



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 53, Number 3
December 2012

CALENDAR

Sat. Dec 1, 6:30 a.m. South Florida Exotics with Tropical Audubon. Matheson Hammock Park, 9610 Old Cutler Rd. Miami. Meet in parking area on the left inside the park entrance. No fee. Leader: Paul Bithorn

Sun. Dec 2, 3:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands. 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Tues., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. Pine Jog. General Meeting and Holiday Pot Luck Dinner.

Wed. Dec 5, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at entrance to Marsh Trail. Entry \$5 per car

Sat. Dec 8, 8:00 a.m. Wellington Environmental Preserve, 3499 Flying Cow Rd, Wellington. Park at 2nd entrance. 2-mile walk, no shade. Leader: Walt Hackenjos

Wed. Dec 12, 3:30 p.m. Peaceful Waters. BEGINNING BIRD WALK. SE corner of Village Park, 11700 Pierson Road. Meet at beginning of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

Sat. Dec 15, 8:00 a.m. Juno Dunes. 14200 US Highway One, Juno Bch. Meet in parking lot at Loggerhead Marine Life Center. Leader: Clive Pinnock

Sun. Dec 16, 8:00 a.m. STA 1E. Carpool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Sat. Dec 22, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Meet as above. Entry \$5 per car

Thur. Dec 27, 12:00 p.m. Pelican Island/Sunset Cruise. Car pool only. \$35. Contact Claudine Laabs to register (561) 655-9779. See article on page 3 for more details.

Sun. Dec 30, Christmas Bird Count. Coordinator: Chuck Weber.

Bird-of-the-Month Photos for January

Please send January Bird-of-the-Month American Robin pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org web site by December 20 to 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 Herring Gull at the end of the December 4 meeting announcement!

December 1, 2012

Dear Members and Supporters,

We need your support now more than ever with our annual fundraising campaign. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our many important projects throughout the year.

As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the involvement of our members in our work to preserve and protect our natural environment in Palm Beach County. We face powerful opposition in our community, and there are many challenges here and statewide.

Our free family-oriented annual Everglades Day festival struggles to offer the same level of activities and events that it has done in the past, and it is in dire need of money.

In equal measure we are hoping to raise enough money to continue participating in The Palm Beach Post's Pathfinder Scholarship Awards. ASE presents our \$3,000 Ruth and Seymour Miller Scholarship to a high school senior who excels in environmental science. Rosa Durando has participated in the judging and selecting of ASE's winner for over ten years.

In order for us to continue making an impact, we need your assistance. Please remember your Audubon chapter in your year-end giving. As always, we appreciate all you do.

Thank you,

ASE Board of Directors

Program for Tuesday, December 4, 2012
Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

Clive Pinnock, naturalist and manager of Okechee Nature Center, presents On the Move: Animal Migration. In the October and November issues of the *Kite*, Clive wrote a two-part series of background articles entitled Wildlife Survival Strategies. In the first, he explains the animal food chain and how plants and animals fit into this chain. In the second, he explains how behavioral traits and anatomical features fit into animals' survival strategies. Special emphasis this month will be on migration as a survival strategy.

Growing up in Jamaica, Clive had a strong interest in nature. "I was born into it!" His memories from early childhood are of exploring and observing the natural world around him. After moving to America as a teenager, he entered City College of New York, graduating with a biology degree. He worked for the National Park Service for 15 years, serving first at Jamaica Bay (Long Island) National Wildlife Refuge and then at Glen Canyon National Recreation Center in Arizona where part of his duties included monitoring the peregrine falcons.

For information on Okechee programs go to http://www.pbcgov.com/parks/nature/okechee_nature_center/

December's meeting is our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the food will be served at 6:30 p.m. Our annual holiday meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. People with last names that begin A-K will bring main dishes; L-R salads and vegetables; S-Z will bring desserts. Please bring ready-to-serve food, as we have no kitchen. We will supply the drinks and coffee. We have great items donated for our traditional Chinese raffle. Come join in the fun—we look forward to seeing you!

