



# EVERGLADE KITE

## newsletter

### AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Volume 56, Number 2 November 2015

#### CALENDAR

**Nov 4 Wed. 8:30 am Peaceful Waters**, Wellington, 11700 Pierson Rd. SW corner of Village Park. Meet at entry to boardwalk (Clive Pinnock)

**Nov 7 Sat. 7:30 am STA 1E**, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com).

**Nov 8 Sun. 7:30 am Sandhill Crane Access Park**, Palm Beach Gardens, 8175 PGA Blvd, meet at observation tower. (Bart Scott)

**Nov 10 Tue. 4-6pm Grassy Waters Preserve, "CANOE Fly In at Sunset"**, RSVP REQUIRED [grassywaters@comcast.net](mailto:grassywaters@comcast.net) space limited (Cindy Bush)

**Nov 14 Sat. 8 am Riverbend Park, "Birding by BIKE"**, Jupiter, 9060 Indiantown Rd. Meet in parking lot in front of bike rental trailer. (Vicki Rogerson)

**Nov 14 Sat. 7:30 am STA 2**, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com).

**Nov 15 Sun. 4 pm Green Cay Wetlands**, Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door. (Valleri Brauer)

**Nov 20 Fri. 6-8 pm ART ON PARK GALLERY OPENING (to benefit ASE)**, 800 Park Ave, Lake Park, 33403

**Nov 21 Sat. & Sun. Sanibel Island**, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com), (Paton White/Linda Humphries)

**Nov 21 Sat. 8:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BEGINNING BIRD WALK**, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Chris Golia)

**Nov 22 Sun. 8:15 am Wellington Environmental Preserve**, Wellington, 3322 Flying Cow Road. Meet at north parking lot by bathrooms (Paul Thomas & Walt Hackenjoes)

**Nov 28 Sat. 8 am Green Cay Wetlands**, Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door. (Ben Kolstad)

**Nov 29 Sun. 9 am "Roger Hammer's Home Gardens"**, \$10 fee, RSVP REQUIRED [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com). Space Limited. (Roger Hammer)

#### Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture: Adapting to Climate Change in South Florida: Improving Resilience of our Ecosystems and Communities Dr. Tabitha Cale, Everglades Policy Associate, Audubon Florida Tuesday, November 3, 7 pm

Tabitha Cale is a native Floridian from Fort Myers, FL. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida, and her Ph.D. in Political Science from Louisiana State University. Her research at LSU focused on various areas of environmental policy, including climate change and environmental public health. After a post-doctoral appointment with the LSU Superfund Research Program, Dr. Cale joined the Audubon Florida team as an Everglades Policy Associate. She is an avid birder and kayaker, and currently lives in Miami, FL.

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—November Bird of the Month: Great Horned Owl. Come to our November meeting to hear more about this bird from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

#### Artists of Palm Beach County present ASE 50th Anniversary Exhibit

*Maxine Schreiber*

To kick off ASE's 50th anniversary celebration, the Artists of Palm Beach County (APBC) will be culminating its 2015 season with a benefit exhibition. The show will take place in the Art on Park Gallery, 800 Park Avenue, Lake Park, 33403, from November 16 through December 30. A portion of the proceeds from all sales will benefit our chapter. ASE Chapter President, Paton White, is donating a beautiful orchid arrangement for a raffle, also raising funds for Palm Beach County's ASE programs. Don't miss the Opening Reception on November 20, 6–8 PM.

APBC was founded in 2006 as a coalition created and managed by artists for artists of all disciplines— the first of its kind in Palm Beach County. In 2012, APBC opened the Art on Park Gallery after the Town of Lake Park invited the organization to be part of a redevelopment project designed to enhance the Park Avenue cultural corridor.

APBC artists submitted images to the jury that reflect the ASE's mission to conserve wildlife, especially birds, and the environment that supports them. Works to be shown include oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors, photography, glass art, collage and sculpture as well as jewelry, ceramics, and fabric art. APBC is proud that award winning fine art photographer, Melinda Moore, will be the judge for awards. Prizes will be awarded for First and Second Place as well as Honorable Mention. Mark your calendar for November 20th.

