



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 47, Number 7
April 2007

CALENDAR

SUN. April 1

Sunset Cruise, Lake Worth Lagoon. Call Claudine Laabs, 561-655-9779.

TUES. April 10, 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING and Dinner, Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, West Palm Beach. \$50 per ticket.

TUES. April 10, 4:00 p.m.

SUNSET WALK

ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Boyton Beach. Lee Rd., west side of 441, south of Boynton Beach Blvd. Admission, \$5 per car. Meet at Marsh Trail. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

SAT. April 14, 8:00 a.m.

Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at SW corner of Spanish River Blvd. and A1A. Leader: Ray Buchholz.

SAT. April 14, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Admission free all day.

SAT. April 28, 8:00 a.m.

Frenchman's Forest Preserve and other areas, Palm Beach Gardens. Leader: Marvin Greenberg.

Program for April 2007 Annual Meeting

Randy Schultz

We are pleased to have Mr. Randy Schultz, Editor of the *Palm Beach Post* Editorial Page as our featured speaker at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. He will be speaking on the various environmental issues confronting us in Palm Beach County. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he received his Bachelor Degree at the University of Tennessee. Moving to Florida, he began working at the *Palm Beach Post* in 1976, serving as a reporter, columnist, city editor and managing editor. In 1990 Randy became editor of the editorial page, where he remains to this day. In 1993 he was the recipient of the Best of Cox Newspapers Award for Editorial Writing.

This special meeting will be held at the Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, where we will be having a dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets, including dinner, cost \$50. We hope that you will participate in this annual event. We will also be allowing members to attend the general meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at no charge.

NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of Audubon Society of the Everglades will take place at the Palm Beach Zoo located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach on **Tuesday, April 10, 2007**. We have been promised a delicious buffet dinner at \$50 per person. Feel free to bring guests. Tickets are available from Leah Schad or Alan Parmalee. Please make your checks payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to:

Leah G. Schad
3634 No. Flagler Drive
West Palm Beach, Florida 333407

Alan Parmalee
4765 N.W. 6th Court
Delray Beach, Fl 33445

If you need additional information please call Leah at 848-9984 or Alan at 1-561-498-0096. Tickets will be mailed to you. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

You might want to arrive at six o'clock if you are interested in seeing the zoo including all the work that went into repairing the facility after the hurricanes.

Deadline for tickets is April 6, 2007. Members wishing to attend the meeting only can arrive at 7:30 for a brief business meeting before our guest speaker, Randy Schultz, begins his talk.

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The Everglade Kite

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

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Audubon Society of the Everglades, incorporated in 1966, serves communities in Palm Beach County. Our purpose is to promote the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment and to advance human understanding of our place in the total ecological system.

Great Backyard Bird Count Palm Beach County, 2007

IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! Florida broke its previous record for participants, with 3009, as of March 8, 2007. The top state was New York, with 5075 lists submitted. Florida was in the top 10 at #9. Tallahassee was in the top 5 US towns with 362 reporting. Next highest Florida was Orlando with 95 lists. West Palm Beach totaled 97 species from 22 lists. Our county totaled 93 lists for the dates of Feb. 16-19, 2007.

Florida was #3 with total number of species at 280. Highest number of a species, in Florida, went to American Robin with 1,732,829, followed by American Coot with 55,937 and Tree Swallows, totaling 39,464. Rarities for our county included a WPB report of White-Tailed Kite—one of 3 total for Florida (besides Inverness and Okeechobee). Palm Beach Co. had 7 of the 32 reported Spot-Breasted Orioles. On the negative side, 2 of the worrisome exotic Purple Swamphen were listed for Delray and 40 in Clewiston! One Rusty Blackbird was seen in the area, of 57 in the state, with Tallahassee counting the most.

Single lists were recorded for Belle Glade, Lake Worth, Palm Springs, Riviera Beach, and Royal Palm Beach. You do not have to limit yourself to the “backyard”. All of our parks, open spaces, landfills, marinas, refuges, campgrounds, etc., are eligible. You pick a spot, do some prep work, and submit the list and time. It does not hurt to have several lists submitted for large areas—each day, weather and related conditions are different and sightings change. For example, I covered a good spot from my Christmas Bird Count territory, the Dyer Landfill and park, J.D. MacArthur Park, the Spillway Park at the C-51 Canal & Dixie Hwy, Grassy waters (in part), Dreher Park, Currie Park, Snook Island /LGWC, and my own neighborhood.

To view results and the huge, fascinating accumulation of data and lists, go to <http://birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Please plan on participating next year.