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

Corresponding Secretary

Judy Munro 379-9465

Field Trips

Valleri Brauer 385-9787

Membership

Gail Tomei 969-7567

Bird ID

Clive Pinnock 233-1400 x4

Library

Anne Hoctor 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 540-5200 (w)

Sales

Stella Rossi 732-4786

Hospitality

OPEN

Kite, Webmaster 367-7689

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.

Thank You to Our Hospitality Volunteers!

Cindy Bush
Sheila Calderon
Joan Murnane
Roy Snyder
Paton White
Audrey Krois

President's Column

Cynthia Plockelman

Hey, how did you like "Hurricane Sandy"—the hurricane within a northeaster—that just devastated the NE part of the USA? Could have happened here—the endless hours waiting for forecasts, disaster preparations, lack of adequate supplies and conflicting agendas by public officials? New England coastal areas are a huge mess—will not be a quick recovery. The really scary part—forecasters anticipated another equally powerful storm to follow quickly! Fortunately, that did not happen, but could have. Certainly the in-fighting and lack of adequate preparation in NY, NJ, etc., were a gross example of what could happen up and down the eastern seaboard.

H. Sandy was bound to happen—no one believed that global warming was "real", or a hurricane within a northeaster was even possible. Disdain for discussions on global warming across the USA has been open and painful. The news media has been lax; legislatures openly negligent and dis-believing; climate scientists have been shunned, etc., etc. Thanks to the Weather Channel, which chronicled the event, citizens should be a lot more savvy. The sad situation is the mess in NY, NJ, and other states is still a MESS! Few preparations were made; coastal zones were NOT cleared out, and several of the richest coastal zones in the NE USA are unusable, needing many billion \$\$\$\$ for repairs.

Could easily have been Florida—and more such events are anticipated. Our coasts are wide open and heavily populated. Sandy beaches are vulnerable and have virtually no protections these days! Wake up you all, and start talking to your elected officials about consulting (instead of ignoring) the climate scientists. Otherwise, there might not be much left of Florida for birders, fishing, boating, etc. etc. etc.

Survey Participants Needed

Are you a science hobbyist?

We need your help with a new National Science Foundation sponsored research study that will investigate the characteristics and educational experiences of people who are active in science hobbies. More and more people are engaging in science hobbies; schools and science centers would like to know more about the characteristics of science hobbyists and how these organizations might better support hobbyists' networking and education.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

The information gained from this research can help science educators and researchers understand how to better teach science in schools and museums, and how to design better community-based science programs. Participation in this study is voluntary. Information you provide will be anonymous. If you complete the survey, you may elect to enter a drawing for a \$100 Target gift card.

Survey Link: http://ncsu.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV_700sR9G0Pkp5I2N

Thanks,

North Carolina State University

BIRDING IN PANAMA

The Best of Panama March 22–28

Three Days in the rain forest—three days in the cloud forest! \$1695 includes airfare. Call Claudine for more information 561-655-9779

BIRDING IN PERUVIAN AMAZON

Cruise the Upper Amazon May 18–25

Visit the Payaca-Samiria Reserve—a/c cabins w/private baths, daily excursions—\$2600 plus airfare. Call Claudine for more information 561-655-9779

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 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)

2012 Hawk Watch

Linda Humphries

The Hawk Watch at Curry Hammock in the Keys continues to be amazing this year. Last year on October 20, 2011 the bird counters saw 3,423 raptors in a 9-hour period. This broke previous records. One year later on October 20, 2012 they saw the second highest count of raptors in one day, totaling 2899. Some of the highlights were Turkey Vultures 1050; Northern Harriers 139; Sharp-shinned Hawks 287; Broad-winged Hawks 590; American Kestrel 435; Merlin 52; and Peregrine Falcon 201. They also estimated 1,797 American White Pelicans were seen that day. Some of our local members were on hand to witness this phenomenal event. It is hard to imagine people counting all those specks in the sky. I have witnessed the raptor count several times in the past few years and I'm in awe of the bird counter's abilities and their devotion to the count. I joined Paddy Cunningham's group on Sunday, Oct 21, 2012 at Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West. Around 9:00 am the raptors started lifting off and forming kettles. The broad-winged hawks were flying low so we were able to have great looks at them. There were hundreds of them. Paddy Cunningham did an excellent job pointing out the different raptors that would join the broad-winged hawks in their kettles. The kettles continued throughout the day. We saw several Cooper's Hawks perched in the woods and several species of warblers. I stayed 2 more days in Key West and went to the same spot each morning. The American Kestrels had started coming through and it was very interesting watching them hunt over the open fields, but most of the other birds had left. It shows that timing is everything! I was so lucky to be there on Sunday and see all the hawks. This is the grand total as of Oct 30 of some of the raptors that passed thru Curry Hammock: Turkey Vultures, 7758 (Oct 27 they saw 5714 Turkey Vultures that day); Osprey 1430; Northern Harriers 822; Sharp-shinned Hawks 1889; Cooper Hawks 690; Broad-winged Hawks 7235; Swainson's Hawks 101; American Kestrel 3126 (great improvement in their numbers this year); Mississippi Kite 98; and Peregrine Falcon 3817. Don't miss this great event next October. Make sure you save some time to join the fun! Go to <http://floridakeyshawkwatch.wordpress.com/> for more info and to see some of the amazing photos of these hawks.

