



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 54, Number 10

September 2014

## CALENDAR

**Sep 6 Sat. 7am STA 1E**, Contact Linda 561-742-7791 or [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) to register

**Sep 7 Sun. 5:30 pm Green Cay**

**Wetlands**, Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door. Leader: Valleri Brauer

**Sep 11 Thur. "2nd Thursday Leader's Choice"** Check website 48 hrs ahead of time for details.

**Sep 13 Sat. 8am Peaceful Waters**, Wellington, 11700 Pierson Rd. SW corner of Village Park. Meet at entry to boardwalk. Leader: Clive Pinnock

**Sep 14 Sun. 8 am Spanish River Park**, Boca Raton. Meet at corner of A1A and Spanish River Blvd . Leader: Brian Hope. See web site for parking tips

**Sep 15 Mon. 7:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands**, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

**Sep 17 Wed. 8 am Seacrest Scrub**, Boynton Beach, 3400 S. Seacrest Blvd. Leader: Sue Young

**Sep. 20 Sat. Coastal Cleanup**, Contact Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779 to volunteer

**Sep 20 Sat. 8 am Green Cay Wetlands**, meet as above. Leader: Cory Callaghan

**Sep 21 Sun. 8 am Frenchman's Forest**, Palm Beach Gardens, 12201 Prosperity Farms Road, 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. Leader: Chuck Weber

**Sep 24 Wed. 7:30 am ARM**

**Loxahatchee NWR**, Boynton Beach, 10216 Lee Road, \$5 entry per car. Field Trips meet at the Marsh Trail. Leader: Sue Young

**Sep 27 Sat. 8 am Spanish River Park**, meet as above. Leaders: Linda McCandless and Kathy Walters

**Sep 27 Sat. Florida Bay Boat Ride**, Contact Claudine Laabs 561-655-977

**Sep 27 Sat. 10 am to 3 pm National Estuaries Day**, Loxahatchee River Center, contact Debbie Smith to volunteer 561-779-3736

**September 2, 2014**

*A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING*

(Special time and place this month only)

Join us for a special general meeting this month at the Palm Beach County Library Main Branch at 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach where we will screen this full-length feature film, a coming of age story about teen birdwatchers.

When a fifteen-year-old birder thinks he's made the discovery of a lifetime, he and his best friends set out on a road trip to solidify their place in birding history. The film, which has famed actor, Ben Kingsley, in a supporting role, received positive reviews when it premiered earlier this year, with particular praise in *Audubon* magazine.

You will need to register for this FREE movie. Please call the library at 233-2600, and connect to the information desk to register. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and a brief meeting before the film at 7pm.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades: inspiring people to conserve wildlife, especially birds and the environment that supports them.

## Bird of the Month for September: Northern Pintail

This month's bird, *Anas acuta*, continues (but does not conclude) our duck theme. Found nearly worldwide, at least in the northern hemisphere (that is, its range is circumpolar), the pintail is not likely to be confused with any other duck. The drake is quite handsome, with its long slender build, rich chestnut head accented by a white stripe running up the neck, and, in full plumage, the long tailfeathers that give it both its common name and its specific epithet (*acuta* is Latin for sharp, pointed). Its flight profile, though, does not depend on this extra-long tail; even without the extra length of the male's pin feathers, the combination of slender build and long tail make IDing this duck in flight rather easier than most.

In migration, this is a "FIFO" duck: first in line in the spring, first out of town in the fall. As you might expect, it's also among the earlier breeding migrants. When it's here in the winter, it associates readily with other ducks but is rather more clannish in migration, appearing more often in single-species flocks and flights than in mixed company.

The pintail, like the teals, is a "puddle duck": it feeds on the surface and takes off from rest, rather than requiring a running start like the diving ducks.

Come to our September meeting to hear more about this elegant winter resident of our marshes and STAs.



