



# EVERGLADE KITE

## newsletter

### AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Volume 56, Number 1 October 2015

#### CALENDAR

- Oct 3 Sat. 7:30 am STA 1E**, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) (Mark Cook)
- Oct 4 Sun. 8 am Riverbend Pk** Jupiter, 9060 Indiantown Rd. Field trips meet at south end of main parking lot near canoe rental trailer. (Chuck Weber)
- Oct 4 Sun. 8 am Tall Cypress Natural Area**, Coral Springs, 3700 Turtle Run Blvd. (Bruce Pickholtz)
- Oct 7 Wed** (postponed from Sep 23) 6:30 pm **Mounts Botanical Garden: "Not Your Grandma's Audubon"** by James Currie, Mounts & ASE members \$20.00, non-members \$25.00. At Clayton Hutcheson Ag. Center
- Oct 10 Sat. 8 am MacArthur Bch State Pk**, Meet at A1A bridge (300 yds S of Entrance) entry fee, (Jim Howe)
- Oct 10, Sat. 10am-noon. Florida Audubon Eagle Watch Training** ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Entrance fee waived for attendees. RSVP Required register at [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) ("EagleWatch" in subject line)
- Oct 11 Sun. 8 am Seacrest Scrub**, Boynton Bch, 3400 S. Seacrest Blvd. (Chadda and John Shelly)
- Oct 11 Sun. 5 pm Green Cay Wetlands**, Boynton Bch, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Meet outside Nature Center main door. (Valleri Brauer)
- Oct 12 Mon. 8 am Morikami Gardens Pk**, (Gardens closed) Delray Bch, 4000 Morikami Pk Rd. (Sue Young)
- Oct 17 Sat. 8 am Spanish River Pk**, Boca Raton. Meet at corner of A1A and Spanish River Blvd. (Brian Hope & Al Pelligrinelli)
- Oct 17 Sat. 8 am STA 2**, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com)
- Oct 17-18 Florida Keys Hawk Watch**, RSVP REQUIRED [birdpaddy@yahoo.com](mailto:birdpaddy@yahoo.com) (Paddy Cunningham)
- Oct 18 Sun. 8 am Mangrove Pk, Lantana Preserve**, Boynton Bch, 700 NE 4th Ave, behind St. Mark's Church (Sue Young)
- Oct 21 Wed. 8:30 am MacArthur Bch SP**, North PB, 10900 FL A1A. "BIRDS & MANGROVE ECOLOGY", meet outside nature center inside Pk, entry fee, (Clive Pinnock)
- Oct 21 Wed. 6 pm Main Branch PBC Library**, Summit Blvd. **America's Everglades: "The Unseen Everglades: Inside a Legendary Wilderness."** Joint presentation with Sierra Club featuring a movie and panel discussion. To reserve a space call 561-233-2600.
- Oct 23-24 Audubon Assembly** in Maitland, FL. at the Sheraton Orlando North. Early bird discount by Oct 1 [www.florida-audubon.ticketleap.com/audubon-assembly-2015](http://www.florida-audubon.ticketleap.com/audubon-assembly-2015)
- Oct 24 Sat. 8 am Frenchman's Forest Natural Area**, Palm Bch Gardens, 12201 Prosperity Farms Rd, 1.5 miles north of PGA Blvd. (Melanie & Steve Garcia)
- Oct 24 Sat. 7:30 am Tropical Audubon invites you to Everglades NP**. Entry fee. Meet in parking lot Coe Visitor Center, (John Boyd)
- Oct 25 Sun. 8 am Spanish River Pk**, Boca Raton. Meet at corner of A1A and Spanish River Blvd. (Lee & David Haase)
- Oct 28 Wed. 6:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR, Fly Out**, Boynton Bch, 10216 Lee Rd, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the boat launching Pking lot. (Rick Schofield)
- Oct 30 Fri. 8 am Wakodahatchee**, Delray Bch, 13206 Jog Rd. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Valleri Brauer)
- Oct 31 Sat. 6:45 am Pine Glades Natural Area "Plus"**, Jupiter, 14122 W. Indiantown Rd, approximately 6.7 miles west of I-95. Meet in parking lot (Chuck Weber)

#### Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture:

**"Wading Birds in a Changing Everglades," by Dr. Dale Gawlik**  
**Tuesday, October 6, 7 pm**

Dr. Gawlik is Director of the Environmental Science Program and Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida Atlantic University. He has been conducting research on birds in the Everglades since 1994 focusing on water bird ecology and conservation, wetland and intertidal ecosystems, restoration ecology, and the use of birds in aquatic ecosystem management. He has a special interest in identifying wetland processes that control wading bird populations and quantifying how birds respond to these processes through changes in their productivity, behavior, and physiological condition.

A hallmark of his work is the use of experiments with free-ranging birds to answer applied conservation questions. He and his students have developed a set of wading bird habitat models linked to the hydrologic management and restoration of the Everglades.

