EVERGLADES KITE
NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 53, Number 4
January 2013

CALENDAR

Fri. Jan 4, 7:00 a.m. Okeeheelee Nature Center Bird Walk, WPB 7715 Forest Hill Blvd. Meet on porch. Leader: Clive Finnock, Manager
Sat. Jan 5, 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. Jan 5, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach. Meet at Marsh Trail parking lot, Entry $5 per car
Sun. Jan 6, 4:00 p.m. Evening arrival of Sandhill Cranes. Meet at Seminole Inn, 15885 SW 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd., Boynton Bch. Meet outside Nature Center Main door. Leader: Valleri Brauer
Sat. Jan 12, 9:00 a.m. Photo Workshop at Green Cay (Classroom followed by boardwalk). Instructor Don Mullaney. $25 non-members, $20 local members
Mon. Jan 14, 7:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BEGINNING BIRD WALK. 13026 Jog Rd., Delray Bch. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White
Jan 17–Jan 21, Everglades Birding Festival, Contact Paddy Cunningham 954-926-5458 or website: birdadventure.com for more information
Fri. Jan 18, 7:30 a.m., Green Cay Wetlands. 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd., Boynton Bch. Meet outside Nature Center Main door. Leader: Valleri Brauer
Sat. Jan 19, 8:00 a.m. Riverbend Pl, Jupiter, 9060 Indiantown Rd. Meet at south end of main parking lot, near canoe rental trailer. Leader: Ed Kawecki
Sat. Jan 19, 6:30 a.m. STA 5, Clewiston. Meet at Burlington Coat Factory (Southern/441) to car pool. Call Linda to register, 561-742-7791
Sun. Jan 20, 8:00 a.m., STA 1E. See details above. Space limited. Call Linda to register 561-742-7791
Sat. Jan 26, 8:00 a.m. Grassy Waters Behind the Scenes, WPB 8264 Northlake Blvd. Leader: Chuck Weber
Wed. Jan 30, Snook Island Natural Area & other Intracoastal Parks. Meet at boardwalk N side of Lake Worth Bridge. Time TBD by tides. Check website, or call Linda 561-742-7791

Bird-of-the-Month Photos for February
Please send February Bird-of-the-Month Cedar Waxwing pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org website by January 15 to SheilaEliot@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 American Robin at the end of the January 8 meeting announcement!

Weather Extremes: The Challenge of Managing the Regional Water Resources of South Florida
Susan Bullock Sylvester, Director,
Operations and Control & Hydro Data Management Department

ASE’s January 8th program features Susan Sylvester whose presentation focuses on the history of the managed Everglades system and the challenges of balancing the needs of the natural system into the future.

Susan Sylvester has over 25 years’ experience in Water Resource engineering. She has been Chief, Water Control Operations Bureau for both South Florida Water Management District and for 21 years with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. She joined the South Florida Water Management District in 2005 to lead the team that provides operational control and monitoring of the complex water management system of structures and water bodies regulated for flood control, water supply and environmental enhancement as part of the Central and Southern Florida Project and Everglades Restoration. Susan provides expertise on multidisciplinary operational planning, investigations of potential areas of operational flexibility and balancing of urban concerns with Everglades needs.

She loves to travel and spent 2 years in Ecuador as a Peace Corps Volunteer working on irrigation and potable water projects. Susan holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Engineering in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University.

Be sure to check out Susan’s bio and picture on ASE’s website (in the January 8 meeting announcement) and also her Facebook page–Susan Bullock Sylvester.

STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 1E

Call Linda to register 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com

In December 2011 Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) and South Florida Water Management District signed a 5 year contract allowing ASE to give public tours on this land. Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) are constructed to remove nutrients, especially the phosphorus through plant growth and the accumulation of decomposing plant material in a layer of peat. The tour drives around the water impound areas viewing the large amount of birds that accumulate in these waters. The number and variety of birds vary according to season and water levels. We stop and exit the cars occasionally. In order to view some of the distant birds better there are scopes to look through. We have seen 115 species of birds since January 2012. Wintering ducks have been appearing lately. The sightings are posted on our yahoo group: auduboneverglades.Space is limited and the trips fill up fast. “Chapter-only Members” have 20 spaces available to them each month. Come join the fun. Call Linda at 561-742-7791 or email hlindaase@aol.com to register. You may call Bijaya Kattel of South Florida Water Management District at 561-682-6640 or email bjkattel@sfwmd.gov for questions about the STAs.
President's Column
Cynthia Plockelman

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! AND BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT TIME IN 2013!! Such fun, New Year’s—allows us to whoop it up and choose what activities make us feel great. I betcha, most of ASE’s membership will find some time to enjoy the out of doors, bird counts, barbecues, gentle rains (some are/were not so gentle here in PB county)! People, birds and out of doors—the perfect New Year’s combination.

