



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 8

May/June 2011

CALENDAR

Tues., May 3. General Meeting. Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, West Palm Beach.

Sat. May 7, 7:30 a.m. Riverbend Park, 9060 Indiantown Rd, Jupiter. Meet at south end of main parking lot, near canoe rental trailer. Leader: Chuck Weber

Sat. May 7, 8 a.m. JW Corbett WMA Buggy Ride. Leader: Michael Baranski. Coordinator Linda (561) 742-7791

Sat. May 14, 6 a.m., Blue Cypress Lake. Enjoy a two-hour morning tour of this pristine lake that boasts the highest concentration of nesting ospreys in the world. \$40. p/p. For reservations call Paton (561)818-7574

Sat. May 14, Spring Migration Count. Contact Cynthia Plockelman (561) 585-1278

Sun. May 15, 6 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Linda Humphries

Tues., Jun 7. General Meeting. Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, West Palm Beach.

Tues. Jun. 14, 8 a.m., Wakodahatchee. Meet as above. Leaders: Paton White/Linda Humphries

Update re Paperless Kite

Many thanks to those of you who responded to last month's appeal to switch over to electronic delivery of the *Kite*. Please call Paton White 561-818-7574, or send Linda Humphries an email hlindaase@aol.com to let us know if you choose to receive an electronic copy of the *Kite* or if you need to continue with a paper version (we understand not everyone has a computer). Remember: If you are a local member of our chapter, you will automatically get the paper version without needing to contact us.

Program for Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Conservation Gardening

ASE's May program features Robert F. Hopper speaking on Conservation Gardening, a topic that we all will find beneficial to ourselves and our earth. Rob held a Landscape Design workshop at ASE's TogetherGreen open house for the native plant landscape here at Pine Jog. Anyone who has been to Robert's programs knows they are interesting and informative!

Currently Rob works for the South Florida Water Management District as a senior environmental analyst focusing on wetland and development issues. He has a Bachelor degree in Plant Science from Cornell University and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Over the years he has been a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, written travel guides to southeast Asia, been an environmental consultant in the private sector and has even sold ice cream at Disney World! An enthusiastic supporter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Rob designed the Mounts Botanical Garden Native Plant Display which won First Place at the state level. Rob serves on the advisory board of the South Florida Environmental Art Project and enjoys designing native landscapes. Lately Rob has become interested in birding and developing his birding skills. Hooray, Rob!

Program for Tuesday, June 7

Everglades Then and Now: Implications for Restoration

Christopher McVoy - author - scientist - speaker of five languages- will share his knowledge of the historic Everglades at the June general meeting. Learn how he researched and formulated the frameworks for his forthcoming book, *Landscapes and Hydrology of the Predrainage Everglades*. Go back in time with him to see the Everglades as it was and find out the implications for restoration that time, canals, reengineering and development will have. Rosa Durando notes, "Chris is highly qualified in wetlands restoration. His fascination with the Everglades, as well as the possibilities and challenges of restoration, led him to write this book. I look forward to reading it."

Christopher's parents, environmental advocates, were a great influence on him. In 1996 he came to Florida with the Environmental Defense Fund to research and advocate for the Everglades. He has been at South Florida Water Management District for ten years, currently as a Senior Environmental Analyst for Watershed Management/Everglades Division. Christopher received a B.A from Cornell University, M.S. from University of Florida, and Ph.D. in 1994 from Cornell and has been recipient of MacArthur and Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation grants. In 2010 Christopher was elected a Lake Worth City Commissioner. In his spare time he finds time to bike and kayak. *Landscapes and Hydrology of the Predrainage Everglades* will be sold at the meeting

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

Trip Report: Gumbo Limbo/Deerfield Island Hike, April 10, 2011

With such a beautiful day and clear skies, I guess we were just too early for the early spring migrants. But our local residents, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Northern Cardinals were in full breeding song, finding mates and setting up territories. Ten people from both Audubon of the Everglades and South Florida Audubon Society met at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton for a hike through their beautiful coastal strand hammock. It started out great when under closer inspection (thanks Israel for the excellent shot) a Black-whiskered Vireo was seen feeding in, you guessed it a Gumbo Limbo tree. A walk through the hammock was pretty quiet but we did see a Prairie Warbler. We observed a pair of Red-bellied

Woodpeckers mating and one pair cleaning out their new house in a dead Sabal Palm. The butterfly garden was beautiful, with many species of butterflies to see including Monarch, various sulphurs, hairstreaks and more. We arrived right on time to catch the boat to Deerfield Island. On the mangrove trail we had close views of a Blue-headed Vireo and the brilliant orange and black flash of an American Redstart. Flocks of Gray Catbirds were feeding in Strangler Figs getting ready to head north. Everyone seemed to enjoy that island feeling, despite not finding the recently fledged Great Horned Owls.

