



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 52, Number 6

March 2012

CALENDAR

Sat. Mar 3, 7:00 a.m. West County Birding.
Meet at former Kmart (now Burlington Coat Factory), NW corner of Southern & 441.
Leader: Chuck Weber

Mon. Mar 5, 7:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands. 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach.
Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

Wed. Mar 7-13, Birding in Panama. (3 days rainforest, 3 days highland) Contact Claudine Laabs for details 561-655-9779.

Thur. Mar 8, Barley Barber Swamp.
Cancelled.

Sat. Mar 10, 8:00 a.m. Seacrest Scrub.
South of Woolbright, east side on Seacrest, Boynton Beach. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Brian Hope

Sat. Mar 10, 7:30 a.m. Tropical Audubon invites you to Everglades National Park.
Leader: John Boyd. Meet in parking lot of Coe Visitor Center, ENP (Main Entrance) at 7:30 a.m. There is a fee to enter the park. Bring lunch. Call Linda for more information, 561-742-7791.

Sun. Mar 11, 5:30 p.m. Green Cay Wetlands.
12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Boynton Bch.
Meet outside Nature Center Main Door.
Leader: Valleri Brauer

Thur. Mar 15, 5:00 p.m. Peaceful Waters,
11700 Pierson Road, Wellington (SE Corner of Village Park) **BEGINNING BIRD WALK.**
Meet at beginning of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

Fri. Mar 16 - Mar 18 Audubon Academy, Clewiston. Cancelled.

Sat. Mar 17, 7:30 a.m. Juno Dunes/Beach. 14200 US Hwy 1, Juno Beach. Meet in EAST parking lot at Loggerhead Marine Life Center. Leader: Clive Pinnock

Sun. Mar 18, 8:00 a.m. Everglades National Park, Spring Wildflower Walk. Leader: Roger Hammer, Entry \$10 per car. \$45 fee includes book. Reservations required. Call 305-247-1634, Sponsored by Tropical Audubon.

Sat Mar 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tour of Backyard Gardens. \$10 per person (photo session with Valleri Brauer included). Contact Paton 561-818-7574 for information.

Sat. Mar 31, 8:00 a.m. Riverbend Park. 9060 Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Meet at S end of main parking lot. Leader: Walt Hackenjoes

Program for Tuesday, March 6, 2012

SEA SHELLS AND SEA SLUGS IN LAKE WORTH LAGOON

Anne DuPont

Join us as Anne DuPont takes us for an underwater trip into the Lake Worth Lagoon, one of Florida's most important estuarine lagoon systems. The lagoon supports a rich and diverse marine life including sea slugs, marine snails, bivalves, and octopus. These mollusca fauna will all be presented in their natural habitat.

Anne DuPont is a scientific diver and underwater photographer specializing in opisthobranchs and polyclad flatworms. She is a Museum Associate in Malacology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and is a volunteer scientific diver and underwater photographer for the "Flatworm Wrangler's Team" at the University of New Hampshire. She also works with the Natural History Museum of Florida. Her photos have been published in numerous books, magazines, and educational DVDs.

She is one of the co-authors of *Caribbean Sea Slugs: A field guide to the opisthobranch mollusks from the tropical northwestern Atlantic*.

Her favorite pastime at home is diving in Lake Worth Lagoon. She has been diving in the Lagoon for 20 years, and is very knowledgeable on underwater life found in the Lagoon. Anne is retired from IBM. She and her husband live in Delray Beach, Florida. They spend four months a year on their trawler in the Bahamas.

President's Column

Linda Humphries

I find winter an exciting time in Florida. Birds start migrating thru Florida in the early fall and some of them decide to stop and visit for a while. This year there have been Neotropical Cormorants in Wakodahatchee and a Wilson, and Piping Plovers (unusual for Palm Beach County) on the beach north of the Lake Worth Pier. Our second STA 1E trip found a male Eurasian Wigeon, male Cinnamon Teal, and other good ducks not normally seen in Palm Beach County. For an update on local birds seen in the Palm Beach area go to the yahoo group—auduboneverglades. (If you have trouble gaining access, call me at 561-742-7791.) There are rare bird sightings all thru Florida creating a lot of excitement in the world of birding. This is an excellent opportunity to see and study birds we don't normally find in our area. It is important to remember a few simple rules to make the birding experience fun for all:

- Quiet! When you are out birding you should limit your talking to a soft minimum, or at least go to the back of a group and talk softly to your new best friend. Talking can frighten away the very birds you are trying to see, and it interferes with one of the most important tools the leader has for finding them: their songs and calls.
- Speaking of the leader, always stay behind the leader. If you are ahead of the leader you might flush a bird before the leader can find and show it to you.
- When you find a bird, give it space, don't intrude on its territory and stress it out. If you accidentally flush a bird, stay far behind and do not continue flushing the bird.
- As you are trying to see that special bird, be aware of the people around you and do not move in front of them blocking their view.

If you are birding by car do not slam your doors scaring away the birds and do not leave the doors wide open so people cannot pass around your car.

I realize most birders know these rules but sometimes we forget. We have new people joining our walks that have never birded before and may not think of birding etiquette in their excitement to see the bird. It is my opinion that birders are great people. They enjoy and respect nature and its surroundings. Come on out and join our fun and exciting trips. You never know what you will see!

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 Hoxtor 601-8007

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.

Donations In Memoriam

Pinya Cohen donated by Linda Humphries

Heinrich Vogt donated by Fran & Diana Sutfin and Linda Humphries

Your company might have a matching gift program; whether it does or not, please consider ASE in your charitable contribution plans.

Backyard Garden Tour

When: Saturday, March 24 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: 17928 61 Place North, Loxahatchee FL 33470 (directions will be on the website)

Cost: \$10 or \$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. Settle down near a birdfeeder and watch painted and indigo buntings, cardinals, a very rare local populations red-headed woodpeckers, as well as other woodpeckers. Grosbeaks have also been seen on the feeders. Sixty-seven species have been seen on the property and at this time of year there is a good chance of seeing migrating warblers.

Bring a picnic breakfast or lunch and enjoy it as you sit quietly observing the flora and fauna. Wander thru a beautifully landscaped 2000 sq/ft walk-in aviary and enjoy many species of exotic soft-bills and finches. Valleri Brauer will be available to help with both bird and flower picture composition between 7:30 and 10:00.

This property is also home to Loxahatchee Wildlife Rescue Center, which has helped 100s of native birds and animals, including owls, hawks, songbirds, fox, otters, possum, deer, alligators, turtles and snakes. You will have an opportunity to purchase daylilies that Leeann has hybridized for our south Florida gardens and her famous waterlilies. These sales help support the wild life center.

Loxahatchee River Canoe Trip

As described by Hank McCall in the January 1981 Everglade Kite

At the immediate present, close at hand, there is an exotic canoe trip through a primeval cypress forest. Even though it lasts only six hours, this little journey takes you into a Florida of 500 years ago.

The first hours are spent drifting down a magic little stream of cool tea-colored water that twists and turns in tight little loops and curls. You drift by cypress boles that are six feet thick and stretch to 100 foot tall trees. Thousands and thousands of cypress knees stand and stare. Blink your eyes and they turn into goblins and ents and pipe organs and ghostly ghouls.

We are so acclimated to going somewhere and making progress that the flow of this stream brings on a touch of madness. It has obstacles of logs, branches, loops and shoots, and you are always returning to where you have just begun. It's almost like the game Uncle Wiggly.

We saw pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, great egret, osprey, black vultures, turkey vultures, and wood ibis. Because of the danger of tipping, we suggest you do not take your binoculars.

The trip covers eight miles of the south fork of the Loxahatchee. I would call it strenuous. Bring your lunch and drinks. The operators, Eric and Sally Bailey, charge \$12 for the canoe and \$4 to drive your car to the termination spot. This is absolutely the finest one-day canoe jaunt of my life. Give yourself an unforgettable experience. (Hank McCall)

EVERGLADES DAY 2012—A SUCCESS!

