CALENDAR

For trip info email: asetripinfo@gmail.com

Mar 1 Sun 6:45 am Pine Glades Natural Area
“PLUS”, Jupiter, 14122 W. Indian town Road, approximately 6.7 miles west of I-95. Meet in parking lot (Chuck Weber)

Mar 4 Spring time in Panama’s Rain and Cloud Forest RESCHEDULED TO APRIL. Contact Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779

Mar 7 Sat. 7:45 am STA 1E, Contact Linda 561-742-7791 or asetripinfo@gmail.com to register

Mar 7 Sat. 9 am Busch Wildlife, Jupiter, 2500 Jupiter Park Drive, meet in the parking lot (Jim Howe)

Mar 8 Sun 8 am carpool, “Birding and History of Lake O’s South Rim.” Leader: Paul Gray, Florida Audubon Okeechobee Science Coordinator. While birding, he will share his vast knowledge of the human and the natural history of the area. Space limited, registration required. Call Linda 586-854-0145.

Mar 11 Wed. 6:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR FLY-OUT, Boynton Beach, 10216 Lee Road, $5 entry per car. Meet at Boat Launch parking area (Rick Schofield) entry fee

Mar 12 Thur. “2nd Thursday Leader’s Choice” CHECK WEB SITE www.auduboneverglades.org FOR DETAILS 48 HOURS BEFORE

Mar 14 Sat. All day trip. Everglades National Park “Putting it all together” (Mark Cook). Contact Linda at 586-854-0145 or asetripinfo@gmail.com to register

Mar 15 Sun. 7:15 am STA 1E, Contact Linda 561-742-7791 or asetripinfo@gmail.com to register

Mar 16 Mon. 7:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BEGINNERS Walk Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk (Paton White)

Mar 20 Fri. 8 am Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door (Valleri Brauer)

Mar 21 Sat. All Day Trip:Tigertail Beach. Contact (by 3/18) Rick Schofield ase@rschofield.net

Mar 22 Sun. 8 am Jupiter Ridge Natural Area, Scrub-Jays Jupiter, 1800 South U.S. 1 (entrance on west side) (Steve & Melanie Garcia)

Mar 22 Sun. 10 am Green Cay Wetlands, FAMILY BIRD WALK Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door (Linda Humphries)

Mar 28 Sat. 8:30 am John D MacArthur Park, “WINGS & FINs,” a look at birds, fish, and other occupants of a Florida Mangrove (Clive Pinnock) N. Palm Beach, 10900 FL A1A (Jack Nicklaus Blvd) $4/$5 single/multiple occupancy car entry fee Meet outside the gift shop in the park.

Mar 29 Sun. 6:45 am Boynton Beach Inlet, PHOTO SUNRISE Boynton Beach, 6990 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A) Meet on the S side of the inlet on the E end of the parking lot (Valleri Brauer)

Monthly MEETING and LECTURE March 3
“Observations of a Green Lawyer” Richard Grosso, Esq.
Join us Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. (earlier meeting time this year) as Richard Grosso, Esq speaks to us about environmental law.

Richard Grosso is a law professor at the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, where he teaches land use and environmental law, and Florida Constitutional Law, and directs the Environmental and Land Use Law Practice Clinic. Professor Grosso is a recognized legal expert, practicing lawyer and policy advocate, with 28 years of experience litigating and advocating on environmental issues. He has successfully litigated a number of significant and precedent setting cases, and lectures and publishes extensively in the area. Mr. Grosso has been widely recognized for his work on behalf of Florida’s environment.

Also at the March 3 meeting: Bird of the Month: “Red-shouldered Hawk”. Come learn from Clive Pinnock about this remarkable bird

Join us for this important and educational program in rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach. Refreshments at 6:30 pm. Meeting is free and open to the public.

Everglades Nest Counts
Mark Cook
Last year was a below-average nesting season, with a total of 34,714 nests, down from 48,291 the year before. The best year on record for nesting since the 1940s was 2009, when officials counted 87,564 nests.

The number of wading bird nests counted each year is a barometer for the health of the Everglades. Historically, large flocks of birds thrived throughout South Florida, but their populations declined as canals and flood-control structures drained the wetlands.

New Birding Area
Jim Howe reports that Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter has completed the access path, and the new birding platform that overlooks these Loxahatchee River District areas is now open to the public. Imagine birding similar to Wakodahatchee, from a single platform, with just birds (OK, big gators) as the draw, without a long looping boardwalk for non-birders to march and gab. If you go, make sure you report your trip on the Yahoo Group (auduboneverglades) so we can all learn about this new site.

Audubon Exhibit at NYHS
For you “Snowbirds”, the last set of 130 of the Audubon watercolors is on display at the New-York Historical Society, as well as audio birdcalls and video footage provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and objects drawn from NYHS’s rich Audubon collection, the largest single repository of Auduboniana in the world. Also included is a video record of the 304 watercolors on display in the last two years’ exhibits.
PANAMA TRIP UPDATE

The Panama trip led by Claudine Laabs has been rescheduled. The new dates are April 29 through May 6. Contact Claudine for details, 561-655-9779. Best rainforest birding in the world!

President's Column

Paton White

March 21st is the 35th anniversary of the start of the Audubon collection at the Main Branch of the PBC Library! 35 years! That is the definition of a long term relationship and I hope each of you will be there to celebrate. Long before I joined ASE, I used this wonderful resource to prepare for my trips.

