



EVERGLADE KITE

newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 56, № 10 - September 2016

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 03 Sat (7a-12p) STA-1E, Easy/Drive, **RR*** (Linda Humphries)
- 14 Wed (8a-10a) Seacrest Scrub, Moderate/Medium (Sue Young)
- 17 Sat (8a-10a) Frenchman's Forest, Moderate/Medium (Chuck Weber)
- 20 Tue (8:30a-10:30a) Wakodahatchee, Easy/Short (Clive Pinnock)
- 24 Sat (8a-10a) Spanish River Park, Easy/Medium, \$ (Linda McCandless / Kathy Walters)
- 24 Sat (4:30p-6:30p) Wakodahatchee, Easy/Short (Valleri Brauer)
- 28 Wed (7:30a-10:30a) Loxahatchee NWR, Moderate/Medium, \$ (Sue Young)

Always check the web site calendar for details, registration links and last minute changes.

*RR - advance registration required.

NEW TRIP SCHEDULE

The ASE Field Trip Schedule has moved into the 21st century. The dates, times, destinations and leaders, along with symbols to indicate effort, distance, cost, and registration requirements, are included in the enclosed annual brochure, which can be separated from the rest of the chapter brochure. The details have moved to the online calendar, where you will find specifics and last minute updates.

Skiers and mountain bikers will recognize the symbols for effort (difficulty). **Green Circle** = easy, **Blue Square** = moderate, **Black Diamond** = challenging. Symbols for distance (short, medium, long) will also be helpful. A dollar sign indicates that there are costs associated with the trip; the specifics will be online.

Continued on Page 3 ...

Monthly Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00 pm

Shorebirds and Warblers - Two Difficult Groups Made Easier by Paddy Cunningham

Paddy Cunningham has been a professional naturalist in South Florida for 35 years, managing nature centers and restoring habitat. Her passion is birds and she teaches a variety of classes to help birders gain advanced skills at numerous festivals, Bonnet House and Flamingo Gardens (Native Bird Festival September 5). She is the Coordinator of the Everglades Birding Festival (January 12-16, 2017), and is a popular speaker and guide at local birding festivals. She is the owner of Birding Adventures, an eco-tourism company, www.birdadventure.com.

Also at the meeting, our expert Clive Pinnock will tell us more about the September Bird of the Month: Solitary Sandpiper.

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.



ASE Email Sign up

Are you getting the most current information about ASE news, activities and events? Have you ever said, "I didn't know about that!"

The monthly Kite newsletter has lots of information about recent happenings and upcoming events, programs, and trips. It is always a great place to start! However, due to the nature of newsletter production, the deadline for input is several weeks before you see the newsletter. Everyone knows that events and activities develop quickly, so ASE provides the latest news and updates by email and on the ASE website calendar.

If you are not getting email from ASE, sign up for the ASE email list and indicate your areas of interest (i.e., General Interest, Citizen Science / Bird Counts and Watches, Conservation, Education, Flamingo or Pelagic trips, and Photography Club). If you are getting email from ASE, you may want to update your interest preferences. Anyone can sign up for the ASE email list regardless of membership. Spread the word – and help spread the news!

"Sounds great – but HOW do I do that?"

The quickest way is to go to the ASE Website www.AudubonEverglades.Org. Put your cursor on the "Contact Us" tab above the photo and click on "Email List Sign Up." On the next page, click on Sign up for the ASE Email List and complete the form on the next page, selecting the topics for which you would like to receive ASE email updates. Then click the "Sign Up" button at the bottom of the page to complete your registration or updates. Check your email regularly for the latest news, updates, and calls to action from ASE.

You will also want to mark these email addresses as "safe" in your email program so messages do not end up in your Junk or Spam mail folder:

AudubonEverglades@gmail.com
ASETriplInfo@gmail.com
ASEConservation@gmail.com

President's Letter ■ ■ ■ Paton White

Welcome to our 2016-2017 ASE Season. Enclosed you will find the annual and field trip brochures, re-designed by our talented graphics artists, Susan Faulkner Davis and Sheri Filipe. Our wonderful field trip schedule was coordinated by our new field trip chairman, Rick Schofield. We invite you all to enjoy our programs, activities, conservation efforts, and volunteer opportunities -- and to check out ASE's new photography club organized by Dr. Pete Lekos. Hope to see you at our monthly programs and birding events.

