



# EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 55, Number 10

September 2015

## CALENDAR

**Sep 5 Sat. 7 am STA 1E**, RSVP REQUIRED  
asetripinfo@gmail.com or call Linda 586-  
854-0145

**Sep 12 Sat. 5:30 pm Wakodahatchee  
Wetlands**, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog  
Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Valleri  
Brauer)

**Sep 12 Sat. 9 am Green Cay Wetlands**  
"eBird: Lecture and Hands-On  
Application", RSVP REQUIRED  
asetripinfo@gmail.com, Fee \$17 member,  
\$20 non-member space limited. (David  
Simpson)

**Sep 13 Sun. 9 am MacArthur Beach State  
Park**, SNORKELING, entry fee, RSVP  
REQUIRED asetripinfo@gmail.com (Paul  
Davis)

**Sep 13 Sun. 8 am Spanish River Park**,  
Boca Raton. Meet at corner of A1A and  
Spanish River Blvd. Check website for  
parking alternatives. (Linda McCandless  
& Kathy Walters)

**Sep 16 Wed. 8 am Seacrest Scrub**,  
Boynton Beach, 3400 S. Seacrest Blvd.  
(Sue Young)

**Sep 18 Fri. Coastal Cleanup**, Contact  
Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779 to  
volunteer

**Sep 19 Sat. 8 am Frenchman's Forest  
Natural Area**, Palm Beach Gardens,  
12201 Prosperity Farms Road, 1.5 miles  
north of PGA Blvd. (Chuck Weber)

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

**Sep 23 Wed. 6:30 pm Mounts Botanical  
Garden**, West Palm Beach. 551 N  
Military Trail (across from airport runway)  
Presentation "Not Your Grandma's  
Audubon" by James Currie, Mounts &  
ASE members \$20.00, non-members  
\$25.00. At Clayton Hutcheson Ag. Center

**Sep 26 Sat. 6:30 am Loxahatchee Slough**,  
RSVP REQUIRED asetripinfo@gmail.com  
(Dr. Dale Gawlik)

**Sep 27 Sun. 7:30 am ARM Loxahatchee  
NWR**, entry fee, Boynton Beach, 10216  
Lee Road, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the  
Marsh Trail. (Sue Young)

## Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture:

**"Birding by Season: Right Bird, Right Place, Right Time"**

**Paddy Cunningham, Naturalist, Owner Birding Adventures, Bird Guide.  
Tuesday, September 1, 7 pm**

Discover when and how to find the birds you seek by learning to Bird by Season. Through the use of checklists, annual graphs, range maps and apps you will learn to find target and life birds here in Florida and throughout the U.S.

Paddy Cunningham has been a Naturalist in South Florida for 35 years managing Nature Centers and restoring habitat. Her passion is birds and she teaches a variety of bird classes to help birders gain advanced skills at numerous festivals, Bonnet House and Flamingo Gardens. Her motto is "YOU LEARN THE I.D." Paddy's company Birding Adventures takes small groups of birders throughout Fl. U.S. and the tropics—Jamaica, Colombia and more. She calls her trips "INTENSE BIRDING at a RELAXED PACE." She is the Coordinator of the Everglades Birding Festival. Paddy is a popular speaker and guide at Florida birding festivals—Big O, Fairchild Gardens, Wings & Wildflowers and the Everglades Birding Festival. Despite being a Busy Mom and a full-time Gifted Science Teacher in 2008 during a BIG YEAR she was 1st in Florida, 20th in the Lower 48 states and 27th overall for the A.B.A. area. She is proud to be sharing her native home with you and to show the uniqueness of the Everglades and its incredible birds. [birdpaddy@yahoo.com](mailto:birdpaddy@yahoo.com) [www.birdadventure.com](http://www.birdadventure.com)

Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments in rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach. Meeting is free and open to the public.

