



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 46, Number 1
October 2005

CALENDAR

Sat. Oct. 1st, 8:00 a.m.

Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay. Meet at 6:30 a.m. behind Applebee's Restaurant, Jupiter, N side of Indiantown Rd. 1 mi E of I-95 (exit 87A) to carpool. Leaders: Bill and Shirley Hill.

Tues. Oct. 4th, 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Program, Howard Park

Sat. Oct. 8th, 8:00 a.m.

Frenchman's Forest Preserve, Palm Beach Gardens. West side of Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. Leader: Marvin Greenberg

Tues. Oct. 11, 8:00 a.m.

Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet on S side of Spanish River Blvd. just W of A1A. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

Sat. Oct. 15, 7:30 a.m.

Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above. Leader: Chuck Weber.

Thurs.-Sat. Oct. 20-22.

Audubon Assembly. Cocoa Beach, FL. Accommodations at Holiday Inn (800-206-2724). Special rate good through 9/28/05. See details inside.

ATTENTION South County Members: We need you!

We need 6-8 volunteers to run our table at the Environmental Fair at the Mae Volen Senior Center on **October 18, 10AM to 3 PM**. Please call coordinator Ethel at 561-499-2380.

Canon Camera for sale

Canon EOS 650 with zoom lens. Excellent condition. Call 561-655-9779

Migration (of the human kind)

Joyce Tarnow

75 million visitors were recorded in Florida in 2003!!! That is a lot of tourists and snowbirds clogging the roads, stores, restaurants and movie theaters. We are in the midst of a real estate boom with no end in sight. Can we really accommodate that influx? Do you believe that Florida is already over-populated?

To help us learn more about our population problems, Joyce Tarnow will present facts and figures and show a film entitled "Fathom Future". Joyce is a long time resident of South Florida who has actively lobbied for women's rights and low-rise, low density development.

Joyce moved to Broward County in 1974 to take an administrative position with a reproductive health care clinic and in 1976 opened her own medical facility, Women's Clinic, in Ft.Lauderdale. Joyce is active in Broward Sierra and is a founding member of "Floridians for a Sustainable Population" and has served as President since 1996. She has a passion for birding, snorkeling, hiking and gardening. On one of her recent trips, Joyce served as a crew member aboard the Sea Shepard ship.

Please join us October 4 at 7:30 PM at the Howard Park Community Center.

President's Comments

Claudine Laabs

September's Coastal Cleanup on the Audubon Sanctuary Islands was a wonderful success! The combined efforts of "Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful", ERM, DEP and Lagoonkeepers were coordinated by Ginny Powell. About 100 volunteers, mostly highschool students, made a clean sweep of the sanctuary islands off Southern Boulevard. Special thanks to our new members, Cecilia and Simon Calle, for their enthusiastic participation.

Please remember that this is an all volunteer organization and your help is always appreciated.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Please feel free to submit articles and photos for the Web version of the *Kite!* Printing and mailing costs prevent us from printing all the great stuff we have going on, but we can squeeze you in to the Web version! Send submissions to newsletter@auduboneverglades.org While you're at it, take a peek at our PDF version; it will continue to expand as more and more people send submissions!

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 12 times a year.

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ASE on the Internet

Audubon@auduboneverglades.org
<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

Audubon Assembly Goes to the Beach! Saving Our Birds, October 20-22, 2005

Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife and habitats. Register by September 28 and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 25, this all-inclusive package is \$125. The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. **Make your hotel accommodations** directly with the Holiday Inn. Call 800-206-2747 or log onto http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&_GPC=AUA&. Assembly participants receive a reduced rate of \$89.99/night, up to 4 in a room. The daily resort fee has been waived and parking is free. **Special rate valid through September 28.** Oceanfront suites and lofts can be reserved, if available, at prevailing rates.

Field trips will be offered, courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. Look for detailed information in the next **Florida Naturalist** or www.audubonofflorida.org.

Conservation Report

Rosa Durando

Yes, Virginia, there is a "Henny Penny" and the sky is falling! Bureaucratic protestations continued in several meetings this past week, beginning with Colonel Carpenter from Jacksonville, to our Board of County Commissioners, on to the South Florida Water Management District, and ending Friday, September 16, with the Regional Planning Council.

The Corps: The likelihood of a Category 5 hurricane over Lake Okeechobee is very remote. Our problem would not be a "breach," but "seepage." We will reinforce the dike and build to 21 feet "just in case." So much for a commitment to correct lake levels.

We have a similar population around Lake Okeechobee as New Orleans: victims of "environmental justice."

