



# EVERGLADE KITE

## newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 57, № 1 - October 2016

### OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 01 Sat (7a-12p) STA-1E, Easy/Drive, **RR\*** (Linda Humphries)
- 02 Sun (8a-10a) Spanish River Park, Easy/Medium, **\$** (Lee & David Hasse)
- 08 Sat (all day) Green Cay (Big Sit), Easy/Sitting, Meet at NW Gazebo (Linda McCandless / Al Pelligrinnelli)
- 09 Sun (8a-10a) Frenchman's Forest, Moderate/Medium (Melanie & Steve Garcia)
- 10 Mon (8a-11a) Morikami Park, Moderate/Medium (Sue Young)
- 15 Sat (8:15a-11a) Cape Florida Banding Station, TRIP IS FULL. (Linda McCandless)
- 16 Sun (8a-10a) Seacrest Scrub, Moderate/Medium (John & Chadda Shelly)
- 22 Sat (8a-10a) Green Cay, Easy/Medium (Valleri Brauer)
- 23 Sun (10a-12p) Snook Islands, Easy/Short (Gael Silverblatt)
- 29 Sat (8a-10a) Winding Waters, Moderate/Long (Chuck Weber)

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

**\$** - There is an associated cost; see web-site calendar for details

**\*RR** - advance registration required.

### VOTE NO on Solar Amendment 1

Here's a handy link to a "Pledge No" page: [actionnetwork.org/forms/i-pledge-to-vote-no-on-amendment-1?source=direct\\_link&](http://actionnetwork.org/forms/i-pledge-to-vote-no-on-amendment-1?source=direct_link&)

If you add your name to the pledge, not only will you be supporting the cause, but you will also get weekly emails with information, campaign updates, reminders to vote (by mail, early in person, and on election day), and calls for volunteering. Remember, pledging helps but the MOST important thing is to actually VOTE.

### Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture Tuesday, October 4 at 7pm

"Fall Migration through the Keys," by Rafael A. Galvez, Director of the Florida Keys

Be sure to attend the October 4 meeting to hear Rafael Galvez talk about the program which monitors migrating species at Curry Hammock State Park and Long Key State Park in the Keys.

Rafael Galvez directs bird surveys and community outreach for the Florida Keys Hawkwatch (FKH), the southernmost migration monitoring project in the continental U.S. As part of this effort, tens of thousands of birds are counted each fall and their movements tracked as they prepare to cross the Florida Straits and the Gulf of Mexico into the Caribbean – a region with a low density of monitoring sites. Rafael will share highlights from the project's 19-season history.

Rafael lives in Homestead and spends much time in the Everglades. He travels widely as a guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours and the Leica birding team. When he is not outdoors, he is in the studio working on several bird illustration projects. Learn more about the Hawkwatch at [FloridaKeysHawkwatch.wordpress.com](http://FloridaKeysHawkwatch.wordpress.com) and see Rafael's field sketches at [GalvezBirds.com](http://GalvezBirds.com)

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

Doors open at 6:30pm 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 Education Projects

*The expansion of efforts to teach more students and teachers about birds and the habitat they need to survive has been impressive.*

We have been particularly focused on the Green Schools Recognition Program, which gives competitive awards of over \$12,000 annually and is open to all schools in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Thanks to this program, many schools have developed outside learning areas - nature trails and butterfly, native plant, fruit tree, herb and memory gardens. ASE Education Co-chair Susan Snyder sits on the Green Schools and Learn Green Conference planning teams. ASE exhibits at Learn Green Conferences, where teachers share information and learn techniques to help their school and community become more sustainable. We recruit Green School judges to review and score Green School applications, and we award \$500 to a Green School showing significant improvement in upgrading its school grounds.

Here are some of our other educational activities. Our contributions to educating students and increasing native habitats in our community are significant!