Leader-Paddy Cunningham

The Everglade Kite

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

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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. (Note: beginning in October, you will need to "opt in" to receive the paper version, so going electronic now will put you ahead of the curve!) Thanks for helping us reduce our environmental impact and our printing/postage costs.

President's Column

Linda Humphries

We the people do have the power to prevent things from happening! Rosa (Cissie) Durando keeps telling us that even if you can't attend the meetings that are scheduled to talk about water, rock mining, and many other important issues, we should call and write letters. Well, she is right! Recently there was a proposal from Senator John Thrasher and State Republican Patrick Rooney Jr. to improve tourism by having Jack Nicklaus build golf courses in five state parks. He wanted to put one in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Martin County, and was going to waive his \$2.5 million design fee. It was also suggested that hotels might be built there too. The taxpayers were going to underwrite this idea by issuing bonds. It has been reported that the public outcry was overwhelming. Thousands of people contacted their legislature and said no. It has been rumored that this idea is not dead but may get attached to some obscure bill in the future. We can hope that the legislature would remember the outcry and not go against public opinion. We the people do have a vote next election.

Audubon International is still promoting this idea even though the bill has been withdrawn. It is important to understand that Audubon International has no association with National Audubon or the local Audubon chapters in Florida. Audubon International is a non-profit organization that helps golf courses become a part of the conservation landscape. They advise and certify golf courses to become eco-friendly. They are often mistaken as belonging to National Audubon, but there is no connection between the two organizations.

We do make a difference. The legislature does listen. We need to unite like this on many different issues. If rock mining prevails in the EAA, our future generations will be in trouble with water quantity and quality. We need to write letters and call our commissioners. This is a very important issue for Palm Beach County and it needs us, the people, to call and tell the commissioners no more rock mining permits, now or in the future!

Letter of Thanks from National Audubon

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your efforts in opposing the draconian cuts to core conservation funding that were proposed in the House Continuing Resolution (CR). Your efforts and an unprecedented outpouring of support from 322 Audubon chapters helped to ensure that funding for many critical conservation programs was restored, if not to fully funded levels, to levels far preferable to those proposed in the original House CR.

Just last night [April 14], the Senate passed the final FY11 CR that will fund the federal government through the end of September. The funding deal passed the Senate on a bipartisan 81-to-19 vote, hours after the House passed it on a 260-to-167 vote. President Obama will sign the funding measure into law by midnight tonight.

Some funding levels of particular interest to Audubon:

State Wildlife Grants: \$63 million

Land and Water Conservation Fund: \$301 million

North American Wetlands Conservation Act: \$37.5 million

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act: \$4 million

While each of these funding levels represents a cut from FY10 funding, across the board this represents a major step forward from what was originally proposed in the House-passed CR. For example, SWG and NAWCA were zeroed out in the House-passed CR, and LWCF had faced a 90% cut.

The CR also was stripped of controversial policy riders that would have undermined EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases.

The final CR comes immediately on the heels of a victory for Audubon and the broader environmental community on several Senate votes on Clean Air Act authority. Despite four amendments being offered that would have undermined EPA authority, all four of the amendments failed, and in the process the Administration clarified its intent to veto legislation that would undermine EPA.

Thank you to you all for your assistance on these critical fights and for your efforts on behalf on conservation.

Mike Daulton, VP Government Relations, National Audubon

WE DID IT!

Linda Humphries

Your chapter finally entered the modern age of communication thru computers. I have been promising you that we would be able to send your email account announcements and notify you of changes in events, important conservation information, or rare birds seen in our area. This has finally become a reality thanks to a volunteer who organized our email lists. We are using a program called "Constant Contact" to send you these announcements. By the time you read this many of you will have already received a message from us. You can unsubscribe at any time if you do not want to hear from us by clicking on the unsubscribe link on the page. We have created 3 categories for these announcements and we would like you to choose which of the categories interest you. You can sign up for General (automatic), and/or Birds, and/or Conservation. Please notify me if you want any other category besides general. There are so many different templates to pick from to send out our information. Does anyone have time to volunteer and help us post our information? Please contact me.

