



EVERGLADE KITE

newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 56, № 6 — March 2016

March Calendar

► **Mar 4 Fri. 4:30 pm Wakodahatchee Wetlands**, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Valleri Brauer)

► **Mar 5 Sat. 7:30 am STA 1E**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com.

► **Mar 6 Sun. 11:30 Okeehatchee Park, "VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC (FREE)"**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com.

► **Mar 9 Wed. Rescheduled to March 16 6:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR FLY OUT**, (Rick Schofield)

► **Mar 11 Fri. 5:00 pm (rescheduled from 6 pm) Wakodahatchee Wetlands**, BEGINNING BIRD WALK, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Chris Golia)

► **Mar 12 Sat. 8:00 am carpool, "Birding and History of Lake O's South Rim"**, Bird between Port Mayaca and Clewiston and also learn the human and natural history of the area. Lunch at the Tiki Bar. Space Limited. Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. (Paul Gray)

► **Mar 12 Sat. 8:00 am Peaceful Waters Sanctuary**, Wellington, 11700 Pierson Rd. SW corner of Village Park. Meet at entry to boardwalk. (Scott Zucker)

► **Mar 13 Sun. 8:00 am Jupiter Ridge Natural Area. FL.Scrub-Jays**. Jupiter, 1800 South US 1, entrance on west side. (Melanie and Steve Garcia)

► **Mar 13 Sun. 9:30 am STA 2 "Flamingos"**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. Space limited.

* continued on page 3

Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture: Tuesday, March 1, 7:00pm "Radar Birding" by Angel & Mariel Abreu Owners of Nature is Awesome Birding & Wildlife Tours

Join us as Angel & Mariel Abreu (owners of Nature is Awesome Birding & Wildlife Tours) tell us about Radar Birding, the recent technique to locate birds. Radars may be designed to track storms, but flocks of birds show up too, and scientists are learning to use radar to track birds.

Angel and Mariel are known by many as the birding duo who prowl the state of Florida - they love to wander around the outdoors looking for the next bird that wishes to cross the path and spend ample time observing and recording bird behavior in hopes of sharing amazing moments with fellow nature and birding junkies.

Recently they've been exploring radar ornithology. During spring and fall, they share radar images of birds migrating and predict birding conditions across the state at www.badbirdz2.wordpress.com. As a result, they have become amateur meteorologists, spending countless amounts of time looking at weather patterns and wind charts in search of answers to questions about where birds are headed and where the next "fallout" may occur.

Come hear about this unusual technique that you too can use to help you find birds to observe.

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. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Also at the meeting – *March Bird of the Month: Western Sandpiper*. Come to our March meeting to hear more about this bird from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

Save the Date – Tuesday April 5th

Annual Meeting including our 50th Anniversary Celebration (current members only) and special program by Eric Draper, Executive Director of Audubon Florida. Details to come in April KITE.

Books Every Birder Should Read

recomendations by **Corey T. Callaghan**

I was recently asked what books I recommend for a birder. Here is my opinion on one of my favorites with one of my top five books every birder should read. The other books will be listed, one in each of the next four KITE issues.

Kingbird Highway by Kenn Kaufman

This book really needs no commentary. Personally, I've read it three times, and each time I can't wait to get to the next chapter. It presents Kenn Kaufman's story as he conducts a 'Big Year' around the country on an exceptionally cheap budget. This book combines birding with crazy, exhilarating adventures to keep readers on the edge of their seat. It popularized the idea of Big Years. If you haven't read it yet, it should be the next book you read.

This book is available to check out from our Audubon Collection, main Palm Beach County Library on Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach.

▪ President's Letter ▪

Paton White

It is all about you! It's time to celebrate wonderful you!

