurricane Ian. Photo by Pascha Donaldson, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

Trail questions answered...

## What makes holes in Alligator Flag leaves?

Caterpillars!

When new leaves of Alligator Flag (*Thalia geniculata*) first emerge, the leaflets are in tight rolls. Only when the leaves reach their full length do they begin to unfurl.

Although new leaves on most plants start small, that's why there aren't tiny leaves on a mature Alligator Flag plants.

Alligator Flag is the host larval plant for some butterflies, especially Brazilian Skippers, so eggs are laid and caterpillars hatch.

When the caterpillar begins munching on a rolled up leaf, it bores through the rolled leaf.

Then when the leaf unfurls, voila! A neat pattern of orderly

little geometric slits and holes spans the opened leaf.

To make a comparison that visitors can relate to, think back to making snowflakes or a chain of paper dolls by folding a sheet of paper several times and making a few cuts with a scissors.

Unfold the paper and a nice snowflake-like pattern or chain of dolls magically appears.

Nature just uses leaves and caterpillars instead of paper and scissors.



First Aid Tip #1:

## Heat exhaustion

### Symptoms

Among the most common symptoms of heat exhaustion are confusion, dizziness, fatigue, headache, pale skin, profuse sweating, dark colored urine, and rapid heartbeat. Muscle cramps, fainting, or nausea may also occur.

### Immediate Treatment

Anyone showing symptoms of heat exhaustion must immediately get out of the heat and rest, preferably in an air-conditioned environment. If that's not possible, find the nearest cool and shady place and sit down.

### Additional strategies

Drink plenty of non caffeinated and non alcoholic beverages. Remove any tight or unnecessary clothing. Apply active cooling measures such as a cool damp cloth to the face. If possible use ice in towels or fans. Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.

If such measures fail to provide relief within 30 minutes, contact a doctor because untreated heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke.

## Staying connected

### People

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### Web sites

[www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)

[www.trackitforward.com](http://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.

## Quick ID:

## Common Grackle vs. Boat-tailed Grackle

There's the field guide, and there's common sense. Use both.

Boat-tailed Grackles are larger by two to four inches and with twice as much tail as Common Grackles. But male Common Grackles are noticeably larger than females and puff up even more to impress the ladies. Judging by size isn't always accurate. Both species also flair their long tails, so don't judge by that either.



So how does one tell?

Listen, and use binoculars to look at the eyes.

In South Florida, the iris of the Common Grackle is whitish; the iris of the Boat-tailed Grackle is black.

And listen. The Common Grackle call is a short, unmusical *kh-shee* or a low dry *kek*. The Boat-tailed Grackle call is a long series of high ringing tones.

