



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 54, Number 5

February 2014

CALENDAR

Sat. Feb 1, 7:45 a.m. STA 1E. ASE invites Tropical Audubon to join us. 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 2, 8:00 a.m. Pond Hawk Natural Area, Boca Raton. 1501 Spanish River Blvd. Meet at Library parking lot. Leader: Ben Kolstad

Wed. Feb 5, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. 10216 Lee Rd, Boynton Bch. Meet at Marsh Trail. Entry \$5 per car

Thur. Feb 6, T.M. Goodwin/Broadmoor. All day trip. Bring lunch. Car pool. Contact Rick at ase@rschofield.net for details and to register

Sat. Feb 8, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 16th Annual Everglades Day. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Theme: "EVERGLADES: THEN AND NOW". Free Event! See inside for details

Sun. Feb 9, 6:30 a.m. Viera Wetlands "Plus." Carpool from Jupiter. All day trip/space limited. Contact Valleri Brauer 561-385-9787 to register

Sun. Feb 9, 8:00 a.m. Riverbend Pk. Jupiter, 9060 Indiantown Rd. Meet at south end of main parking lot near canoe rental trailer. Leader: Ed Kaweck

Fri. Feb 14, 3:30 p.m. Green Cay, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Boynton Bch. 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Meet outside Nature Center main door. Leader: Paton White

Sat. Feb 15, 4:00 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Delray Bch 13026 Jog Rd. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Sat. Feb 15, 6:00 a.m. Blue Cypress Lake (Hundreds of Nesting Osprey). Space is limited. Contact Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779 to register

Sun. Feb 16, 7:00 a.m. STA 1E. BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. See details above. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Mon. Feb 17, 4:30 p.m. Snook Island Natural Area and other Intracoastal Parks. BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Meet at boardwalk N side of Lake Worth Bridge. Leader: Linda Humphries

Sat. Feb 22, 7:00 a.m. DuPuis Management Area, State Rd 76 (3 miles east of Port Mayaca). Meet at entrance Gate 1. Leader: Chuck Weber

Sun. Feb 23, 8:00 a.m. Yamato Scrub. Boca Raton, 701 Clint Moore Rd. Leader: Ben Kolstad

Tue. Feb 25, 4:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands. BEGINNING BIRD WALK. Meet as above. Leader: Paton White

Fri. Feb 28, 4:30 p.m. Green Cay Wetlands. Meet as above. Leader: Cliff Dean

Establishing Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Charlie Pelizza, Project Leader

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

Charlie Pelizza is the Project Leader for the recently established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Complex consists of Pelican Island Refuge, the Nation's first Refuge established in 1903; Archie Carr, the most important stretch of nesting beach for loggerhead turtles in the western hemisphere and second in the world; Lake Wales Ridge, dominated by over 30 endemic and endangered scrub-dependent plants and animals; and Everglades Headwaters, the 556th and one of the most recently established refuges. He received his bachelor's degree at Elmira College, and his Masters at the University of South Dakota. He lives in Wellington, Florida with Sylvia, also a Project Leader with the Service, and two teenage children, Sierra and Kai.

Charlie has worked with Service, primarily in the Division of Refuges for 33 years in habitats ranging from the tidal marshes of the Delaware Bay, to the prairies and potholes of the Dakotas, to the deserts of the American southwest, and the tropical islands of the Pacific. His most recent challenge has been the planning, establishment, and development for a landscape-scale conservation initiative to protect the headwaters of the Everglades; conserve habitat for threatened and endangered species; connect a network of existing conservation lands; anticipate the impacts of climate change; provide enhanced outdoor recreational and educational opportunities; while also preserving the ranching heritage of central Florida. He has recently been recognized by his peers for his career accomplishments and efforts to establish the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, receiving the Champion of the Everglades, Conservationist of the Year, and Refuge Manager of the Year awards.

Please join us for this important program at Pine Jog. Free and open to the public! 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach.