*Continued on Page 3 ...*

## President's Letter ••• Paton White

### VOTE NO on FPL's AMENDMENT 1 in November!

Yes, we have great news: pro-solar Amendment 4 passed by a huge margin. However, there was no real opposition to it because the big energy monopolies did not want to let the public know that the November ballot's Amendment 1 would actually kill everything that Amendment 4 stood for. Do you remember that we were collecting signatures for a solar amendment ballot last year? Well, so were the energy companies, including FPL, and their solar amendment ballot was worded cleverly and mirrored the one you signed. The amendments were so similar they were hard to tell apart. The utilities paid people to stand in public places and collect signatures. Unfortunately, their amendment is on the ballot in November.

Your ASE Board is committed to fighting for good solar policy so we are urging you to **VOTE NO ON FPL'S AMENDMENT 1** in November. Why? While the Amendment 4 that just passed will help Floridians lower energy costs by reducing the tax burden that currently exists for solar equipment, by contrast November's Amendment 1 would not allow you to buy solar equipment from anyone but your energy provider and would not allow you to sell or distribute your excess solar energy to neighbors and nearby businesses. Currently, Florida, the third sunniest state, ranks behind New Jersey in solar energy! Let's put the sun to work for us and defeat utility-backed Amendment 1 in November.

### October Bird of the Month Spotted Sandpiper

by Ben Kolstad

The lone North American representative of a two-bird genus, *Actitis macularius* is the most widespread sandpiper on the continent. (Its congener, *A. hypoleucus*, is a Eurasian bird.) Despite their near ubiquity according to the range maps, Spotted Sandpipers are not found everywhere in all seasons. Here in Palm Beach County, they are winter residents, and they eschew their namesake spots when they're down here (field guides describe SPSA as "unmistakable" in breeding plumage).

There is one field mark, though, that, when you can spot it, clinches the ID of the winter-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper: a little white "check" on the shoulder. (This might remind you of the white "handkerchief" of the Black-throated Blue Warbler's wing, although it's in a different position with respect to the wing.) When seen well in good light, this field mark makes this nondescript winter-plumaged bird relatively easy to identify.

If you can't see the white mark on the shoulder (perhaps the light is behind it so you have only a silhouette, or perhaps it's in the shadows of a pond hammock), look for the body movements it displays while feeding, walking, or otherwise remaining "still": if its tail teeters or its whole body bobs, you've spotted a spotted; if only its head nods, odds are it's a solitary.

If you're like me and you don't notice the bird until you've gotten too close and flushed it, all is not lost! Watch how it flies away from you. Spotty has a characteristic flight pattern that can still clinch an ID for you: it almost always flies low to the water, wings held stiffly and (usually) below the horizontal. These "shallow, flicking" wingbeats make it look as if it's always looking for a spot (pun intended) to land.



*Spotted Sandpiper, Jupiter FL*  
*by Paul Thomas*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come join the fun on Saturday, October 8 as we participate in The Big Sit! at Green Cay. The Big Sit! is an annual, non-competitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. The "rules" are simple: Tally all bird species seen/heard from a predetermined 17-foot diameter circle. It's a 24-hour event, but our circle will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm. We are anchoring our Green Cay circle in the gazebo on the NW corner of the boardwalk. Stay for 5 minutes or 5 hours and help us find the "golden" bird.

## Field Trip Questions, Issues and Answers

**Cancellations:** We have had problems with a few members who register for limited-space trips and then cancel later on. We understand that people cannot completely control their lives and that some cancellations are inevitable but when it becomes habitual, it is unfair to the rest of the membership. Please plan ahead and register only for those trips that you intend to attend.

**No-Shows:** If you find that you are unable to attend an advance registration field trip -- even up to the morning of the trip, please let the leader or coordinator know as soon as possible so that someone on the waitlist may take your place. The ASE Board is developing a policy on how to handle repeat no-shows.

