



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 49, Number 10

September 2009

CALENDAR

Tue., Sep 1. General Meeting. Pine Jog doors open at 7 p.m., refreshments shortly after, and meeting at 7:30

Sat., Sep. 19. Fall Migration Count.
Compiler: Cynthia Plockelman, (561) 585-1278

Sat., Sep. 19. Coastal Clean Up. Call Claudine (561) 655-9779 to volunteer

Sat., Sep. 26, 8 a.m. Frenchman's Forest, Palm Beach Gardens. W side Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5 miles N of PGA Blvd.
Leader: TBA

Sun., Sep. 27. Florida Bay. Call Claudine to register, (561) 655-9779

Sat., Oct. 3, 8 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at the split fence on the south side of Spanish River Blvd, just W of A1A. Leader: Ray Buchholz

Sat., Oct. 3 & 4. Bahamas Trip. Call Linda (561) 742-7791 to register

Tues. Oct. 6. General Meeting. Pine Jog.

Sat., Oct. 10, 8 a.m. Juno Dunes/Juno Pier. Leader: Clive Pinnock. Details TBD

Wed., Oct. 14, 7:30 a.m. Okeehelie Park. Forest Hill Blvd, 1 mi W of Jog. Meet at Nature Center. Ethel Kujanpaa

Sat., Oct. 17 & 18. Explore Florida Keys/Hawk Watch. Call Linda (561) 742-7791

Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 a.m. Solid Waste Authority/Rookery. Meet at Palmetto Trail Head Parking Lot. Leader: Claudine Laabs

Sun., Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m. Bird walk for kids 7+ Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Leader: Clive Pinnock

Sat., Oct. 31. Shorebird Trip, Fort Myers. Call Linda to register (561-742-7791)

Saturday, Sep. 12, 7:00 p.m.
Leah Lemieux, author of *Rekindling the Waters: The Truth About Swimming with Dolphins* speaks at Scuba Center Delray, located at 885 SE 6th Ave, Delray Beach.

FAU's Center for Ocean Energy Technology Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Our general meeting for September will feature a presentation about FAU's Center for Ocean Energy Technology, its mission and purpose, and the projects they are engaged in from engineering, scientific, policy, economics, and education perspectives. Our speaker is Gabriel Alsenas, project manager for the center. Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Alsenas worked as a graduate student engineer for the Department of Ocean Engineering at FAU, focusing primarily on US Navy future projects, prototypes, and sensor systems.

Mr. Alsenas is an advanced scientific diver and has logged many hours on vessels offshore. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Alsenas earned his B.S. and M.S. in Ocean Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, and is continuing towards a Ph.D. His areas of interest are in sensor systems, dynamic positioning and control, and machinery condition monitoring.

As usual, the doors at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center (Summit Blvd., WPB) will open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

President's Comments

Linda Humphries

I bought a bird book printed in 1925 called *The Birds of Florida* by Harold H. Bailey. The book contains 425 species and subspecies of birds that have been found in Florida. It refers to Florida as the last frontier state in the Union. It lists drainage, forest fires, and automobiles (along with the building of roads) as the main factor in diminishing Florida's wild life. It also mentions the crude oil discharged from ships as a contributing factor to our loss of birds and fish. I wonder what Mr. Bailey would say about our situation today. I enjoy comparing his view of a bird then with how we see it today. We are aware of the problems of the birds and wildlife and continue to see their decline. I realize it seems hard as an individual to make a difference but we need to continue to fight to save birds/wildlife habitat, provide native plants for food, and provide water. Our homes are becoming the new starting point for conservation. A lot of us are living in an "urban oasis" and need to create green spaces, with native plants, scrubs, and trees, for our local and migrating birds. We need to continue to contact our local and national officials to help save our wetlands and natural areas. On a positive note, we have made a small difference in Lake Worth Lagoon. Our pair of Oystercatchers had a third year of successful nesting on Snook Island. It has also been reported that we have six reddish egrets being seen at various spots around Lake Worth Lagoon. This is just the beginning of better things to come. Thank you all for your help and support.

Green Expo 2009

October 3, 10 am-4 pm, PBCC at Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Avenue. Learn how you fit into the new green economy. See the latest products, services, and technologies to reduce environmental impact. Increase your awareness of greenhouse emissions and climate change. Free admission. For more info, 561-868-3702, or www.pbcc.edu/greenexpo.xml

Moved Recently?

