



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 50, Number 2

November 2009

## CALENDAR

**Mon., Nov 2., 1:00 p.m.** Conservation meeting. Lantana county library, 4020 Lantana Rd., Lake Worth.

**Tues. Nov. 3. General Meeting.** Pine Jog.

**Wed., Nov. 4, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR, Boynton Beach.**

Meet at the Marsh Trail Parking Lot. Leader: Pat Canning

**Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Boynton Beach.** Jog Road, north of Lake Ida. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Linda Humphries

**Sat., Nov. 7 Tropical Audubon** invites you to Everglades NP. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National park at 7:30am. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch. Meet at Super Target, Boynton Beach and Hagen Ranch at 5:30 am if interested in car pooling. Call Linda (561-742-7791) if you have questions. Leader: John Boyd, TAS.

**Sat., Nov. 14, 11:00 a.m. J.D. McArthur Beach SP.** Estuary Walk, Meet at Entrance to McArthur Park, Kayak Launch. Leader: Leni Bane

**Mon., Nov. 16, 10:00 a.m.** Behind the scenes at Okeehchee Nature Center w/ Clive Pinnock. 7715 Forest Hill Blvd., WPB (west of Jog Rd.)

**Fri., Nov. 20, 4:00 p.m. Green Cay.** Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Leader: Valeri Brauer

**Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 a.m.** Join ARM Loxahatchee NWR's weekly walk. Leader: Pat Canning

**Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 a.m.** Join ARM Loxahatchee NWR's weekly walk. Leader: Pat Canning

**Sat., Nov. 28, 8:00 a.m. Green Cay.** Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Leader: Ben Kolstad

**Fri., Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m. Wakodahatchee.** Leader: Valeri Brauer

**Sat., Dec. 5, 1:00 p.m.** Join Tropical Audubon in Miami for South Florida Exotics Trip. Call Linda to carpool (561-742-7791). Leader: Paul Bithorn

**Sat., Dec. 5, 8:00 a.m. Okeehchee Nature Center.** Leader: Scott Scheinhaus

## General Meeting: "Daggerwing Nature Center" Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Our general meeting for November will feature a presentation about the Daggerwing Nature Center in Boca Raton. Our speaker will be Kelli Dorschel, manager of the center. Ms. Dorschel earned her undergraduate degree in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services from Central Michigan University and went on to earn her Masters degree in Environmental Education from Florida Atlantic University. For the past 6 years she has been with the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department working in their 3 nature centers. She currently manages Daggerwing Nature Center, located within South County Regional Park in western Boca Raton, where they provide education focused on swamp habitats to people of all ages. 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.

## Afternoon Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

### Love the Birds and the Bees? Learn About Natives, Please!

This month's speaker at our Gumbo Limbo afternoon meeting will be Suzanne Dingwell, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, President of the Palm Beach County Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, MA in ED. Suzanne took a trip last year with Wilderness Birding Adventures to Arctic Wildlife Refuge. She will speak to us about the importance of native plant gardening in south Florida.

## Silent Auction

To help raise operating funds, ASE will hold a silent auction at our December Holiday Dinner. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Paton White at 561-818-7574. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## President's Comments

*Linda Humphries*

We are so lucky to be living in Florida. Yes, sometimes the heat and humidity seem hard to deal with, but the wonder of nature all around us makes up for the discomfort. As I was leaving ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge I happened to glance up at a wire and saw a bird with something in its talons. As my mind quickly processed what I saw and I looked at the traffic on 441 I realized it was a snail kite with an apple snail. I backed the car up and parked. The next 10 minutes were fascinating as I watched the snail kite break off pieces of the shell and toss them aside until only the meat of the snail remained. He took four bites and it was gone. This was so exciting for me. I never ever expected to see a snail kite feeding. Mark Kiser, Florida Fish and Wildlife heads up the Great Florida Birding Trail and says "more people travel to Florida to see wildlife than any other US state." Mark states "Half of the 800 bird species in this country occur in Florida, at least sometime during the year. In fact, birders have spotted 504 bird species in Florida." I believe we are really fortunate to be able to go birding whenever we feel like it and see lots of great birds. On a recent trip to the Bahamas I saw a flock of fourteen Great Blue Herons. I never realized they migrated. I am discovering something new almost every day and it is really exciting. The painted buntings are back at Okeehchee Nature Center along with hummingbirds. Come on out and join our field trips and all the fun.

## **The Everglade Kite**

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 times a year.

### **President**

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### **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.

