



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 53, Number 5

February 2013

CALENDAR

Sat. Feb 2-3 Viera Wetlands/Merritt Island.

Contact Valleri Brauer, (561) 385-9787 to register

Sat. Feb 2, 8:00 a.m., STA 1E. Car Pool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Sun. Feb 3, 10:00 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Bch. CHILDREN'S BIRDWALK (children 8 and above) Meet outside Nature Center Main Door. Leader: Linda Humphries

Tues., Feb 5, 7:30 p.m. Pine Jog. General meeting. Presentation: Sylvia Pelizza, Everglades issues and research.

Wed. Feb 6, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Trail. Entry \$5 per car

Sat. Feb 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 14th Annual Everglades Day. Theme: "Healthy Everglades—Healthy People", ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Free event! See inside for details

Mon. Feb 11, 10:00 a.m. Behind the Scenes at Okeechelie Nature Center (back of park). 7715 Forest Hill Blvd, WPB. Live Bird demonstration. Clive Pinnock, Manager

Fri. Feb 15, 4:00 p.m. Green Cay, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Sat. Feb 16, 8:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Bch. Meet as above. Leader: TBA

Sun. Feb 17, 8:00 a.m. STA 1E. BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. See details above. Space limited. Call Linda to register 561-742-7791.

Mon. Feb 18, 4:00 p.m. Peaceful Waters, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. 11700 Pierson Road, Wellington. Leader: Paton White

Fri. Feb 22, 5:00 p.m. Palm Bch Zoo/Evening Fly In. Meet at ticket box-no charge. 1301 Summit Blvd, WPB. Leader: Linda Humphries

Sat. Feb 23, 7:30 a.m. Cypress Creek Natural Area. Two-mile walk on rough terrain. Meet in parking area North side of Indiantown Rd at Gulfstream Citrus Rd (immediately West of Jupiter Farms Rd) Leader: Chuck Weber

Sun. Feb 24, Blue Cypress Lake. (Hundreds of Nesting Osprey) Space is limited. Contact Claudine Laabs (561) 655-9779 to register

Wed. Feb 27, 4:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BEGINNING BIRD WALK. Meet as above. Leader: Linda Humphries

General Meeting, Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge: Research and Issues

Sylvia Pelizza, Project Leader, ARM Loxahatchee and Hobe Sound NWRs

Everglades Day is coming in February. Sylvia Pelizza brings us the latest on Everglades issues and research.

Wildlife and wild places have always been important to Sylvia Pelizza and her family. Since 2008 Sylvia has been the manager, then project leader, at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Her husband Charlie manages the newly established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

Sylvia brings over 30 years of experience at U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service posts, managing diverse national wildlife refuge habitats including East coast salt and freshwater habitats, Dakota's native prairie, Southwest saline wetland and deserts, tropical forests on Oahu and now our own unique Everglades habitat.

With this breadth of experience, it is easy to see why supervisor David Riker recently announced that Sylvia will be the field-based Area Supervisor for the "Subtropics," which will initially include the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee and Hobe Sound Complex, the Florida Keys NWR Complex, and after a transition period by the end of the fiscal year, the Caribbean NWR Complex including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In addition to all of these experiences, Sylvia has worked as a Type II wildland firefighter, studied endangered species issues on refuges, and has worked with Congressional staff, local federal, state, and county agencies, non-profit organizations, established advisory groups, scientists, consumer groups, the media, and other interested public parties.

In between all of this, she manages to keep up with her two teenagers!

Sylvia's vision for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is to improve water quality and quantity; reduce invasive exotic plant populations and meet maintenance control levels; continue and enhance the environmental education program; support prescribed burning activities; improve visitor opportunities; and maintain science integrity in all research and biological activities on the Refuge.

Palm Beach County Rare Birds of 2013

Linda Humphries

All of Florida has been experiencing an influx of Razorbill's, birds with penguin-like features. These birds are normally found in cold water. Razorbills can dive several hundred feet under the ocean's surface looking for food and they walk upright on land, like penguins. They were first spotted on Dec 9, 2012 off of Boynton Beach Inlet but are now seen thru all of Florida's coasts, even Key West.

