



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 54, Number 8

May / June 2014

CALENDAR

Sat. May 3, 7:45 a.m. STA 1E. Car pool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Contact Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Sun. May 4, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's Forest, Palm Bch Gardens. W side of Prosperity Farms Rd. 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. Leaders: Steve & Melanie Garcia

Sat. May 10, 6:00 p.m. Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Bch. 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Meet outside Nature Center main door. Leader: Cliff Dean

Wed. May 14, 7:30 a.m. Peaceful Waters, Wellington. SE corner of Village Park, 11700 Pierson Road. Meet at beginning of boardwalk. Leader: Sue Young

Sat. May 17, 7:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Bch. 13026 Jog Rd. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Valleri Brauer

JUNE CHALLENGE. Go out and see how many different species of birds you can see in your county during the month of June. Post and follow the results of the Palm Beach County challenge on Yahoo group: auduboneverglades

Sun. Jun 1, 6:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands. Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Sat. Jun 7, 7:45 a.m. STA 1E. See details above. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Bird-of-the-Month Pictures

Please send June, July and August Bird-of-the-Month pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the ASE web site to SheilaElliot@yahoo.com. June – Roseate Spoonbill; July – Green-winged Teal; August – Blue-winged Teal 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)

May 6, 2014 Life of John James Audubon

Bob Hall, Publisher of Audubon Centennial Edition, Owner Zebra Publishing

Bob Hall was born in Brownsville, Texas in 1942. After graduating from Texas A&M in 1966, he served as a Navy carrier pilot during the war in Vietnam. Moving to Florida in 1986, he established the fine art graphics company “Zebra Publishing” in West Palm Beach, FL. He is now in progress with the restoration and marketing of one of America’s national heirlooms.

In creating the “Audubon Centennial Edition” each original Havell engraved Audubon print was captured as a first generation plate image print and then underwent an exceedingly sophisticated restoration process, rendering the finished Giclée plate image print to the beauty and brilliance when originally hand painted by Havell and his artisans. Each plate image print is created to its exact original dimensions on a superior archival paper and is embossed with the National Audubon Society logo, pencil signed and numbered.

Each plate image print is strictly limited to 200 prints and the first fifty prints of the edition are reserved for collectors as complete suites entitled the “Audubon Centennial Edition Suite.” This is the first time that each plate image print has been meticulously restored to capture its original beauty and only the third time in 182 years that a complete collection of the Havell Edition prints have been produced.

Join ASE at the May 6th meeting at Pine Jog when we honor environmental educators Phillip and Ann Weinrich as they retire after many years of service in Palm Beach County. The impact they have had teaching about the environment is remarkable. They have shared their knowledge, love, and enthusiasm for the environment with students and adults alike. Palm Beach County has been enriched by their contributions and they will be missed!

June 3, 2014 Local Wildflowers

Beth Burger, Plant Biologist

In Beth’s words: “Through the Florida Trail Association, I discovered the beauty of Florida’s natural areas and fell in love especially with Corbett Wildlife Management Area. I ended up studying Biology/Botany at FAU. I worked protecting wetlands for the federal government, as a program coordinator at a local natural area (Grassy Waters Preserve), and as a freelance field biologist. I like spending time in nature birding, hiking, biking and snorkeling, etc. I’ve been with Florida Trail about 30 years!”

Beth will be sharing her knowledge about wildflowers found in Corbett as well as our Palm Beach County Natural areas. Beth coordinated the Palm Beach County Scrub Jay count in 2012 and 2013.

Meetings are held in Rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach.

Also at the meeting—Birds of the Month (see below). Come to the meetings to hear more about these iconic Florida birds from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

Birds of the Month May: Glossy Ibis; June: Roseate Spoonbill

May’s bird of the month is the darker version of last month’s bird, although it’s in a different genus from the white; Glossy Ibis is *Plegadis falcinellus*, while white is *Eudocimus albus*. If you’re out at the refuge in the evening, it’s not hard to imagine the skies literally darkening as flocks of glossy and white ibis stream by on their way to their roosting sights. Glossies are about two feet tall, their bills curve down, and they have long legs, perfect for wading.

But if you’re into long-legged wading birds, wait until you see June’s bird of the month: the unusually billed and strikingly pink Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*). Visitors to our local wetlands see the large pink bird and immediately think: flamingo! And while they are close relatives, flamingos are much larger, with even longer legs and neck but a shorter, differently unusual bill. If you’re curious, you might like to know that some scientists believe that the pink coloration that roseate spoonbills (and flamingos) acquire as they mature is due to their diet of carotenoid-rich organisms like shrimp. The more they eat, the pinker they get. It goes like this: Spoonbills eat shrimp, shrimp eat algae, and the algae make their own red and yellow pigments, called carotenoids. Very unusual bill.

Come to our May and June meetings to hear our own bird expert, Clive Pinnock, tell us more about these characteristic (and charismatic) south Florida birds.

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.