Everglades Day 2012 turned out to be a success despite cool weather and wind. Three thousand people turned out. With sixteen guided nature walks, fifteen presentations, canoeing, guided cypress swamp boardwalk and LILA tours, no one was bored. Thirty-four exhibitors had great booths which included displays of live animals, artifacts, native plants, children's activities, and environmental information. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the refuge staff including event coordinator, Serena Rinker, the event ran smoothly and safely. The Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Refuge, Audubon Society, Sierra-Loxahatchee Group, Palm Beach County, the PBC Cultural Center, the Palm Beach Post, the PBC Sheriff's Department, DMI Printer, and eighty-plus volunteers made this event possible.

Bird of the Month: Willet

The bird of the month for March is the cheery-sounding Willet, *Tringa semipalmata*. As described on the Cornell Lab's website, All About Birds:

Piercing calls and distinctive wing markings make the otherwise subdued Willet one of our most conspicuous large shorebirds. Whether in mottled brown breeding plumage or gray winter colors, Willets in flight reveal a bold white and black stripe running the length of each wing. These long-legged, straight-billed shorebirds feed along beaches, mudflats, and rocky shores. Willets are common on most of our coastline—learn to recognize them and they'll make a useful stepping-stone to identifying other shorebirds.

Come to our March meeting to hear more about these winter residents of Palm Beach County.

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

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/ patonwhite@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, patonwhite@aol.com.

From the Archives: Hijinks from the 1981 CBC

A reader looking at the 1981 Christmas Count of birds might wonder if we conducted only a cursory species count because many common species on our list are represented by only one individual. And surprisingly, only two robins and two goldfinches are included in the 141 total of species seen by our 45 observers.

Low numbers weren't the only feature of this year's count. We did have several exciting finds: 35 black scoters (only our 2nd count sighting) by Hunter, Canning, Hassee and Black; 2 dark phase short-tailed hawks (3rd count sighting) by Hope, George and Hendrickson; an adult bald eagle (2nd sighting) by Sykes and Ayers, and a peregrine falcon (2nd sighting) diving on a kestrel, by the Dowlings and Brooks.

Another 3rd count sighting was a solitary sandpiper by Eaton, Wilson, Dunnan and Brindle; two more 2nd sightings – prothonotary warbler by the Eaton group and Brewer's blackbird by Alvarez, Hope and Langridge, and a 4th count sighting of a red-eyed vireo by Liberman.

Despite the cold weather and strong winds, Trotsky and Matthews tallied the high screech owl count with 12. On the coast, the Hunter group saw 88 great blue herons. The total number of birds counted was 24,554

Saves (species seen by only one group) included common loon and gannets by Hunter party, indigo bunting by Trotsky and Matthews, Bonaparte's gull by McCalls, Kilmer and Mueller, scrub jays by Parmalee, Korzenewski, Sandella and Barnett, broad-winged hawk by Clifford party, and various ducks by Sykes and Ayers.

Count Adventures—Past & Present

Most parties on our Christmas Bird Counts work throughout the day with few eventful distractions – or even minor ones such as someone forgetting binoculars, being investigated by the police, or stepping up to one's waist in mud. However, some bizarre happenings have occurred during the West Palm Beach CBCs. Once, several years ago, a well-known local lady of shapely proportions stood briefly on an ant hill and had to strip to her own music of "ouches" and "ows." The two amused male observers didn't dare applaud, but the event sounded humorous to sympathetic listeners later.

On another CBC, Phil Weinrich was teasing a cottonmouth into its huffing and puffing display for his brother. Momentarily distracted, Phil lost visual contact with the angry snake. While trying to relocate it, Phil felt a sharp pain in his hand. He was struck. He knew he was struck. The culprit proved, however, to be only a wasp.

While getting out of bed long before dawn for this year's CBC, Ray Plockelman pulled a muscle in his back, which hampered his bipedal locomotion all day. Next, he awakened everyone in his household with screams as he spilled ice water all over himself while loading his cooler. Then, in the cold early morning, a nail punctured a tire and the cold tools gave Ray's hands a frosty thrill. At noon Ray discovered that someone had siphoned gas from his vehicle. To unify the day, he spilled Coca Cola on his binoculars and tape deck. So, before anything else occurred, Ray, instead of attending the compilation, returned to his bed to rest his back and his frazzled emotions.

A simple day in the field occasionally can lead to bizarre adventures. (Howard Langridge)

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

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Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

ATTENTION: This could be your last issue of the *Kite*! See inside for details.

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.

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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 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. 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.