CALANDER
Sat. Feb 4, 4:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Road, Delray Beach. EVENING FLY IN. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
Sat. Feb 4 & 5 Viera Wetlands/Merritt Island. Contact Valleri Brauer 561-969-0908 to register.
Sat. Feb 4 STA 1E (tour filled)
Tues. Feb 7, 4:30 p.m. BEGINNING BIRD WALK. Peaceful Waters, Wellington. SE corner of Village Park Road, 11700 Pierson Road. Meet at beginning of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White
Wed. Feb 8, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Trail. Entry $5 per car
Sat. Feb 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everglades Day, ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Free!
Sun. Feb 12, 10:00 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Bch. CHILDREN'S BEGINNING BIRDWALK (8 and above). Meet outside Nature Center Main Door. Leader: Linda Humphries
Fri. Feb 17, 8:30 a.m. Green Cay, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Meet as above. Leader: Linda Humphries
Sat. Feb 18, 3:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer
Sun. Feb 19, 8:00 a.m. Wellington Environmental Preserve CANCELLED
Sun, Feb 19, STA 1E Photography Tour (filled)
Mon. Feb 20, 3:30 p.m. Peaceful Waters, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Meet as above. Leader: Paton White
Sat. Feb 25, 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. BIRDING WORKSHOP (lectures: birds, photos, walks) Contact Paton White to register 561-818-7574. See website for more details.
Sun, Feb 26, 8:00 a.m. DuPuis Management Area, State Road 76 (3 miles east of Port Mayaca). Meet at entrance Gate 1. Leader: Chuck Weber
Wed. Feb 29, 8:00 a.m. Peaceful Waters, BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY 101. Meet as above. Leader: Don Mullaney
Thur. Mar 8, Barley Barber Swamp EVENING TOUR. Preregistration req'd; call Linda 561-742-7791 to reserve. Space limited.

Program for Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Everglades Restoration: A Progress Report in Times of Economic Uncertainty
Dr. Nicholas G. Aumen, Everglades Restoration Team

Join us as Nick provides an update about current events in Everglades restoration, including the new Central Everglades Planning Project and the impact of recent budget cuts across all agencies.

Nick Aumen is an aquatic ecologist for Everglades National Park (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service), and oversees an interagency team of scientists and engineers tracking the progress of the south Florida ecosystem restoration program. His team, located at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, assesses the potential impacts of restoration programs on Everglades National Park and other sensitive federal lands.

Formerly, Nick was the Research Director at the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach, directing a team of 120-plus scientists and engineers conducting research in support of ecosystem restoration. Nick received his B.S. and M.S. in biology at the University of West Florida, and his Ph.D. in microbial ecology at Oregon State University. After finishing his Ph.D., he took a faculty position in biology at the University of Mississippi, and was a tenured Associate Professor of Biology until 1991, when he returned to Florida.

Nick is presently an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Nick serves on the Executive Committee of the Interamerican Water Resources Network and is a past officer on the national board of Sierra Club.

STA 1E
Linda Humphries

I am pleased to inform you that Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) and South Florida Water Management have entered into an agreement to lead guided auto tours in Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East (on Flying Cow Rd near Southern Blvd). The first trip was January 7 and was a success. Over ten species of ducks, the usual wading birds, eight raptors, and many other birds were seen by our group. (See our website for a complete list of the birds seen.) ASE will be leading birding tours throughout the year on the first Saturday of each month. A second tour for photographers is scheduled thru April. Many articles were put in the Palm Beach Post and Sun-Sentinel informing the public of this new adventure. On Saturday, January 13, a wonderful article appeared that has left me stunned and almost speechless (talking too much). The public showed and told me how much they enjoy birds and appreciate a new birding tour. Some of the people had been on the old tour over four years ago and were thrilled STA 1E tours were finally being offered again. By 10:30 am Saturday morning the February 4 tour was full. As of January 14 2012 all the tour dates through the end of April are filled.

We will be offering tours from May thru December, the first Saturday of each month. There are usually not as many birds around during the summer months. We have no idea what we will find. In addition, on November 18 and December 16 there will be a photography trip.