### **Bird of the Month: Peregrine Falcon**

The bird of the month for November is the **Peregrine Falcon**. Paddy Cunningham is going to do a special presentation this month on this special fast flying bird. More Peregrine Falcons migrate through the Florida Keys than anywhere else in the United States. Bring any pictures you might have and come join the fun!

### **Help!**

Normally Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) would mail you a donation request letter at this time of year. This year you will not receive the letter, not because ASE needs your support less, but because we are trying to reduce costs and save every penny! Not-for-profit organizations across the country have been negatively impacted by the economy and we are no exception. Your board is therefore asking for your support through the KITE so that every dollar donated can go to support our local conservation and educational programs. As you may know, grant funding has been reduced for our biggest project, Everglades Day; mailing costs have increased; our conservation efforts are growing; and we need the financial resources to fund the Pathfinder Scholarship Award, in-school projects, community outreach and our membership services, including the KITE. Some of you have helped this year by joining this local chapter and making a small donation at the same time. Each donation is appreciated and used to further our common cause. Your tax-deductible contribution at this time will allow ASE to maintain and develop essential projects. Please help!

Make your checks payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914.

Audubon Society of the Everglades, Inc. is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3). Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For your benefit and as required by law we state that Audubon Society of the Everglades, Inc. did not provide any goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, for this contribution. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling the Toll Free Number 800-435-7352 within the state. Our registration number is CH49523.

### **Science Fair Judges Needed**

Do you have a science background? Are you interested in what is happening in the science fields in middle or high school? Get involved by judging the Palm Beach County Science and Engineering Fair on December 9, 2009 held at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Training is provided that morning before judging.

ASE recruited ten VOLUNTEERS in the past to assist with judging. We would like to find more! Past judges found the science fair assigned projects based on your background and interest. "Very rewarding. Enlightening to see students so motivated by their projects." said judge Ralph Bacchus. For details and questions contact Susan Snyder 627-7829 roysue@bellsouth.net

### **TOGETHERGREEN GRANT A SUCCESS**

Bird and butterfly numbers have been declining in significant numbers. One cause is lack of native plants needed for food and shelter. ASE was fortunate to win a TogetherGreen grant last year to install an 800-native-plant landscape at FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

YOU can make a difference for the environment by taking a trip to Pine Jog to see this great garden and get ideas for your yard. With just small improvements you can provide seeds and berries for birds as well as nectar and larval plants for the butterflies.

The garden is designed to demonstrate the use of rain barrels to supplement watering. Pine Jog has several cisterns on site. The \$15,000 grant paid for the plants, signage, and an irrigation system for extreme dry periods. Over 300 volunteer hours went into the project. Workshops and an open house event drew 150 people. Pine Jog is open during

the week and Saturday until 2pm.

This project was supported by TogetherGreen, an Audubon program with funding from Toyota. Pat Welch of Pine Jog conceived the idea and Kristi Moyer of Pine Jog spent countless hours helping ASE bring it to fruition.

### **ASE thanks the following for help with the TogetherGreen project:**

Pat Welch, Kristi Moyer, Tracey Ritchie  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Atala Chapter Of N. American Butterfly Association  
South Florida Water Management District  
PBC Environmental Resources Management  
Mesozoic Landscapes Inc.  
Meadow Beauty Nursery  
Land Design South  
B. Ellis Enterprises Inc.  
Fast Signs  
Helpful Volunteers

## Trip Report: Birds of Grand Bahama

*Larry Manfredi*

On October 3 & 4 I led an Audubon Society of the Everglades group on a tour of Grand Bahama. We had a really nice group of six birders to enjoy the wonderful birdlife of the Bahamas. We left Port Everglades at 7:45 a.m. and had a wonderful ride on very calm seas. We saw a Northern Harrier about 5-miles out and two flocks of migrating Great Blue Herons. Once we arrived we went to an old golf course and saw a Black-necked Stilt, Least Grebe, Solitary Sandpiper and Blue-winged Teal. We had a Red-legged Thrush walking along the sidewalk of our hotel, even while it was still dark! There were several Western Spindalis seen and we had great looks at the local race of Yellow Warbler, they are not as bright yellow as some. The red streaking does not go down the belly as far as the mainland birds; excluding south Florida which has the same sub-species. We saw several Black-faced Grassquit, they can be kind of plain but are neat to see. It is always great to see any warbler on a wire, but it is really, really fun to see an endemic warbler such as a Bahama Yellowthroat on a wire! There were at least five calling Eastern Wood-Pewees as well as Cuban Pewees near a grove in the pinewoods. Several flocks of Bobolinks were also seen during the day.