Photo from Wikipedia: Northern Pintails (Male & Female) | IMG 0911CC BY-SA 3.0 J.M.Garg

## The Everglade Kite

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

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### ASE on the Internet

<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

Audubon Society of the Everglades, incorporated in 1966, serves communities in Palm Beach County. Our mission is inspiring people to conserve wildlife, especially birds, and the environment that supports them.

## President's Column

Paton White

August's general meeting, our ice cream social, is always my favorite. We have time to socialize and our members are such talented photographers! More than a dozen people shared their remarkable pictures. Jim Howe's pictures with just a pocket camera were amazing and give inspiration to all, Jill Harrold's snap shots of the birds she sees through her window was a reminder that great birding can happen anywhere, and Dave Houser's amazing picture of a snowy egret taught us all that even birds we know well can surprise us. This snowy had bright orange feet! Clive Pinnock has only seen two egrets with this coloring in his life! Kudos to our decorator extraordinaire, Vicki Rogerson, the room looked great and to our super ice cream scoopers Jill, Marcia Yeip, Anne Hoctor, and Chris Golia who served all night. This proves, as a group, we love to eat, so Linda Humphries is starting an after-meeting dessert group at the October meeting. Why not September? Because we have a very special event for our September 2nd meeting. We are meeting at the main library for a movie! See all about it in another article.

I am sure each of you was amazed when you got the brochure! Chuck Webber, Valleri Brauer, and Linda have another diverse year of field trips planned for us. Sheila Elliott kept us and it together and on time and then our wonderful editor, Ben Kolstad, managed to fit it all in. Our volunteers are our most important resource! Please consider volunteering, too.

As this is the only printed *Kite* many of you get all year, I want to remind you of some of the benefits of the chapter-only membership. Besides discounts on different events and trips, our members have found the ability to pre-register for field trips the greatest benefit of all. Our recent Duda trips filled up completely this way! Don't miss out on a special trip, join or renew now and your membership will be good until January 1, 2016!

## Communications at ASE

Besides our lively monthly meetings and year round activities, ASE offers an on-line presence and a variety of interactive groups.

- WEB SITE: [www.audubonsociety.org](http://www.audubonsociety.org)—here you will find general information, forms, calendar (you can upload it into your personal google calendar), Paypal, links, and timely messages. You cannot leave interactive comments.
- EMAIL: [auduboneverglades@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneverglades@gmail.com) for general messages and info; [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) for trip info and sign-up.
- YAHOO GROUP: [auduboneverglades](mailto:auduboneverglades)—this is an interactive group where you can share and/or request information with the other group members. This group has evolved especially for birders sharing bird sightings, trip reminders and reports, and information about programs such as the Breeding Bird Survey.
- FACEBOOK: Audubon Society of the Everglades—active informative page, sharing birding, photos, and conservation—it's growing and worth a check-in daily; we hope to see your likes, comments and posts.
- TWITTER: PBCBirdAlert—new this fall, check it out and follow for rare bird sightings in our area.

## NEW MEETING TIMES

October, 2014–August 2015

DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.

MEETING BEGINS 7:00 P.M.

Room needs to be cleaned up and empty by 9:00 pm.

Assistance is appreciated with chair and tables.

Need to leave parking area soon after the meeting.

Once the gate is locked, you cannot get out!

## MEMBERSHIP

All chapter-only memberships are due on January 1; any membership received after September 1 will be applied to 2015, giving you chapter-only member privileges until January 1 2016!

## 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](http://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)

## VOTE YES FOR AMENDMENT ONE!

Audubon Society of the Everglades: Inspiring people to conserve wildlife, especially birds, and the environment that supports them. That's our mission statement and our collective responsibility. This fall each of us can make a big difference: VOTE! Yes, just by voting for Amendment 1, we can secure financing for conservation land and most especially water projects for the next 20 years and without raising taxes! Go one step further and wear a **VOTE YES for 1** pin. People will ask you about it and you can spread the word. I've even given the pin I was wearing away to a new convert! ASE is an advocacy organization and your board has voted to make this our most important conservation issue. Please do your part!