The tours are limited to 40 people. Reservations are required. Call Linda 561-742-7791 or email hlindaase@aol.com. Thanks to you, the public, for your terrific response and thank you to South Florida Water Management for allowing the guided tours. The tours are free and open to the public. Come join the fun!
**Birding in Panama – March 7–13, 2012**

Panama has the reputation of the best rainforest birding in the world (according to Kenn Kaufman and Ron Magill) so we have planned a seven day, six night adventure: three days in the rainforest and three days in the highlands with deluxe accommodations.

**Day 1** Depart Miami airport – arrive in Panama City and transfer to Gamboa Rainforest Resort half way up the Panama Canal.

**Day 2** Boat ride and birding in the Panama Canal

**Day 3** Aerial tram ride

**Day 4** Transfer to Albrook airport, fly to David, transfer to Volcan at approx. 4500 ft. (Hotel Dos Rios)

**Day 5** Birding in the cloud forest to see Resplendent Quetzals

**Day 6** Visit Barriles archeological site

**Day 7** Return to Miami

Cost $2400 p/p double occupancy. Call Claudine for more information 655-9779

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**The Everglade Kite**

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

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**Library**

Anne Hoctar  601-8007

**Conservation**

Rosa (Cissie) Durando  965-2420

**Education**

Susan Snyder  627-7829

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**Christmas Bird Count**

Chuck Weber, Compiler

I’ll be going through the teams lists for awhile to come, but can safely declare this year’s West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count a success. Saturday, December 31, more than 60 participants on 16 teams fanned out through our count circle, recording a preliminary total of 146 species. That’s about 5 more than last year, and the most in several years.

We had two firsts this year: Piping Plover (3) and Cave Swallow (2). Both species had been seen during previous count weeks, but never on the actual count day. Andrew Knaefl found the Plovers prior to the count, and they were relocated Saturday on the beach more than a mile north of Lake Worth Beach. Andrew and Brian Hope had the Cave Swallows at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Significant numbers so far include an astounding 200-plus Lesser Black-backed Gulls. This species was only first seen on our count in 2004. Also incredible—for the second year in a row, more than 300 Hooded Mergansers congregated on a pond inside a gated community.

The Piping Plovers brought us to an impressive 16 shorebird species. The healthier Lake Worth Lagoon is likely responsible for the now almost regular appearances of American Oystercatcher, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher.

We registered 14 warbler species—pretty typical. The highlights: Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue.

Again this year, Fish Crow numbers are way down. And we barely got American Robin and American Goldfinch.

And while it appears we had disappointing misses such as Snail Kite, and Sandwich and Forster’s Terns, we logged a number of species that can be difficult. Species like... Common Loon, Northern Gannet, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Virginia Rail, American Bittern, Willet, Western Sandpiper, Bonaparte’s Gull, Least Flycatcher, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, and Baltimore and Spot-breasted Orioles. We also got all four of our owl species including some decent numbers, thanks to the special effort of our pre-dawn owling teams.

I credit the hard work and dedication of our teams, and the wonderful weather day we enjoyed. Yes, it got a little warm and activity slowed late morning, but we had almost no wind and no rain!

Thanks to our team leaders, each count participant, and those who help with specific tasks and planning. Great job everyone!!
Everglades Day 2012
Saturday February 11, 2012
8am–4pm rain or shine

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach

13th Annual Everglades Day Festival—“Mysteries of the Everglades”
Science, Literature, Historical, Water, Plant & Animal Mysteries!

This year we are focusing our speaker presentations and guided activities on mysteries within the Everglades or about the Everglades. All presenters, guides and educators will give their programs in the form of a question to raise curiosity.

Most exciting, we have just confirmed that James Currie, producer and star of the TV Series “Birding Adventures” will present in the indoor theater at 1pm. If you’ve watched his show or heard him speak, you know that this is a treat not to be missed!

There will also be a panel discussion, “MYSTERIES IN THE EVERGLADES,” sponsored by Murder On the Beach Bookstore in Delray Beach. Confirmed authors to date are Jonathan King and Eliot Kleinberg.