Anyone make a significant addition to their yard or bird list?? If so, let us hear about it—spreading the knowledge of what bird is “where” is not only “good neighbors,” but also good science. It takes a lot of time and effort, to cover PB county—one of the largest counties in Florida! And, if you are birding in the Everglades part of PB County—we all know that anything is possible. Flamingos have even shown up out there, under the “right” conditions.

Then too, the annual Christmas Bird count, led by Chuck Weber and all the bird enthusiasts, contributes significant information/data to the national records on wildlife movement. The weather would definitely be a factor—the time of year when we dig out our “winter” woolies (always brings a laugh from the human winter visitors). Yes, we DO have to bundle up, from time to time, but it is WORTH IT—gives us stories we can dine or lunch out on!!

“Compiling” is a critical factor—for which we depend on Chuck and a fun party event, on the evening of our Christmas Bird Count—Contact Chuck if you are new to the area and want to join in. I betcha—it will be a great day!

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
Classroom followed by Boardwalk
Instructor: Don Mullaney
Saturday, January 12, 2012 9:00 a.m.
Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd., Boynton Beach, FL
$25 non members, $20 “chapter-only members”

Don Mullaney has been a member of our Audubon chapter for many years. He led a photo walk last year at Peaceful Waters. Photography has been a hobby of his for over 50 years. Now that he's retired, he is able to devote full time to his passion. After years of doing nature work, his main interest now is birds. In the past year, he has traveled to Maine, Texas, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua photographing many species of birds not seen here. His work has been published in books and calendars. Audubon chapters in Florida and North Carolina have used his photos in their literature and on their websites.

Come join the fun! Call Linda at 561-742-7791 or hlindaase@aol.com to register.

You can see Don's work on his website….donaldmullaney.smugmug.com

The Audubon Society of the Everglades Invites you on a Peruvian adventure
AMAZON CRUISE
May 18 through May 25, 2013
Visit the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, birding and botanizing through the flooded forest of the Upper Amazon in Peru. See toucans, macaws, monkeys, sloths, caimans, blooming orchids, medicinal plants and yes, PINK DOLPHINS!
$2600 plus airfare
- includes seven days and six nights on a riverboat
- A/C cabins with private baths
- All meals on board
- Purified drinking water always available
- Daily guided excursions by launch
- Nocturnal symphonies and a full moon
$1300 deposit holds reservation – limit 12, balance and airfare due January 30
Make check payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to Claudine Laabs – PO Box 2022 – Palm Beach, FL 33480. For more information contact Claudine at 561-655-9779

Donations In Memoriam
Peggy Myers, in memory of Phyllis Markuson.
Your company might have a matching gift program; whether it does or not, please consider ASE in your charitable contribution plans.

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) 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)
Bird of the Month: American Robin

January’s bird of the month, *Turdus migratorius*, is the largest North American thrush (related to the Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Swainson’s Thrush, etc.). It’s also one of the most puzzling migratory mysteries left in our continent’s avifauna—where you might see thousands of them one winter, you’ll see none the next! This sporadic nature of their overwintering sites appears to be correlated to resource availability: in other words, they’ll stay where they can find something to eat! One year they’ll be up in Massachusetts in enormous flocks and completely absent from Palm Beach County; the next year, millions of those Massachusetts birds will be out in the Loxahatchee NWR and Corbett.

Although they’re among the more familiar birds, a description of them might read like this: fairly large, gray-brown bird with a large, round body, long legs, and a long tail. They have warm orange underparts and dark heads, with a white patch on the lower belly that can be quite obvious in flight.

Come find out more at our January Meeting!
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.

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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 C9ZE0002 with your application so NAS will know how to process your payment.

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.