Cynthia Plockelman

Field Trip Reports

Corkscrew Swamp, March 10th. Eight ASE members gathered in the early morning hours to caravan over to the west coast to visit the National Audubon Society’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples. Although the Wood Storks are not nesting there this year (they’re such fussy breeders!), we did manage a respectable species count (78). Perhaps the most commonly heard bird on the boardwalk was the White-eyed Vireo, who sounds like “R2D2 on steroids.” On the way home from Corkscrew we visited a relatively new Wildlife Management Area, Dinner Island Ranch, on CR833 in Glades County. The site boasts several habitats, although we saw mostly pasture and oak hammock. Highlights included a few Field Sparrows in a large flock of Savannahs, and some beautiful views of the Eastern Meadowlarks. En route, we saw some early-arriving Swallow-tailed Kites.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
2007-2008 PROPOSED BUDGET**

INCOME – 2007-2008

National Dues Incentive\$	4,000.	
Grants and Donations	15,000.	
Fund Raising	8,000.	
Investment Income	<u>8,000.</u>	
<u>Total Anticipated Income</u>		\$35,000.

EXPENSES – 2007-2008

Administration		
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 350.	
Telephone	375.	
Storage	350.	
Website	125.	
Fees & Licenses	350.	
Insurance	1,500.	
Accounting	3,000.	
Fund Raising Expense	1,500.	\$7,550.
Programs		
Newsletter(Printing)	\$ 6,500.	
Newsletter(Postage)	3,800.	
Conservation Award	150.	
Field Trip Brochure	1,100.	
Hospitality	500.	
Speaker Expense	500.	
Bush Wildlife Sanctuary	250.	12,800.
Education		
Lectures, School Programs, etc.	\$ 6,000.	
Display Board	100.	
Everglades Day	2,500.	
Library Purchases	250.	
Rent	700.	
Science Fair	100.	
Envirothon	300.	
Naturescaping	500.	
IMB Birding Day	100.	
Big O Birding Day	100.	
Conferences/Conventions	1,500.	
<u>Pathfinders</u>	<u>2,500.</u>	<u>14,650.</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$35,000.

**Board of Directors Nomination Slate
2007-2009**

Rosa Durando	Stella Rossi
Ben Kolstad	Debbie Smith
Alan Parmalee	Susan Snyder

Election of directors for the term 2007-2009 will take place at our annual meeting, Tuesday April 10 at the Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, West Palm Beach.

Special thanks to Cynthia Plockelman and Alan Parmalee for serving on the nominating committee.

President's Comments

Marcella Munson

With April almost here, our rainy season can't be far behind. Water has been on my mind quite a bit lately, so several weeks ago I took a tour, sponsored by Grassy Waters Preserve, to learn more about the ins and outs of CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) in northern Palm Beach and southern Martin Counties. The tour included close-up looks at the Loxahatchee River (the Masten and Lainhart dams), as well as the proposed flow-way at Hungryland Slough. Those of you who have been around for the past few months already know how little rainfall we have received during this dry winter. The extremely low water levels in the Loxahatchee are proof positive of the effects this is having, as are the just-voted-in water restrictions. Although much of the landscape was still verdant, with one oak tree even hosting a mature Barred Owl peering at us from its perch less than 10 yards away, the river was running so low that we could walk along with our heads below the normal canoe line!

We saw several species of fish in the quiet waters above the dam, which put some of us in mind of having a fish fry. But one of the things we've learned is that many of the fish in the Loxahatchee Refuge, and in the Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area, should not be eaten. Not the **largemouth bass**, not the **bowfin**, not the **gar**. Why? These fish have dangerously high levels of heavy metals and other toxins. And these warnings aren't simply intended for young children, or pregnant women, or women of childbearing age. These warnings are intended for every single Floridian. Of course, chances are that if you're reading this newsletter, you have ready access to safe alternative sources of fish and you make sure to educate yourself about the fish you do eat. But the birds of the area do not have this choice.

The CERP tour dramatically illustrated not only the importance of healthy watersheds, but the truth that most watersheds cross city and county boundaries. (Did you know, for example, that water from Palm Beach County flows north into the Loxahatchee River?) The actions of each of us affect ALL of us, and humans are only one link in the larger eco-web. If we want clean rivers and streams, if we want to be able to eat the fish we catch in them, we need to make conservation a priority. As Marjory Stoneman Douglas reminded us, our future literally depends on it.

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 AUDUBON magazine and the EVERGLADE KITE.

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E00 7XCH

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.

Reminder: Deadline for submissions for the **May 2007** issue is **April 10th**

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