



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 6

March 2011

## CALENDAR

**Fri. Mar. 4, 4 p.m. Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd.** Meet outside Nature Center Main door. Leader: Valeri Brauer

**Sat. Mar. 5, 9 a.m. Beginning Bird Walk, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach.** Meet at boardwalk entrance. Leader: Paton White/Linda Humphries

**Tues. Mar. 8, 8:30 a.m. John Prince Pk.** Meet at campground entrance. Park entrance is east off Congress Ave south of 6th Ave. Leader: Dorothy Brindle

**Sat. Mar. 12, 7 a.m. Riverbend Pk, 9060 Indiantown Rd, Jupiter.** Meet in main parking lot, near canoe rental trailer. Leader: Ed Kawecki

**Sat. Mar. 12, Tropical Audubon invites you to Everglades National Park.** Leader: John Boyd. \$10 entry per car.

**Wed. Mar. 16, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR, 10216 Lee Rd., Boynton Beach.** Meet at Marsh Trail. Leader: Pat Canning

**Sun. Mar. 20, 8 a.m. Everglades National Park, Spring Wildflower Walk.** Leader: Roger Hammer. Entry \$10 per car. Reservations required, \$45 fee includes book. Call (305) 247-1634. Sponsored by Tropical Audubon.

**Sun. Mar. 20, 8 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands.** Meet as above. Leader: Valeri Brauer

**Sat. Mar. 26, 8 a.m. Winding Waters, WPB. Dyer Blvd & Haverhill Rd.** Leader: Chuck Weber.

**Mon. Mar. 28, 10 a.m., Okeehetee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill BL, WPB.** Meet on porch for "Behind the Scenes" with Clive Pinnock.

**UPDATE: March Birding in Panama. trip rescheduled to May 12-18. New itinerary includes the highlands and a chance to visit nesting Resplendent Quetzals!** Contact Claudine Laabs for details (561) 655-9779

## Program for Tuesday, March 1, 2011

*Water Resource Issues*

*Ken Todd, PBC Water Resource Manager*

Ken Todd, Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager, will bring us a broad range of information on water resource issues affecting the county, as well as the latest updates on issues such as numeric nutrient criteria which are getting a lot of political attention.

A native Floridian, Ken was born and raised in West Palm Beach and has over thirty-five years engineering experience in Palm Beach County. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida where he also completed some graduate coursework in Public Works Engineering. Ken's favorite natural place in the county is Grassy Waters and the surrounding Catchment area.

In his career, Mr. Todd has worked as a design engineer and Project Manager for several engineering consulting firms, had a two-year stint as Assistant County Engineer for Martin County, and spent 11 years with the South Florida Water Management District as a Senior Supervising Engineer within the Regulatory Department. The last ten years Mr. Todd has spent working with Palm Beach County as the Water Resource Manager. In this position he has coordinated water resource efforts with county departments, as well as other government agencies. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Florida, as well as a Certified Floodplain Manager certified by the Board of Regents of the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

This promises to be a great time to learn more. Come prepared with your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.; refreshments are served beforehand, so come at 7:00!

Our final Gumbo Limbo meeting of the year was in February; there will be no March meeting. See you again next season!

## ANNUAL APPEAL

It's that time of the year again when we reach out to our membership for your help. By asking you for your donation through the *Kite*, instead of sending you a letter, we are saving paper, printing, and postage costs. Each donation is appreciated and allows us to continue our many projects throughout the year.

These include the support of our birding community and connecting people through the *Everglade Kite*, our monthly programs with speakers and live bird demonstrations, bird walks, bird workshops, community outreach events, the family-oriented free Everglades Day Annual Festival, and educational commitments such as funding the annual Pathfinder Scholarship award to a local high school senior.

Please consider increasing your annual pledge this year. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the involvement and support of our members in our work to protect the natural environment in Palm Beach County. Thank you all for your generosity and continued participation.

Janet Schreiber, Treasurer

## **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 (be sure to include your postal address so we can verify that we're removing the right person from our print mailing list). Thanks for helping us reduce our environmental impact and our printing/postage costs.