If you have moved and no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact Linda by email (hlinda@aol.com) or phone (561-742-7791). If you would rather receive this newsletter via email instead of regular mail contact Ben Kolstad, ben@kolstad.com. Thanks for helping us reduce our environmental impact and our printing/postage costs.

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 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.

Bird of the Month:

September's Bird of the Month is the Blackpoll Warbler. This little bird, which weighs about half an ounce, migrates all the way from the northeastern United States to Puerto Rico, the Lesser Antilles, or northern South America. This route averages 3,000 km (1,864 mi) over water, requiring a potentially nonstop flight of up to 88 hours! (www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blackpoll_Warbler/id) How's that for endurance?

Book Review

Lyanda Lynn Haupt's *Crow Planet*

Crows are everywhere in most urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. And yet in spite of, or perhaps because of, this ubiquity, they are rarely taken seriously by naturalists and birders. This despite a seeming glut of books on the subject in recent years; after all, biologists and researchers like Bernd Heinrich, John Marzluff, and Tony Angell have all celebrated the corvid clan in recent years, decades after Konrad Lorenz's Nobel Prize-winning work with this group of birds.

Seattle's Lyanda Lynn Haupt adds her voice to this field, with her new *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom for the Urban Wilderness*. An encounter with a wounded fledgling crow brought the author out of a depression and enabled her to look at how nature exists in her own environment, rather than having to go Out There to find it. The rehabilitation of that crow, and the way the crow's parents cared for it long past the time they would have stopped providing care for a healthy young crow, set Haupt to thinking. The result is a book-length meditation on productive ways of interacting with nature on this, our planet of crows. Her story, complete with wonderful artwork at the head of each chapter, will resonate with most urban naturalists—those of us who live in the city but yearn for the country, for Nature with a capital N.

The book is not a straightforward natural history of the crow. (For that, try your favorite field guide, or Cornell's Birds of North America online.) Haupt's interest lies instead in the intersection of bird/nature and human/culture, wild/civilized, blessed/mundane. As she proves in the book, it turns out that crows have quite a bit to teach us about our place in the world.

She does recognize that there is a danger associated with a planet of crows. After all, a planet with few birds other than crows is a planet whose biodiversity is impoverished. Not at risk of collapse, but already gone. And that is why, as many another author recently has urged (think Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*), we must come to a more complete understanding of the natural world. Haupt's story provides some advice on how to rethink our relationship to nature. For example, To Haupt,

a contemporary naturalist is a person who studies deeply, richly, seriously, and over a respectable swath of time, the life and ecology of a chosen place or places. Naturalist is a liberal arts title, and it might involve philosophy, literature, art, and an expansive sense of spirit as much as it does science. (47)

This definition of the naturalist expands the field to anyone who has a serious interest in their surroundings. At the same time, it limits it, wisely, to those who take the time to exercise that interest. I suspect most of you reading this review fit into the latter camp. May this book inspire you to action.

In short, *Crow Planet* is, as its subtitle suggests, essential wisdom for those of us dwelling in the urban wilderness. It's a thoughtful and entertaining book that has much to offer naturalists in all areas: Out There, in the city, or at home.

--Ben Kolstad

Call for Volunteers

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center needs volunteers to help plant a prairie restoration. Call Kristi at 686-6600 ext 422 if you can help.

Tuesday Sept. 1, 2009 7 am- 12pm

Wednesday Sept. 2, 2009 5- pm

Sat. Sept. 5, 2009 7:30 am- 12 pm (if needed)

Getting Out There: Trail Biking in a Sauna (First in a series....)

Carol Keller Bass

My husband and I decided a month or so ago that we needed to be more active physically and that we wanted to see more nature. So we went on a couple of bike rides and invested in a couple of great kayaks. Out the door we go!

Our first very ambitious bike ride was in the Frenchman's Forest Natural Area on Prosperity Farms Road in Palm Beach Gardens. After a morning of walking the dog beach in Jupiter with our three dogs and experiencing the heat of the morning, we decided to wait until the late afternoon for the "coolness" of the evening to set in. It was about 4:30 when we arrived.

Anticipation was heavy as I read the sign at the opening of the trail that indicated we would possibly see two different types of turtles, myriad lizards, and American redstarts... that was what I wanted to see.

We began pedaling through the heavily wooded park on a paved trail. "This is nice," I thought. I made a small mental note that we were going slightly downhill at the beginning of our trek. That would mean going slightly uphill on the way back. I usually care for downhill both ways, but that's never going

to happen, so downhill at the end, when I'm tired, is my preference. Very quickly, the paved trail ended. Okay, we thought, we're on a "real" trail now.....just what our bikes were made for. The trails are marked with yellow dots and red dots. We didn't really know what that meant, but made note of it. I'm following my husband who veers off the marked trails to follow his own path.

