



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 53, Number 1

October 2012

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Oct 2, 7:30 p.m.** General meeting. Pine Jog Elementary, WPB.

**Sat. Oct 6, STA 1E, 8:00 a.m.** Car Pool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

**Sun. Oct 7, 8:00 a.m. Delray Oaks, 2021 SW 29th St. Delray Bch (W side Congress, S of Linton) Leader: Brian Hope**

**Fri. Oct 12, 5:00 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands.** Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer.

**Sat. Oct 13, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's Forest,** PB Gardens. Meet as above. Leader: Marvin Greenberg

**Sat. Oct 13, 8:00 a.m. JW Corbett WMA** Buggy Ride. Leader: Michael Baranski. Call Valleri 561-385-9787 to register [TRIP IS FULL]

**Wed. Oct 17. Snook Island Natural Area & other Intracoastal Parks.** Meet at boardwalk by N side Lake Worth Bridge. Time to be determined by tides. Check website or call Linda 561-742-7791 for details

**Sat. Oct 20, 8:00 a.m. Spanish River Pk.** Meet as above. Leader: David and Lee Hasse

**Sat. Oct 20–Oct 21. FLORIDA KEYS HAWK GETAWAY.** Contact Paddy Cunningham 954-926-5458 to register. Donation given to chapter.

**Fri. Oct 26–27, Audubon Assembly,** Sarasota, FL. For details, see [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org).

**Sat. Oct 27, 8:00 a.m. Peaceful Waters,** Wellington, SE corner of Village Park, 11700 Pierson Road. Meet at beginning of boardwalk, Leader: Paton White

**Sun. Oct 28, 4:30 p.m. Green Cay Wetlands.** PHOTO WALK, bring your camera. Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer

## CALL FOR BIRD-of-the-MONTH PHOTOS

Please send November Bird-of-the-Month Ring-billed Gull pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the [AudubonEverglades.org](http://AudubonEverglades.org) web site by September 20 to [SheilaElliot@yahoo.com](mailto:SheilaElliot@yahoo.com). Identify the name for credit, and if there is anything specific to look for in your picture (like banded, in molt, etc) feel free to add a few words for the caption. Please check out and enjoy this month's picture gallery of the Sandwich Tern at the end of the October 2 meeting announcement!

## Program for Tuesday, October 2, 2012

### *Renewable Energy in Florida*

Join us for the latest information on the status of renewable energy efforts by FPL. Mrs. Amy Albury works for Florida Power & Light Company where she is the Director of Environmental Relations and Sustainability in the Environmental Services Department. She supports both FPL and NextEra and is responsible for sustainability planning and reporting which includes the annual NextEra Energy Sustainability Report which can be found at <http://www.nexteraenergy.com/pdf/sustain-report.pdf> In addition, she manages relationships with environmental stakeholders.

Amy began her career with Florida Power & Light 24 years ago as a graduate Electrical Engineer. Much of her tenure has been in the Distribution Operations departments including engineering, supervising line crews, managing large service centers and running a trouble dispatch operation. While working, Amy earned an MBA and, in order to better utilize those skills, she moved to the Juno Beach corporate headquarters to work in Marketing and Communications and in Regulatory Affairs, before coming to Environmental Services. Amy is the mother of two teenagers. She enjoys boating and gardening and visiting the Bahamas where her husband grew up.

The meeting will be in the usual place (FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach) at the usual time (7:30 p.m.).

## Christmas Bird Count Announcement

This year, the National Audubon Society has decided that the CBC will be free! That's right, no more scrounging around for Lincolns to pay the \$5 cost of data collation and printing of American Birds (the yearly summary of the CBC). The CBC results will now be online, both to offset the loss of the \$5-per-person fee, and to allow for more photos and interactivity. It should be much easier to drill down to find the data that interest you. So if the high cost of counting is what's kept you from joining our CBC, fuggedaboutit!

