



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES  
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida  
Volume 47, Number 11  
September 2007

## CALENDAR

### Tuesday, September 4

West Palm Beach: General Meeting, Exotic Fish in Florida. Meet at Howard Park Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, September 15

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

### Saturday, September 15

*Lake Worth Lagoon Island Clean-up.* To register, call Claudine Laabs, 561 655-9779. Refreshments and T-shirts will be provided.

### Saturday, September 22

Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, 8 a.m. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd. just west of A1A. Leader: Ray Buchholz. Suggested donation: \$2

### Saturday, September 29

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Boca Raton. Workshop: Tips for Better Birding. Fee: \$5. Meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m.; the workshop runs until noon.

### Saturday, October 6

Frenchmen's Forest, Palm Beach Gardens, 8 a.m. Meet in the parking lot, Prosperity Farms Road, north of Northlake Blvd. Leader: Marvin Greenberg. Suggested donation: \$2

## COMING SOON:

*Watch your mailbox for ASE's annual brochure listing upcoming programs, field trips, and general information. Impress all your friends—be the first one on your block to read it!*

### Tuesday September 4th

#### *Exotic Fish in Florida*

Our speaker for the September 4th general meeting will be Mr. Paul L. Shafland, Laboratory Director for Non-Native Fish Research. This department of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission is based in Boca Raton and provides research on exotic and invasive critters in our environment and how they affect our native fresh water fish. Iowa born and raised, Mr. Shafland received the Master of Science Degree at Southern Illinois University. Paul has been with the FFWCC since 1975 and has authored over 30 scientific articles. He has also been the recipient of several awards including Conservationist of the year from the Florida Wildlife Federation. Please join us this Tuesday, September 4th, at 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park for this interesting and informative program.

### President's Comments

*Marcella Munson*

A new birding season is upon us, and I'm very excited about our new programs for this year (be on the lookout for our annual brochure, which should arrive in mailboxes shortly). Our birding events officially begin with the annual Fall Migration Count on September 15th, and a birding trip to Spanish River on September 22nd. These events are complemented by our October program, a talk on fall migration by our very own Phil Weinrich. After a long hot summer, I eagerly await the arrival of our fall friends (feathered and otherwise)!

I am also pleased to announce that we have scheduled a couple of birding classes into this year's program. The first class ("Better Birding") will be held on September 29 at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, and a follow-up course ("More Tips for Better Birding") will be offered in April during the peak of spring migration. Other birding classes to be offered this year include a two-part course on wading birds, aimed primarily at beginning birders. If you know of anyone who might be interested in one or more of these birding courses, please pass along one of our annual brochures.

With cooler fall weather, we can also look forward to spending more time outdoors. At my house, this will mean a chance to get out and enjoy the native plant garden we put in last December. It's amazing how much new growth the summer rains have brought, and I note with pleasure that the plants are now starting to outcompete the weeds—good news for us! Who knows what backyard birds we might get in fall? (Anything like our Connecticut in spring? Stay tuned!)

## **The Everglade Kite**

*is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 11 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.*

## **ASE Participates in Eco-village**

*Jim Ford*

Audubon Society of the Everglades was recently invited to participate in the REVERB eco-village portion of the John Mayer concert at the Sound Advice Amphitheater on August 8. Singer/guitarist John Mayer recently appeared as part of the Live Earth concert and has been working to spread information about global warming to his fans. The trucks and busses for this concert tour are powered by bio-diesel. The aim of the eco-village, according to REVERB's website, is to provide a venue for alternative energy technologies, local and national non-profit agencies, enviro-friendly products and other elements the musicians would like to include. In this way the concert experience is enhanced by allowing the fans to be "educated, invigorated and inspired." ASE members Debbie Smith and Cathy Ford joined other volunteers with the Rainforest Action Network, Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Clean Water Action and Amnesty International. Interested fans were given information about Audubon Society membership and activities. Towards the end of the evening, the volunteers were invited to enjoy the remaining portion of the concert. It was a terrific way to help spread awareness about global warming and Audubon's long history of environmental conservancy.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

### **Quote of the summer comes from Todd Willens, former legislative director for Richard Pombo, about removing Everglades National Park from the UNESCO watch list:**

"I changed the last sentence of our report and said we wanted to be taken off" the U.N. World Heritage Committee's list of endangered sites.