President's Corner

Cynthia Plockelman

I want to thank the Everglades Coalition for giving me the "Kabler Award", at the recent annual meeting of EC in Naples, Fla. It was a nice trip to Naples, for the annual dinner and a chance to greet and meet with the great collection of environmental activists attending. Our ASE Treasurer, Janet Schreiber, drove me and her sister Maxine to the conference, and the dinner with speaker Sen. Bob Graham. I also had a chance to chat with Maggy Hurchalla of Martin Co., who I had not seen for quite a while. There is a very nice print by Florida artist Clyde Butcher, that will find a space on a wall at my home. EC cited both my Florida Native Plant Society activities, Audubon and years employed by South Florida Water Management District.

We took the opportunity to visit Corkscrew NWR, just south of Naples on the way home and were pleased with the large number of families visiting that day. This is one of my favorite sites conserved by the Audubon activists and the combination of the magnificent cypress forest and egrets seeking nest sites, with admiring visitors, was worth the detour.

Thank you all, for your confidence and recognition of the important work done by all of the environmental activists these days, in Florida.

Birding Workshop

Paton White

Our birding workshop was a wonderful success. Thirty-one people attended four fascinating programs: Greg Braun on "Confusing Shorebirds"; the always entertaining James Currie on his adventures; Clive Pinnock with four captivating feathered friends on "Hawk Ecology"; and our very own Claudine Laabs sharing her experience with the "Dancing Sandhill Cranes." Thanks to all who attended, we were able to raise over \$550 for our Educational Scholarship Fund. Linda Humphries and Susan Snyder did a wonderful job finding the speakers!

Bird-of-the-Month Pictures

Please send March Bird-of-the-Month AMERICAN COOT pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org web site 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. Meanwhile please enjoy our growing on-line gallery of member pictures on the web site (click Bird of the Month on left side scroll-down topic list)

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 Smithh 779-3736

Publicity

Sheila Hollihan-Elliot 629-7516

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.

Consider ASE In Your Giving Plans

Please consider a donation to Audubon Society of the Everglades as part of your charitable contributions this year. Your company might have a matching gift program; whether it does or not, please remember ASE in your charitable contribution plans. Thank you!

2013 West Palm Beach CBC

Rarities and outstanding teamwork highlighted the 2013 West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count, on Saturday, January 4. More than 70 birders on 19 teams tallied 146 countable species (tentative total—some lists still out)—very respectable given the recent slow birding, and a couple challenges from the weather department. We were able to track down almost every rarity seen in recent weeks, and each team contributed important numbers or unique sightings. Many species were seen by only one or two groups.

A first-winter male Common Eider, appearing since November, heads the list of rarities. According to our records, this is a first for our count. The eider has been reported irregularly since January 1, inside the Boynton Inlet, to the south and north.

For the second year in a row, Neotropic Cormorant has been documented at Wakodahatchee, providing our second count record. Also seen for the second year in a row, and a second count day record is Piping Plover. Several Pippings have been at Snook Islands and on the beach north of Lake Worth Pier. And again for the second year, and only the sixth time on the count: Black Scoter. A first-winter male and female have been at Snook Islands Natural Area since late December. Black Scoters have been reported at other locations too, including near the Boynton Inlet on count day.

(Another recent rarity, Wilson's Plover, was relocated Sunday afternoon, on the beach, north of the Lake Worth Pier. This will be recorded as Count Week.)

Adding excitement were sightings of Canada Goose on a private barrier island golf course, and a male Harlequin Duck at the retention lake adjacent to Mangrove Park, Boynton Beach. With both, there is a question of origin. The state compiler and other experts will evaluate the reports, and determine whether these are countable.

We also had other species that were hard to find in recent years. They included Fulvous Whistling Duck, Ruddy Duck, Virginia Rail, Bonaparte's Gull, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Spot-breasted and Baltimore Orioles. And the list goes on.

Flocks of American Robin and Cedar Waxwing, seen by several teams, provided the largest numbers of these species for some time—although still a far cry from what was once recorded.

On the down side, swallows were almost nonexistent—unbelievably so. Fish Crow numbers are way down again. It appears we'll miss Green-winged Teal, Brown Thrasher; even Bald Eagle, which was seen by nearly half the teams last year, was a complete miss this time.

Thank you to all counters and team leaders for a fantastic effort in the field, and to those who helped plan and coordinate. We are also grateful to Paton White for graciously hosting the compilation! The tentative species list is on the website.

—Chuck Weber, compiler

BLUE CYPRESS LAKE BOAT RIDE - SATURDAY February 15 \$45.