## Scholarship Update

*ASE recently received this email from Max Wallace, the 2010 recipient of the Ruth and Seymour Miller scholarship awarded at the Pathfinder ceremony. Max is a student at University of Florida.*

Audubon Society of the Everglades,

My name is Max Wallace and I was awarded your scholarship in 2010. I am pleased to tell you that your support has made a difference. This last summer, I was one of five interns at the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation. We completed an ecosystem services valuation of the Kissimmee–Okeechobee–Everglades watershed and presented our findings to the Water Resources Development Council, stressing the importance of restoration in the face of sea level rise.

Now that I am back at college for fall classes, I am eagerly awaiting next summer so I can continue my involvement in the restoration process. I have always been passionate about environmental issues, but your scholarship helped direct my focus to the Everglades.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Max Wallace

## The Everglade Kite

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

### President

Cynthia Plockelman 561-585-1278

### 1st Vice President

OPEN

### 2nd Vice President

Linda Humphries 742-7791

### Secretary

Alan Parmalee 498-0996

### Treasurer

Janet Schreiber 689-2530

### Field Trips

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### Membership

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### Bird ID

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Ben Kolstad 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.

## President's Column

Cynthia Plockelman

Did everyone get their September EVERGLADE KITE, with the new 2012–2013 Calendar of Events? Sure hope so. But, if not, you can pick up a copy at our October meeting. Also hope that you were not one of the members missing in September. Despite the rain threats, we opened the new season with Eric Vandernoot, who coordinates the Astronomy and Physics Lab at Florida Atlantic University. It was an outstanding program and he enticed several members to come out (despite the weather), who have not been seen for a while!

That made an exciting start to the new season! Thanks to your hard-working Board of Directors, who all submitted suggestions and helped in putting the program agenda together this year. We start at the first of Summer and work through all the vacations and other things that can crop up. Derailing the program/Calendar of Events is NOT AN OPTION for the Board—our members live by the 4 columns of meetings, field trips, events & AOF important events. Programs of each meeting are listed separately. This year's 2012–2013 Calendar of Events, is a "neon" green, to attract attention. And, we hand these out to one and all who ask.

Now, we still have a gap in our Executive Committee and really do need a 1st Vice President, to help with all the public activities, conservation and governmental meetings, chapter administration, etc. It is NOT BORING, to be a part of this organization. The challenges we receive, practically daily, on the front lines are numerous indeed! Attending meetings at a wide range of governmental and public service organizations is critically important to our success as an Audubon Chapter. We also need someone to stand in, in case of accidents, illness, family issues and everyone's need for a vacation! Having just had my car wrecked by a speeding driver from a side street, and the subsequent (mercifully) brief hospitalization, really brought the need for a 1st VICE PRESIDENT home!

I am appealing to every ASE member—help us, please, find our missing link—a good First Vice President.

Cynthia

### HELP WANTED

#### VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO FILL THE ENVIRONMENTAL SEAT ON THE PBC LAND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (LDRAB).

This board reviews new developments and new/adapted land and use regulations. Staff presents to LDRAB committee which discusses implications and suggestions for proposed land use changes. The recommendations then go to the county commissioners for review. If approved they are forwarded to Regional Planning Council for review and disapproval/approval. This board meets monthly or as needed.

Please call Rosa Durando 985-2420 or Cynthia Plockelman 585-1278 for more information.

### New Natural Area Grand Opening in Boca Raton

The county's newest natural area, Pondhawk, in Boca Raton, had its grand opening on September 13. Steve Abrams and Shelley Vana were there from the county commission, as were the mayor and deputy mayor of Boca Raton and various representatives from the USFWS and, of course, the county agency responsible for all the natural areas, ERM. If you haven't been to the site, you should visit. It's on the shores of the former Blue Lake, remnant from the IBM days, but includes a nice pinewoods, some restored ponds, and a sawgrass slough. I even saw (one) Eastern Pondhawk, the dragonfly species after which the site is named. The concrete trail is fully wheelchair accessible, and there are some dirt trails for the more adventuresome. Get out there, people!