We have more good news! My volunteer helped our chapter develop a bird group on yahoo.com. You sign up with yahoo and then check the listed categories at the very bottom of the page where it says "groups". You type in any combination of Audubon everglade to find our group name, click on the name, and you can participate with our group discussions. We are hoping you will post recent bird sightings, rare birds you've seen or that are posted on other websites (some of us may miss them), photos, special areas you like to bird, or anything else pertaining to birds. You can also chat with each other on this group site. I am so excited it finally happened. Please check it out often. We will also post changes in our schedule on this site. When you join the group you have the option to select: individual emails, daily digest, special notices, or no email. These choices help make the group information enjoyable to you.

The last area we are trying to put together is a facebook page. This is in process but not ready to go yet. We need a volunteer to help us maintain facebook. Please contact me if you can help! Linda Humphries, hlindaase@aol.com or 561-742-7791. We hope these new additions add to your enjoyment of our chapter. Please contact me thru email if you want to join the fun and add your email address to our accounts!

Obituary

John Mitchell, former ASE board member, died April 8, 2011. John was an avid birder and particularly loved Wakodahatchee. John was ASE's first webmaster and initiated ASE's transition to the computer age. He also organized Everglades National Park bus trips. He is survived by his wife Marthanne and sons Warren and Hazen. The chapter extends its sympathy to his family. John studied at MIT and U. of Kentucky. He worked as an engineer for Pratt Whitney, Teledyne Technologies and Kentucky Energy Cabinet. He was proud to have been a decorated Viet Nam veteran. Following retirement to Texas, John and Marthanne traveled North America by RV, visiting family, friends and birding in special places including their favorite, an RV BIRDING caravan tour to Mexico.

The family requested that expressions of sympathy be made through donations to the Audubon Society of the Everglades. ASE thanks John and family for remembering the chapter. Donations will be used for education and to purchase books for ASE's Ornithological collection at the Summit Library.

SUMMER BIRDING

Paddy Cunningham

Although the summer heat can drag you down and the spring migration has sadly passed, don't fret: go looking for summer birds! This time of year brings it own specialties.

GRAY KINGBIRD is a great target species and one bird many come searching for here in south Florida. But don't look in hammocks; head instead to the shopping parking lots and urban areas, especially closer to the coast. They are usually found on telephone wires and have kind of a rolling chirping sound. They are distinguished from Eastern Kingbirds (who have already headed north) by a thicker bill, dark mask, bigger looking head and no white on the tail.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK is usually seen at dusk, look for a darting behavior with deep wing beats. It has a white patch on the wings. Its nasal *preent* can be heard over and over at dusk and into the night. It is in the group of goatsuckers and nightjars, so I call it a large vacuum cleaner catching lots of insects with an open mouth and bat-like flight and precision. The rarer ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK can be found down in the keys, especially Marathon airport, but it can be difficult to distinguish the two without hearing the difference in calls.

LEAST TERN is the smallest tern on earth and can be seen flying over canals and lakes searching for small fish. I say terns go to work flying with great determination, more in a straight line, hovering and diving for fish. Gulls go to the beach and do a lot more flapping around. Another great place to look for this bird is Wakodahatchee, where it nests. Look closely for the white on the forehead on this elegant bird.

SWALLOWS: The brilliant rusty orange belly against a shiny indigo back, with a deep forked tail, can only be our wonderful summer guest, Barn Swallow. Summer is an excellent time to see our best variety of swallows. Rough-winged with its buff belly and brownish back can be distinguished by its quick, not complete bringing in of its wings. Bank Swallow, which is not very common, has a large band around its neck. These can sometimes be seen together in flocks and sitting on wires for close comparison. Tree Swallows if they are still around have a solid white breast. In August, the Duda Farms trip or a stop at the Belle Glades Marina can be great for spotting these F-13's of the sky.

Try to stay cool! Need for information or questions about birding in the area contact me at birdpaddy@yahoo.com or check out my website at www.birdadventure.com

Bird of the Month for May

American Bittern

Botaurus lentiginosus is the bird of the month for May. This shy wetlands bird has the most unusual call; find it online: try Cornell's "All About Birds" website, and give a listen! Those of you reading this electronically can just click the link above. You have signed up for the electronic *Kite*, right?

Bird of the Month for June

Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna is June's featured bird, more commonly known as Eastern Meadowlark. Anyone who's been to the interior grasslands of Florida has seen this beautiful bird, or at least heard its beautiful song. Come to our June meeting to learn more about it!

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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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 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.