ASE not only functions but is successful because of you our wonderful volunteers! We have no paid staff; among us we do it all. Some of the jobs are huge and visible and some seem much smaller, but each is very important! We have field trip leaders, educators and citizen scientists, an amazing communications group that produces the Kite, our brochure, the web site, the online groups and emails blasts and all our publicity. And we have members that bring food (and a few that even make home-cooked treats) to our meetings, and set up and clean up. Visitors from other chapters tell me we have the friendliest meetings they have been to.

SO, to applaud you, we are planning to host a volunteer outdoor picnic to celebrate you and those who have ever volunteered for ASE on Sunday, March 6 starting at 11:30 in Okeeheelee Park at the Osceola Pavilion. This is ASE's party for you so all we ask is that you sign up by sending an email to asetripinfo@gmail.com and letting us know who is coming. If you do not have a computer, you can call me to register (561-818-7574). There is no charge -- we just want to have the right amount of food. Add to this, we will have 50 years of scrapbooks to look at, door prizes and great company. Come Celebrate Us!

Urgently needed -- please volunteer:

Can you balance your checkbook and use the internet? Then you are qualified to be our treasurer. Both Janet Schreiber (a past treasurer) and I (current interim treasurer) will work with you for a few months until you feel comfortable. Now that we are e-mailing our CPA much of the end of the month info and not making a million copies, the job is taking about 4 hours monthly.

March Bird of the Month – Western Sandpiper

by Ben Kolstad

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) is ASE's March bird of the month, the first of three regularly occurring "peeps" in our area that we'll be reviewing (out of five total in North America). This group of small sandpipers got their names, not from a corruption of the name "sandpiper" but because of their high-pitched "peep"



Western Sandpiper by Paul Thomas

calls (although one could argue that the origin of the name sandpiper itself comes from their high piping call). Whatever the origin of the name, two peeps in particular are notoriously difficult to differentiate, although in the last several decades some reasonable characteristics have emerged. Nevertheless, Western Sandpiper is so similar to its congener, the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*), that it had been systematically misidentified in the ornithological literature for over 100 years! (Allan Phillips's 1975 article in *American Birds* finally clinched the case.)

Western Sandpiper has black legs and feet and a short, slightly downcurved bill. Peterson calls it "perhaps the palest peep," with its unmarked whitish underparts contrasting with its gray or gray-brown upperparts (in breeding plumage, which we rarely see, it's quite a bit redder above). That, combined with its "wider, puffier head and bulkier chest and neck" (Karlson & Rosselet, *Peter-*

son Reference Guide to Birding by Impression) might be of help in separating this winter resident of our shores from its scarcer migrant cousin (more on this in May, migration season). In our area, it can be found on mudflats, sandflats, estuaries, lakeshores, and, during migration, in the flooded agricultural fields inland.

Quick quiz: which bird is more common in Florida, western or semipalmated? Answer: at least in winter, if you think you've seen a Semipalmated Sandpiper anywhere north of Florida Bay, it's headline news.

March Calendar

* continued from page 1

► **Mar 13 Sun. 3:00 pm STA 2 “Flamingos”**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. Space limited.

► **Mar 16 Wed. Rescheduled from March 9 6:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR FLY OUT**, Boynton Beach, 10216 Lee Road, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the boat launching parking lot. (Rick Schofield)

► **Mar 16 Wed. 8:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands**, Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Clive Pinnock)

► **Mar 19 Sat. 7:30 am carpool, “Wild Florida”**, All Day Trip, For Info & Registration (REQUIRED) send email to valleribrauer@gmail.com. (Valleri Brauer)

► **Mar 19 Sat. 7:30 am Pine Glades Natural Area**, Jupiter, 14122 W. Indiantown Road, approximately 6.7 miles west of I-95. Meet in parking lot. (Mark Cook)

► **Mar 20 Sun. 10:00 am Snook Island Natural Area**, Lake Worth. Meet at boardwalk by North side of Lake Worth Bridge. (Gail Silverblatt)

► **Mar 22 Tues. 8:00 am DuPuis Management Area**, Canal Point, 23500 SW Kanner Hwy, (State Rd 76), east of Port Mayaca. Meet at gate 5 by visitor center. (Clive Pinnock)

► **Mar 25 Fri. 9:00 – 11:00 am Jonathan Dickinson State Park**, “Scrub Jay Lecture and Walk”, entry fee. Hobe Sound, 16450 SE Federal Highway. Meet at visitors’ center. (Lori & Tony Pasko)

► **Mar 26 Sat. 9:30 am STA 2 “Flamingos”**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. Space limited.