### 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](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 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)



# WILDLIFE SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Clive Pinnock

## Part One: Introduction

For many years, scientists have studied the tactics and schemes (collectively known as strategies) used by different species of animals to survive the rigors of predator–prey relationships. These relationships have been forged over many thousands of years of trial and error as a part of the never-ending ecological arms race.

The basic idea of larger animals eating smaller animals is, for the most part, a simplified approach to viewing this oftentimes very complex relationship. The underlying premise fueling the foundation of this energy-driven system is the fact that prey species, while seeking food, water, cover, and space to propagate themselves, run the gauntlet of other species (predators) seeking to accomplish the same goals but at their expense.

To grasp the general idea of the mechanics of the system, one must first understand its parts and their relationship to each other. In the simplest terms demonstrated in a three-tiered food pyramid (showing trophic levels), energy flows through an ecosystem by the sun fueling plant life (depicted at the base of the pyramid) through a process called photosynthesis. In this process, plants obtain their own nutrition by creating sugars, starches, and proteins while utilizing carbon dioxide from the air, then releasing oxygen as a byproduct.

The energy stored in plants then becomes available to plant-eating animals (herbivores/primary consumers/prey) occupying the second level of the pyramid. A smaller amount of energy (diminished by respiration, movement, etc.) within the herbivores is then transferred to the third-level pyramid occupants (the carnivores/secondary consumers/predators) when those herbivores are caught and consumed. It is between the occupants of the second and third levels of the pyramid that a unique series of survival strategies come into play, demonstrating the diversities and similarities of what can be grouped as “behavioral traits” and “anatomical features.”

Survival strategies can be summarized as a series of behavioral traits and anatomical features designed for use in survival throughout the animal kingdom by predators and prey alike. Within the animal kingdom animals have adopted the use of many strategies in order to deal with the challenges of everyday life. These challenges, some of which were mentioned earlier include, but are not limited to:

- Finding food and water
- Finding a mate
- Finding a safe place to raise offspring
- Communicating both intra (within) species and inter (among) species.
- Environmental / seasonal changes (winter, spring, storms, drought, etc.) leading to migration, hibernation, estivation and population eruption.

While meeting these challenges, animals must also:

- Avoid predation
- Deal with the pressures from rival members of the same species (territorial struggles).

In next month’s article we’ll explore some specific examples of animals using these strategies.

### Migratory Bird Count

Count day for migratory bird day got off to a rainy start. Teams of counters covered more than twenty-five different sites in Palm Beach County—north, south, east and west—as best they could. Counts were generally down, probably due to the wet weather. The North American Migratory Count was held all over the country on September 15th. A spring count is held too. The purpose of these counts is to obtain a ‘snapshot’ of the progress and ‘shape’ of the spring and fall migration, obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species, initiate more participation among birders within Florida, create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information and of course, TO HAVE FUN!

Some interesting species spotted included an oystercatcher at Lake Worth, peregrine falcon at the beach on Palm Beach, a female frigate bird and a peregrine falcon at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton. Counts were low at most sites. Even the team that covered Wakodahatchee only recorded 23 species, the largest number being 40 black vultures, 30 black-bellied whistling ducks and 20 each anhingas, double-crested cormorants and cattle egrets. Watch for a follow-up report soon!

### Bird of the Month: *Sandwich Tern*

October’s bird of the month, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, is a medium-sized tern with a yellow-tipped black bill. While not rare here, it occurs more regularly on the west coast of Florida than on our Atlantic beaches. The Royal Tern is larger and stockier, with an orange bill, the Elegant Tern is similar in shape but with an orange-red bill, and the more inland-occurring Gull-billed Tern is stockier and with a heavy all-black bill that (surprise!) looks more like a gull’s bill than a typical tern’s bill. The name comes from the town of Sandwich, in the county of Kent, England, whence the first specimen was taken. If you’re looking for post-storm wanderers, keep your eyes peeled for the Cayenne tern, a Caribbean and South American (Atlantic) subspecies of *T. sandvicensis*, with an all-yellow bill.

Come to our October meeting to learn more about this distinctive bird.

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

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

The phone number for the chapter has been disconnected. Please visit our website, [auduboneverglades.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](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.