## **President's Column**

*Linda Humphries*

My father, who lived in Michigan, died unexpectedly the end of January. I am very sorry if I missed your phone calls inquiring about Audubon or one of our trips. My father loved birds and enjoyed watching them at his feeders. He would get excited when he saw something new and ask me what kind of bird it was. Friends of my family have contributed money to our chapter in memory of my father, Lewis C. Sutfin, Jr. Our chapter is using this money to purchase a PA system for our meetings and to continue to support our educational programs. My mother, who has Alzheimers, has moved down here with me. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and good wishes. I am very blessed to belong to such a great chapter and have so many wonderful friends.

Many people have served in the armed services throughout the years. I would like to share some little-known information. The Veterans Administration provides burial for the soldier and their spouse in a national cemetery. The VA pays for the burial, which includes the plot, the headstone, and a military service. They were a great help in my time of need. My Dad had left me a newspaper article about the "little-known secret." Thanks again to all of you for all the help and support you continue to give me.

### **2010 Christmas Bird Count Report**

It was, without a doubt, the best weather day West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count participants had experienced in several years. Sunday, January 2, saw warm temperatures in the 60s and 70s, and a lack of any significant wind. Our 59 counters on 15 teams took advantage, tallying 140 species—easily besting last year's 133, and our highest total in at least 4 years. We recorded 29,000 birds total, a nearly 50 percent increase over the previous year's number!

While our teams dug out a number of "good" species this year, the best find we owe to someone who did not participate in the count. Audrey Rotrock spotted 4 female Buffleheads on Lake Osborne, north of Lantana Road, while walking her dog in mid-December. She notified *Kite* editor (and count participant) Ben Kolstad. This duck species had never been seen on the West Palm Beach CBC. Dorothy Brindle, who heads the team covering the lake, looked for the birds prior to count day, but had no luck. On January 2, Brindle and her group visited the spot on the lake three times—again without success. Finally, Sally Clifton and Jennifer Maycan returned a fourth time and located the Buffleheads—a first for us, and one of only a handful of recorded sightings of this species in Palm Beach County.

Also noteworthy: Greater Scaup, this duck species reported for the first time since 1978; Lark Sparrow, making its first showing since 1989; and our number for the beautiful Hooded Merganser—growing to an astounding 390.

Not all was positive. Again this year, we struggled with some very common birds, logging just 4 Robins and 31 Fish Crows.

My thanks to: Dorothy Brindle for hosting the compilation, Linda Humphries for producing updated and emailable forms, Gloria Hunter and Marge Eaton for crunching the numbers, and to each and every participant for a fine effort in the field.

--Chuck Weber, compiler

### **EMAIL REQUEST**

Please send your email address, first and last name to hlindaase@aol.com. We have been listening to your suggestions and one of our members volunteered to finish completing our email notification list. We are going to be able to send you notices of last-minute changes in programs, bird walks, conservation issues, new birding areas, and other general information. We are also planning on putting information on facebook and creating a yahoo group that you can check for new information and respond to regarding birds, carpooling, conservation topics, etc. Our chapter is looking for new ways to share information with you and between members. We still need volunteers to help maintain these sites. Please contact me at 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com to volunteer and make this work.

## Chapter Fundraiser

Mark your calendar! March 9, 2011 the Audubon Society of the Everglades will benefit from the Artists Association of Jupiter's "Second Wednesday" gallery open house. From 5:30 to 7:30pm, A Unique Art Gallery and gallery neighbor, Unique Glass Art will host "Taking Flight." There will be raffles throughout the evening to raise money for Audubon programs, and the artists will also be donating a portion of their sales.

Founded by Susan Lorenti in June 2010, the Artists Association of Jupiter is a collaboration of artists who work together to promote the awareness of art and education to the community and surrounding counties. Its venue, A Unique Art Gallery, opened its doors on June 1.

Stroll between the two galleries, enjoy free refreshments

and some great fine art, and support the Audubon all at the same time at the "Second Wednesday" event. More than a dozen resident artists will be showcasing and selling their works in sculpture, etched glass, photography, original paintings, custom picture framing, and giclees.