He received his Doctor of Philosophy in Wildlife Science, Texas A & M University, Masters of Science in Biology, Winthrop University, Rock Hill S. Carolina, Bachelor of Science in Wildlife, University of Wisconsin. He was Senior Environmental Ecologist, Everglades Division, South Florida Water Management District, 1994-2003. For more information on Dr. Gawlik and his research, click this link: [www.science.fau.edu/biology/gawliklab/](http://www.science.fau.edu/biology/gawliklab/)

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 and October Birds of the Month: Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Come to our October meeting to hear more about these birds from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

#### Painted Buntings

*Jane Wiewora*

Painted Buntings are beginning to return to South Florida. In fact, Vicki Rogerson, one of our members, has had three of the birds that were color banded at her house last spring return already!

The optimal habitat and food will encourage buntings to come to your yard. They are shy birds and like to have plenty of shrubbery near the feeders to hide in. Caged feeders help them feel more secure from larger birds and other animals. Plans for a platform feeder have been added to the ASE website in the "Birds- Painted Bunting" area. This feeder was inspired by some that we observed at two locations in Fort Pierce where they have been feeding Painted and Indigo Buntings for dozens of years and have over a hundred birds at each location.

Painted Buntings prefer white millet over any other seed. It can be found in bird seed mixes, but can also be purchased at some feed stores in fifty pound bags (we bought some last week for \$25/50# bag).

Painted Buntings are a declining species, and, as part of the Painted Bunting Banding Team and in conjunction with Dr. Jamie Rotenberg of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, I help to study overwintering Painted Buntings in South Florida. Nancy LaFramboise, a licensed master bander leads the team and has much additional information about this study at <http://brdbander.blogspot.com/p/color-banding-painted-buntings.html>. The third season of the project begins this fall.

If you have Painted Buntings and your yard is banding friendly, your birds can be banded with color bands that will let you identify individual birds. Your birds can then be reported to UNC. Resightings of your birds provide important data that will be used to help protect Painted Buntings. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Nancy at [keepbirding2@yahoo.com](mailto:keepbirding2@yahoo.com) or me (Jane) at [wiewora@gmail.com](mailto:wiewora@gmail.com).

**President's Letter**  
*Paton White*

Our snow birds are returning. We are delighted to see more familiar faces at our events. We have a lot going on this month!

Wednesday October 21, we are having a very special joint meeting with the Sierra Club at the Summit Branch of the PBC Library. First will be a showing of the PBS Documentary "The Unseen Everglades: Inside a Legendary Wilderness" followed by a panel moderated by Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group Conservation Chair, Drew Martin. The panel will include Charles Kropke, Managing Partner of Dragonfly Expeditions; Christopher McVoy, Lake Worth City Commissioner; and Dr. Tom Poulson, Professor Emeritus, Ecology & Evolution. Be sure to reserve a space—call 561-233-2600. Come learn about our treasure, America's Everglades.

By now I hope you have had a chance to peruse the new brochure. You will see that there are many trips that you need to register for and some that "chapter-only" members get early sign up privileges. An example was the surprise two Duda trips that we were able to put together at the last minute—they filled with our "chapter-only" members. If you are not a "chapter-only" member and want to join ASE to be eligible for a trip, you will automatically be put on the top of the waiting list and your new membership will have all the privileges for the next trip. Why wait and miss a trip? Don't miss out on anything! Join or renew today and you will be a member until January 2017!

Several months ago your board implemented a policy to give scholarships for different conservation meetings. These are open to all our "chapter-only" members. Audubon Assembly will be held Oct. 23 and 24 in Maitland, just north of Orlando. Go on our website for details. Sign up (by Oct 1 for discount) and we will pay your \$129 registration fee. There are already 5 of us going. It is fun and very educational. Send our treasurer, Randy Hall, a copy of your registration to get reimbursed.

We will be presenting some very simple by-law changes at both our October and November general meetings. They are just an update that reflects what is happening. They have not been revised for more than a decade and lots of small changes have occurred.

And Linda Humphries said the food on the refreshment table needs some loving hands. She is going to bake some cookies. Will some of you add a special treat to the table? Let our wonderful, hospitality chair, Jill Harrold, know if you are planning to bring something, so we don't have too much at any time. Jill's number is 561-308-6324.

**Eagle Scout Project**

If you attended our September monthly meeting, you were in for a treat! Boy Scout and Wellington resident Garret O'Donnell presented information about his Eagle Scout project to restore the raptor mews at Okeehatchee Nature Center.

Garret told us his love for nature and the Okeehatchee Nature Center began on his weekly visits there when he was 5 years old and how he wants to give back to it now. His Eagle Scout project includes:

- removing and replacing the deteriorated walkway
- placing material in the bottom of the mews to raise the floor level to eliminate flooding
- placing stands to be used to display placards about the bird species being housed in each shelter
- placing protective mulch in the spaces between each mew.

The project will create a safe, clean, aesthetically appealing environment to display the collection of raptors sheltered at the center. The improvements will result in a better place for the youth of Palm Beach County to learn about the amazing raptors of South Florida. The budget for the project is \$1500 and Garret is raising the funds through donations.