Also at the meeting: September Bird of the Month, the Merlin. Come to our September meeting to hear more about this bird from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

## Palm Beach Library to Digitize ASE's Early Scrapbooks

The Palm Beach County Library System will be embarking on a new project to digitize materials of local interest. These materials will be accessible not only to the residents of Palm Beach County, but to anyone who has access to the internet. For 35 years, the Library System has partnered with the Audubon Society of the Everglades to provide materials and programming for the public to enjoy. Continuing in that tradition, we are looking for any field notes of Palm Beach County (primarily) or South Florida birding expeditions that you would like to donate or lend to the library to start this new part of the Audubon collection. If you have notes/sketches or anything of interest that would fit within this collection, please contact Adam Davis at [davisa@pbclibrary.org](mailto:davisa@pbclibrary.org) or ASE's Library Chair Anne Hctor at [Hctoranne@gmail.com](mailto:Hctoranne@gmail.com).

## President's Letter

*Paton White*

Look what you did: ASE is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Yes, each of the volunteers over the last 50 years has made this wonderful chapter what it is today!

Last night was our annual ice cream social and photo sharing. What an amazing, talented group of members we have! The pictures were sensational! We started the evening with a list of volunteer opportunities; they ran the gamut from bringing ice for general meetings to redesigning the web site. I am so appreciative of the many members who signed up to take on a job... we officially have over 2300 members, about 500 of which actively participate in our programs... and it takes a lot of volunteers committed to ASE to create the programs that we all cherish! Please consider volunteering. The list of volunteer opportunities will be available at all general meetings and on our website.

We have two wonderful new volunteer opportunities. Help plan our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic scheduled in March in Okeeheelee Park. No cooking or food service involved. This is a day for us to enjoy each other! The second new opportunity is planning our Anniversary Celebration for our April general meeting. This party will be for members and invited guests. Please join the fun and help us create two memorable events. Call or email me to help.

Unfortunately there is very little good conservation news to report. The Ag Reserve that you have supported vigorously this past year was basically eviscerated by the County Commissioners in August. As you are aware, the Florida State legislature did not vote to spend the Amendment 1 funds the way they were intended to be spent by the voters; Earth Justice is suing the state over this breach. On the bright side was the EPA's announcement of the Clean Power Plan, but undoubtedly this will spend time in court before we can hope to see results. I am reminded of salmon swimming upstream and clearing huge hurdles before they reach the waters where they spawn. Their species cannot go without their incredible effort—we need to be just as committed to the environment and realize that there will be losses but without the fight there cannot be wins.

### Do You Need a Scanner?

ASE's old scanner is available FREE to anyone who can use it. It's a full service scanner for Windows 95 & 98. The software disc is missing so you need to know how to download the software from the internet to actually use it. Scanner will be available until Oct 1, after which it will be donated. Contact Sheila at 561-629-7516. sheilaelliot@yahoo.com

### SAVE the DATE

Save these dates for our 50th Anniversary:

- art show Nov 16-Dec 31/  
reception Nov 20 6-8pm- public invited
- Volunteer Recognition outdoor party March 6 Sun – current and past volunteers
- Gala Celebration Annual Meeting Tues Apr 5 – ASE members (be sure to renew or become a local member so you can attend!)

### ASE on TWITTER

*Susan McKemy*

Are you on Twitter? Are you following @PBCBirdAlert?

It is a quick, easy and convenient way to share bird sightings of interest in Palm Beach County. Go to Twitter.com, and “follow” @PBCBirdAlert to get reports of recent and unusual sightings in PB County and make sure to also REPORT recent and unusual sightings to @PBCBirdAlert.

Use @PBCBirdAlert on Twitter to make a quick report (140 characters or less) of rare/unusual sightings ONLY - sort of like the news blip which says “story at 11”.

Twitter would be the place to report things like this:

“Smooth-billed Ani seen in Lox NWR, near observation tower”

“Whimbrels seen at Snook Islands 11am”

“Wilson's Phalaropes in Ag fields (link to gps coords)”

Twitter is the place to report the things Brian Hope calls and says. “I just saw (this bird) at (location).”

It is the quickest way to get real time info out to the community without making a ton of phone calls.

Twitter is NOT for routine trip reports, or reminders of upcoming trips, meetings or events. You do that on our Yahoo group auduboneverglades. Yahoo group is similar to “the story at 11”... it has more info, more details... and covers more topics in more detail than @PBCBirdAlert on Twitter.

Secondly, and perhaps AS IMPORTANT, Twitter is a tool to reach a DIFFERENT, YOUNGER, MORE DIVERSE Population. If ASE wants to reach and engage these new birders, we need to “go where they are”... in this case, Twitter.