Depart early (6 AM) to carpool to a pristine lake west of Vero Beach which has the distinction of the HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF NESTING OSPREYS IN THE WORLD. We will arrive early while waters are calm and cruise in a comfortable pontoon boat as Ospreys do their aerial courtship display and refurbish their nests! Limit eight. Call Claudine for reservations 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 Feb 8 15th Annual EVERGLADES DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday February 8, 2014 8am to 4pm rain or shine: 15th Annual Everglades Day Festival Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge -"EVERGLADES THEN & NOW"

Exciting speakers, workshop programs, and guided activities, including representative from the Seminole Nation, will highlight this year's theme – Everglades Then & Now.

New this year, to enhance this fun family day, will be a FOOD TRUCK center.

Also guided nature walks, wading birds, native & invasive snakes. Participate in Wildlife Presentations / Nature Walks / Live Music /Guest Speakers / 30+ Exhibitors / Canoeing /Kids Fishing /Walking LILA Tours / Animal Olympics

Some planned activities for the Everglades Day program include **Reinaldo Becerra**, Seminole Nation Representative; **James Currie**, Birding Adventures Discovery Channel; **Edward Mercer**, "Python Hunter", live pythons; **Butch Wilson**, Clewiston Museum, "Lake Okeechobee: Past & Present"; **Rolf Olson**, KIDS ARCHERY WORKSHOP; **Catherine Smith Smith**, "Early Lake People," presentation & panels, Belle Glade Museum; **Jenny Novak**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, live pythons; **Clive Pinnock**, "Raptor Chapter", live birds; **Roadside Revue**, Music; **Live Animal presentations** by the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Palm Beach Zoo, and Treasure Coast Animal Hospital; **Howard Bernstein**, historical perspective Marsh Wildflowers, and

much much more!

Come join us and wear your walking shoes for this free (except for food) family fun and educational outdoor festival! A free handicapped accessible van will be available.

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



Everglades Coalition Recognizes ASE President Cynthia Plockelman's Grassroots Activism

Congratulations to ASE President Cynthia Plockelman for receiving the Everglades Coalition's 2014 John Kabler Grassroots Activism Award at January's 29th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference. The Kabler Award is awarded to someone who has worked to organize and educate the public and generate grassroots support for Everglades restoration.

After retiring from a 40-year career at the South Florida Water Management District where she managed their reference center and archives, Cynthia became a full-time grassroots environmental advocate. She is a tireless voice for Everglades restoration, wildlife conservation and protecting our water, attending numerous meetings at local, regional, and state levels, and speaking with decision makers. In addition to being the president of Audubon Society of the Everglades and a former Audubon Florida board member, Cynthia is active with the Everglades Coalition, Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Native Plant Society, and several other environmental organizations.

The Coalition saluted Cynthia's lifetime of unwavering support for the Everglades and Florida's native plants and wildlife, and recognized her at the Saturday banquet with a Clyde Butcher photograph.

A version of this article appeared on the website of Audubon Florida at <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/?p=14420>.

Bird of the Month for February: Purple Gallinule

This month's bird is one of the stars of our local wetland areas. It's always fun to see this colorful rail (yes, gallinules are rails) climbing adroitly up a fireflag plant to strip the seeds from the uniquely zigzag "knees" of the stems (the plant's specific epithet, *geniculata*, means "knee-shaped").

Porphyrio martinicus is fairly closely related to last month's BoTM, the newly renamed *Gallinula galeata*; although it is not in the same genus, the shape, behavior, and habitat are similar. But while Common Gallinules are frequently found swimming, Purple Gallinules appear to prefer climbing on emergent vegetation like spatterdock or fire flag (they can swim, of course, but like Bartleby the scrivener, they seem to prefer not to).

Although the common name implies that this bird is purple, it's not purple all over like the male Purple Martin. It does have a dark purple head, neck, and underside, but you're at least as likely to notice its other colors: its green back, yellow-tipped red bill, bright blue facial shield, and white undertail coverts (Common Gallinule has two "tail lights"; Purple has one). Males and females are similar.

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.

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 state of Florida at <http://ccfcorp.dos.state.fl.us/search.html> and searching by name Audubon Society of the Everglades or calling in Florida 850-245-6052. 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.