In years past, ASE has had several "behind the scenes" tours into the mews to see the variety of educational raptors sheltered there. The mews materials deteriorate over time and weather exposure. The bottom of the mews floods when it rains and the raptors cannot use the ground until the water dries. Our recent nearly daily thunderstorms makes this particularly urgent.

We are happy to report that ASE and attendees at the September meeting donated toward Garret's project, meeting his initial financial goal for the project but he will continue to seek funds to further improve the mews.

The repair work will be performed by volunteers on a weekend in October and ASE members are invited to attend to help or simply to observe the work being done—check the ASE web site for the date.

ASE looks forward to the "after" photos of this project and a final report from Garret as an Eagle Scout!

**AUDUBON EAGLEWATCH**  
**A Volunteer Citizen Science Program**

Bald Eagles, one of the largest birds in North America, are native only to our continent and are a successful example that protection under the Endangered Species Act works.

Florida's rapidly changing environment currently finds Bald Eagles nesting successfully in urban areas. This increased exposure to human activity and its resulting pressure on the eagle population prompted the Audubon EagleWatch Program.

Audubon EagleWatch seeks information about Bald Eagles, active nest locations and possible disturbances or threats to nesting activities. The program is designed to educate volunteer participants in general eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nests.

Bald Eagle nesting season starts in Oct with eagles all over the state refurbishing last year's nests. Eggs are typically laid in late November and early December, and are incubated by the adults for 30-33 days.

Over thirty nests have been recorded in Palm Beach County since 1995, 13 of which were known active in the past year. FWC no longer surveys all nests annually, and that's where YOU (citizen scientists) can help.

ASE is working closely with the Florida Audubon EagleWatch program. We have volunteered to assist in locating and registering eagle nests on both public and private lands in Palm Beach County. Once located, volunteers will be assigned to monitor nest activity weekly during nesting season between Oct and May 15th.

Would you like to become an EagleWatch Volunteer?

Attend the training presented by Matt Smith, Director of the Florida Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, and Florida EagleWatch Coordinator on Oct 10th at ARM Loxatchee NWR from 10a-12p. For more information, or to Register send an email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) with "EAGLEWATCH" in the subject line.

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

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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\*denotes board members

all phone numbers 561 area code unless otherwise indicated

### THANK YOU Rick Schofield, Jane Wiewora, Ben Kolstad and others for Upgrading the Web Calendar!

The ASE Calendar of Events, including all field trips, monthly meetings, and special events, is now available to essentially any web-connected device. All you need is a Google account (you don't need to use it for anything else if you don't want to).

Because it is on-line, it is always up-to-date—on all your devices because your device (laptop, smartphone, tablet, etc.), when set up correctly, will automatically synchronize. If you are out of cell range or do not have cell access on your tablet, you will still see an up-to-date calendar as long as you connect to the internet periodically (e.g., wirelessly at home or free hot spot each day).

The ASE Web site is already displaying the Google calendar and we are hard at work on documentation for Android, iOS, Windows, and MacOS. Please look for complete, detailed instructions soon on the ASE Web site.

### 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 October: Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) is another charismatic raptor that benefited greatly from the DDT ban promulgated in the 1960s. While we here in Palm Beach County basically only enjoy Peregrines as a spring and fall migrant, and (rarely) winter resident, we sure do enjoy them! These are the largest falcons in Florida (Gyrfalcons rarely show up even in the northern U.S.), and their long-winged, sleek profile and powerful flight style make them instantly recognizable in flight. When perched, their prominent dark hood is a good field mark.

These cliff-top and canyon-dwelling birds have taken readily to the concrete canyons of the modern urban landscape; my friends in San Francisco regularly enjoy views of nesting falcons downtown. (These views are also available live on the Internet via webcam no matter where you live.)



Peregrine in Flight, Belle Glade, FL. Photo by Paul Thomas.

### BIRD OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Please send November Bird-of-the Month Great Horned Owl 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).

### RENEW OR JOIN ASE NOW

Our new field trip and event brochure is filled with over 100 events, many which require an RSVP. When trips are space limited, "chapter-only" members are given registration priority. If you are a "chapter-only" member, you can renew early for 2016 (due Jan 1) and make sure you do not miss out. If you are not a "chapter-only" member, join now by filling out the application on the back page of the *Kite* or going to [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org) and select PAYPAL tab above the picture.

### SAVE THE DATE

To kick off our upcoming special anniversary, the Artists of Palm Beach County are presenting "*Audubon of the Everglades 50 Year Anniversary Exhibit.*" The juried exhibit will present the works of accomplished artists in a variety of mediums including oils, pastels, photography, watercolors and mixed media. The exciting work will reflect images of birds, plants, natural environments, or landscapes. The show will take place in the Art on Park Gallery, 800 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL from November 16 through December 29, 2015. A portion of proceeds from all sales will benefit our chapter. **Don't miss the Opening Reception on November 20, 6 – 8 PM.**

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
PO Box 16914  
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33416-6914

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**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.