



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 50, Number 5

February 2010

CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 3, 7:30 a.m. Okeehchee Park, West Palm Beach. Meet at Nature Center. Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa

Sat., Feb. 6, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. EVERGLADES DAY. Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers needed; call Sue at 561-627-7829

Fri., Feb. 12-15 Backyard Bird Count. For more information call Linda (561) 742-7791

Fri., Feb. 12, 8 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Jog Road between Lake Ida Road and Boynton Beach Blvd. Meet in parking lot. Leader Valeri Brauer

Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 a.m. Okeehchee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd., WPB, (1 mi W of Jog Road) Backyard Bird Count.

Sat., Feb. 13, 10 a.m. Wako-dahatchee Wetlands, Boynton Beach. Backyard Bird Count.

Thur., Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m. Boynton Inlet. Meet at playground/picnic area. Leader: Dorothy Brindle

Sat., Feb. 20, 7 a.m. STA/Belle Glade. Leader: Chuck Weber, Details TBD

Tue., Feb. 23, 4 p.m. Wako-dahatchee. Leader: Paton White/Linda Humphries

Sat., Feb. 27, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lecture Workshops, Pine Jog, WPB for more information, read the article in this newsletter, or contact Linda (561) 742-7791.

Sun., Feb. 28 Florida Bay boat trip. Birding on the mud flats and tidal pools in this vast shallow bay at the tip of Florida. Reservations required - space is limited - \$135/per person. For more information contact Claudine (561) 655-9779

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for the late posting of the web version; my computer died, and it took me some time to recover my work.

General Meeting, Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 7:30 p.m. "Critter and Habitats in Peril"

Our speaker for February's meeting is Ricardo Zambrano, a Regional Biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the South Region. Ricardo was born in Mexico City and grew up in San Diego, California. He has a BA in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution from the University of California, San Diego and an MS in Biology from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Zambrano has extensive experience as a wildlife biologist. He has radio-tracked coyotes in Yellowstone National Park's backcountry and spent three years in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula researching and conserving endangered sea turtles. His work as a Regional Biologist for the FWC concerns primarily endangered, threatened and declining species of nongame wildlife. He has been with FWC for the last 15 years. Ricardo is the vice-chair of the Sierra Club's Loxahatchee Group, a board member of the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, and an ex-council member of the Waterbird Society, which is an international body of scientists and conservationists dedicated to the research and conservation of seabirds, shorebirds, and wading birds.

Gumbo Limbo Meeting: South Florida's Marine and Freshwater Shells Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

In our continuing series of afternoon meetings in Boca Raton, Dr. Peggy Van Arman will be speaking on the marine and freshwater shells of south Florida, focusing specifically on the Everglades and the Apple Snail. Dr. VanArman conducted dissertation research on biology and ecology of crayfish in relation to Everglades restoration and is on the faculty at Palm Beach Atlantic University. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation. She actively participates in educational and applied environmental activities, such as Pathfinder Awards (science scholarship review panel), Envirothon, Science Fair judging, other scholarship selection committees, community service projects and sponsors a "Womens Issues in Science" study group. She has co-authored a case study review regarding Everglades restoration.

Dr. VanArman has been awarded the Directors Award for Environmental Contributions to the Community by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (2004), Charles and Hazel Corts Award for Outstanding Teaching by Palm Beach Atlantic University (2005) and the Conservation Co-heart Award by Grassy Waters Nature Preserve (2006).

Come join us for this exciting talk!

President's Column

Linda Humphries

The Everglades Day Festival is February 6, 2010. This year is extra special because the guest speakers are Clyde Butcher, photographer, and Kenn Kaufman, author of English and Spanish Bird books. They both will have two hours of speaking time and will spend the day at the festival. If you have never experienced the Everglades Day Festival come and enjoy the fun. It is definitely worthwhile and you get to experience one of earth's most valuable assets, "The Everglades".

I love to learn something new and feel that you are never too old to learn. I am hoping that you too would enjoy learning more about birds. Come spend Saturday morning, February 27, 2010 with us at Pine Jog. ASE is putting together a birding workshop. We will have 6 different presentations to choose from. Please support us and come join the fun. Thank you for all of your suggestions and comments. Please keep them coming!