### The facts

**What is the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment?** The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment, which will appear as Amendment 1 on the November 4, 2014 ballot dedicates funding for water and land conservation, management and restoration by amending the state constitution. Amendment 1 sets aside one-third (33 percent) of Florida's existing documentary stamp tax revenues (paid when real estate is sold) and guarantees that these funds can be used only for conservation purposes. This is not a new tax! This will replace the previous long term funding that expired in 2012.

**Where will the money go? How does this measure benefit Floridians?** The money will be used for water and land conservation, management and restoration in Florida. The funds dedicated by Amendment 1 will:

- Restore, manage and acquire lands necessary to protect Florida's drinking water sources and protect the water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams;
- Protect our beaches and shores;
- Protect and restore the Everglades and other degraded natural systems and waterways;
- Manage fish and wildlife habitat, protect forests and wetlands, and restore conservation lands that are an important part of Florida's natural heritage, economy and quality of life;
- Provide funding to manage existing state and local natural areas, parks and trails for water supply, habitat and recreation.

### ALL THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED WITH NO INCREASE IN TAXES.

**Why do we need to amend the state constitution?** Since 2009, the Legislature has chosen to dramatically reduce funding for water and land protection, cutting some key programs by more than 95%. Amendment 1 would ensure that water and land conservation projects are adequately funded.

**How much will this cost me? Will it increase my taxes?** The measure will not increase taxes. It simply re-allocates a portion of the existing documentary stamp tax (which is paid when real estate is sold) to water and land conservation, management and restoration. This is the same funding source that the state has used for water and land conservation for the last two decades.

**Aren't there more important needs in our state?** In Florida, we depend on our natural systems for clean drinking water. We can't afford not to protect our land and waters. Amendment 1 will not harm other critical funding needs like education, health care, public safety and transportation. The current state budget is more than \$77 billion, and on an annual basis, Amendment 1 would set aside less than 1 percent for water and land conservation.

**Haven't we bought enough land already?** Florida cannot thrive without an abundant supply of drinking water for its 19 million residents. But the state's drinking water sources and its rivers, lakes, springs, and streams are threatened and will be unable to provide the benefits we all depend on without adequate funds for management and restoration. Our beaches and parks also need protection as a key part of Florida's tourism.

**Why the documentary stamp tax?** The documentary stamp tax is the same funding source that has been used for 20 years to protect water quality, natural areas and wildlife habitat in Florida. Amendment 1 ensures that funds are used solely for conservation purposes and cannot be used for any other purpose by the Legislature.

**If this passes, when will it take effect?** Amendment 1 will appear on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Once approved by at least 60% of voters, it would go into effect on July 1, 2015.

**How much money will be generated?** Based on current projections, Amendment 1 would provide more than \$5 billion over the next 10 years for conservation and restoration of land and water resources.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Would you like to make peanut butter pinecone bird feeders with children and adults of all ages? I am the Community Outreach Chair and I attend around 8 different local festivals each year including Turtle Day at Gumbo Limbo in March, Naturescaping at McArthur Beach State Park, Earth Day in Lake Worth, Earth Day at Okeeheelee Nature Center and many others and at most of these festivals I make pinecone birdfeeders. I need volunteers for three to four hour shifts to help me at the booth I set up for these events. It's fun! Please e-mail me at hnybear3@juno.com if you are willing to help out. Thanks.

Debbie Smith

### Bird of the Month Photos

Please send October Bird-of-the Month American Wigeon 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)

**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](http://www.auduboneverglades.org).

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES is a 501 c-3 organization #59-6019854. We gratefully accept any donations or bequests.  
<http://www.auduboneverglades.org/donate/>

**Articles NEEDED! Send to [ben@kolstad.com](mailto: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](http://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 (Or to use PAYPAL go to [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org)):

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:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Everglades Day    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Meetings   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation       | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications    |

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30) 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.