



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 4

January 2011

CALENDAR

- Sun. Jan. 2, 2011 Christmas Bird Count.** Coordinator: Chuck Weber.
- Fri. Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m. Green Cay. Night Walk.** Leader: Donald Campbell, \$3 per person, call Linda to register 561-742-7791
- Sat. Jan. 8 Birding trip to STA 5, Clewiston.** Call Linda to register 561-742-7791
- Mon. Jan. 10, 3 p.m. Beginning Bird Walk, Peaceful Waters.** 11700 Pierson Road, Wellington. Meet at boardwalk. Leaders: Paton White/Linda Humphries
- Wed. Jan. 12 8:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee.** 13026 Jog Road, Delray Beach. Meet at boardwalk. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
- Jan. 12 thru 17, Everglades Birding Festival.** www.birdadventure.com or call Paddy Cunningham 954-926-5458, for details
- Thurs. Jan. 13, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Key Biscayne/Crandon Park.** Shorebirds with Kevin Karlson, cost \$35+ registration. Call Paddy Cunningham 954-926-5458 to register. Space Limited.
- Sat. Jan. 15, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR.** \$5/car entry fee. Meet at Marsh Trail. Leader: Pat Canning
- Sat. Jan. 22 & Jan. 23, Ding Darling NWR, Sanibel. TRIP FULL.** Leader: Paton White 561-818-7574.
- Fri. Jan. 28, 4 p.m. Wakodahatchee.** Meet as above. Leader: Valeri Brauer
- Sat. Jan. 29, 8 a.m. Daggerwing Nature Center.** Boca Raton, S. County Regional Park, 11200 Park Access Rd, Leader: Kelli Dorschel
- Mon. Jan. 31, 7:30 a.m. SWA/Dyer Park, WPB.** Meet at Palmetto Trail Head, 45th and Jog Rd, Leader: Claudine Laabs

Program for Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Crises in Conservation—The Role of Flagship Species
Paul R. Reillo, Ph.D., Rare Species Conservatory Foundation
7:30 p.m.

Dr. Paul Reillo, founding director of the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF) will be the January speaker. The foundation is a 501(c) (3) wildlife conservation organization based in Loxahatchee. With a background in environmental engineering (B.A., Johns Hopkins) and ecological genetics (Ph.D., University of Maryland), Reillo has spent many years as a field-oriented research zoologist. Early in his career he traveled the world studying the genetics of terrestrial invertebrates and the role of natural selection in the evolution of color patterns and mating systems. Today he focuses on the demography and genetics of small populations of endangered wildlife, and develops restoration strategies for flagship species.

Reillo and colleagues at the RSFC have taken a practical, hands-on approach to biodiversity conservation, concentrating on endangered species that effectively leverage preservation of biodiversity-rich, tropical ecosystems. They forged a land deal on the island of Dominica to create the new Morne Diablotin National Park, home of Dominica's National Bird, the Sisserou parrot (*Amazona imperialis*). Comprising pristine elfin rainforests on the slopes of the highest volcanic peak in the eastern Caribbean, the new park was the world's first national park of the new millennium, and is one of the most significant biodiversity projects to be completed in the Caribbean in the past 25 years.

When asked why he abandoned academic research to pursue a career in wildlife conservation, he replied, "I simply couldn't continue esoteric, academic research on individual species, while all around me the forests and ecosystems they depended upon were vanishing." For more information, please see www.rarespecies.org

The program will take place at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 7:00; the meeting starts at 7:30.

**Afternoon Program, Gumbo Limbo
Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 2:00 p.m.**

Joy Puerta, Transportation Analyst with the City of Boca Raton Transportation Management Initiative will speak on bicycle paths and parks in Boca Raton.

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 Plockelman 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-Elliot 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.

President's Column

Happy New Year! I hope that your next year is full of joy and happiness. I also hope that you have the opportunity to find a couple of special birds you didn't expect to see. It has been over a month and I am still so excited thinking about the special birds I saw. I had left STA 5 in November with my birding friends. As we were headed to a spot that guaranteed Snail Kites, we started identifying the birds on the wires. I have never seen so many kestrels in my life. They were beautiful. As we continued our journey we saw shrikes, belted kingfisher and other birds. All of a sudden we came upon a new silhouette. Since I had a car of birders (my Michigan friends think I'm nuts) I did not hesitate to turn the car around and go back and check out the bird. To our wonderful surprise it turned out to be a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. I have seen them twice before but never with the beautiful peach color so predominant under the wings and tail. As we sat there a second Scissor-tailed Flycatcher came flying in and calling to the first bird. We finally left and found our Snail Kite, which we enjoyed watching too. On our way back we stopped again and the first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was still perched on the wire. We stayed a little while longer before reluctantly heading home. Seeing such beautiful and unexpected birds is such an exciting experience for me. I recently pondered why I like to bird, even taking out-of-town trips to areas I have visited before. My conclusion is that we know what beautiful birds we are most likely to see, but many times we are lucky to find a surprise bird. I also realized that birding trips for me are more than just about birds. They are a way to make new friends and a chance to see and enjoy old friends. Thanks again to all of you for your support and friendship. See you soon on one of our trips!

