



EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 45, No. 4

January 2005

>>> CALENDAR <<<

SUN. Jan. 2, Christmas Bird Count. See page 3 for more details.

SAT. Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m. John Prince Park, Lake Worth. Nature Walk on Custard Apple Nature Trail. Meet near campground entrance. Leader: Bruce Offord.

TUES. Jan. 11, 8:00 a.m. Okeehetee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd. WPB. Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa.

SAT. Jan 22, 8:00 Riverbend Park, Jupiter. Indiantown Road 1/2 mile west of I-95 on south side. Leaders: Ed Kawecki and Walt Hackenjós.

Jan 28 & 30, National Audubon Meetings
See details on page 2.

SAT. Jan. 29, 8:00 Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach. Meet at boardwalk. East side of Jog Rd. 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Ave. Leader: Doug Beach.

SAT. Feb. 5, 9:00 a.m. John Prince Park, Nature Walk on Custard Apple Nature Trail. Meet opposite campground entrance. Leader: Bruce Offord.

~ Field Trips ~
Gloria Hunter

The South Florida Water Management District is escorting bird trips in STA-1W from 8:30 to noon on the following Saturdays: January 29, February 5, February 19, March 12, March 19, April 9 and April 16.

Admission is by reservation only (no fee). STA-1W is just west of 20-mile Bend on S.R. 880. For reservations and instructions call Lois Chapman at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 561-734-8303.

This should be an ideal opportunity to observe wintering ducks and other waterfowl.

TUESDAY January 4th, PROGRAM

Come join us for the first meeting of the new year and enjoy this month's program:

**Death in the Everglades
The story of Guy Bradley
By author Stuart McGiver.**

Please join us on January 4, 7:30 PM
at the Howard Park Community Center.



SAVE THE DATE
February 10, 2005



The board of Audubon Society of the Everglades voted to join with the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals to raise money for Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and the Palm Beach Zoo to help defray losses due to the hurricanes.

The event will be held on February 10, 2005 at the Harriet Himmel Kilman Theatre at City Place, from 6 to 8 p.m. Invitations will be ready for distribution soon.

Anyone wishing to volunteer some time to help with this cocktail party/art auction is asked to contact Leah Schad, 848-9984 or Pat Mullin, 233-2471.

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN FLORIDA

The Annual Meeting of Members of the National Audubon Society is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 28, 2005 at 10 am at the Blair Audubon Center at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The meeting is open to all Audubon members and attendees are encouraged to stay to enjoy the Sanctuary after the close of the Annual Meeting.

It is helpful to know in advance who will be attending, in order to assure that adequate seating is available. For that reason, anyone planning to attend the Annual Meeting is asked to contact Lynn Tennenfoss in the Chapter Services Office at ltennefoss@audubon.org or 800-542-2748. The Chapter Services Office will also be happy to answer any questions about the meeting.

The National Board Meeting will take place at 9 am on Sunday, January 30, 2005, at the Naples Beach Hotel. The Board Meeting is open to members, who are asked to please inform the Chapter Services Office if they plan to attend.

Details and an agenda are available on the Audubon site at www.audubon.org/nas/board/0105meeting.html

Birding Corner

Linda Humphries

THEY ARE BACK!! The painted buntings have arrived again at the feeder behind the Nature Center in Okeeheelee Park, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, West Palm Beach (between the turnpike and Jog Road). At least 8 painted buntings have been spotted at the same time, as well as 2 indigo buntings.

Many different birds are passing through the park so now is the time to wipe the dust off your binoculars and head out on the trails. Clive Pinnock, manager, heard a willow flycatcher early one morning. Ethel Kujanpaa walks the Okeeheelee area at least 3 times a week and has seen an assortment of birds. She keeps a daily list of these birds on the counter of the gift shop. More unusual ones include: a least bittern and 2 immature male rose-breasted grosbeaks as well as at least 6 warbler species: prairie, palm, pine, common yellow throat, yellow-rumped, and an ovenbird. A ruby-throated hummingbird has been spotted at the new hummingbird feeders outside the back sitting area. There are even sandhill cranes in the deer area. Even if they are hiding, their call is unmistakable and a delight to the ears. Come on out and explore; see what you can find.

Everglades Day February 12

Check out the Everglades Day page at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge --

<http://loxahatchee.fws.gov/home/>

There are links in the left margin to take you to pictures from Everglades Day 2004 and also a link to the upcoming festival, "Flora, Fauna, and Fun", Wildlife in the Everglades.

See you there!

ASE

**Wishes everyone a
Happy and Healthy
New Year**

"When a man wants to murder a tiger, he calls it sport; when a tiger wants to murder him, he calls it ferocity."