## President's Letter

*Paton White*

**Thank you for your generosity.** The Audubon Society of the Everglades has been able to accomplish a lot this year due to our members' generosity! Each donation has allowed us to expand our presence, educational programming and environmental impact in the community. As the year draws to an end and you are finalizing your charitable contributions, please consider donating to ASE to help us continue these efforts.

**Congratulations, Kay Gates.** Kay was awarded the Sierra Club's 2015 Environmental Alliance Award. This national award goes to a Sierra Club member who helps further environmental goals through collaboration with non Sierra Club organizations. Kay, an ASE member, has done just that with our ASE chapter!

### More Ways to Donate to ASE

As we enter the holiday gift and celebration season, consider using Amazon Smile to donate to ASE FOR FREE if you shop through Amazon. Go to the ASE web site and click on the Amazon Smile tab above the picture for instructions. You don't need to be a member—invite friends and family to use Amazon Smile too!

Consider also making ASE a beneficiary of your IRA, 401K or any asset where you name a beneficiary:

- Ask your provider for a "Change of Beneficiary Form" (or download it from their web site)
- Fill out the form naming AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES 501-c-3 TAX-ID 59-6019854 as a full or partial beneficiary

Additionally, ASE will gratefully accept legacy gifts of assets, securities, and personal property to help support our important conservation and education initiatives. Please consult with your financial advisor or attorney.

Finally, an In Memoriam donation to ASE is a touching way to memorialize a departed one.

## North Grade Elementary Birder's Club

*Nancy Malek & Eric Ray*

Three and a half years ago, Eric and I got the idea of starting a Birder's Club at North Grade Elementary, where I have taught for the past nine years. Our goal was to teach children the basics of birding, including bird identification, binocular and spotting scope skills, and record keeping. Thanks to a generous benefactor (Eric!), we purchased twelve pairs of Pentax Papilio binoculars and bird identification books for the children. We chose the Papilios because of their small size and close focusing ability. Applications went out to all third, fourth, and fifth graders at North Grade. All applicants were asked to write an essay titled "Why I Want to Be in the Birder's Club." We received about thirty applications and ended up selecting twelve students for our first year's membership. The North Grade Elementary Birder's Club was born!

Meetings are held every Wednesday during September and October. During the first year meetings were held in the classroom and the school garden, but we quickly realized that we needed to go farther afield to take advantage of the fantastic birding opportunities in Palm Beach County. So the next year, our first meeting covered bird identification skills and practice with binoculars. For the remainder of our meetings, we went on field trips to Snook Island, Wakodahatchee, and John Prince Park. Eric and I and parent volunteers took on chauffeur duties for the trips.

We have followed the same schedule this year, with Vicki Rogerson generously donating her time as an additional chaperone on our trips. In addition, this year the North Grade Elementary Birder's Club is posting data on eBird with the support of Gael Silverblatt. Photos of club members in action can be viewed on the ASE Yahoo group's page in the album titled North Grade Elementary Birder's Club. Photos are also available on Flickr under Eric A. Ray.

It has been gratifying to witness the children as they experience the joys of birding and gain an appreciation for the natural world. We feel certain we are introducing them to an activity they can enjoy for the rest of their lives. It is our vision to have Birders' Clubs in all Palm Beach County schools and ultimately throughout the nation. Audubon Society of the Everglades can insure that its next 50 years will be as successful as its last 50 years by supporting future generations of birders.

### Wellington Preserve Signage and Improvements

*Scott Zucker*

ASE birders have been mentioning issues with the signage and vegetation at Wellington Preserve, so Mary, my wife, and I met with Scott Fletcher, the Peaceful Waters and Wellington Environmental Preserve Manager.

I raised "all" the signage requests for outside and inside in the park, and received a positive reaction from the park manager who indicated he would follow up on our requests.