By the time you read this, the second round table on the Ag Reserve will have taken place and we will be preparing for the Ag Reserve workshop before the Board of County Commissioners scheduled for Tuesday, March 24. This is where we all will have the opportunity to speak about the proposed changes to the zoning laws for that area. Watch our website to see exactly what is proposed, so that you can prepare your remarks. Also, if you have not already signed the petition “To Save the Ag Reserve,” see the website for the link. It will be easy to do and we hope the petition will draw thousands of signatures.

While we need to pay attention to how the Amendment 1 funds are spent, it is certainly encouraging to see that $150 million has been earmarked for this year’s efforts for Everglades’ restoration and $5 billion over the next 20 years.

I am excited that ASE is going to have a workshop on water in late March. We are lucky to have Paul Davis as one of our discussion leaders. Check the web site for more details. This promises to be a very special event.

Our wonderful treasurer, Janet Schreiber, is resigning, though we are fortunate that she will remain on the finance committee. We need more members for this committee and hope you will volunteer if you have a finance, banking, accounting or investment background. Please call or email me if you can help. We meet quarterly so it is not a big investment of time but your expertise is needed.

Audubon Library Collection

Anne Hoctor

The Audubon ornithological book collection at the Palm Beach County Main Library was established in 1979 with a $10,000 gift to the Library from this Audubon Society of the Everglades Chapter. The $10,000 was a donation to the Chapter from the Merrill Trust.

With the approval of the Chapter Board, the PBC Library Board and the Board of County Commissioners, it was decided that this contribution would be used to set up the “Audubon Collection” at the main library on Summit Blvd in West Palm Beach. At the dedication of the collection in 1980 the Chapter expressed the hope that this collection would grow into one of the largest collections of books on birds in the Southeast. Having grown to over 1000 books, this hope has been realized. When renowned bird illustrator and author David Sibley toured the collection, he called it “world class” and noted that many of our reference books, even major academic ornithological collections do not have.

The Audubon Collection contains field guides for all fifty states, field guides for most of the countries in the world, books on specific areas such as the Caribbean, life histories of birds, and reference books, including the 18-volume “Handbook of the Birds of the World”. In addition, there are biographies of famous birders, art books and even books on nest construction.

In the coming years, the Chapter expects to broaden the collection even further by adding children’s books on birds, e-books and Spanish language bird books.

The Chapter is always looking for ways to enhance the use of this collection and welcomes any suggestions members may have.

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)
Audubon Collection 35th Anniversary Celebration
Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
Main PBC Library, 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach
Sat, Mar 21, 10:00 am
Build a Bird Feeder
Celebrate 35 years of the Audubon Collection of bird books by building a bird feeder! Participants will be provided with necessary materials to build a feeder that will attract more birds to visit you at home! Ages 4-12. (45 min.). Preregister.
Sat, Mar 21, 2:00 pm
Audubon Collection: 35th Anniversary Celebration with James Currie
Join the Main Library & Audubon Society of the Everglades as we celebrate 35 years of our extensive book collection that has brought joy to Palm Beach County birders. Television personality and author James Currie will speak about his new book, “When Eagles Roar.” Books will be available for purchase and an author signing will follow. Space is limited. (90 min.). Preregister.
For both of these events, you must preregister by calling 561-233-2600; ask for information desk.

TREASURER NEEDED
If you have a math/finance background, please consider volunteering. For more information, contact Susan McKemy, Nominating Committee Chair 561-644-8830 sos2organize@gmail.com or Paton White 561-818-7574 patonwhite@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
Upcoming festivals
Feb 28—Gumbo Limbo Sea Turtle Day, 9AM to 4PM, Boca Raton
Mar 14—Naturescaping McArthur Beach State Park, North Palm Beach 9am to 3pm
April 2—Earth Day festivals: one in Lake Worth and one in Okeeheelee Park (date may change—check web site)
May 2—Great American Clean-up, Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, 8am to 12 noon.

At some of these festivals I make pinecone birdfeeders and it’s a lot of fun. I also need volunteers to help me at the booth I set up for these events and to join in at the environmental clean-up. Please e-mail me at hnybear3@juno.com if you can help out. Thanks!
—Debbie Smith

Bird of the Month for March: Red-shouldered Hawk
Animals with wide ranges or disjunct ranges can look remarkably different from one of the range to another, or from one population to another. That’s the case with this month’s bird, the Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus). Our south Florida population (B. lineatus extimus) is the palest of all the species. One might imagine that it’s just because it’s in the sun so much it gets the color bleached out of it, but if that were true, why would the California population (B. lineatus elegans) be so richly colored? (And yes, I know it’s often foggy in the central valley where these birds can be found, but it’s also often hotter and sunnier than, well, other places.)

This hawk is easy to distinguish from another widespread raptor, the red-tailed, by its plumage if you’re close enough, but also by its choice of perch: Bill Pranty points out in his guide to the birds of Florida that “no other raptor makes such frequent use of power lines as perches; indeed, many species, such as the Red-tailed Hawk and the Short-tailed Hawk, never perch on lines.”

This diurnal (active during daylight hours) raptor is one of the most conspicuous birds in the state and can be found almost anywhere, from the Marsh Trail at ARM Loxahatchee NWR to a suburban back yard phone line. During the winter our paler resident birds are joined by their darker cousins from up north. The most obvious way to tell whether you’re looking at a local or a snowbird is to look at the head: dark head = visitor. The bird at right is a local.

Bird of the Month Photos
Please send April Bird-of-the-Month Broad-winged Hawk pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org web site to SheilaLliott@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).
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 #59-6019854. We gratefully accept any donations or bequests. http://www.auduboneverglades.org/donate/

Articles NEEDED! Send to auduboneverglades@gmail.com before the 10th of the month.