Items left at past ASE dinners

Contact Susan Snyder 627-7829 or roysue@bellsouth.net
Very long knife with serrated edge and prong on one end
Large Serving Spoon, Mount Vernon Pattern
Server for cake or pie, Lareaux Pattern
Doris Anderson's white handle cake or pie server

President's Column

Paton White

I am excited about starting this year with our wonderful board and terrific members. I am grateful for your support, as it will be hard to follow Cynthia Plockelman as President, her years of conservation knowledge and dedication are simply impossible to replicate. We will still depend on her for advice. On a brighter side, Linda Humphries, our first VP, has agreed to run our general meetings—she makes them such fun! And I am absolutely thrilled that Susan McKemy has agreed to serve as second VP. She brings a wealth of knowledge about “things technical” and great enthusiasm. She is spearheading our breeding bird atlas program in Palm Beach County. We are very lucky to have Janet Schreiber continue as our treasurer and Alan Parmalee as secretary. Both of them have served ASE with great dedication. I am looking forward to a wonderful year. As the year progresses, I hope that they and other members of the board, will fill this space with their thoughts, inspirations and hopes for our chapter.

At the annual meeting, it was my privilege to announce the very generous donation of the Audubon prints. We are creating a committee with the goal of raising significant funds and publicity for ASE.

At our last board meeting, Judy Munro presented us with some information on migrating birds and the effect that building light have on them. It is horrifying to know that window collisions are responsible for up to 988,000 million bird deaths and that only 1% come from skyscrapers. 44% are from buildings, including our homes, three stories or shorter. The remaining 55% of strikes hit buildings between four and eleven stories. We all need to be mindful about turning unnecessary lights off during migration.

We can all make a difference to the environment. Years ago, Steve Bass told me that with a lake on my property I might be able to get wood ducks to nest. I built a nesting box and put it on a stump for the night, intending to put it on a pole in the lake in the morning. The next morning there was a drake wood duck sitting on the top. Well, the construction crew creating the wetlands in front of Bryant Park have a similar problem. A pair of oystercatchers have jumped the gun and are occupying the same space. It seems “if you will build it” they really do come! It also points out that no matter how big or small the action we take, it can have a positive impact. When I lived in Vero Beach, my small, zero lot home was midway between the ocean and intracoastal and had absolutely no wild life. I built two small ponds at either end of the back yard and put a shallow “stream” between them with a pump and a hose to recycle the water. Within the week I had lots of dragonflies, some birds and most amazing of all mosquito fish in the ponds. The birds must have carried fish eggs to the ponds. In my new home, I am creating gardens to support our birds and wild life, but the big difference came when I added the bird bath. Is there something you can do to improve your environment?

—Paton

ASE Annual Meeting Recap

ASE held its 47th annual meeting recently. Keynote speaker, Eric Draper, Audubon Florida Executive Director, highlighted special habitats around the state that have been conserved and are making a difference for wildlife and clean water. He highlighted issues Audubon Florida has been promoting. He praised Palm Beach County's efforts to preserve environmentally sensitive land purchased years ago with voter's approval of bond issues. Tabitha Cole, Audubon Florida, also attended. ASE appreciates their support especially during the busy legislative session in Tallahassee. The covered dish dinner and auction organized by Paton White raised \$300.

Officers for 2014–2016 term were elected and the 2014-2015 budget was passed. President, Paton White; 1st Vice President, Linda Humphries; 2nd Vice President, Susan McKemy; Secretary, Alan Parmalee; Treasurer, Janet Schreiber

Cynthia Plockelman, outgoing president, was honored for her long time commitment to ASE's environmental committee. Cynthia, a renowned conservation advocate, recently was awarded the Everglades Coalition's 2014 John Kabler Grassroots Activism Award for support of Florida's environment.

THANK YOU, Jill Harold, hospitality chair, and Vickie Rogerson, table decorator extraordinaire. Thanks also go to the many people who helped out with tables, chairs, set up and clean up. Ninety two people were in attendance

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)

Gift of Rare Audubon Prints to ASE; Audubon Exhibition

Sheila Hollihan-Elliott

As announced by new ASE President Paton White at the Annual Meeting April 1, "Audubon Society of the Everglades has received a donation of three framed antique Audubon prints from an anonymous benefactor for fundraising and educational purposes. These are from the rare Chromolithography edition by J. Bien, New York: 1858, Purple Grackle; 1860, Redwinged Starling; and 1860, Purple Martin; each is approximately 38" x 25" vertical format and handsomely framed. As the donation is currently crated and archived, we will include facsimile images (on the ASE website) of this important gift. Watch each *Kite* and the ASE website and Facebook Page for monthly updates and historical information about these prints. We are grateful to our anonymous donor for this generosity."

The fundraising effort will likely be scheduled for Fall-Winter 2014/15 and concluded at the next Annual Meeting; in the meantime, we will be posting articles in each of the upcoming *Kite* newsletters about Audubon, his paintings and the prints created from his artwork, and about our prints in particular. Please contact sheilaelliott@yahoo.com with questions you'd like answered in these upcoming articles.