David Sheppard, the committee's top science advisor: "We said it should stay on the danger list because further work needed to be done."

After seven years of patchwork progress on Everglades restoration entirely funded by Florida taxpayers, the House finally passed WRDA this summer. It is expected to go for a vote in the Senate in September. The White House is expected to veto it.

### **Workshop: Tips for Better Birding**

This great workshop will help you gain knowledge and increase your ability to identify birds through a ten-step approach. Essential birding skills such as field marks, behavior, habitat, silhouette, elimination, family groups, field techniques, birding by ear, birding by impression, use of binoculars and field guides will be discussed and demonstrated. The workshop includes numerous tips for better birding and lots of handouts for further study. It will also include a hike to search for migrating birds and will apply the skills in the field.

Where: Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Boca Raton

When: Saturday, September 29th, 8 a.m.–noon

Cost: \$5

Come on out and improve your birding skills!

*The Everglades is not just a river of grass, although sawgrass is part of it. It is forests, tree islands, and mangrove swamps as well.*

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

School Year 2007-2008

August	PBCty School District Pre-school Science Symposium
December	Pine Jog Model School Partner*
Sept./Dec./ May	Fall/Christmas/Spring Bird Counts
December	PBCounty School District Science Fair Judging
February	EVERGLADES DAY***
February	Backyard Bird Count & Schoolyard Bird Count
March	PBC School District H.S. Envirothon*
March	Pathfinder Scholarship Judging*
April	Wetlands Day-Green Cay Nature Center**
April	Naturscaping-MacArthur State Park***
April	Birds of Prey Program-Doris Mager*
May	International Migratory Bird Day-P.B. Zoo***
May	Turtle Day-Gumbo Limbo Nature Center**
May	Wetlands Day-Wakodahatchee Wetlands**
May	Pathfinder Scholarship*

\*Sponsor    \*\*Exhibit    \*\*\*Sponsor and Exhibit

EVERGLADES DAY Attendance in 2007 was 3500. Over the eight years that ASE has sponsored and coordinated Everglades Day the attendance has averaged 2900 people!

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM Doris Mager visited seven schools from Boca to West Palm Beach to the Glades. Over 1600 students from first to seventh grade were excited to learn about the Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel and the Crested Caracara.

PINE JOG WETLANDS PROGRAM About 360 Lake Shore Middle School students traveled to Grassy Waters to spend the day learning about wetlands by canoeing, dip netting, and nature walks.

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### SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

ASE exhibited at the Palm Beach County School District Science Symposium held for science teachers of all levels during preschool planning. We shared information about ASE birding and educational activities. ASE partnered with Serena Rinker from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge to encourage classes to get involved with Everglades Day.

During the day, teachers attended in-service training on new textbook and material. Exhibitors included nature centers, environmental groups, publishing companies and science vendors.

#### The Flooded Fields of Duda Farms

Our annual trips to the flooded fields of Belle Glades were a success again. Over 60 species of birds were recorded by an eager crowd of birders from around South Florida. Hundreds of Least and Pectoral Sandpipers were in evidence, as were crowds of Roseate Spoonbills, with several flotillas of Mottled Ducks and the occasional Whistling-Duck (Fulvous and Black-Bellied both) thrown in for good measure.

One of the trips even managed to find a small flock of flamingoes! Perhaps the most ubiquitous species, apart from the thousands of Black-necked Stilts with their young, was the Lesser Yellowlegs—no matter where we went, there they were, in twos, threes, and even larger groupings.

Many thanks to Duda Farms for their kind permission to roam their fields for an afternoon.

**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.

**Articles Welcome! Deadline** for submissions for the **October 2007** issue is **September 15th**

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