



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida
Volume 55, Number 6
March 2015

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 "The Environment, Politics, the Law and You: 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.

The Everglade Kite

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

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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.

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)

Special Events

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 Okeehchee 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.

Red-shouldered Hawk.
Photo by Paul Thomas



Pledge to Fledge

Saturday, March 14th, 9am

A free event for all ages at Green Cay Wetlands sponsored by the Friends of Green Cay and Audubon Society of the Everglades

Pledge to Fledge is a grassroots movement by the Global Birding Initiative to inspire experienced birders to take non-birders out on a birding excursion and help them develop an appreciation for birds and nature. Join us for an introduction to birding! James Currie and many other top South Florida birding experts will be on hand to teach. This will be appropriate for kids from 5 to 85. We will start with coffee, juice and nibbles in the lecture hall and have a quick Birding 101 class on Bird ID, how to use binoculars and field guides. (Binoculars are available as long as patrons sign a waiver and leave a driver's license.) Then out onto the boardwalks and bird watching with the experts! What a wonderful opportunity to spend a special morning with your child or grandchild!

Gardening for Hummingbirds

March 18 Wednesday 6:00 pm

Main PBC Library, 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach

From Florida firebush to pink porterweed, this is your chance to learn how to transform sunny spaces in your garden into a paradise for hummingbirds. The instructor, Roger Hammer, is the author of numerous books, including "Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies to Tropical Florida," scheduled for release in April 2015. (60 min.)

Preregister by calling 561-233-2600; ask for information desk.

Family Adventure: March 22, Sunday 10am

"Walk on the Wild Side" at Green Cay Wetlands

Bring your children and come join us on an entertaining and educational walk along Green Cay's board walk (12800 Hagen Ranch Road; meet outside Nature Center main door). For information contact Linda or asetripinfo@gmail.com. Linda Humphries will lead a tour discovering the wildlife of these wonderful wetlands. Have you ever seen a marsh rabbit? What do you know about turtles? In March there should be lots of baby birds as well! You will see a variety of beautiful birds and watch their behaviors. If we get lucky you might even see an alligator. No need for binoculars, the birds are up close. You are welcome to stay as long as you like but the tour will be about an hour. Your children will have a great birding experience!

This is the first of ASE's new Family Adventure Series—two more adventures will be held in April: April 11, Explore America's Everglades and April 18, Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening.

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 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.

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Articles NEEDED! Send to auduboneverglades@gmail.com before 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 (or to use PAYPAL go to auduboneverglades.org) 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:

<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.