



# EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OF THE EVERGLADES  
(serving Palm Beach County, Florida)

Volume 44, No. 1

October 2003

## CALENDAR

Tues. October 7th — GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at Howard Park

▶ ▶ Howard Park Recreation Center ◀ ◀

Sat. Sept. 27, 7:30 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd., just west of A1A. Leader is Brian Hope.

Sat. Oct. 4, 8:00 a.m. Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay. Leaders: Bill and Shirley Hill. Carpool from Applebee's in Jupiter at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch. (More info on page 2.)

Tues. Oct. 7, 8:00 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above. Bring lunch. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

Sat. Oct. 11, 7:30 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above. Leader: Ray Bucholtz.

Sat. Oct. 11, 9:00am ASE's 5th Annual Youth Naturalist Program. Palm Beach Zoo, West Palm Beach. (see page 4 for more info)

Sat. Oct. 18, 7:30 a.m. Frenchman's Forest Preserve, Palm Beach Gardens. West side of Prosperity Farms Road, north of PGA Blvd. Leader: Marvin Greenberg.

October 24-25. Audubon of Florida's Assembly 2003, Orlando. For more info please see the website at [www.audubonflorida.org](http://www.audubonflorida.org)

## TUESDAY, October 7th PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, Program Chair

### THE ROSEATE SPOONBILLS OF FLORIDA BAY

with Jerry Lorenz, Ph.D.

Those flutters of pink feathers often seen on the edges of the Florida Keys and in Everglades National Park are a passion for Jerry Lorenz. He has worked for Audubon for 12 years and studied and researched the habits of our Roseate Spoonbills. One of the most important things is the timing of water releases relative to feeding of the young spoonbills. Once hunted into near extinction, spoonbills were rediscovered in Florida Bay in 1935 by Robert Porter Allen, founder of Audubon Research.

Jerry Lorenz earned his Ph.D. from the University of Miami and he is now the director of Audubon's Tavernier Science Center.

Please join us to learn more about this beautiful, but imperiled Species on October 7 at 7:30 P.M. at the Community Center in Howard Park in WPB.





## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

— Carol Shields —

Well, here we go again with another full season of field trips, programs and special events.

Enclosed you'll find the chapter brochure that will give you all sorts of information regarding the chapter. The field trips run the season -- generally from September through May. You'll find some new field trips and some trusty old ones where we are sure to have good birding. But be sure to read your Kite newsletter each month. From time to time, we come upon a new idea for a trip that's not listed in our brochure, we advertise it in the Kite. A special thanks to Linda and Gloria for getting that all organized.

Claudine Laabs has also done a great job with programs for the coming year as well. You'll note that some programs are followed by a field trip shortly thereafter, relating to the speaker's presentation on that night.

And we have our special events -- Everglades Day, Young Naturalist Program and our popular dinners in December and April. Once again, watch in the Kite for other special events that are sure to come up.

What is growing even more this year, but not listed in the Kite, is our conservation efforts. This is an ongoing event, program, or field trip -- call it what you will. We are getting a committee together to learn and discuss issues, work out problems, and to get and give ideas to have our voice heard. These past couple of years have been the worst on record for environmental actions, both in the state and the nation (thanks to the Bushes -- oops, did I say that?) Some of you have shown your support in local conservation issues and we really appreciate it. It does make a difference. If you're interested talk with Cissie or Cynthia.

(To learn more about conservation and Audubon, attend the Assembly in October in Orlando. It will be held October 24 and 25. For more information go to the Audubon of Florida website.)

If you enjoy what's going on in the chapter and want to get more involved, see any one of the board officers. I meet so many nice folks at the general meetings that I know you'd enjoy working with the board and committee members. Ideas take action. Work gets done, and we actually have a good time at it, all in all.

## Special Field Trip to Turkey Creek Sanctuary

Our annual field trip to the Turkey Creek Sanctuary, located in Palm Bay, is scheduled for Saturday, October 4 at 8:00 a.m. Once again our leaders will be local experts Bill and Shirley Hill. Linda Most, the organizer for this trip can be reached at 561-233-2783 (work number).

To reach Turkey Creek Sanctuary from I-95, exit at SR-514 (Malabar Road) and go east one half mile to SR-507 (Babcock Street). Turn left on Babcock and go north 1.3 miles to Port Malabar Road. Turn right onto Port Malabar. Continue east 1.1 miles, and at Santiago Drive turn right to the Sanctuary, which is located on the right.

You can meet us at the Sanctuary at 8:00, or better yet, carpooling will be available from Jupiter. To join the carpool meet at Applebee's restaurant on Indiantown Road in Jupiter. We will leave at 6:30 a.m. Indiantown Road east is exit 59B from I-95, or exit 116 east from the Florida Turnpike. Applebee's is just east of the exits on the north side of Indiantown Road. Meet behind the restaurant. Bring lunch.