SFWMD: The District did not iterate their responsibility in creating the poor water quality of Lake Okeechobee, nor, sadly, that it may be compromised forever.

Nor that any flooding of the contaminated water that may occur would flood over very shallow potable water supplies.

Nor that most development had been maintained by a contrived control elevation of 12, 13, even 16 feet, in areas where water "seeking its own level" would rise to 18-10 feet.

Bashing the wildlife refuge because of failure to clean out exotic plant species and silent on water quality failures of the state was not productive.

Major big silence on the carcinogenic drinking water for all the cities surrounding the lake.

Regional Planning Council: Sea level rise was addressed. All Palm Beach County barrier island homes will miraculously be protected, a study revealed. We will build up our beaches, dune

system, and bulkheads.

Never mind we long ago destroyed the ability to do this to any meaningful extent. And this part of this Great Nation Under God will be Saved.

- No mention of possible impacts to the Biscayne or Florida aquifers.

- No mention of the critical function of the biggest pump station in the world on Southern Boulevard north of the Refuge.

- Nor of the hundreds of pumps in our canal system throughout the 16-county SFWMD.

- That long ago we maxed out the capacities of the major drainage canals flowing to tide.

- No mention of Scripps, the veterans' cemetery, or any Westward Ho! rampant subdivisions and their dependency on a pumped environment. Not as beautiful or as historic, but every bit as vulnerable as New Orleans.

People need to raise their objections to their political representatives: local, state, and federal.

Get in touch with Charles Lee; he has an opportunity to be a hero. He can be reached at Audubon of Florida's Winter Park office, (407) 539-5700.

Interestingly, in the late 1960's, a past generation of Corps engineers considered designating the western C-51 Basin (translation: Wellington) an Area of Critical State Concern. That was dismissed not on facts, but on the grounds that "nobody lives there anyhow, so it really doesn't matter."

October 25, 9:30-4:00, 2005 Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Growth Management workshop in Stuart.

Do get in touch!

--Cissie

**Announcing Julie Wraithmell,
Conservation Associate**

Audubon of Florida is pleased to welcome **Julie Wraithmell** to her new position as Conservation Associate. In that role Julie will work with Audubon's policy team to mobilize grassroots support for issues including the Everglades, wildlife, water, growth, land protection and coastal conservation. Julie will support Audubon's legislative program and will work closely with chapters and members in the Panhandle.

Julie was a conservation biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the last eight years, first overseeing the development of the wildly successful Great Florida Birding Trail, and then coordinating the Wildlife Viewing Program of which the Birding Trail is a part. She is an avid birdwatcher and a passionate conservationist who is very much looking forward to working in a new arena: conservation policy and advocacy. Julie earned a degree in biology from Duke University and is currently working on her MS in geography at FSU. She lives and birds in Tallahassee with her husband, Andrew, their bird dog, Lucy, and their strictly indoor cat, Harley.

"I'm so excited about the opportunities Audubon offers for furthering conservation and involving the public in the advocacy process," said Wraithmell. "I'm looking forward to bringing my wildlife background to bear on the policy issues facing Audubon, making a better environment for all of us by fighting for a better environment for birds."

Julie began work with Audubon in Tallahassee on Monday, September 12 and can be reached at jwraithmell@audubon.org or by calling 850-222-BIRD.

What's in an Egg

Hank McCall

There is a song in there, and a bit of an architect who coordinates complicated nest structures. A multitude of menus guide a diet for endurance, or feeding the chicks, all set up in their built-in calendars.

For long-distance travelers, star charts, clocks, compasses, and sextants are there for the little Blackpoll Warbler to fly to Peru. The Bristle-thighed Curlew makes an incredible flight from the Aleutians across 2000 miles of ocean to Hawaii, and some proceed on another 1000 miles to Fanning Island, a tiny dot in the Pacific. Compass headings are changed automatically to offset displacements from storms and winds.

Most important of all, there is a dominant gene that awakens each spring with an overpowering urge to perpetuate the species.

What's in the egg are miracles.

Fall Migration Preview

Ben Kolstad

Fall migration in Palm Beach County kicked into high gear with the shorebirds seen at Duda Farms (see Gloria Hunter's article below). There were many reports of warbler sightings in August and September. Brian Hope reported an unusual concentration of rare (for the county) warblers: Hooded, Kentucky, Swainson's, Canada, and Cerulean warbler, all at once in a neighborhood park in, of all places, Delray Beach! You never know where you might find the birds, as long as you're out looking. Hurricane Rita sent Bridled Tern and several species of Shearwater to the Boynton Inlet.