We came upon a boardwalk and walked our bikes across it over a swampy area. It was a great time to slow down, get some water, and admire the scenery. What we noticed was there were no birds.... nothing....not even the usual suspects of mockingbirds, cardinals, blue jays, and certainly no American redstarts. We were disappointed. We did come across a gopher tortoise, nest and all, a little further down the trail. That was pretty cool.

I, however, was not pretty cool. The "coolness" of the early evening had yet to set in. Sweat, profuse sweat, was setting in nicely, however. The thought that my husband had taken us off the marked trails and thus making it difficult to be rescued for heat exhaustion was ever present. How would they find us...

namely, me? What was I thinking? Where was the coolness? I decided to take the lead out of there by way of marked trails and as anticipated, was greeted by the slightly uphill ride on my way back out.

The moral of this story is 1). 4:30 is still too early in the day to go for an off-road bike ride if you are not in the best of shape and 2). American redstarts usually winter here, so it was unlikely we would have seen one anyway.

However, we both were surprised to find no birds at all in this very natural area. Were we making too much noise? We thought not since the noise of the road could be heard through most of the area, which was much larger than it looked from the street. I pondered this long after air came back to reside in my lungs and sweat stopped pouring from my brow. It looked like the perfect natural setting. I think we'll have to try it again to see if it was a fluke, much later in the day next time. Perhaps they were doing what I was wishing I was doing at the time: lounging in the shade, lazily napping and sipping a cool drink! Let's hope that was indeed the case.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers needed to mentor students from the Gale Environmental Academy of Environmental Science and Technology at Forest Hill Community High School. Call Everglades Audubon member Martha Musgrove at 965-9409 or malmusgrove@yahoo.com. Mentors are not expected to do a student's project. A mentor is asked to encourage and steer students, offering advice on researching project ideas, helping students to conceptualize a hypothesis and, if equipment is needed, help students locate it. You don't need a PhD to be a good mentor. The Academy's director, Shawn McCall, will arrange initial contact before student and mentor meet.

TOGETHER GREEN

Stop by FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center to see the results of the new demonstration native plant landscape installed through funding ASE received in a TogetherGreen grant. This project was supported by national Audubon with funding from Toyota. We hope this project will be the beginning of something that goes beyond our initial results to interest homeowners in making a difference for the environment. Using native plants will reduce water usage, save on water bills, and provide appropriate habitat and food sources for birds and butterflies.

Over 970 native plants have been installed. The landscape will be

watered primarily using rainwater collected from Pine Jog's extensive cistern system. This project installed an irrigation system for very dry periods. Informational signs will be completed soon.

After the plantings were completed, the butterflies came from nowhere! Kristi Moyer, facilities manager at Pine Jog, counted fifteen different species one day compared to three or four seen before.

Most of the success of this project is due to Kristi who is energy in overdrive, arranging many of the details and personally digging and planting faster than the rest of us combined. THANK YOU, KRISTI!

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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Articles NEEDED! Send to ben@kolstad.com by the 10th of the month.

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades

There are now two ways to join ASE: Chapter-only membership, and membership through the National Audubon Society.

Chapter-Only Membership

When you become a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades by using the form at right, all of your membership fees are put to use supporting **local** projects: Everglades Day; Education Programs such as model schools and field trips; Scholarships; and Conservation activities. Audubon Society of the Everglades members also receive 11 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter.

National Audubon Society Membership

When you join ASE through the National Audubon Society, you also receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida. For details, visit www.audubon.org. To join the National Society, send your information as above, but make your check out to **National Audubon Society**. NOTE: The annual fee is \$20 for regular NAS membership. In either case, send your check, payable to ASE (\$15/\$10) or NAS (\$20) as appropriate, along with this form to

Membership, Audubon Society of the Everglades
P.O. Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE)

YES! I want to become a **chapter-only member** of ASE. Enclosed is my check made payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades for:

Regular \$15 Senior (62+)/Student \$10

I would like to save ASE postage and printing costs; please send my *Kite* via email

I would like to donate an additional

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education
 Conservation
 Everglades Day
 Fundraising
 Other: _____

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Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (refreshments at 7) at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach. The public is welcome to attend.