George Bernard Shaw,
writer, Nobel laureate (1856-1950)

RUTH TRUMPOWER

Audubon Society of the Everglades mourns the loss of former Board Member, Ruth Trumpower, who died on December 8th in Maryland.

For over 20 years she was the behind-the-scenes, cheerful Board member on whom we all relied. She was Editor of the Kite Newsletter for most of her term on the Board. In addition, she hosted the monthly Conservation Committee meeting and the monthly Board meeting in her home, as well as providing hospitality at the monthly Membership meetings. No job was too small for Ruth, and she gladly filled in where needed, whether it was picking up the mail, typing a draft revision of the by-laws, or handling correspondence for the President. She served the Chapter as Officer for several terms, as First Vice President and later Second Vice President.

Ruth was a longtime member of the Native Plant Society, and became known for her plantings of native vegetation, which she propagated and shared with her friends. Her bountiful crop of citrus and mango were shared with one and all---with her mango chutney a real treat! For years she worked on the Nature Trail in John Prince Park, as gardener, guide, and birdwatcher.

Former President Jeannie Girard remembers her as someone "who did not wish to be in the spotlight, but was the backbone of ASE. It was a pleasure and a privilege to know Ruth, and to call her a friend."

Audubon did not take up all of Ruth's life. She worked full time as Manager of the Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce, and later as a legal secretary.

Her circle of friends knew she could be counted on to drive them to the bank, medical appointments, or on shopping excursions. They only had to make the phone call.

Her generous spirit will be missed by all whom she touched during her life.

A NOTE FROM RICHARD RAID, PH.D.

One of our many informative programs was given by Dr. Richard Raid from the Belle Glade offices of the University of Florida's IFAS division. A field trip to view his owl boxes and their occupants was one of our most successful outings. Below is a note from Dr. Raid regarding his latest installations.

"I have recently placed two new barn owl nesting boxes just south of the cane strip between the SWA and C.R. 880. They are located beneath the power lines; both boxes are painted white and are mounted about 12 ft above ground. They are located at cane loading ramps that are readily accessible from C.R. 880. These hard-packed ramps will accommodate birders who may wish to view the flight of the barn owls from their nesting boxes just after sundown. Both locations are great places to park, watch the sun sink beneath the horizon, and patiently wait for the barn owls to emerge from their haunts or to bring prey for the youngsters to dine on. I have done this myself and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. You can relay this news to fellow members if you wish, and if they are successful in viewing owls, keep me posted.

Just in case someone brings up the issue.... I realize that some may question the location of boxes along a highway, and I am very cognizant of the potential for road mortality. Roads are a threat to birds every where in the U.S. But these boxes are actually more distant from the road than many of the old pump-houses that the owls used to colonize, and it is only several boxes. The vast majority of our boxes are located far from a major highway like CR 880 to limit road mortality. While it would be nice to be able to open the more remote locations up to the public for viewing, I know of no growers who would be willing to do so when that access would be unsupervised and at night. In this instance, I believe the positives far outweigh the risks, which I have attempted to minimize."

An Adventure in Panama

October 29-November 2, 2005 (5 days / 4 nights)

Blue Cotingas, Green Shrike-Vireos, motmots, and toucans, birds normally glimpsed high in the tops of trees, perch right outside your Canopy Tower room.

Join us on an adventure in Central America in beautiful, lush Panama. The trip includes air and transportation to/from Miami Airport departing on Saturday, October 29. You arrive in Panama that afternoon for 5 days and 4 nights in the rainforests of Central America. All your meals and tips are included so you can relax and enjoy birding with experienced guides during the height of hawk migration. Then on Tuesday, enjoy a side trip to Panama City for lunch and a stop at the Panama Canal, one of the seven modern wonders of the world.

Accommodations are at the Canopy Tower Ec lodge and Nature Observatory, located in the Soberania National Park, Panama.

Canopy Tower is a converted radar tower that reaches over the rainforest for a bird's eye view from the 360-degree observation deck. Your bedroom is at treetop level, no more than 40 feet from the birds. Canopy Towers was highlighted in the August 2004 issue of Audubon magazine as one of the premiere birding locations in Central America. Please note that sleeping accommodations are double occupancy *only*, so single travelers will be paired up.

Join others with similar interests for an adventure to remember. This trip is at a very special Audubon rate of \$1800, (a small adjustment is possible when airfares are set in January.) The trip is limited to 10 guests and a \$1000 deposit is due by April 1. For further information call Carol Shields, First VP, at 561-964-1522 or e-mail at clsaudubon@yahoo.com.

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

In Florida, a special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades. Your membership will include subscriptions to

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Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
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E00 7XCH

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 phone number for the Recreation center is: 561-835-7055. The public is welcome to attend.

Deadline for submissions for the February 2005 issue is **January 10th.**

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, Florida
Permit 46

The Everglade Kite
is published 12 times a year

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