We look forward to seeing your Palm Beach County bird alerts on Twitter!

**\*\*Did you notice our wonderful new logo on the front page? It was created by Susan Faulkner Davis.\*\***

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

*President	Paton White	818-7574	patonrwhite@aol.com
*1st VP	Linda Humphries	586-854-0145	hlindaase@aol.com
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*Treasurer	Randy Hall	533-0216	travelperson@bellsouth.net
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*At Large	Jane Wiewora	744-1520	wiewora@gmail.com
*At Large	Marcia Yeip	954-480-2663	myeip@comcast.net
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Bird ID	Clive Pinnock	281-2055	avocet@gmail.com
*Community Outreach	Debbie Smith	779-3736	hnybear3@juno.com
Corresp.	Judy Munro	379-9465	jmunro7347@aol.com
Sec'y			
*Education	Vicki Rogerson	352-7835	vlogerson@gmail.com
	Susan Snyder	701-7773	roysue@bellsouth.net
Field Trips	Valleri Brauer	385-9787	valleribrauer@gmail.com
	(M-F only AFTER 5:30 pm)		
Hospitality	Jill Harrold	308-6324	
*Library	Anne Hctor	601-8007	hctoranne@gmail.com
*Membership	Gail Tomei	969-7567	blackgrouper@comcast.net
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*Publicity	Sheila Elliot	629-7516	sheilaelliot@yahoo.com
Sanctuaries	Paul Davis	267-0397	pwdavis9@gmail.com
Website/Kite	Ben Kolstad		ben@kolstad.com

\*denotes board members

all phone numbers 561 area code unless otherwise indicated

### BIRD OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Please send October Bird-of-the Month Peregrine Falcon 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. If you have hi-res versions of what you send, including .tiff files, please send these duplicates for occasional ad-hoc media photo requests from ASE. 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).

### 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)

## Bird of the Month for September: Merlin

The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) is a small falcon, although last month's BotM, American Kestrel, is smaller. However, they are both small falcons, and are frequently confused by those who don't bother to count the number of stripes on the mustache: Kestrels have two, merlins have one. Another way to keep them separate in your mind is to think of their scientific names, or even their old colloquial names: the Merlin is the pigeon hawk (*columbarius*), while the slightly smaller kestrel, frequently called a sparrow hawk back in the day, chases smaller prey.



Merlin, Cape May, NJ. Photo by Paul Thomas.

According to the Cornell Lab's website, "Merlins are fierce, energetic predators that patrol shorelines

and open areas looking for their prey of small birds (and sometimes dragonflies). They fly powerfully, with quick wingbeats, pausing to glide only rarely. They also spend long periods perched in open areas, scanning for prey."

And, like many other North American birds of prey, the population of Merlin has rebounded from their DDT-caused lows in the 1960s. Their current conservation status is "species of least concern."

Like the Kestrel, merlins do not nest this far south in Florida; they are strictly winter residents and passage migrants in these parts.

### Education Committee

Hello, fellow Audubon members!

This past April, I joined and became the Education Committee chairperson of the ASE board. I am looking for fellow birders who, on occasion, might like to share some of their enthusiasm and talents with juvenile humans. As one of the ladies who was sitting next to me at the last meeting said, I am "looking for people who breathe"! I could use more than a committee of one. I would like any of us who breathe to get together in September to bounce around ideas. We will have fun, and maybe put some of our ideas together to get these fledglings to branch out (because that is where the birds are, and that is how we will foster an interest in nature and conservation in our youth).

Maybe we will start a junior Audubon club, help with a migratory bird garden, lead a schoolyard birding field trip, help to build some bird houses/feeders/baths, share our photos and/or knowledge of birds, or present a few classes on our favorite topics. I have some great ideas, and I bet that you do too. So, people who breathe, gardeners, crafters, artists, photographers, speakers, techies: The youth of Palm Beach County need YOU! Seriously, everyone has something to offer!!!

Give me a call/text/e-mail, and share your thoughts with me. Join me in September, date and location to be announced, and get in on the fledgling floor.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rogerson, 561-352-7835, vlogerson@gmail.com

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33416-6914

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West Palm Beach, Florida

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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 [auduboneverglades@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 (or to use PAYPAL go to [auduboneverglades.org](http://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.