The Sanctuary property, 113 acres, was donated to the City of Palm Bay and to the Florida Audubon Society in 1978. Also on the premises is the Margaret Hames Nature Center. In addition to our target migrating songbirds keep your eyes open for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, indigo snakes, river otters and more.

## THANK YOU Volunteers!

Thanks goes out to those who helped with hospitality last month:

Linda  
Rick  
Mark Byrnes

## Audubon of Florida's Assembly 2003

Time and Place:  
The Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on  
October 24-25.

Join us for this year's assembly with its theme of Connecting People with Nature. Share programs, workshops and meals with fellow birdwatchers, activists, educators, citizen scientists - people who make room for nature in their communities and in their lives.

Your Annual Assembly is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new connections with the people who share the same values and are pursuing similar goals. Help us prioritize Audubon of Florida's conservation agenda for next year. Attend workshops on chapter leadership, environmental issues, and advanced birdwatching skills.

Your registration fee covers all vents including lunches and Friday's fabulous dinner program. Look for registration materials in the August edition of The Florida Naturalist or visit our website to download additional information. [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org)

Bill Lowrie

## FLORIDA SCRUB JAYS And What You Can Do To Help

Florida Scrub Jays are on the decline in Palm Beach County (PBC). Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) is searching for volunteers to assist us in protecting jays and their habitat. Please call Carol at 964-1522 or e-mail her at [cws4631@yahoo.com](mailto:cws4631@yahoo.com). Read on to learn more.

Grace Iverson has banded, counted, and followed scrub jays for thirteen years in PBC. She is raising a call to action for ASE. This bird lives only in specialized scrub land, most of which is now found in urban, not wilderness settings. Suitable sites are on the decline due to development, lack of management plans or appropriate monitoring of these plans.

Scrub jays are listed as "threatened". Iverson says the scrub jay "reaches the southeastern tip of its distribution in PBC." They eat acorns, pair for life and defend a permanent territory. This species' young stay on for a while to assist the parents.

Grace Iverson and Jack Gardner began a local scrub jay study in 1990. "During 5 years, we color banded for individual identification to research dispersal. In 2002 our Florida scrub jay population numbered around 100 adult birds...about 1/3 still wore colored 'bracelets'." said Grace.

ASE plans to gather information from a variety of sources to study the problem and decide if we can take steps to improve the jay's plight. Can you help?



## SURVIVORS by Hank McCall

About 1950 a cattle egret was spotted in Okeechobee County. The New Yorkers at the A.O.U. said, "Impossible." Then we found more. These birds had flown from the Sahara to the Cape Verde Islands, then caught the trade winds to Brazil. Through the years they wandered up the Windward Islands to Florida where they found ideal conditions for a population explosion. This summer we saw them in Montana and North Dakota. All this invasion and colonization was accomplished with no help from human hands.

Consider the parrots. The only native, the Carolina parakeet, was extirpated before 1900. Today some 23 parrot species thrive in Florida. Particularly common are the red crown and the yellow headed parrots. Monk, black headed, and yellow chevroned parakeets are well established breeding species. Their ancestors were escapees, but the successful colonization was done on their own. You can read all about it in Steven Epps' new book, *Parrots* available at the Audubon desk of the County Library on Summit Blvd.

House sparrows spread from New York in 1850 to California by 1910. Now these cheerful little hoppers thrive world wide along with rock doves, starlings, and moorhens. Watch out for the myna birds; they are aggressive and thriving in shopping centers. In conclusion, birds spread in mysterious ways, their wonders to perform.

**Final Call!**



**ASE 5th Annual Young Naturalist Program.**

This year the YNP will be held at the Palm Beach Zoo on October 11 from 9:30 until 12:30. **Last day to register is October 4th!**

The Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Blvd. in West Palm Beach. Gate opens at 9 a. m. for admission and program begins at 9:30 a. m. For reservations you can call Diane Rivera at 433-4063. Seating is limited so be sure to call early!

If you would like to volunteer to help at this event please call Carol Shields at 561-964-1522.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**▶▶ NEW LOCATION: ◀◀**

This month's General Meeting, and all following meetings, will take place at our new location, **Howard Park**, in the Recreation Center.

Howard Park is located east of I-95 about 400 yards south of Okeechobee Blvd. between Parker Ave. and South Lake Ave.

The phone number for the Recreation center is:  
**561-835-7055**

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Recreation Center in West Palm Beach. The public is welcome.

**Deadline** for submissions for the Nov. issue is **October 10th.**

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