



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 52, Number 9

July/August 2012

CALENDAR

Tues. July 3, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.

Meet at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

Saturday, July 7, time TBA. Driving trip around STA 1E. Reservations required. Please call or email Linda. hlindaase@aol.com or 561-742-7791.

Sat. Aug. 4, STA 1E. Car pool around water impound areas. Time to be determined. Call Linda at 561-742-7791 to register.

Tues. Aug 7, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting. Ice Cream Social and Member's Photos.

Sat. Aug. 11, 7 a.m. West County shorebird trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

Sat. Aug. 18, 6 a.m. West County shorebird trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

Sat. Aug. 25, 7 a.m. West County shorebird PHOTOGRAPHY trip. Contact Linda to register, 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com. Space limited. Local members "only" have the privilege of pre-registering up to one week before the trip—after that date, registration is open to the public.

CALL FOR BIRD-of-the-MONTH PHOTOS

Sheila Elliot (sheilaelliott@yahoo.com) would like to display member photos of the birds-of-the-month on the ASE web site in the meeting announcements. If you've snapped one of the following birds, email as a jpg or gif attachment ideally a month before the next meeting, and include the full name of the person who took the photograph. July - Least Tern; August – Royal Tern; September – Brown Pelican; October – Sandwich Tern; November – Ring-billed Gull; December – Herring Gull.

Program for Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Florida Master Naturalist Program

Join us July 3rd as Stephen Bass, one of Palm Beach County's leading naturalists, shares information on the county's Master Naturalist Program. "I will be glad to take questions on any subject, especially County Natural Areas and the Florida Master Naturalist Program," said Steve.

You can be assured of an interesting program thanks to Steve's wide background in environmental education—14 years for the county as Manager of Okeeheelee and then Gumbo Limbo Nature Centers, 12 years as Manager of the PBC School District's four environmental education centers, and 18 as a member of PBC's Natural Area Advisory Committee serving as chair for the first 10 years. As an Instructor for UF's Florida Master Naturalist Program-Coastal, Wetland and Upland Modules, Steve continues to change and improve the program. You may have seen him hosting NatureScope featuring local natural history on Palm Beach County's TV channel 20.

Steve is a native Oklahoman and member of the Cherokee Nation with a BS in Biology and MS in plant ecology. He enjoys hiking, biking, fishing and hunting and is married with two grown children, two grandchildren, and four granddogs!

Be sure to visit the family's Bass Nursery in Lake Worth specializing in ornamental annuals: begonias, caladiums, pentas, etc and a few natives.

Program for Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Ice Cream Social and Member Photos

As anyone who's visited our website recently knows, ASE is blessed with a number of extremely talented photographers. If you haven't been to one of their exhibits around town, you need to come to our August meeting to see their work up close and in person. If some of the best bird photography in the state isn't sweet enough for you, we're also throwing our annual ice cream social. So come join us! Peruse your photos to pick out a few of the best to share. Natural subjects only (and birds by preference!) We know you photographers are out there! A digital projector is available, but be sure your photos are in an easily accessible format such as a thumb drive. Large prints and paintings are also welcome. Doors open at 7:00 to make your OWN SUNDAE and enjoy cookies, beverages and camaraderie.

Lake Worth Lagoon Update: American Oystercatchers Breeding

David Carson of Palm Beach County ERM reports that a second pair of American Oystercatchers are nesting in the Snook Islands area of the Lake Worth Lagoon. In his words:

It appears that a second pair of birds has nested at Snook Islands. I photographed two young birds today: one was flighted and one was not. I believe the flighted bird is the same one from the nest you posted this year. The unflighted chick was observed at the next island to the south of the posted island. I attached a pdf showing the photos/locations. I have seen other AMOYs come through during the summer, but they usually move on after scrapping with the nesting pair. Brock speculated about another pair earlier this summer, but I pooh-poohed the possibility. Looks like I am having crow for dinner...

Many thanks to all the dedicated voices protecting the islands and the lagoon from one hare-brained scheme after another. Keep it up!

The Everglade Kite

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

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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.

President's Column: What's Your Favorite PB County Park?