Unusual birds being seen since the first of the year in Palm Beach County include six Black Scoters, four Piping Plovers, and our usual Oystercatchers. They were all spotted in our Christmas Bird Count. The Neotropic Cormorants continue to be seen at Wakodahatchee. The STA 1E trip on January 5, 2013 had a male Cinnamon Teal and a male Redhead along with 11 duck species including several Canvasback, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, large numbers

of Fulvous Whistling Ducks, and the usual flock of Black Skimmers. Green Cay has reported a LaSagra's Flycatcher (still seen on 1/14/13) in the parking lot, a Yellow-Breasted Chat near the boardwalk, and even a Ruddy Duck. Spanish River Park had a Western Spindalis, and a flock of 50 Cedar Waxwings were seen at Phipps Park. The birds are here and it is only January 15! Come on out and join the fun. You can find local bird information by signing in to Yahoo and going to their group section....just type in Auduboneverglades. Members are posting updates to rare local birds and terrific pictures daily. Don't forget to check it out!

Bird-of-the-Month Photos for March

Please send March Bird-of-the-Month COMMON LOON pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the auduboneverglades.org web site by February 15 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 Cedar Waxwing at the end of the February 5 meeting announcement on the web.

The Everglade Kite

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

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<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.

BLUE CYPRESS LAKE Early Morning Boat Ride February 24

Cruise this pristine lake that has the highest concentration of nesting Ospreys in the world! 6 AM carpool departure.

\$45/p, limit eight—call Claudine for reservations at 561-655-9779.

President's Column

Cynthia Plockelman

Everglades Coalition, Coral Gables, 2013 Conference, etc.

The Everglades Coalition held its 14th Annual Conference at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables during the second week of January, 2013. The topics chosen for discussion/presentation were extremely relevant to the current political scenario, as well as critical environmental issues. Truly, attendees are a “who’s who” of regional Florida, state and national organizations and government. Included were Sen. Bob Graham, Melissa Meeker of SFWMD, Rock Salt- ACOE, Nat Reed, Maggy Hurchalla, Everglades Foundation, Audubon of Florida, Sierra Club, Florida Fish & Wildlife, USDA, USFWS, National & Florida Wildlife Federations, etc.

Discussions were relevant, and sometime “tart”, depending on what and who were involved. Speakers were also heard at breakfast, lunch and dinner, taking advantage of every opportunity to present information to the very willing participants. Politics of environmentalism, who and how to get things going or working or continuing was the order of each day. No current topic escaped examination

Some of the most interesting were break out sessions—especially on the last afternoon. I attended the one on dealing with exotic species and who & how is authorized to act or not allowed to act (!!) on various species that are threats to native fauna, plants, etc. Pythons were actually rounded up early on the last day by a team of specialists, including from SFWMD. It is a situation that continues to intrigue and irritate those defending the real Florida fauna. I anticipate that we will include a program for 2013–2014, on dealing with this HUGE problem.

SEVEN 50: NEW INITIATIVE FOR PLANNING IN SOUTH FLORIDA

<http://seven50.org/overview/about-the-southeast-florida-regional-partnership/>

Several ASE members attended the December meeting of this new project at PBC ERM in West Palm. Over 60 people from all constituencies—government to nonprofit—learned about the initiative and participated in small group sessions to identify key critical needs in areas from transportation to economic growth to ecosystem protection. The next summit is January 24 in Miami; check their website for upcoming sessions. The description from the Treasure Coast RPC website:

“Seven50 (“seven counties, 50 years”) is a blueprint for growing a more prosperous, more desirable Southeast Florida during the next 50 years and beyond. The plan is being developed to help ensure socially inclusive communities, a vibrant and resilient economy, and stewardship of the fragile ecosystem in what is quickly becoming one of the world’s most important mega-regions. Spearheaded by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils and the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (SFRP), Seven50 is mapping the strategy for the best-possible quality of life for the more than six million residents of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties.

The plan is being devised through a series of public summits, workshops, online outreach and high-impact studies led by the region’s top thinkers. Seven50 has been made possible by a grant from the US Department of Housing & Urban Development’s Sustainable Communities Initiative. The Partnership has united to leverage resources and coordinate strategic long-term planning to drive competitiveness and prosperity for the region. SFRP seeks greater opportunities for sustained job creation, access to affordable housing, a better menu of transportation options, and more people-friendly, environment-friendly places to live.”

