



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 3

December 2010

## CALENDAR

**Sat. Dec. 4, 7:30 a.m. ARM**

**Loxahatchee NWR, 10216 Lee Rd Boynton Bch.** Meet at Marsh Trail. Entry \$5 per car. Leader: Pat Canning

**Sat. Dec. 4, 1 p.m. South Florida Exotics with Tropical Audubon, Miami.** Meet at 1 p.m. at E parking lot of Baptist Hospital (8950 N Kendall Dr) Leader: Paul Bithorn

**Wed. Dec. 8, 4 p.m. Beginning Birdwalk, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Bch.** Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

**Sat. Dec. 11, Barley Barber Swamp.** There is a ½ hour bus ride to the Swamp. Call Linda 561-742-7791 before December 9 to register, space is limited. We will car pool or you can meet us at Seminole Inn, Indiantown at 6:45 am. Leader to be determined.

**Tues. Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. Peaceful Waters, 11700 Pierson Rd. Wellington.** Meet at beginning of boardwalk. Leader: Linda Humphries

**Sat. Dec. 18, 8 a.m. Okeehetee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, W. Palm Beach.** Meet on Porch. Leader: Scott Scheinhaus

**Sun. Dec. 19, 8 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Bch.** Meet outside Nature Center Main door. Leader: Valeri Brauer.

**Thurs. Dec. 30, 4 p.m. Evening Fly In, Wakodahatchee.** Meet as above. Leader: Paton White

**Sun. Jan. 2, 2011, Christmas Bird Count.** Coordinator: Chuck Weber.

## Program for Tuesday, December 7, 2010.

### Annual Holiday Pot Luck

*Becoming a Bird Seeker, 7:30 p.m.*

December's meeting is our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the food will be served at 6:30 p.m. Our annual holiday meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. People with last names that begin between A-K will bring desserts; L-Z will bring meat, salad, or veggies. Please bring ready-to-serve food, as we have no kitchen. We will supply the drinks. We have great items donated for our traditional chinese raffle. Come join in the fun—we look forward to seeing you.

Paddy Cunningham, a Florida native and professional naturalist, will present *Becoming a Bird Seeker* at the December 7 meeting. Paddy Cunningham has been a professional Naturalist in south Florida for more than 23 years. She served as the Naturalist Manger II of Fern Forest, Secret Woods, Arch Creek and Anne Kolb Nature Centers. One of her biggest impacts on south Florida has been the restoration of wetlands and hammocks to their natural conditions from the destruction of exotic plants. She is owner of Birding Adventures and coordinator of Broward's Everglades Birding Festival.

Paddy has enjoyed birding for over 40 years. Her specialty is showing beginning and intermediate birders how to become advanced birders. Paddy's slogan is "you learn through identification." The goal of her birding is not just finding birds but learning about them. "I am constantly overwhelmed by the beauty that nature shows us through birds" she says. Paddy feels birds are one of the easiest ways to connect people with nature. She encourages people to become a bird seeker and helps create a more intuitive experience.

During the program, she will share tips and strategies you can use to become a bird seeker. The program will take place at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 5:45 for the dinner, followed by the presentation.

### NEW FIELD TRIP FOR DECEMBER: BARLEY BARBER SWAMP

The famed Barley Barber Swamp on the grounds of FPL's Martin County Plant has reopened for public tours. (It had been closed since 9/11.) This famous 400-acre freshwater preserve a mile east of Lake Okeechobee and west of Indiantown is considered one of the finest remaining old-growth cypress swamps in Florida. It has one of the largest bald cypress trees in the United States.

A group of our Audubon members went out on opening day and had a great time. The habitat changes from cypress trees to live oak trees. It is a very beautiful walk. If you would like more information on Barley Barber Swamp go to [www.BarleyBarber.org](http://www.BarleyBarber.org).

We have made special arrangements to take you there on Saturday, Dec 11, 2010. Reservations are required by Barley Barber Swamp. There is a ½ hour bus ride to the Swamp. Call Linda 561-742-7791 before December 9 to register, space is limited. We will car pool or you can meet us at Seminole Inn, Indiantown at 6:45 am. Leader to be determined.