2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you are a chapter-only member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE), your membership dues for 2013 are due on December 31. Anyone who renewed membership after October 1 of this year will not need to renew until 12/31/2013. You can renew your membership by check at the December meeting or by completing the membership application in the Calendar of Events brochure or on the back page of the Kite. You can also print out the membership form on the ASE web site, <http://www.auduboneverglades.org> under the membership link (select About ASE) and send in with your check. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Gail Tomei at (561) 969-7567.

Pelican Island Boat Ride—December 27

Visit Sebastian in the Indian River Lagoon to cruise to the country's first National Wildlife Refuge—Pelican Island! This boat ride takes us to the island around sunset for a spectacular fly-in. \$35 per person. Please bring your check to the meeting. For more information, call Claudine 561-655-9779.

THANK YOU, JEFF KOONS!

Those who grew up in the Palm Beaches, from late '30s on, also had access to the Lake Worth Lagoon. That was pretty much a constant source of anxiety for parents, whose children (including me!) liked to go down the street, play on the seawall (where there was a piece to use!), walk the mud flats—where there was no obstacle to the lake. To be honest, it WAS NASTY, and the project to enclose the whole lagoon with decent seawalls, took some time. Clean up took even longer!

Thanks to Jeff Koons, the worst part—the cove in front of WPB, Holy Trinity Church, various business and apartments, eventually became the South Cove Natural Area! Including effects to Jeff's political career, it was a difficult situation, that was opposed by a large number of businesses, would-be condo-construction and owners of large boats looking for dockage. Dedication took even longer, but Nov. 5, 2012, the South Cove Natural Area was celebrated.

Thanks also to the PB POST, who has consistently covered the debates, opponents and supporters. "LAGOON ISLETS OPEN", was the headline Nov. 6, 2012, of the "Local & Business" section of the PB POST. It included a great color photo, and the greatly improved conditions were obvious. Jeff Koons was there to speak and we thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Palm Beach County. We are proud to have him as a member of Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Bird of the Month: Herring Gull

December's bird of the month, *Larus argentatus*, is one of two fairly large gulls in Palm Beach County. Herring Gulls are **large gulls with hefty bills and robust bodies**. In flight, they look **barrel-chested and broad-winged** compared to smaller species such as Ring-billed Gulls. Adults have light-gray backs, black wingtips, and white heads and underparts. In winter, dusky streaks mark their heads.

As with all gulls, though, age is important: Herring Gulls take four years to reach adult plumage. Juveniles are mottled brown; second-year birds are brown but show gray on the back. Third-years have more gray on the back and more white on the head and underparts. **The legs are dull pink at all ages.**

Find out more at our monthly meeting!

If you'd like to take photos for the website/monthly discussion, here is the 2013 list:

- January – American Robin
- February – Cedar Waxwing
- March – Common Loon
- April – Barn Swallow
- May – Purple Martin
- June – Red-bellied Woodpecker
- July – Downy Woodpecker
- August – Pileated Woodpecker
- September – Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- October – Red-headed Woodpecker
- November – Wild Turkey
- December – Ruby-throated Hummingbird

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

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 46
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dated Material -- DO NOT DELAY

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES APPEARS IN THIS ISSUE; PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

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 10th 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.