► **Mar 26 Sat. 3:00 pm STA 2 “Flamingos”**, Registration REQUIRED: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. Space limited.

Happy Birding!



Birders Flock to See the American Flamingos in Palm Beach County!

The “Flamingo” trips for 2016 are now open for reservations!

The trips are scheduled during March and April when the Flamingos have been seen each year for the past 10 years. Of course, the birds are wild, and free to come and go as they choose. Like all birding, there is no guarantee they will be present on any specific trip.

ASE is the only group authorized to offer these carpool caravan tours into the restricted access Stormwater Treatment Area 2 (STA 2) under agreement with the South Florida Water Management District. Like other STA tours, these trips are space limited and ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Tours are scheduled for Sunday March 13, Sat March 26, April 9 and April 23 at 9:30 am and 3:00 pm on each of these dates. (8 tours in all) Tours last approximately 4 hours, but will vary depending on water levels and birds.

In 2015, there were 2 times as many requests to attend as there were spaces available; place your request early for the best chance to attend! Send an email to asetripinfo@gmail.com with your preferred date and time to request a reservation for one of these trips.

Last year, there were birders attending from 4 countries and 21 states outside of Florida and the word spread throughout the birding world. The PB County Flamingos were featured in numerous news stories and e-zines including: National Audubon “*Wild Flamingos Return to Florida*”, June 2015”; Florida Audubon “*Flamingos Return to Palm Beach County*”; Bird-watching Daily “*How to see Flamingos in Florida this Spring*” March 2015; Palm Beach Cultural Council “*Flights of Fancy*”, Fall 2015. Check the ASE web site <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/press/press-clippings/> to read these colorful articles.

PHOTOGRAPHERS ■ WRITERS

Please send April Bird-of-the Month Least Sandpiper 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). If you are a writer interested in submitting to the KITE, please send your article idea or draft article to auduboneverglades@gmail.com.

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We gratefully accept any donations or bequests at <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/donate/>

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.

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades

There are now two ways to join **ASE**: **Chapter-only membership** and/or membership through the **National Audubon Society**.

1. Chapter-only membership. When you become a chapter-only member, **ALL** of your membership fees are put to use supporting local projects and education. You will receive 10 issues of the Kite newsletter and you will also receive priority for special events.

ASE Chapter Only Membership Application

Enclosed is my check payable to the **Audubon Society of the Everglades** for my yearly dues.

Membership runs from January 1 – December 31 of the current year

Please circle one ▶▶▶ \$20 (Regular) \$15 (Student or Senior) \$25.00 (Household) \$50 (Patron)

____ Please send my Kite by email; I would like to save trees, and also save ASE both postage and printing costs.

In addition to membership, please accept my contribution of \$ _____ to help further local projects/education.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: Audubon Society of the Everglades P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

OR pay online at www.auduboneverglades.org/membership

2. Membership through the National Audubon Society. If you join **ASE** through **National Audubon** you will receive 6 issues of the Audubon magazine, and membership in Audubon of Florida. Mail your \$20.00 check along with your information to: **National Audubon Society** 225 Varick St., 7th floor, New York, New York 10014 Attn: Chance Muehleck. Include the code **C9ZE000Z**

As a NAS member you will need to request the Kite newsletter to be emailed or mailed to you by contacting Gail Tomei. Call her at 561-969-7567 or email to blackgrouper@comcast.net.