The Everglade Kite

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

President

Linda Humphries 561-742-7791

1st Vice President

Cynthia Plockelmann 585-1278

2nd Vice President

Paton White 818-7574

Secretary

Marcella Munson 367-7689

Treasurer

Janet Schreiber 689-2530

Field Trips

Claudine Laabs 655-9779

Bird ID, Library

Gloria Hunter 585-7714

Conservation

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

Education

Susan Snyder 627-7829
roysue@bellsouth.net

Community Relations

Debbie Smith 967-4879

Publicity

Sheila Hollihan-Elliot 845-304-6988

Sales

Stella Rossi 732-4786

Hospitality

Judy Hill 585-1344

Kite, Webmaster

Ben Kolstad ben@kolstad.com

ASE on the Internet

<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

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.

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: Blue Jay

The bird of the month for February is our friendly neighborhood rascal, *Cyanocitta cristata*, the Blue Jay.

Rosa Durando Receives South Florida Water Management District Lifetime Environmental Advocate Award

Imagine Rosa (Cissy) Durando's surprise when she heard Carol Wehle, South Florida Water Management District Executive Director, at the podium announcing a special award to a "short lady who knows nothing about this!" Ms Wehle continued, "A couple of years ago SFWMD gave her an honorary parking spot at District headquarters. Tonight, I am pleased to present her with another acknowledgment of our admiration and appreciation for her lifetime dedication to environmental advocacy."

Rosa accepted a SFWMD Diamond award from Ms Wehle and received a beautiful bronze sculpture of a great blue heron taking wing with the inscription "Lifetime Environmental Advocate Award."

Receiving a standing ovation, Rosa expressed great appreciation for the award. Rosa explained later that she was inspired by Marjory Stoneman Douglas' River of Grass. In the late 60s she lobbied Congress for closure of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. President Nixon suspended the construction in 1971. After 40+ years of advocacy, Rosa promises continued vigilance and asks for more citizen support!

Below are edited comments taken from Ms Wehle's presentation.

Rosa is to be commended for her in-depth knowledge and passion to do the right thing. Rosa challenges officials and policy-makers to consider the environment in all decisions. For 25 years she has been a fixture at PBC Commission, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and South Florida Water Management District, helping to shape public policy on issues including statewide permitting rules and local land use criteria. Tough scrutiny has resulted in developers doing a better job in designing projects. Vigilance and attention to details motivates agency staff to do their job thoroughly and completely, wondering "Will it pass the Rosa test?" Successfully fighting for passage of a \$150 million bonding program for PBC land preservation is one of her proudest accomplishments.

Great Back Yard Bird Count February 12 – 15

Be A Part Of This Exciting Citizen Science Project

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent and in Hawaii. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

1. Plan to count birds on for 15 minutes on one or more days.
2. Count the greatest number of one species you see at a time.
3. When finished, enter your results on <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>

More info at: <http://gbbc.birdsource.org> <http://audubon.org/gbbc/index.shtml>
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKe0Kk3AaI8

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited.

ASE's Birding Workshop

When: February 27, 2010, 8:15 AM thru 1:00 PM

Where: Pine Jog Environmental Center

What: Pick and choose from 8 one hour birding presentations.

Schedule:

8:15-9:15 Clive Pinnock, Manager Okeehetee, "Birding Behaviors"

9:30-10:30 Paddy Cunningham, Professional Bird Guide, "Birding by Ear"

9:30-10:30 Claudine Labbs, Photographer: "Florida Birds"

10:45-11:45 Clive Pinnock, "Raptor Program", live birds

10:45-11:45 David Simpson, Professional Bird Guide: "E-bird"

12:00 am-1:00 pm Paddy Cunningham, Professional Bird Guide: "Birding Tips"

12:00 am -1:00 pm Rob Hopper "Birds and Plants"