Claudine Laabs reports that a few Piping plovers have been spotted at Midtown Beach in West Palm this September. It's still not too late to get out there; late-migrating warblers have been seen into November! Black-throated Blue warblers are known to be late season migrants, as are Cape May and Bay-breasted, all of which have occurred through October in the county.

Join us on any of our field trips this fall (see the trip schedule accompanying this newsletter, or online at ASE's website, www.auduboneverglades.org). But even if you can't meet up with us, you can still go out birding. Remember—the worst day birding is better than the best day at work!

August at Duda Farms

Gloria Hunter

More than a hundred birders accompanied us on visits to the Duda Farms, Belle Glade, during the month of August.

We endured exceptionally warm weather with little cloud cover and only an occasional cooling breeze. Despite our discomfort, delight in the flooded fields filled with a marvelous assortment of wading and shorebirds, seen in astounding numbers, made the mornings pass all too quickly.

During the month, 25 species of shorebirds were spotted! These, along with 14 kinds of wading birds and a variety of other water and land birds, brought the month's tally to 85 species. A good month, indeed!

After a few days of recovery, we're looking forward to next August already. See you there!

Many thanks to expert guidance and spotting by Chuck Weber and Brian Hope! And as always, thanks to the Duda Farms for sharing the bird-filled fields with us!

First Vice President Carol Shields wrote this letter to the editor of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. It appeared on September 19.

The Bush-appointed South Florida Water Management District board is getting bold with its agenda.

Just last week, the board, chaired by County Commissioner Mary McCarty's husband, Kevin McCarty, had an add-on agenda item with little less than 24 hours' notice for interested parties.

The agenda item regarding the Loxahatchee Refuge—aka the Everglades—was scheduled to be discussed between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. the following day. This add-on item was discussed at 9:30 and was over by 10:30. Interested parties arriving for the scheduled time to make comment were out of luck. This action is like inviting someone over for their favorite dinner and then serving it two hours before your guests get there.

Water district actions on any agenda item, whether the educated public is heard or not, affect the water supply for all of us in South Florida.

Unfortunately, underhanded actions like this seem to have become standard operating procedure for the district board.

LNWR needs ASE help!

At the recent Governing Board of SFWMD, a presentation by Land Management staff (not on the agenda) targeted Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR) on its invasive-exotic tree program. It was widely reported in the newspapers, including threats by Governing Board members to rescind the management agreement on Conservation Area 1, which constitutes LNWR.

Manager Mark Musaus was given a short time to rebut the presentation. The subject will come up again at the October 12, 2005 SFWMD Governing Board meeting and there should be time for public comment available. This is a serious matter and public input is needed—letters to the Governing Board and attendance at this meeting. You can write the Governing Board at SFWMD, 3301 Gun club Rd., (P.O. Box 24680) West Palm Beach, Fla. 33416-4680.

The Refuge has printed materials available on its "A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR Exotic Plant Management Accomplishments", paper copy or on its website, <http://loxahatchee.fws.gov>. Additional information has been printed in LNWR's "TURTLE RIVER TIMES" newsletter, especially issue 9, May/2005-Oct 2005.

Audubon Society of the Everglades is a designated "Everglades Keeper", and your help, as individuals, is needed on this matter. Please inform yourselves, write a letter, and attend the next SFWMD Governing Board Meeting.

Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Named as Gateway Site in South Florida Birding Trail

Naples, FL, September 16, 2005 - Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary has just been named the site for the groundbreaking ceremony of the South Florida section of the Great Florida Birding Trail by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This program identifies interesting sites for birdwatchers and will publish the sites in a Birding Trail guide. The new free Trail Guide to the South Florida Section of the trail will be available on January 14, 2006 at the Great Florida Birding Trail Expo at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

The Great Florida Birding Trail is a 2,000 mile highway trail designed to conserve and enhance Florida's bird habitat by promoting birdwatching activities, conservation education and economic opportunity. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was selected as a premier or "gateway" site because of its extensive services for visitors, from a 2.25 mile boardwalk, to state-of-the-art Blair Audubon Center, and a variety of educational activities, as well as more than 200 species of birds including the largest nesting colony of endangered Wood Storks.

In addition, the Great Birding Trail seeks to promote economic development in rural areas through birdwatching and other eco-tourism activities. As a gateway site, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary will offer more complete resources and information about the entire Great Florida Birding Trail than other sites along the Trail.

For more information about Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, go to

www.corkscrew.audubon.org.



Long-billed Curlew by Daniel S. Killby

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The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Community Center in West Palm Beach. The phone number for the Community Center is (561) 835-7055. The public is welcome to attend.

Deadline for submissions for the **November 2005** issue is **October 10th**

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