



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 52, Number 5

February 2012

## CALENDAR

**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 15, 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](mailto: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!

## **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**

Valleri Brauer 969-0908

### **Bird ID**

Clive Pinnock 233-1400 x4

### **Library**

Anne Hoctor 601-8007

### **Conservation**

Rosa (Cissie) Durando 965-2420

### **Education**

Susan Snyder 627-7829

### **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 Barrilles archeological site
- Day 7 Return to Miami

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

### **Bird of the Month: Red Knot**

February's bird of the month is one of our most celebrated migratory shorebirds: *Calidris canutus*. Each year this intrepid flier migrates between 5000 and 13,000 kilometers from South America to its breeding grounds in the Arctic, stopping at only a handful of vital resting and refueling stations along the way. Come learn more about this fascinating shorebird at our February meeting.

## **President's Column**

Linda Humphries

You hear the expression “I was at the right place at the right time”. I guess I really didn't understand it until the Christmas Bird Count, December 31, 2011, when Paton White and I were in the “right place at the right time”. We started the count at the Harvey J. Oyer Jr. Boat Club Park (Boynton Boat Ramp, on Federal Hwy near Gateway) looking for birds. We walked out on the fishing docks and saw a sandbar full of birds. I ran to get my scope while Paton starting scanning the birds. We had a Loon and Red-breasted Mergansers in the water. The sandbar had one Greater Black-Backed Gull, Herring Gull, Semipalmated Plovers, large amounts of laughing and ring-billed gulls and Royal Terns. In the area around the fishing docks we were able to find Yellow-crowned night-herons and all the usual wading birds, including a spotted sandpiper. The next day we went back and the sandbar appeared about an hour later. It had Black bellied Plovers, the Greater-Black Backed Gull, a Least Sandpiper, Sanderlings, and the usual gulls and terns. The numbers were not as impressive as the day before, but I was thrilled to see the shorebirds. I wrote in last month's newsletter about the efforts that have been put into cleaning up the Lake Worth Lagoon. This is proof that the cleanup is working. Oystercatchers were once again spotted near the Lake Worth Golf Course. There is a boardwalk being constructed in Lake Worth lagoon near the Lake Worth Golf Course that will be completed by spring. It will be a great spot to see water birds, especially the Oystercatchers. On a sad note the day of the Christmas bird count no one reported seeing a Florida Snail Kite in the count circle. This is further proof that the destruction of wetland habitat and the continued construction in Palm Beach County is taking a toll on Florida's Snail Kites. I have heard predictions that in the not too distant future you will not be able to find the Florida Snail Kites in the West Palm Beach area; let's hope this is not true. We have already lost most of the Scrub jays in Palm Beach County; please help protect the Snail Kite habitat from disappearing. Come on out and join our bird walks. You never know what you will find!

## **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 Knafel 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 our *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](http://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](mailto: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 [patonrwhite@aol.com](mailto: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 Okeehetee 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 its 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 one’s 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 Okeehetee 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](mailto:patonrwhite@aol.com)**

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

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**Saturday, February 11: 13th Annual Everglades Day Festival - "Mysteries of the Everglades"  
Science, Literature, Historical, Water, Plant & Animal Mysteries !**

As we focus on the Mysteries of the Everglades this year, the 13th Annual Everglades Day Festival at A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is creating an exciting festival for visitors to learn about mysteries in the Everglades—the speculative unsolved mysteries like our own "big-foot" Skunk-man, as well as the even more fascinating natural mysteries in this unique biological treasure in South Florida. Learn scientific processes to solve these mysteries! In light of the trend toward more healthy, bio-friendly and greener lifestyle, there will be more walking programs this year, including walking Lila tours. Limited bus service in the refuge so wear walking

shoes. Come visit and enjoy this special place with trained guides and walking tours, outdoor canoeing, presentations, workshops, and nature events. Everglades Day is family friendly, fun, and free except for food!

The all-day fun filled lineup includes workshops, "mystery detective" games for kids, ecology exhibits, programs with live animals, birds and reptiles along with a variety of nature walks. Science, Literature, Historical, Water, Plant & Animal Mysteries! Don't forget to check out the food sale booths and live music. Includes free off-site parking and shuttles to the Information Booth. Come join us!

**Wear Your Walking Shoes!**

CHECK OUT THE ASE WEB SITE FOR DETAILS ON THIS EXCITING FREE EVENT!

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).

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**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 will receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida, but unless you give us your email, you will not receive the *Kite*. 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.