He will be restoring all the previous openings on the north, east/west berm by gentle trimming of the existing shrubs and removing a few invasive species that have taken root. He will also fill a small hole on that berm and attempt to better control the anthills that crop up in the middle of all the berms.

He will see about the possibility about restoring the downed Martin house and planting more Pond Apple and Cyprus trees on the marsh islands to attract nesting species and setting in old tree trunks as snags to provide more perches, though he wasn't too sure when the latter could be done as it would involve bringing in heavy equipment.

They were air boating the vegetation growth in the preserve while I was there. In my opinion this could have been done more selectively as they were going through very quickly, which I felt could be harming living creatures and native plants, but he assured me that they are privately contracted professionals, and "they know what they are doing." He also mentioned that he had not seen the airboat driver before and that he might be new. Anyway, he did promise to not run the airboats through during nesting season.

I gave him some of my thoughts about the over landscaping of the Wellington Environmental Preserve on Flying Cow, which he agreed with, but seemed to indicate that what was done was out of his control at the time, that they would be allowing for more natural growth to take place there, and that snags would not be removed with so little regard anymore. They seem to realize that they have disrupted the Snail Kite population that had been regularly seen there. They also are concerned about the increased Gray-headed Swamphen population.

I do feel ASE has established a good working relationship with the Preserve Manager and he is open to working with our concerns. We would like to replicate this initiative in other parks.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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	(M-F only AFTER 5:30 pm)		
Hospitality	Jill Harrold	308-6324	
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*Membership	Gail Tomei	969-7567	blackgrouper@comcast.net
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\*denotes board members  
all phone numbers 561 area code unless otherwise indicated

## Field Trip Rescues Hooked Heron

*Susan McKemy*

If you read the ASE Yahoo group, you already know that during our regular trip in STA 1E, I saw an immature night heron acting a little oddly. On inspection, we noticed it had a fishing lure in its beak. Even further inspection revealed there was still fishing line attached and the line was caught on something on the bank. With some quick thinking by John Shelly, he took action and was able to remove the lure and the bird was able to fly away! Go to the ASE web site (sub-tab under BIRDS tab above the picture) to see the video!



### 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 November

### Great Horned Owl

The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is a celebrated local resident. Instantly recognizable with its long ear tufts and penetrating gaze (although at least half the time you catch these nocturnal predators with their eyes closed), it's familiar from anyone's storybook image of an owl. Its deep hooting voice is almost stereotypically owlish (although I prefer the Barred Owl's hoot myself). The range of this powerful bird of prey (unlike most other raptors, it regularly takes prey larger than itself) is widespread across North America and through many areas of South America.



Great Horned Owl. Photo by Anne DuPont

The Cornell Lab describes its habitat requirements as follows: as long as there are trees in the area, it makes itself at home in "deciduous and evergreen forests, swamps, desert, tundra edges, and tropical rainforest, as well as cities, orchards, suburbs, and parks." The photos submitted for this month's article reflect this wide-ranging taste: birders sent pictures from Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Davie, and the ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Based on this small sample, they appear to prefer slash pine trees for nesting, although the bird from the refuge was in a big old cypress tree. And desert owls make do with cliffs when a suitable tree isn't handy. These birds are tough enough that they simply take over nests from other species (Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons are on this birds' diet, so no one really objects very strongly when they barge in).

### REMINDER:ASE Survey due Tues Nov 3

One per person. This survey will help your ASE Board prioritize their birding and conservation services. If you haven't yet completed a survey, you can:

- complete the survey online using the link sent by email,
- fill one out at the Nov 3 meeting or
- go to the ASE web site SURVEY tab above the picture, print, complete and mail it to ASE, PO box 16914, WPB, FL 33416-6914

### BIRD OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Please send December Bird-of-the Month Screech Owl pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the [AudubonEverglades.org](http://AudubonEverglades.org) web site to [SheilaElliot@yahoo.com](mailto: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).

Audubon Society of the Everglades  
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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.