**Waitlist:** The online registration system allows us to automatically move people up when a cancellation comes in.

**Advance Registration Trips:** As announced in the September Kite, all advance registration field trips are now handled online. Please do not send a list of trips that you are interested in to ASETriplInfo any longer. If you have difficulty with the online system, we will be more than happy to help. And please register as soon as possible since trips fill up quickly.

**Multiple Sign-ups:** Please be considerate of your fellow members and refrain from signing up for spots on more than one high demand, multiple-date trips. You may be moved to a "space available" status to allow other members a chance to attend.

**Member-only & Member-restricted Trips:** Remember that our field trip schedule and our annual membership cycle reflect different calendars -- field trips run September through August, while memberships run January through December. You must be a current ASE member to attend any member-only or member-restricted trip at the time of the trip. This mainly affects spring trips, because your membership may have run out at the end of December.

## Palm Beach County Flamingos

You may recall that the editor of a new "all things Florida" magazine, which coincidentally is named "Flamingo Magazine", contacted ASE in Jan 2016 to do an article about the Flamingos being seen in PB County. The magazine is now in stores; the article can be seen online at this link: [flamingomag.com/2016/08/25/2334/](http://flamingomag.com/2016/08/25/2334/) People you may know are mentioned in the article, which also includes some of Brian Garrett's photos!

### Call for Photographers, Writers

Please send photographs (jpg format) of Kildeer for ASE web site November Bird-of-the-Month to [SheilaElliot@yahoo.com](mailto:SheilaElliot@yahoo.com). Enjoy our on-line gallery of member images (click Bird of the Month on the tab under the banner photo).

If you are a writer interested in submitting to the KITE, please send your article idea or draft article to [auduboneverglades@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneverglades@gmail.com).

### Learn about Conservation Issues Affecting You!

Join Scott Zucker, ASE Conservation Committee Chair, at 6:30pm, prior to the October 4 general meeting (which will feature Raphael Galvez of Florida Keys Hawkwatch). Scott would enjoy meeting you and sharing important information about current conservation issues, the Conservation Committee, and the possibility of your getting more involved in ASE conservation efforts.

## ASE Education Projects

*Continued from Page 1 ...*

ASE exhibits at the Palm Beach County Science Symposium, where resources are shared with teachers.

- ASE Education Co-chairs Susan Snyder and Vicki Rogerson are members of R.I.S.E. (Resources In Science Education).
- ASE currently has five volunteers judging Palm Beach/Martin County High school competitive Science Fair entries.
- ASE awards the \$3000 Ruth and Seymour Miller Scholarship at the Palm Beach Post's Pathfinder event to a graduating high school science student who shows strong interest and accomplishments in the environmental field.
- We also support small student/school projects. This includes providing volunteers and funds and/or supplies for youth birding clubs like North Grade Birders' Club and Beacon Cove Birding Club.

In the coming year ASE will be presenting activities from our Audubon Adventure Trail at several community events:

- Fall Family Festival at Mounts Botanical Garden on 10/16/2016
- Migration Day at Green Cay on 11/12/2016
- Everglades Day at Loxahatchee NWR on 2/11/2017
- Outdoor Adventure Day at John Prince Park with Florida Fish and Wildlife and PBC Parks and Recreation on 3/4/2017
- Pledge 2 Fledge TBA (March)
- Earth Day TBA (April)

To join in any of these activities, contact Education chairs Vicki Rogerson 561-352-7835 [vrogerson@gmail.com](mailto:vrogerson@gmail.com), Susan Snyder 561-627-7829 [roysue@bellsouth.net](mailto:roysue@bellsouth.net), or Mary Young 561-876-8815 [banyanhair@gmail.com](mailto:banyanhair@gmail.com).

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33416-6914

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Permit 46

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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

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. New members who join after Oct. 1, 2016 and anyone who renews after that date are paid up until Dec. 31, 2017. 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](mailto:blackgrouper@comcast.net).**

## ASE APPLICATION

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

Join us online at [auduboneverglades.org/membership](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_