Bird of the Month Solitary Sandpiper by Ben Kolstad

In the last article we discussed a vexing species pair of sandpipers in the genus *Tringa*: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. In the next two articles, we discuss how to ID a pair of sandpipers in two different genera: Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), the subject of this article, and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), to be discussed next month. Both are medium-sized shorebirds, larger than the peeps but smaller than the yellowlegs or willet. Even though these birds are in different genera, their overall aspect, at least in the winter plumage that we see here in Palm Beach County, causes some confusion among birders.



BEHAVIOR: Roger Tory Peterson's classic field guide provided perhaps the best method for distinguishing Spotted from Solitary: behavior. He asks, "Does it teeter like a spotted sandpiper? Or nod like a solitary?" If it nods its head, it's a solitary; if its whole body teeters, it's a spotted. Other sources, including the Cornell Lab, tend to muddle this rather clear definition, allowing that "Solitary Sandpipers do teeter a bit, but they jerk their body up and down a few times, unlike the continual bobbing of a Spotted Sandpiper." For my money, RTP has it best: head movement alone = solitary, whole body movement = spotted.

FIELD MARKS: If you have a picture of the typical *Tringa* sandpiper, you'll have a good idea of what the Solitary Sandpiper looks like. Some might describe this rather nondescript bird with a scattering of small white spots on an olive drab background as a yellowlegs except without, well, yellow legs (the solitary has greenish legs like its Palearctic counterpart, the greenshanks). Perhaps the most prominent field mark of a Solitary Sandpiper is the eye ring; apart from that, it is indeed quite plain. A good thing to look for is brown on the chest; the Spotted Sandpiper in winter plumage is white there.

———— The Top Five Books Every Birder Should Read ————

by Corey T. Callaghan

Here is the last in my series of the top five books every birder should read.

How to be a Better Birder

by Derek Lovitch. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

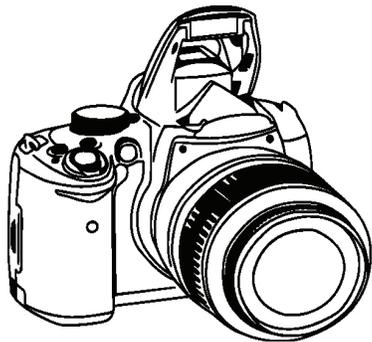
This book is a good read from front to back, but also a valuable resource that can be looked to in the future. The author teaches the reader how to 'become a better birder' through greater understanding of geography, meteorology, radar, and more. He discusses the benefits of 'patch listing' and how to go about finding rarities. Any birder, no matter how advanced, would benefit from this book.

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

Call for Photographers and Writers

Please send photographs (jpg format) of Spotted Sandpiper for ASE web site September Bird-of-the Month to SheilaElliot@yahoo.com. Enjoy our on-line gallery of member images (click Bird of the Month on the right 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.



The New ASE Photography Club

If you've ever wanted to foster your inner nature photographer, get your camera ready and join the ASE Photography Club! The inaugural meeting is Monday, September 26 (4th Monday of the month) at 7:00 PM (doors will open at 6:30) at St. Michael's Church, 1925 Birkdale Drive, Wellington FL 33414. The club will run from September through May. Nature photography enthusiasts of all skill levels are welcome. Programs will feature speakers, workshops, field trips, and competitions and will promote wildlife awareness, habitat conservation, and photographic ethics.

Club Chairman and founder, Dr. Pete Lekos, a widely published and award winning photographer who recently moved to Palm Beach County, says, "Our goal is to increase our knowledge of photography, inspire one another in our photographic activities, and, especially, to make new friends." Members will be able to share their work, form friendships with other photo enthusiasts, have their photos critiqued by expert judges, and enter regular club competitions. They will be able to present their work prior to the start of the monthly ASE meetings and at the May General Meeting "Annual Photography Club Show."