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

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)

Saturday February 9, 2013 8am to 4pm rain or shine
14th Annual Everglades Day Festival Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
“Healthy Everglades—Healthy People”
Everglades Conservation /Vitamin N—NATURE/ Healthy—Happy—Strong!

An exciting panel discussion among health professionals, environmental scientists, and other leaders will keynote this year’s Everglades Day. The speaker presentations and guided activities for our 14th annual event focus on Healthy Everglades—Healthy People, with presentations on the health of the Everglades and sessions focusing on the health of people. Guided nature walks Wading Birds Everglades Restoration Native Snakes . Participate In Wildlife Presentations / Nature Walks / Live Music /Guest Speakers / 30+ Exhibitors / Food / Canoeing /Walking LILA Tours / Animal Olympics.

Some activities and exhibits planned for the Everglades Day program include
Lance Warley, photographer “Fuzzy to Finery” (see his Everglades Day blog at <http://www.lancewarleyphotography.com/page2>)
Clive Pinnock, “Raptor Chapter”, live birds
Roadside Revue Music
Live Animal presentations by the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and Palm Beach Zoo
and much much more!

Come join us and wear your walking shoes for this free (except for food) family fun and educational outdoor festival!
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach U.S. 441/State Road 7 - 2 miles south of Boynton Beach Blvd.Parking at Monte’s Packaging 1/2 mile south of Refuge entrance. Free shuttle to/around the Refuge.

For more information, contact the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge at 561-734-8303

In partnership with the Audubon Society of the Everglades, Friends of the Loxahatchee NWR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Palm Beach County Cultural Council, PBC Commission, and the Palm Beach Post



**FPL SOLAR PLANT AND/OR BARLEY BARBER TOUR
SPECIAL FIELD TRIP**

Florida Power and Light has offered to give interested ASE members a special presentation at the new solar plant in Martin County and/or a tour of Barley Barber natural area located in Martin County. The date will probably be in Feb. If you are interested in registering, you must send your name and birthdate – month/date/year - and your choice for one or both tours as well as a phone number to Susan Snyder roysue@bellsouth.net 627-7829. Birth date information is needed for power plant security screening.

Bird of the Month: Common Loon

Back in 2007, February’s bird of the month, Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), was removed by the American Ornithological Union from its long-standing place at the beginning of our field guides, to be replaced by the Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, Swans). Nevertheless, it is still a regular winter visitor to Palm Beach County. Anyone who has walked along the Lake Worth Lagoon between September and May is likely to have seen this large, thick-billed bird with a blue-gray bill.

It is nearly exactly the same size as our year-round resident Double-crested Cormorant (32” in length), and they reside in similar situations (the Intracoastal Waterway and surrounding coastal waters). Nonetheless, they are simple to differentiate even beyond binocular or spotting scope distance, because cormorants tend to keep their bills pointed toward the sky, as if expecting trouble, while the loon, perhaps more confident, or more trusting, swims with its bill parallel to the water.

In flight, cormorants have broader wings; the loon’s flight appears quite a bit more fluid and graceful. Anyone who has tried to approach this bird has discovered why another common name for it is the Great Northern Diver: it will disappear fairly quickly. Although it can’t dive that deep near our coasts, it has been recorded at depths of 55 meters. Its longest recorded dive is only 124 seconds, so odds are you’ll be able to spot a vanished bird again if you keep looking.

Another difference between the loon and the cormorant is their underwater “flight”: cormorants use their wings for propulsion, while loons use only their feet. The loon’s feet are so well adapted to the water (their fibula actually extends beyond the femur, allowing their leg muscles to attach past the fulcrum point, which gives them enormous strength, leverage, and flexibility. This mechanical advantage, combined with their need to dive, requires their bones to be more solid than those of most birds, who have hollow bones. It also means that loons are unable to walk upright on land; they push themselves along the ground on their chests on those rare occasions when they do leave the water.

So next time you’re out on the Lake Worth Lagoon, and it looks like it might be a first-quarter moon, take a look for your new friend—*Gavia immer*, the loon!

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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 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.