



EVERGLADE KITE

newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 57, № 2 - November 2016

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

02 Wed (6:30a-11:30a) **Loxahatchee NWR (Fly-out)**, Moderate/Long, \$ (Rick Schofield)

04 Fri (8a-10a) **Wakodahatchee**, Easy/Short (Valleri Brauer)

05 Sat (7:30a-12p) **STA-1E**, Easy/Drive, **RR** (Linda Humphries)

06 Sun (7:30a-10:30a) **Sandhill Crane Access Park**, Moderate/Medium (Bart Scott)

06 Sun (8a-10a) **Tall Cypress**, Easy/Short (Bruce Pickholtz)

09 Wed (4p-6p) **Grassy Waters (Sunset Canoe Fly-in)**, Moderate/Sitting, \$, **RR** (Cindy Bush)

12 Sat (8a-12p) **STA-2**, Easy/Drive, **RR** (Susan McKemy)

13 Sun (8a-10a) **Wakodahatchee (Beginner)**, Easy/Short (Chris Golia)

13 Sun (8:15a-11:15a) **Riverbend Park (Birding by Bike)**, Easy/Long, Bike rental opens at 8am; No skinny tires (Vicki Rogerson)

15 Tue (9:30a-12p) **Lion Country Safari**, Easy/Drive, **RR** (Clive Pinnock)

19 Sat (8a-10a) **John Prince Park**, Easy/Short (Dorothy Brindle)

19 Sat (all day) **Corkscrew Swamp / Tomato Fields**, Easy/Long, \$, **RR** (Rick Schofield)

20 Sun (1:30p-5:30p) **Plantation Preserve (with SFAS)**, Easy/Medium (Paddy Cunningham)

21 Mon (7:30a-9:30a) **Wakodahatchee (Beginner)**, Easy/Short (Paton White)

26 Sat (8a-11a) **Riverbend Park**, Moderate/Long (Ed Kaweck)

29 Tue (8a-10:30a) **Peaceful Waters**, Moderate/Medium (Scott Zucker)

Always check the website calendar for details, registration links and last minute changes. Field trips listed in italics are new and/or unique.

\$ - There is an associated cost; see website calendar for details

***RR** - advance registration required. Trips, unless otherwise specified, are "Just Show Up."

Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture Tuesday, November 1 at 7pm

Speaker To Be Announced – check website for details.

At the meeting, Vote-NO-on-Amendment-1 yard signs and information sheets regarding the important November 8 Solar Amendment 1 vote will be available!

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

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.

Mindful Birding Basics

by Susan McKemy

The welfare of wildlife and their world must always be your first priority and take precedence over adding a bird to your list or getting a photograph.

Remember, you are a guest in their environment, so minimize your presence and disturbance. Make as little noise as possible, talk in a low voice to minimize disturbance, and create an environment conducive to locating and identifying birds by sound. Walk slowly and make no speedy movements.

If a bird stops what it is doing to observe you or moves away, you are too close. Flushing tired and hungry birds burns energy reserves which are critical to the survival of actively migrating birds. Repeated disturbances threaten the survival of our feathered friends.

Stay on existing roads and trails to avoid trampling vegetation and fragile habitat. Never bird on private property without permission.

Be courteous and respectful toward others, including people who are not birders.

For more information, read the American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics (aba.org).

VOTE NO ON 1.ORG

**WANT MORE SOLAR IN THE SUNSHINE STATE?
VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1**

President's Letter ■ ■ ■ Paton White

VOTE AGAINST THE FP&L AND DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA SOLAR AMENDMENT 1

When you read Florida's Amendment 1, it sounds wonderful. But it's not, and your ASE Board voted to contribute \$2500 towards its defeat.

Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities (that means you paid for it!). They have invested over \$20 million to keep you from being able to cost-effectively generate your own solar power, thus needing to buy less energy from them.

And all their promises of protection and rights? Well, you already have that protection and those rights. You don't need another constitutional change for that.

Did you know that Florida is the third sunniest state in the nation? But that Florida has less solar power than New Jersey? Florida is one of only six states that block third party ownership of solar, which in other states makes solar power a bargain for the consumer.

By using Amendment 1 to change our state's constitution, our utility companies are hoping to control all solar power and to deprive Florida's citizens and communities of many financial opportunities forever.

We have Vote-NO-on-Amendment-1 yard signs for you to put out. Please contact me to get one for your yard or pick one up at the November 1 meeting.

Paton 561-818-7574 patonrwhite@aol.com

November Bird of the Month

Kildeer by Ben Kolstad

Our year-round shorebird, *Charadrius vociferus*. Probably the most widespread, common, and recognizable shorebird in the county (if not the country), the Killdeer doesn't need a body of water to be comfortable. You can find this bird around open meadows, mudflats, and fields—including the athletic fields at local parks and schools.

The Killdeer has a distinctive posture, long and "horizontal." It also has distinctive markings—two thick breast bands (I think of a collar and cummerbund), a bright orange rump, and a dark, "plain" (no spots, no stripes, no bars) brown back. (It's possible to confuse Semipalmated Plover and Killdeer if you don't pay attention to how large the bird is or how many thick black stripes there are—the smaller Semipalmated Plover has only one collar.)

Pete Dunne's nickname for this bird is "Noisy Plover," and it's an apt description: I almost always hear this bird before I see it. Its taxonomic name is *Charadrius vociferus*, and it lives up to its name, piping loudly and frequently. It's a two-syllable call that many people say "names" the bird, often transcribed as "kill-dee" or "kill-deer," although I hear it more as "tee-dee" myself. Perhaps the only louder and more insistent complainant among our shorebirds is a Black-necked Stilt with a nest or young nearby.