A Unique Art Gallery and Unique Glass art are located at 226 Center St., one block west of Alt A1A, next to the Jupiter Ale House. Learn more about the organization, its artists and programs on the Association's website, [www.artistsassociationofjupiter.com](http://www.artistsassociationofjupiter.com).

For more information on this event call Susan Lorenti at (954) 588-7275 or Carolyn Austin at (561) 747-2024.

## Trip Report: Merritt Island

Our overnight trip to Viera Wetlands and Merritt Island on February 5 & 6 was a tremendous success. 20 Audubon members and friends made the two hour trip from Palm Beach County. While at Viera Wetlands, we saw over 50 species of birds and several basking alligators. The weather was a sunny, summer-like 85 degrees and very windy. Most of the birds and ducks stayed low. Our highlights were the Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks and many Limpkins. During the evening we met for a delicious dinner at Paul's Smokehouse where we had a view of the Indian River Lagoon and the Kennedy Space Center lit up at night. The following day we met with our guide, Jason Frederick, former president of the Space Coast Audubon Society. The weather had changed and we ventured out to Merritt Island in a downpour. The rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm as we drove out to Bio Lab Rd, two times. We came upon several White Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, Red Egrets, Woodstorks, Sanderlings, Dunlins and Willets. Some of our highlights were the Scrub Jay and an up-close, perched Bald Eagle. The complete list of 69 species seen is available at [www.auduboneverglades.org](http://www.auduboneverglades.org).

## The Tree Zoo

Google the Deerfield Beach Arboretum and 'tree zoo' comes up. If a zoo is a place to see different animals why can't an arboretum be a place to view different types of trees and palms? Jerry Behan, president of the Friends of Deerfield Arboretum, shared his 'tree zoo' knowledge at ASE'S February south county program held at Gumbo Limbo.

This ten-acre arboretum has a cross section of plants and is a cooperative effort between the Friends and the city of Deerfield Beach. It is home to more than 200 different species of trees and palms from five continents. Currently a rain forest is being built. Webster's dictionary defines an arboretum as "a botanical garden for scientific, educational or decorative purposes". This one is located at 2841 W. Hillsboro Blvd. in Constitution Park. Don't miss it!

## Bird of the Month: Fish Crow

Loosely translated, *Corvus ossifragus* means "bone-breaking crow" in Latin. Smaller than American Crow, Fish Crow is a very common and gregarious resident species in marshes and river lowlands in the southeast; curiously, it is replaced by American Crow in the Everglades. Come to our March meeting to learn more about this intelligent and engaging corvid.

## 25 Years Ago This Month

In our continuing series that might well be titled "The More Things Change, ..." (remember all the fuss about beach erosion a couple of winters ago?) here are selections from the Conservation Report that ran in the *Everglade Kite* back in March 1986:

The Boca City Councilmen and Mayor adopted an approval of the concept of our county-wide Wilderness Island Coalition. That brings them in step with the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We consider this as a continuing crack in the door to the possible saving of part of the Yamato Pine Scrub area Negotiations, involvement of an attorney, the county, some prominent people, Treasure Coast, etc. are planned. [Editor's note: In 2011, this site is well known as Yamato Scrub, part of ERM's Natural Areas program. Our conservation efforts succeeded!]

[...]

On February 19 there was a Beach Erosion Symposium. It had a most peculiar make-up of public servant and private industry guest speakers. One thing they all had in common was their advocating off-shore dredging to renourish beaches. I personally found it disturbing to see publicly appointed state, county and city staffers appearing with private industry that stands to realize direct economic benefit from the program.

There was no one there to present the "rest of the story." A very small minority challenged the panelists with good questions and statements. The majority, though, were uninformed about all the ramifications and naively thought "let's do it and the problems, real or imagined, will be solved by public bucks." The creation of yet another appointed totalitarian taxing district plus whose beach would be the high priority one selected, were problems glossed over.

An example of the misinformation that was supported at this beach erosion prevention meeting: a petition was circulated by some present to Save Our Australian Pines on the "tight little island." Darned if the majority didn't sign it! Because Florida's population is always renewing itself, we have to keep delivering the same message, year in and year out. Our natural resources are not infinite; only our desire to consume them seems to be.

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](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.