Cynthia Plockelman

In the recent AOF newsletter, there was a solicitation for Audubon members to contribute written descriptions of their “favorite” Florida park, field, beach, etc., to a database for AOF to publish. Photographs are certainly welcome, as well.

Palm Beach County, undoubtably, is truly blessed with outstanding parks, natural areas, beaches, that merit attention. I encourage everyone to contribute a write-up on where in Palm Beach County they visit—when they have some free moments! Plus, as we all enjoy the August ice cream “social”, we will be looking at the incredibly good photography provided by our members. Palm Beach County is lucky indeed—lots of birds and wildlife, great parks , natural areas, wildlife preserves and great photographers! And, most of all, largely free of access fees.

Consider the Great Backyard Bird Count, occurring in February, and the number of Floridians and winter visitors who scout their favorite birding places and submit the data. Florida is one of the highest responders, thanks to our careful management and selection of natural areas and parks. In fact, Florida citizens just played a BIG part in protecting state owned parks and reserves from being turned into pastures for exotic animals—being raised here for “hunting”. Thanks to Gov. Scott for listening to our protests and vetoing the Senate bill.

Everyone has to be alert and on guard, ready to help keep our public lands “public”. That should include regular attention to city and county boards, which are almost constantly asked to convert the public areas to other use. Plus, the state, county, and city agencies that work hard, always needing funds for maintenance and staff to do the work. These areas are also justifiably noted as a strong part of Florida’s economy, and especially Palm Beach County.

Yes, it’s already “hot” outside but I am willing to bet that is not stopping the birders, golfers, hikers, bicycle riders, etc. It’s summer; the drought is over; nesting is going forward; the chimney swifts are here!! Let’s all go and enjoy it —and write up your “favorite” park/place/wildlife area, for AOF.

—Cynthia

Hog Island, Maine

Linda Humphries

Peace, serenity, and nature’s beauty are words that pop into my mind as I sit on a porch here on Hog Island in Maine. This camp was established by National Audubon in 1936 and is referred to as the “Mother Church” for education and learning. Maine’s Audubon was in charge of this camp for nine years. After closing for a year, National Audubon’s Project Puffin agreed to run the camp. I wanted to come up here four years ago when I first became President of our Chapter but it did not work out. Now years later Paton White and I have come to this camp to participate in a week of “The Joy of Birding”. The camp has ten different topic weeks with different programs this year including family week. Yesterday we took a boat ride out to see the Puffin’s and also got to see two Razorbills and a Great Cormorant. We were able to land on the edge of a gull island the day before and observe nesting Herring and Black Backed Gulls with the highlight being an eider nest, with the eggs safely surrounded by eider down from the Mom. We were able to see Gull eggs and a few of the babies as we quickly departed.

(I hear a song sparrow singing as I type this). I was able to add the above-mentioned birds to my life list as well as Crossbills, Guillemots, Common Eiders, a White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoters and several warblers in their colorful spring attire. There are bird walks, classes, and boat trips run by excellent birding professionals such as Pete Dunn, Chris Lewey, and Steve Kress. The food is great, the staff is exceptional, and after dinner we have excellent presentations. This is a really great experience I am glad I was able to participate in. It has recharged my batteries. They say that being up here on Hog Island will change your life! This is an experience open to anyone. You don’t have to be connected to Audubon or a chapter officer to attend. The one thing it has helped me realize is how much I would like to engage our children and grandchildren in more local nature events so they too can experience the wonders of nature.



Tern, Kirsten Munson

ENVIRONMENTALISTS REMEMBERED

Rosa Durando remembers several important Florida environmentalists who passed away recently:

That 'Big River in the Sky' sure got enriched recently. John DeGrove, John Ogden, and most recently Wayne Nelson died. Just a short Time ago Wayne unequivocally stated on the phone from Okeechobee to me, "I'm going to reactivate FADE." To the uninitiated that is his personal group: Fishermen Against Destruction of the Environment.

His biggest targets were the permitting agencies that allowed the collapse of Lake Okeechobee from north Florida, via the Kissimmee River debacle to the lake and south to Arthur Marshall's namesake, "A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge," and further south to Marjory Douglas' "River of Grass." Wayne got very little support from environmental organizations publicly. In our world: bad politics! Our local Audubon of the Everglades did publicly back him up at SFWMD board meetings. Few others publicly quoted or supported Wayne. Some of us were designated by Wayne as 'warriors'. By the same token, he would retract that label if he was disappointed and if you weren't vitriolic enough. The courage of his convictions included trying to 'save your soul' if he thought it necessary, and he liked you enough.

