

**Black Diamond Earns Audubon Certification**

Black Diamond Ranch has been designated a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by Audubon International. David Court, CGCS, superintendent at Black Diamond Ranch, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on the course and is being recognized for environmental stewardship by Audubon International. Black Diamond Ranch is the 93rd course in Florida and the 694th in the world to receive the honor.

“Black Diamond Ranch has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” said Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining

a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Sluiter. These categories include Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

“I feel that we have accomplished a lot in a short time and our group is proud that we can show that golf courses can be one with the environment,” said David Court. “Black Diamond has a lot of natural habitat that has been incorporated into the design of a beautiful golf course setting.

“The architect, Tom Fazio, and owner, Stan Olsen have given thought into water conservation as well as maintaining the natural beauty for so many birds and wildlife to call home or just to pass through. It is great to know that we share the same space with bobcats, coyotes, fox squirrels, raccoons and alligators. The birding is great

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David Court, CGCS

too with over 30 types of birds on the property.”

Black Diamond Ranch is managed by Troon Golf, headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Brett Brooks  
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