If you're tromping through the field of a nesting bird, rather than looking from a boardwalk railing or down from a levee, you might discover some interesting behavior. This is one of several shorebirds that use the "broken-wing" tactic to try to distract attention from their nest or young. The adult will sort of flop down conspicuously in front of you with one wing dragging on the ground, moving with difficulty, as if struggling to get away. It will lead you just far enough away from its nest or young to feel that they're out of danger, and its wing will miraculously heal itself and the bird will launch into the air, crying tee-hee, tee-hee! (You shouldn't try to provoke such a display—never intentionally disturb a nesting pair—but if you happen to see one, don't feel too guilty to enjoy it.)



Killdeer by Susan Faulkner Davis

December 15 Palm Beach County Regional Science Fair - Looking for Volunteer Judges

The Palm Beach County Regional Science & Engineering Fair will be held December 15, 2016 at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Volunteer judges with a bachelor's degree or higher or extensive experience in a relevant field are needed. Meals will be provided to volunteers.

Schedule:

- 8:00am - 9:00am - Judge Orientation (required) and Breakfast
- 9:00am - 12:00pm - Junior Division Judging (Grades 6-8)
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm - Lunch
- 1:00pm - 4:00pm - Senior Division Judging (Grades 9-12)

If you are interested in volunteering as a judge, please email pbrsef@palmbeachschools.org. You will receive an auto reply, but your information will be added to the contact list.

Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Can you believe that it has been 20 years since Wakodahatchee Wetlands opened? That seems so long ago. It was the same year that:

- The Dow Jones closed over 6,000 for the first time
- Valujet DC-9 crashed in the Everglades
- Atlanta hosted the Olympic Games
- Motorola introduced the first Flip-phone
- Britain was suffering from an outbreak of Mad Cow disease

Some of us remember that, back in the old days, the only large venue in our area for us birders was Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. However, you had to drive all that way out west at a time when most people considered Military Trail our western border. With the opening of Wakodahatchee in 1996 (Wakodahatchee means "created waters" in Seminole), we now had two choices, and one was much more accessible. (We now have three with the opening of Green Cay Wetlands in 2006.)

The County had the foresight to clean up these 50 acres, which were once wasteland overgrown with weeds and exotic invasive plants, and turn them into containment ponds to clean the recycled effluent from the water treatment facility. Roughly half of this recycled water was then released into the L-30 canal for irrigation and ground water recharge (the rest evaporated or was absorbed into the surrounding areas). Before this, all the waste water was injected into deep wells 3000 feet below the surface.

The newly opened 3/4 mile boardwalk provided walkers, birders, photographers, artists, nature lovers and others with easy access to multiple habitats -- open, deep ponds; emergent marsh; shallow water; islands covered with snag and shrub; and forest wetlands -- each attracting a variety of species of flora and fauna.

In the succeeding 20 years, Wakodahatchee (or Wako, as some call it) has become a local favorite as well as a national -- and even international -- destination. If you have never been there, you really must check it out. ASE offers many guided trips at Wakodahatchee each season (three during the month of November).

YAHOO GROUP (AUDUBONEVERGLADES) YOUR BIRDING BULLETIN BOARD

The ASE Yahoo group is member-driven and designed for participants to share their latest bird sightings and photos in Palm Beach County with other local birders. It is also a place where you can find other information, such as the meeting of the new ASE Photography Club, the alert from Rick Schofield to change our passwords when Yahoo was hacked, or an invitation from Vicki Rogerson to a local event supported by ASE.

Linda McCandless lists upcoming field trips for the following week. Trip leaders use the Yahoo group to alert any changes in trip location or time and to give reports following the trips. Any member (there are 206 currently) may comment on field trips or postings, alert the group to sightings of species at specific birding locations or backyards, or note changes to a specific habitat, such as the recent [necessary] clearing of the understory at Seacrest Scrub.

For active ASE birders, this group on-line bulletin board shouldn't be missed.

To join the group, you first need to make a Yahoo login at login.yahoo.com/account/create, after which you go to groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/auduboneverglades/management/membership to join the auduboneverglades group. You can also download mobile phone apps. If you need help becoming a member, please contact auduboneverglades@gmail.com with subject "Yahoo Group Help."

Photographers Enjoy ASE Photography Club's First Meeting

Thirty eight enthusiastic photographers ranging in age from 10 to "much older" attended the new photo club's inaugural meeting in the spacious accommodations of St. Michael's Lutheran Church on Sept. 26. They were formally welcomed by ASE Board Member, Linda Humphries, and the church's Director of Ministry, Steven Rizzo. ASE Conservation Chair, Scott Zucker, spoke of the threats to avian populations and the importance of being a mindful wildlife photographer. After a warm introduction by his wife Lora Lekos, Club President Dr. Pete Lekos gave an informative feature program on how to take great shots instead of just snapshots. Using his own photos, Pete highlighted the elements that make great photographs versus pictures that only a mother would love.

The October 24 meeting will be "From Snap Shots to Great Shots, Part Two," and Dr. Lekos will demonstrate what to do with a captured image. He will focus on post-processing techniques in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, and Scott Zucker will demonstrate the program, Photo, on Apple computers. Club members should bring three images on a flash drive, SD or CF card. Pete will also explain how to prepare images for competition.

Call for Photographers, Writers

Please send photographs (jpg format) of Black-bellied Plover for ASE web site December Bird-of-the-Month to 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.

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Dated Material - DO NOT DELAY

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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. 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.

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 _____