Meanwhile, for you "Snowbirds", there is a "once in a lifetime" exhibition of Audubon's original bird paintings at the New-York Historical Society—it's well worth a visit, even if you need to go out of your way while traveling north to get there. NYHS continues its acclaimed series of exhibitions celebrating John James Audubon's legendary original watercolors, "Audubon's Aviary: Parts Unknown (Part II of The Complete Flock)" on view through Monday May 26. All but 25 of the 132 watercolors on display depict water birds or waders, many of which are among Audubon's most spectacular and largest birds, such as the Great Blue Heron and the Whooping Crane. You'll see the Atlantic Puffin from his trip to Labrador and from the southeast, the Magnificent Frigatebird and a spectacular male Snowy Egret in flamboyant "aigrettes" breeding plumage, and our familiar local White Ibis, Brown Pelican, and Purple Gallinule—not to speak of seemingly ubiquitous Canada Geese, Mallard Ducks, Gulls and Terns ranging north from hereThe NYHS exhibit also features audio birdcalls and songs of each species provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, as well as video footage, to demonstrate the importance of birdsong for species identification and to underscore Audubon's extensive field observations. iPads will feature the Havell plates for comparison with the watercolors (in some cases the printer was expected to complete the distant background, for example). Also on view will be a variety of objects drawn from NYHS's rich Audubon collection, the largest single repository of Auduboniana in the world, and a video record of Part 1, last year's exhibition of the first 175 Audubon bird watercolors. Accompanying the exhibition is the lavishly illustrated book Audubon's Aviary: The Original Watercolors for "The Birds of America" by Roberta J.M. Olson, Curator of this monumental show.

Check the ASE web site for color images of the donated Audubon prints www.auduboneverglades.org and links to information about the New York Historical Society's Audubon Birds exhibition.

<http://audubon.nyhistory.org>

<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/audubons-aviary-parts-unknown-part-ii-complete-flock>

<http://www.nyhistorystore.com/shop/audubon/audubons-aviary-original-watercolors-birds-america-book-hardcover>

HELP US CHOOSE WHICH PRINT TO RAFFLE

Please vote for one by July 1! Pick your favorite:

Purple Martin & hanging nest

Purple Grackle & corn

Redwinged Starlings(Blackbirds) on branch

Full size color facsimiles posted on ASE Web Site. Check Audubon Prints tab on left side of screen or under main picture). Email your choice to auduboneverglades@gmail.com or call Sheila Elliot at 561-629-7516 to place your vote.

Breeding Bird Atlas II in Palm Beach Co Needs Your Help!

Susan McKemy

Have you heard of a breeding bird atlas? Perhaps you have contributed to the atlas work. If so, congratulations (and thank you)! If not, we need you and your valuable knowledge and observations.

What exactly is a Breeding Bird Atlas?

And why should we care about it?

A breeding bird atlas is an ornithological work, the goal of which is to map the distribution of each species that breeds (or might breed) in a defined area during a selected period of time. These data provide a historical baseline that can be compared with subsequent atlas projects to detect changes in the distribution and abundance of birds and long-term change of bird occurrence. Species distribution ranges are important in assessing conservation criteria.

The first *Breeding Bird Atlas* project was conducted in Great Britain and Ireland from 1968 to 1971 (Sharrock 1976). It was inspired by the earlier *Atlas of the British Flora* (Perring and Walters 1962). In North America, Atlas projects in 36 states and 8 provinces were planned, underway, or completed by 1990 (Smith 1990).

The first Florida BBA project was a collaborative effort of Audubon of Florida, the Florida Ornithological Society, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. More than 1,880 participants, most of them volunteers, were involved in conducting surveys and compiling data from Jan 1986 through Dec 1991. 196 species were confirmed breeding, and another 19 species were found to be probable or possible breeders in the state.

We are now in the middle of BBA II to update the information gathered in BBA I, and that's where each of you come in. Palm Beach County is the largest county in the state and we need your help gathering data and reporting evidence of breeding birds in PB County.

Atlas surveys are fun, much like any birding trip. They involve keeping a list of birds you see, and trying to find as many kinds as you can; just like a Christmas Bird Count but easier, or a big day but not all day, or a trip to a wildlife refuge. It is done on your own time schedule. It's birding with a purpose!

What difference does this information make?

This is what will be produced from the breeding bird data collected and reported:

- Change maps highlighting how much the breeding distribution of each species has changed in the past 25 years.
 - Updated distribution maps of breeding birds showing the effects on Florida's bird life of conservation policies, population growth and other factors.
 - Relative abundance maps showing the principal ranges of species in Florida.
 - Breeding chronology information specific to birds in Florida.
 - Specific location information on species of conservation interest.
- * These reports are not intended to duplicate other studies or work by the FWC, but rather to fill in the gaps with information about breeding birds not covered in those focused studies.

The Florida BBA is conducted by volunteers. That means we will not be competing for scarce conservation funds needed for other conservation initiatives. The first Florida BBA was funded with more than a half million dollars, and some recent Atlases in the Northeast have exceeded \$2 million! Running this project without funding is our gift to conservation. We can do it, and it falls squarely within the FOS and Audubon objectives.

You know you will be birding anyway, why not put the information you gather while birding to use?

For more information about how you can participate: contact ASE BBAAI County Coordinator Susan McKemy at sos2organize@aol.com

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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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.

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.