The Olive-capped Warbler we saw has a very limited range only occurring on a few Bahama Islands and Cuba. You will see them in areas with the sub-species of Pine Warbler in the pinewoods. As soon as a male sings, the female will do a duet with him! Shortly after the Olive-capped Warblers Debbie who was sitting in the front seat said "what is that bird", I yelled Townsend's Warbler!! What was that bird doing over here? We found out there is at least one other record from Grand Bahama and from Grand Turk!! In the same spot we saw five Clay-colored Sparrows in a loose flock making this a great end to a wonderful trip. We had good views of most of the specialty birds including Thick-billed Vireo, Banaquit, several Cuban Emerald Hummingbirds, Greater Antillean Bullfinches, White Crowned Pigeons, lots of Smooth-billed Anis, and a Loggerhead Kingbird bird that gave everyone great views. We had 97-species with 23-species of warblers seen. Two big rarities Tropical Kingbird or Couch's Kingbird (still looking at the pictures) and Townsend's Warbler sure made it exciting. Thanks go to Audubon Society of Everglades for letting me lead the trip. A list of all the birds seen on the trip is posted on ASE's web site.

## Getting Out There...Riverbend Park

*Carol Keller Bass*

On our continuing journey of seeking adventure, my husband and I decided to check out Riverbend Park in Jupiter. We previewed the area a week or so before deciding to bring the kayaks. We walked the grounds and some of the trails, and liked what we saw immensely. As for me and my mental notes, I noted the water was moving with a fairly strong current. Okay....store that for later.

The day we chose to go was overcast. In the heat of the summer, it was a welcomed sight. We unloaded our gear and hauled it down to the water's edge, jumped in, and off we went. I was ready with my binoculars to see what nature had to offer. Having lived in this county since I was eight years old, I was a bit embarrassed to realize that I had never been to this park before. I asked myself why about a million times during that day.

We didn't get far before being greeted with the loud cry of an osprey protecting her nest from the paddlers below. She was communicating with her mate as his reply came from a short distance away. Their nest was truly a work of art. From our angle, we couldn't see the young they were protecting, but could certainly sense that was the case.

True to its name, the river bends....a lot! More than once we commented on being glad this was not our first venture out. At least we had a little experience under our belts with maneuvering our small vessels because we were put to the test. Even going down river, the water pushed us into the shore at times and in between roots just below the surface. We had already decided that we would not be taking the river to its end in Jonathan Dickinson. We would paddle for an hour or so and turn around. That stored mental note made a fast assent...turning around, paddling against current. Great.

At first I was disappointed that I could not see down into the murky water. It was my first fresh water venture. I quickly made the realization that I would trade off the often crystal

clear waters of salt water, where I can see as much below the surface as above it, with the very lush surroundings of fresh water. The sound alone of the water rushing around roots was enough to lull me. The cypress trees towered and provided cool shade. I was awestruck by their beauty. A limpkin barely looked up as my kayak seemed to have a will of its own as I tried to round a bend. We were almost nose to bill. Apple snails and mussels seemed to be in abundance and kept him quite occupied. Still, I reassured him I meant him no harm as I was having a hard enough time keeping myself afloat.

The first of two waterfalls quickly approached. It looked menacing to a first-timer. The people enjoying a breather on the surrounding dock advised me to just paddle through it. Okay, if you say so. I made it and thought, how will I get back up that thing? I'll deal with that later.

More paddling, more lush trees, turtles on the banks, limpkins munching away, and time to turn around....and time to deal with the waterfall. I hung back as my husband attempted to paddle up it. Then he decided to join me in taking the little dock and ramp instead. It was a good moment to grab some water and re-energize with a Clif bar.

The journey up-river began with a bang as my dear husband decided to give my kayak a nice swift push down the ramp almost tipping me over. Even through my scream, I could hear him say to the others that he would have never lived that one down. Oh, honey, you have no idea!

What a great sense of accomplishment we had when we finally passed under the bridge to the quieter water around the base camp. We were hot. Our arms ached. But we were proud of our efforts and all that we saw along our journey. Almost as a parting gift from the park, a wild peacock, whose song we had been hearing, bid us a fond farewell in the parking lot. Again....why haven't I been here before???

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
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**Articles NEEDED! Send to [ben@kolstad.com](mailto: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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education  
 Conservation  
 Everglades Day  
 Fundraising  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

C9ZE000Z

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.