Others on the Everglades Day program include
- Lance Warley—photographer
- Dr. Laura Brandt—Alligators
- John Lopinot—Everglades Photography
- Dr. Michelle Williams—Archaeology
- Roadside Revue—Music
- Live Animal presentations by the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and Palm Beach Zoo

and much much more!

Come join us and wear your walking shoes for this free family fun and educational outdoor festival!

Visit the ASE web site often as we post more details about Sat Feb 11 Everglades Day 2012.

PAPER COPY OF THE KITE

ASE has converted your Kite subscription list from paper delivery to electronic delivery (email) because of the monthly expense. If you are a CHAPTER MEMBER OF ASE you are receiving your copy in the form (email or paper) as you requested and do not need to contact us. If you are a NATIONAL MEMBER and want to continue to get your Kite (email or paper) and have not already contacted us, you must contact Paton White (561-818-7574/patonrwhite@aol.com). You will always be able to read the Kite on our website, www.auduboneverglades.org

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON?

We are delighted to have you as a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades as well. We hope you will join us at our meetings and trips. If you wish to continue to get the Kite, please contact Paton White and let her know if you prefer to receive your Kite by mail or by email. Paton White 561-818-7574, patonrwhite@aol.com.

Birding Workshop presented by Audubon Society of the Everglades
Saturday, February 25, 8:15 AM–12:30 PM
Pine Jog Environmental Center, 301 Summit Boulevard (corner of Summit Blvd. & Jog Road)

Cost: $30 for the day/$25 with pre-registration. Individual classes: one hour classes are $12; Birding by Ear with Paddy is $15, and Bird Behavior with Clive is $20. Space is limited. Call Paton 561-818-7574 to pre-register or email Paton at patonrwhite@aol.com.

8:15–8:45 Registration

8:30–9:30 Birding by Ear and Impression with Paddy Cunningham. Please preregister for this class as it will start promptly. Listen and watch for birds in Pine Jog’s native gardens. Learn to identify birds by sound and impression from one of South Florida’s premier birders!

8:45–10:40 Birding and Bird Behavior with Clive Pinnock. This class is for the beginner and intermediate birder. Clive, manager of Okeeheelee Nature Center, will present the tools that will make us all better birders and then show how the bird’s behavior is a result of it’s biology and environment. Know what you are looking at by where it is and what it is doing!

9:40–10:50 Warblers Made Easy with Paddy Cunningham.

There is no easy cure for warbler neck, but learn the easy clues. This is the time to review and expand your knowledge of warblers, spring migration is just a few weeks away.

11:00–12:00 Raptor Biology with Clive Pinnock and his Feathered Friends. Learn how owls, hawks and eagles live and hunt. What similarities do they share and why; what is each ones niche in the environment?

11:00–12:00 Lifers for Birders with Paddy Cunningham. Be prepared! Use time tested tips for gaining life birds with less time, effort and money. Learn the tricks that great birders use and expand your list.

About the presenters:

Paddy Cunningham is a professional naturalist and bird guide and coordinator the Everglades Birding Festival. Clive Pinnock, former National Park Service wildlife biologist, is manager of Okeechobee Nature Center. Clive will be assisted by live birds of prey.

Backyard Garden Tour

When: Saturday, March 24 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Location: 17928 61 Place North, Loxahatchee FL 33470 (directions will be on the website)

Cost: $10 ($5 for current local members; check with Paton to find out if your dues are current) Send your check in now to reserve your spot. Participation strictly limited.

Join Leeann Connelly-Sherouse for a memorable morning! Meander thru three acres of beautifully planted trails of native and non-natives designed to attract Florida wildlife. Sixty-seven species of birds have been seen on the property and at this time of year there is a good chance of seeing migrating warblers.

Valleri Brauer will be available to help with both bird and flower picture composition between 7:30 and 10:00. More details in next month’s Kite and on the website!

Preregister with Paton: 561-818-7574, patonrwhite@aol.com
Audubon Society of the Everglades
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