**Happy Holidays! There is no afternoon Gumbo Limbo program in December; they will resume in 2011.**

## 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

Alan Parmalee 498-0996

### Treasurer

Janet Schreiber 689-2530

### Field Trips

Claudine Laabs 655-9779

### Bird ID

Clive Pinnock 233-1400 x4

### Conservation

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

### Education

Susan Snyder 627-7829  
roysue@bellsouth.net

### Community Relations

Debbie Smith 967-4879

### Publicity

Sheila Hollihan-Elliott 845-304-6988

### Sales

Stella Rossi 732-4786

### Hospitality

Mary Lou Hall 553-0216

### Kite, Webmaster

Ben Kolstad 367-7689  
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: American Kestrel

*Falco sparverius* means Sparrowhawk in Latin, and that is indeed the former name of this month's featured bird, the American Kestrel. Come to our December meeting to learn more about this tiny raptor from our local expert, Clive Pinnock.

## President's Column

It was the coldest day of the fall and my grandchildren and I were outside having a water gun fight. We were dressed warm with raincoats and layers of clothes. We were hiding by the bird feeders as a cardinal flew in the nearby bushes. My grandson stopped what he was doing and watched it go to one of the feeders. He said to me "Grandma, this cardinal is a young one." I asked how he knew and he said "because he is not afraid of us." I liked the logic he used thinking about the bird and realizing young birds or animals, like our own children, are not afraid yet. They are born to be trusting. Unfortunately, as we all grow older, we lose that trust to survive.

I have continued my walks into the mangrove park searching for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Most of the time I don't seem to be able to find it. Yesterday I walked the whole loop and did not see it anywhere. As I was getting ready to get back on my bike, it dawned on me, what if I try going the opposite way around the walkway. I realize this is a no-brainer but I hate to admit, I never thought of it. I turned around and headed back in the opposite direction. As I came around a corner I saw a brown object on the ground near the boardwalk. Upon better observation it was a young yellow-crowned night heron. I had passed this way about 5 minutes earlier, but saw nothing. I continued another 50 feet down the walkway and there back in the trees the other side of the water was the adult yellow-crowned night heron. I realize changing directions is no new idea to most people but I honestly had never considered the possibility of seeing different birds by changing my usual pattern. Next time I am out birding and I have a little extra time I plan to try going in the opposite direction and see what new discoveries I make. Please continue with your suggestions and ideas. That is how we are able to add a new birding trip to our calendar. Come on out December 11 and see what Barley Barber Swap has to offer.

### From the Archives: December 1981 ASE President's Message

*[Editor's note: in our continuing series of historical articles from the Kite, here is ASE President Walt Gworek's appeal to ASE members in 1981 about the importance of conservation. Funding imperiled, the state suffering from droughts and beach erosion. It seems like the more things change, the more they stay the same...]*

As I begin writing this I am sitting in the Nov. 18th meeting of the Solid Waste Authority. This meeting will undoubtedly be like the last one—a room filled with citizens irate over a proposed resource recovery facility that may be located in the area of Century Village. I can't help but reflect not only on this problem, but on the multitude of other problems facing Palm Beach County and the state as a whole, problems that have come about from growth without any real consideration of the long-range consequences. Recent high tides have caused severe erosion of our beaches—only a hint of what will result when a major hurricane hits us. We have somehow survived a drought, but there is talk already of again restricting water use and concerns about how much water will be available next year. Yet not one community has initiated a serious water conservation program, and building permits are still being issued. On an almost daily basis we see Army Corps of Engineers and DER permit applications which will result in the filling and loss of wetlands—wetlands which serve as an invaluable part of the ecological scheme to cleanse water, recharge aquifers, and provide habitat for wildlife. The unfortunate aspect of all this is that it doesn't have to happen. There are ways of building and developing areas in a manner which is ecologically sound and will still provide a reasonable profit. My message is this: we need you to get involved with the issues! The choice is rather simple: do nothing, in which case you really can't complain; or do something by getting involved, learning about the issues and offering positive constructive input. The people have shown repeatedly that the environment is of major concern to them — et the administration seemingly disregards their concerns. One example is the Reagan-Gorsuch funding proposal for the EPA, which will cut its funding 59 to 64% in fiscal '82. The time is overdue for you as an Audubon member and for us as a group to organize ourselves into an effective force. I hope you'll find the time —because the time to get involved is NOW!

## Trip Report: Florida Keys Getaway, October 16–17

*Paddy Cunningham, Birding Adventures*

As the saying goes, you had to be there. I woke up on Monday to head to work and my mind floated back to the slowly lapping waves crashing across the rocky shore, the swaying rusty grass field with Key West on the horizon and a blinding blue sky with 400 Broad-winged Hawks spiraling upward in a single swirling kettle. Four hundred flew higher and higher, the Broad-winged Hawks would rise and then shoot out, spreading out against the cloudless expanse. Only to do it again right over our heads. Breathtaking. Awe-inspiring. The weekend could have been rain drenching and windswept with Hurricane Paula only 100 miles away. But our potential nightmare turned into a birder's dream, a late season fallout with heavy winds keeping the raptors still on the peninsula.