From the Archives: Results of the 1980 CBC

[Editor's note: History never repeats itself exactly, but we can hope, can't we?] NEW-TO-AREA BIRDS IN CHRISTMAS COUNT Fifty-three observers for the West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count spent 129 hours in the field. They observed from foot, car, boat, air-boat and canoe to total 154 species. Undoubtedly, the black rail, flushed by the airboat by Paul Sykes, was our best bird, as it was a first for the county and the Christmas Count records. Another new bird for our count -five jaegers on the ocean, seen by Allan U. King and William Matthews. An immature stripe-headed tanager, our second count sighting, by Brian Hope and Wally George, drew James Vardaman from Mississippi and Larry Peavler from Indiana by plane the next day. The location of the bird startled experienced observers as the area, west of 441, was several miles farther west than any other sighting of the stripe-headed tanager. Other good birds were a short-tailed hawk by Paul Sykes and Ann Ayers, an avocet and purple martins by Marge Eaton, Lee Wilson, Susan Craft, and Sonia and Steve Bollinger; a Wilson's and black-throated green warblers by Hope and George, two barn swallows by Sarah Schenck, a field sparrow by Gloria Hunter and Marge Plymire, a clay-colored sparrow by Al and Barbara Liberman, the Western sand-pipers by Hank McCall and Cecil Kilmer, a yellow-breasted chat by hpl and Tadziu Trotsky. Sadly, we saw during the count period, but not on our count day, the following species: magnificent frigatebird, Cooper's hawk, broad-winged hawk, short-billed dowitcher, Bonaparte's gull, western kingbird, empidonax, cedar waxwing and brown-headed cowbird. (H. Langridge)

Feather Wars Tour

JOIN Audubon Society of the Everglades for a guided tour of the exhibit 'Feather Wars: Surviving Fashion 1870-1920' tentatively scheduled on Jan. 12. This exhibit is now on display at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum. The hunting of wading birds for their feathers led to the formation of the Audubon Society. The museum is in downtown West Palm Beach and admission is free.

For further information and reservations contact Susan Snyder at 627-7829 OR roysue@bellsouth.net.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 18-21

The 14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count will take place next month. ASE will have 3 special field trips for anyone interested in participating as part of the chapter; you are also welcome to observe on your own and submit your data directly to the Cornell lab. For more information, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html>

Here is our trip schedule for the GBBC:

Sat. Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Wakodahatchee

Leader: Linda Humphries

Sun. Feb. 20, 8 a.m. Green Cay

Leader: Valeri Brauer

Mon. Feb. 21, 3:30 p.m. Peaceful Waters

Leader: Paton White

Panama Adventure

March 2-8, 2011

The isthmus of Panama has the reputation of the best rain forest birding in the world. We have planned a seven day/six night trip with daily field trips and luxury hotels for only \$1950. (round trip airfare included) Please call Claudine for more information (561)655-9779.

Bird of the Month

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius means Sparrowhawk in Latin, and that is indeed the former name of January's featured bird, the American Kestrel (we like this bird so much, it was December's BotM as well!). Come to our January meeting to learn more about this tiny raptor from our local expert, Clive Pinnock.

Everglades Day Preview

FOREVERGLADES

Mark February 12th on your calendar as ASE's signature event, EVERGLADES DAY, will again be held at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.



The focus will be on science and refuge management at ForeverGlades, the 12th annual Everglades Day. National Wildlife Refuges and

conservation agencies from around the state will be exhibiting and presenting. The lead event, weather permitting, is a live prescribed burn utilizing a helicopter and ground crews projected to start around noon. Natural area resource managers and wildlife biologists have adopted the use of frequent "prescribed fire" as a key tool to bring back the native vegetation and help wildlife that depends on fire-adapted Everglades habitat.



Fire managers at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge use a specially designed ignition device to start a prescribed burn in this northern Everglades ecosystem, protecting human communities from subsequent wildfire. The equipment ignites with propane, leaving no petroleum residue to adversely affect water quality and wildlife habitat. (USFWS, <http://www.fws.gov/fire/news/fl/newsitem2.shtml>)

Check the ASE website for program details later in January. Strazzulla tours will be in the morning only due to the prescribed burn. To volunteer, call Susan Snyder 627-7829 OR roysue@bellsouth.net.

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

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Articles NEEDED! Send to 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. 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.