



# EVERGLADE KITE

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

## CALENDAR

### SAT. May 5

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

### TUES. May 8, 5:00 p.m.

SUNSET WALK,  
Wakodahatchee Wetlands,  
Boynton Beach. Meet at boardwalk. East side of Jog Road, 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Ave. Leader:.

### SAT. May 12

Spring Migration Count.  
Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman, 561-585-1278.

**Editor's Note:** As this issue goes to press, the cool dry season is giving way to the warm dry season here in Palm Beach County. Hopefully the wet season will be right around the corner. At the moment, Phase 2 water restrictions are in place (with Phase 3 expected in West Palm Beach), and a damaging dry-season wildfire has caused intermittent closures of Alligator Alley. We are all counting on the rains to come as scheduled to alleviate the worst drought on record. But what if they don't come? It seems an appropriate time to devote an issue to global warming. The National Audubon Society is focusing on global warming this year. Although the issue is global, there are many things we can do at the local level to reduce our own carbon footprints. For ideas, see inside.

## Program for Tuesday, May 1: Wood Ducks, by Wayne Boynton

*Alan Parmalee, Programs Chair*

Our program this month features Mr. Wayne Boynton. A fourth-generation Floridian, Wayne is a sugar cane farmer in the Glades. A distant cousin of his is the namesake for the city of Boynton Beach. Wayne's avocation is wood ducks. He has constructed a number of nest boxes on his property that have attracted mated wood ducks, which have successfully nested on his land. He will present a video program of "his" ducks building a nest, laying their eggs, and rearing their chicks. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard Park Community Center for this special program.

## President's Comments

*Marcella Munson*

Audubon Academy in March was inspirational. Besides getting to meet fellow Audubon officers from all over the state, we were treated to a detailed report on the status of birds in Florida presented by Julie Wraithmell. Julie's report highlighted the symbolic conservation value of certain birds, and explained how specific birds in specific regions of Florida serve as valuable indicators of overall ecosystem health. I was particularly inspired to hear about how so much of what we know about birds in Florida is because of "blended" communities—large numbers of amateur birders making regular observations, and sharing this data with professional ornithologists and biologists. Conservation is critical, and citizen science is the only way that many projects can get done. We all have a major part to play in this scientific "ecotone!"

Here is a selection of birds with high symbolic conservation value for each Audubon of Florida Regional Conservation Committee area (important note: many of these birds are targeted for conservation efforts in more than one region of Florida): In **Central Florida**, where pastureland as crucial bird habitat is being lost every day, the report highlighted the Bald Eagle, the Limpkin, the Crested Caracara, and the Florida Scrub-jay. In **Northeast Florida**, where estuarine and other migratory bird stopover habitat is impacted by heavy recreational use, the report highlighted the Clapper Rail, Gull-Billed Tern, Red Knot, and Painted Bunting. In **Northwest Florida**, where recent hurricanes have resulted in beach renourishment and shoreline armoring projects, and where beach and coastline habitat is under continual assault by off-road all-terrain vehicles and general overuse, the Piping Plover, Redhead, Wood Thrush, and Red-Cockaded Woodpecker are in danger. On the **Gulf Coast**, developmental pressure on coastlines and beaches is also a major issue (fully one-quarter of all winter migratory shorebird flyways pass through Florida); here, the American Oystercatcher, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, and Wilson's Plover are on watch lists. In the **Big Cypress** region, development pressures put the health of increasingly isolated ecosystems at risk, and new and wetter weather patterns are changing the hydrobalance of wetlands. The Wood Stork, Swallow-Tailed Kite, Snowy Plover, and Mangrove Cuckoo are key symbols of ecosystem imbalance in this region. And finally, in our own part of Florida (the **Everglades Region**), where land development continues unabated and what water we do store in aquifers is being increasingly diverted to developmental and residential use—not for maintaining ecologically appropriate water balances in our refuges and wildlife areas, the Roseate Spoonbill, Seaside Sparrow, Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, and of course the Snail Kite are all birds of special concern. Whatever your favorite Florida species, please get involved in citizen science projects. By doing so, you can help ensure that future generations will also be able to enjoy watching these birds.

## **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.*

## **How Many Auduboners Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?**

### **As Many As Possible!**

Replace 3 frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. **Save 300 lbs. of carbon dioxide** and \$60 per year. If every household in the United States did it, we would **save a trillion pounds of greenhouse gases** from entering the atmosphere!

A CFL uses 75% less electricity than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light—so a 15-watt CFL is just as bright as a 60-watt incandescent. If every household in the U.S. replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, **the pollution equivalent of one million cars would disappear.**

### **Today's Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL):**

- come in various color temperatures, some just like incandescents.
- are made to fit into most lamps and light fixtures.
- accommodate recessed lighting, candelabra style fixtures, dimmers, and 3-way lights.
- contain a small amount of mercury, but the net effect of using CFLs is that less mercury is released into the environment.
- should be disposed of properly. Visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) to search for disposal and/or recycling facilities in your zip code.
- only have to be changed approximately every three or more years, so you will not have to worry about disposal very often.