Enhancing the ability of members to capture the beauty they see in nature, instruction will include taking advantage of digital camera features, capturing wildlife in motion, shooting in macro, using prevailing light, framing the shot, processing digital images on the computer, and much more.

Photography Club Membership Fees:

ASE Individual-\$25 Non-ASE Individual-\$35 ASE Household-\$35 Non-ASE Household-\$45 Patron-\$50

While ASE membership is encouraged, it is not a requirement. Guests may attend up to two club meetings Join us for our first meeting and prepare to make your photography a more exciting and rewarding hobby!

Least Tern Nesting in Palm Beach County - Paul Davis



photo: Kelly Grinter

The Florida Shorebird Alliance (coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) has been monitoring local Least Tern nesting colonies. Most nesting occurs on flat gravel rooftops in SE FL due to habitat loss and disturbance of beach colonies by people and animals. Sixteen rooftops in Palm Beach County were monitored this season by volunteers, and nine roofs had active colonies. Nesting colonies can support over 100 birds, which can be challenging if they live on your roof due to noise, smell, and droppings. ASE thanks the building owners for supporting efforts to monitor and protect colonies on their roofs, including Brown Moving and Storage, the Publix and Ross stores in Jupiter, the South Florida Fairgrounds, and two condominiums.

Beach nesting of shorebirds has been mostly eliminated in SE Florida due to anthropogenic disturbances. The last documented beach nesting in PBC was Least Terns in 2001. However, biologists were encouraged when two new Least Tern ground colonies were discovered in Palm Beach County. One is on newly created islands in Lake Worth Lagoon and the second on a nearby

beach. Up to 288 adults were observed at the beach colony, and 78 adults and 5 chicks were counted at the Grassy Flats island. While encouraging, the beach colonies have a tenuous existence since conditions and disturbance levels can change rapidly. Two additional ground nesting colonies were reported in western Palm Beach County.



photo: Natasha Warraich

NEW TRIP SCHEDULE ... Continued from Page 1

Finally, for trips requiring advance registration, there will be a link to the reservation system in the online calendar.

To view the online calendar, click the Calendar tab above the banner picture at www.auduboneverglades.org or enter www.auduboneverglades.org/ase-trips-calendar into your browser. Consider creating a bookmark for it so you can return easily. The online calendar is accessible from any computer, iPhone, or Android smartphone. Instructions will be posted on the Field Trips page of the ASE web site.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
Post Office Box 16914
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33416-6914

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Dated Material - DO NOT DELAY

The Everglades Kite is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of the Everglades, a 501c3 organization # 59-6019854. We gratefully accept any donations or bequests at <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/donate/>
We offer Amazon Smile and eBay fundraising programs, as well as direct giving.

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (refreshment 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

ASE APPLICATION

There are two ways to join **Audubon Society of the Everglades**.

Chapter-Only Membership: An annual membership that starts on January 1 and runs through the calendar year. All your membership dues are put to use supporting local projects and educational programs. You receive 10 issues of the Kite newsletter and priority for some special trips and events.

National Audubon Society Membership: It also includes membership in Florida Audubon and Audubon Society of the Everglades. You receive 6 issues of the Audubon magazine. Cost is \$20.00 a year. Please enclose a check for \$20.00, include our chapter code C9ZE000Z and mail it to: National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., 7th floor, New York, NY 10014 Attn: Chance Muehleck.

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

Yes, I want to become a chapter-only member of ASE.

Join us online at auduboneverglades.org/membership and pay with a credit card.

Or, complete this form and mail your check to: Audubon Society of the Everglades, PO Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-6914

Please check one:

\$20 (Regular) \$15 (Student/Senior) \$25 (Household) \$50 (Patron)

Please accept my additional contribution of \$ _____

I would like to help the environment, and see the cost of printing and postage used for conservation and education instead, please send my Kite newsletter via email.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____