Our trip started out at the Card Sound Bridge with a bright flash of a Golden Cuban Yellow Warbler lighting close by for all to see. We lucked onto a great warbler flock with Prairie, Prothonotary, Palm, and Common Yellowthroat. The Yellow-throated Warbler with its black and white stripes, accented with shocking yellow, gleaned along the Green Buttonwood for close views. The surprise was a suspected rare Mourning Warbler seen along the Mangrove canal with a distinct gray throat and yellow under tail. Magnificent Frigatebirds flew overhead sharp angled, and long tailed.

At the Key Largo State Botanical Site we spooked a Chuck-will's Widow who darted down the tropical tree-lined shady trail. American Redstarts fanned their tails feeding on the ground and branches. A Mangrove Cuckoo was heard twice calling and made a shadowy brief appearance retreating to deep forest. Traveling south along US 1, we stopped to gawk at our first great kettle of 200 raptors including Northern Harrier, Broad-winged, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Turkey Vultures.

One of primary destinations was Curry Hammock State Park and the Hawk Watch International site. Newcomer Nick Campbell remarked on how the researchers were able exclaimed, "That's a first year Peregrine Falcon" seen at least a mile away. Paddy provided expert information on how flight patterns such as falcon's angled wings and rapid beats, distinguish them from the more boxy rectangle wings and flap, flap, glide of accipiters. While birding from the second story platform shade, a juvenile Bald Eagle and a rare Swainson's Hawk flew over.

Along the highway south a great stop at a mangrove pond produced a dancing Reddish Egret and 6 other

wading birds. It was also our best shorebird stop with Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover and Least Sandpiper. On Big Pine, Dorothy was great at spotting the tiny Key Deer and we saw 10, including a male with a full rack of antlers. On No Name Key, White-crowned Pigeons landed in a nearby snag and we also saw a Red-shouldered Hawk and Great-crested Flycatcher. A short hike in the refuge to the Blue Hole gave us great looks at a White-eyed Vireo which we had been hearing all day and Black-crowned Night Heron. All birders said "when", and we headed for a true Key West dining experience at the Half Shell for lots of seafood and the local scene. Dragging into the hotel Linda, Paton and I so tired we debated back and forth who would sleep on the pullout and laughed until we cried in seeing a spiral staircase to the second floor to the beds and bathrooms. A really great day, but the best was yet to come.

The morning arrived cool from the first front of the year, as we headed to Fort Zachary Taylor State Park. In the hammock a Hermit Thrush and Baltimore Oriole made a brief appearance. In the Australian Pines were lots of warblers in small flocks—Magnolia, Palm, Pine, Prairie, Black and White. A Broad-winged Hawk had spent the night in a close tree and was still sleeping with closed eye lids. We hit the mother lode in the back shrubs with Chestnut-sided warbler, Northern Parula, and the very rare Bay-breasted Warbler. Paton White's life Black-throated Green flew right over our heads landing very close with a little phish encouragement. Later another flock included a beautiful male Black-throated Blue Warbler and Ovenbird walking along a log. A beautiful mocha-colored Indigo Bunting proudly sat on a small bare shrub while our spectacle of Broad-winged Hawks swirled over our heads.

The weekend had an impressive 19 species of warblers in all, a good count for this late in the season. But it was the raptors that we had come to see and see them we did with more than 2,000 of 13 different species. The group saw a total of 90 species, with most of the group seeing close to 80. I have been to Cape May and Kiptopeke in October for Hawk migration and I can tell you I have never seen the number of raptors or a kettle of 400 birds of one species so close. It was overwhelming as you watched in amazement of the grandeur of nature. We certainly cannot recreate a hurricane for next year, but if this year is any indication, there are always wonderful things to see in the Keys. Don't miss it next year.

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33416-6914

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

Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

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](http://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](mailto:ben@kolstad.com) by the 15th 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 10 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter. Send your check, payable to ASE, along with this form to

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

#### National Audubon Society Membership

If 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 and check to

National Audubon Society Membership Center  
PO Box 422450  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Be sure to include the code **C9ZE000Z** with your application so NAS will know how to process your payment.

### 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 \$20       Senior (62+)/Student \$15  
 Household \$25     Patron \$50

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.