### **Upcoming Election: Southeastern Regional Director for the National Board of the National Audubon Society**

There are three candidates for the position of Southeastern Regional Director (position on the National Board of the National Audubon Society): **Cathy Coates** (Baton Rouge Audubon Society), **Neil Davies** (Flagler Audubon Society), and **Donald McKee** (Mississippi Coast Audubon Society). Biographical information and candidates' statements can be found at <http://www.audubon.org/local/elections/2007-elections.html>. Our chapter Board of Directors has been favorably impressed by the candidacy of Mr. McKee, and therefore recommends that all four chapter votes go to him. Since official ballots must be filled out and mailed back by mid-June, please contact Marcella Munson, President, or Cynthia Plockelman, First Vice-President, if you have pertinent information about any of the three candidates that would help inform our chapter vote.

### **Legislative Alert—Help Protect Birds from Global Warming**

Strong federal legislation is needed to combat global warming. It's your voice that will make the difference. Ask your Senators and Representative to support:

- S 309 (Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act), introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
- HR 1590 (Safe Climate Act), introduced by Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA)

### **Individual Actions Add Up**

- Drive less by taking public transportation, walking, bicycling, or carpooling. Drive a more energy-efficient vehicle.
- Switch from conventional incandescent light bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents. The next time you buy a major or even minor appliance, look for the Energy Star label to be sure you're getting a high-efficiency model.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Buy local produce and other goods.

## Basic Talking Points for Discussing Global Warming and Audubon's Involvement

The following is intended to assist Audubon staff and volunteers in providing basic information about Global Warming (the term we should all use, as opposed to climate change). With this information, you can easily construct a 30-second "elevator" message or offer more detailed insights on the issue, its implications and the rationale for Audubon's involvement.

In all cases, start by communicating the "primary message" immediately below. It is the main idea you want all audiences to remember and act upon. From there, choose the specific themes and supporting information that will help you best communicate with your intended audience. Note that the first four themes are meant for use with all audiences, the next two focus more specifically on Audubon's role in addressing the issue.

### Primary Message (what you want everyone to remember)

***Global Warming is among the greatest threats to birds, other wildlife, and people ever experienced by humanity. We still have the power to affect how serious its consequences will be, but we must act now!***

**Themes** (use in concert with the primary message, as appropriate to your audience and communication objectives)

1. Impacts are already being seen and long-term predictions make it clear that Audubon and every concerned organization must get members to take action now to reduce global warming pollution.
  - Scientists predict that global warming will lead to extinction of a quarter of all species on earth in the next 50–75 years
  - The longer Global Warming continues unchecked, the more serious the impacts will be.
  - Floods, droughts, storms and other impacts will increasingly take a toll on natural habitats and food supplies, displacing people and wildlife worldwide.
2. Real solutions exist now.
  - Everyone can make lifestyle changes and help to alter local and national policies so we can deal with Global Warming while there's still time to protect the things we care about.
  - Scientists tell us we need to cut global warming pollution by 2 % a year to reach our goal of 80 % cuts by mid-century. That means leaving behind the dirty fossil fuel–driven technologies of yesterday and adopting the clean renewable energy solutions that will fuel the economy of tomorrow.
  - By capping Global Warming pollution and using technologies we have today—wind, solar, increased energy efficiency and conservation—we can achieve more than three-quarters of the emissions reductions we need to reach our goal.
  - We have all the tools and all the technologies we need to reduce Global Warming emissions and create a cleaner, safer environment, but we need to act now.
3. Addressing global warming will help to protect birds, other wildlife, and natural resources.
  - Reducing fossil fuel consumption helps to protect wildlife and ecosystems that are at risk from mining, drilling, deforestation and development
  - Lowering fossil fuel consumption also reduces air and water pollution that harm wildlife, people and economic values.
  - Protecting and restoring forests, farmland, grasslands and other means of carbon sequestration provides significant benefits for habitat and ecosystems.
  - Overall, addressing Global Warming is a win-win-win situation that conserves our environment and the people who depend upon it, improves our national security by reducing our addiction to oil, and makes America a leader in producing clean energy jobs and technologies.

### Audubon-specific themes

4. Audubon is uniquely positioned to educate the public, increase grassroots activism and motivate change through our chapters, state offices and activist network across the country.
  - Audubon's network of chapters, centers, state offices and activists can reach new audiences in parts of the country that have other environmental groups or where Audubon is the most effective messenger.
  - Many of our members, chapters and activists want to help address global warming, but need the tools to do so, which Audubon will provide.
  - Audubon members realize that without action on global warming, many of the conservation gains they've worked so hard to achieve could be erased.
5. Issues connected with Global Warming are central to Audubon's core mission and long been a focus of work by our state offices, chapters, policy program and more.
  - Promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency programs that minimize impacts on birds and other wildlife.
  - Protecting forests, farmland and other habitat from fossil fuels, timber harvesting and other activities that cause Global Warming.

**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 **June 2007** issue is **May 10th**

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