I will personally miss Wayne and our local ASE chapter will continue to speak out against irresponsible permits by government agencies that hinder environmental restoration.

Audubon Strategic Plan 2012–2015

Audubon has just announced its strategic plan, a 2012–2015 roadmap for hemispheric conservation, to make it a more powerful force in restoring bird ecosystems, benefitting humanity, wildlife, and the earth's overall biodiversity. Identifying the priority bird species for each of the four spring and fall migration flyways—Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific—and in coordination with the entire Audubon family—staff, board members, centers, state and local chapters, hemispheric partners, and volunteers—Audubon will select and measure results for significant projects and initiatives for which we have the skills and resources. Five strategies have been identified: making land work for both birds and people; sharing our seas and shores; shaping a healthy climate with a clean energy future; creating bird-friendly communities; and saving important bird areas. In our Everglades ecosystem, for example, one project has helped create the 150,000 acre Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation area, which improves outcomes for 6 priority species and millions of migrating birds. You can find the entire strategic plan in pdf format at http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/audubon_strategic_plan_-_web_2012.pdf. Over the upcoming months, we will report on more aspects of the plan both on the ASE web site and in the *Kite*, enabling us to work together as ONE AUDUBON in making these vital successes.

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 Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net). 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 Gail Tomei and let her know if you prefer to receive your *Kite* by mail or by email. Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net)

MATTHEW McCANN

ASE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Matthew McCann from W. T. Dwyer High School was awarded ASE's Ruth and Seymour Miller \$3000 scholarship at the Palm Beach Post Pathfinder Awards at the Kravis Center on May 8. Here is the text of Rosa Durando's presentation:

The Audubon Society of the Everglades has for 40 years supported the protection of not only birds, but all wildlife and habitat native to our area. We wish to extend the realization that the existence of all of us depends on our conservation of water quantity and quality and safeguarding the quality of the air we breathe.

Ruth and Seymour Miller were ardent early visionaries over 40 years ago. By continuing the support of Pathfinder's through annual scholarships, we have supported their vision. We have a long list of beneficiaries, A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, public schools, other educational programs and the establishment of one of the finest ornithological libraries in the southeast at Summit County Library.

We have the honor of selecting Matthew McCann as our award winner this year. (Matthew comes to stage.) A declaration by one teacher noted that you had an uncanny ability, curiosity and understanding of scientific inquiry. You are ranked 2nd out of 472 students. You were the winner of FPL's wind development project. In your words you are dedicated to promote marine biology and to create a marine rehab hospital. You realize there is a role for biomedical engineering and the need to eliminate the need for harmful chemicals for maintenance. Congratulations for being accepted at Duke University in Biomedical Engineering.

Birds of the Month: Least Tern (July); Royal Tern (August)

Our summer birds of the month went through a taxonomic reorganization a couple of years ago: the genus *Sterna* was split into several different genera. Since birds are notorious for not doing their homework, they might be a bit confused unless you take the time to explain it to them, using an up-to-date field guide. July's bird is the smallest tern in North America, indeed, the entire world: *Sternula* (formerly *Sterna*) *antillarum*, Least Tern. You can see them feeding chicks at Wakodahatchee and other wetland areas; they nest on sandy beaches or, in our contemporary urban scene, gravel rooftops.

August's BotM is its larger cousin, *Thalasseus maximus*, the Royal Tern (formerly *Sterna maxima*). These graceful fliers forage with direct lunges toward the water surface or with oblique to vertical plunges from several meters up; it also snatches food from the water surface, feeds like a skimmer or even parasitizes smaller terns!

Be sure to come to our July and August meetings to hear more about these familiar but fascinating birds of Palm Beach County.

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

The phone number for the chapter, 561-588-6908, has been disconnected. Please visit our website auduboneverglades.org for information. If you need assistance, you will find board member phone numbers, on the website, in the Kite, and in our Calendar of Events Brochure.

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.

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 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.