Schedule subject to change—check www.auduboneverglades.com for details

Cost: \$25 for 4 sessions or \$9 a session

**1th Annual Everglades Day Festival
"Arts in the Everglades "**

Saturday Feb 6, 8am-4pm

**Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach**

In this official "Year of the Everglades", come visit and enjoy our precious heritage with trained guides and special tours, outdoor canoeing, presentations, and special art and nature events. Free, family friendly, and fun! As Florida begins rebuilding the "River of Grass", this Everglades Day experience will help people realize the importance of preserving the Everglades for all of our children to enjoy. The all-day fun filled lineup includes painting in the Everglades, and arts and craft workshops as well as presentations, art shows and ecology exhibits, programs with live animals, birds and reptiles along with a variety of nature walks. Hear special guest speaker Everglades photographer Clyde Butcher and presentations by birding guide author Kenn Kaufman. There will be bus trips out to a critical marsh area of the Everglades and special tours will also be available to the study areas set up by the South Florida Water Management District to assess the best practices for saving Palm Beach County's part of the Everglades. Don't forget to check out the food and live music. Includes free off-site parking and shuttle bus to events. Come join us!

****Tips For Success** Waterfowl Behavior**

Paddy Cunningham, Birding Adventures

Waterfowl are special local "snowbirds" adding a lot of color and birding excitement in the winter. In large concentrations of ducks such as you find at Merritt Island or S.T.A. 5 look for behavior clues to increase identification success. Ducks have VERY RAPID wing beats in comparison to other birds in flight. Dabbling ducks such American Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup and Blue-winged Teals feed on vegetation on the surface. Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers can be identified by a lot of splashing on the water surface when they are feeding on fish in groups. Mergansers will also disappear completely under the water like a Anhinga. Northern Pintails feed with their head under the water and tails in the air. Ruddy Ducks are stiff tailed ducks with large bills. For more information or questions contact me at birdpaddy@yahoo.com or check out my website www.birdadventure.com

Florida Bay Boat Ride with Capt. Pete

The Florida Bay boat ride is now scheduled for Sunday Feb. 28. This is a rare opportunity to go birding on the mud flats and tidal pools in this vast shallow bay at the tip of Florida. Reservations required - space is limited - \$135/ per person. Please call Claudine at 561-655-9779.

Christmas Bird Count

Chuck Weber, Compiler

Nearly 60 hardy birders, on 15 teams, ventured into the brisk outdoors Saturday, January 3, to take part in the annual West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count. A cold front had passed through the previous day, leaving morning temperatures in the 40's and a northwest breeze blowing 10 to 20 miles an hour—conditions not ideal for some smaller species, but certainly no wash out either. The day warmed and our counters persevered, producing a respectable list and decent numbers.

We had at least 132 species, with rulings to come on a couple more. This is just below last year's 136.

The most incredible sighting was a beautiful male Harlequin Duck, way out of its normal range. The spotters took photos to verify their find. Its appearance on a small freshwater pond is not typical, and the question is: Is this a wild bird or one which escaped someone's collection of waterfowl? We may never know for sure, but what a bird!

Another excellent sighting for our count was a Black-necked Stilt, seen at Green Cay Wetlands. Although common here in summer, Stilts almost all leave by winter, and there have been only two previous records on our count. Turns out this is likely one of several rehabilitated Stilts, recently released in the area. The bird will likely carry a special designation.

Summer Tanager was seen for only the sixth time on our count. And our spotters came up with a Bonaparte's Gull, difficult to find in recent years.

Although their numbers were still low, we at least had a few flocks of American Robin this year. We completely missed them last time. Many teams remarked about the incredibly low numbers of Fish Crow. And even the common warbler species, Palm and Yellow-rumped, were scarce in some areas of the count circle.

Thanks to all who participated and hung in there. You made this year's count a success.

Conservation Meeting

Lantana County Library

Monday, Feb 1, 2010, 1:00 PM

Audubon Society of the Everglades has started a monthly conservation meeting to discuss upcoming events and important public meetings being held within our local area. This is a one-hour informal discussion about upcoming issues so that we can be better informed.

The meeting is held at the county library in Lantana, 4020 Lantana Rd, Lake Worth. Come join the discussion! Call Linda at 561-742-7791 for more information.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL
33416-6914
Address Service Requested
Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 46
West Palm Beach, Florida

The *Everglade Kite* is published 10 times a year by Audubon Society of the Everglades, P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-6914. Also available on the web: www.auduboneverglades.org.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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: _____

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.