



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades
VOL 58 | Issue 1 | September 2017



Photo: Northern Bobwhite © Kenny Miller 2016. All rights reserved.

Bird of the Month: Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)

by Ben Kolstad

The distinctive call of the only quail species native to the eastern United States used to be heard all over Palm Beach County, even here in the southern portions where I live. However, the ground-nesting and dwelling Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) is becoming increasingly rare across the county—and the country. Some attribute the decline to the success of the imported red fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), but habitat loss could just as easily be responsible (Audubon's online field guide refuses to speculate as to why, while National Geographic's 2006 Complete Birds of North America cites habitat manipulation

and the fire ant—and, of course, it's likely to be a combination of these and other factors).

As with many bird species of the open pinewoods, its call is distinctive and carrying, and this one is easy for anthropomorphizing apes like me to shoehorn into the species name. A whistled “bob-WHITE” that rings out across the woods can mean only one thing: the presence of this chunky little quail. (And frequently, that's the only clue to its presence; it is often very hard to spot.)

Although there are no other native species in the region to compare it to, a brief description would mention its plump body, short tail, reddish-brown back, black head, and white eyeline and throat. Unlike several species of quail in the western United States, Northern Bobwhite does NOT have the head plume that drops down over its eyes in cartoon renditions.

Photographer's please note: next month's BOM is the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.

UPCOMING TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Always check the website calendar for details, registration links and last minute changes. Unless otherwise specified, trips are "Just Show Up."

02 SAT (7A-12P) STA-1E (Dan O'Malley) ● ! O

13 WED (8A-10A) Seacrest Scrub (Sue Young) ■ ! 1.5

16 SAT (8A-10A) Frenchman's Forest (Melanie & Steve Garcia) ■ ! 1.5

23 SAT (8A-10A) Spanish River Park \$ (Linda McCandless/Kathy Walters) ● ! 1.5

23 SAT (5P-7P) Wakodahatchee (Valleri Brauer) ● ! O ♣

24 SUN (8A-10A) Snook Islands (Gael Silverblatt) ● ! O ♣

27 WED (7:30A-10:30A) Loxahatchee NWR \$ (Sue Young) ■ ! 1.5

29 FRI (8:30A-10:30A) Peaceful Waters (Clive Pinnock) ● ! 1.5

30 SAT (8A-10A) Juno Dunes (Melanie & Steve Garcia) ◆ ! >1.5

NOVEMBER 2017

The following advance registration field trips in November will become available for online registration on their corresponding dates during the month of September, e.g., registration for Nov 04 trip begins Sept 04.

04 SAT (7:30A-12P) STA-1E (David Simpson) ● ! O

08 WED (4P-6P) Grassy Waters (Sunset Canoe Fly-in) \$ (Cindy Bush) ■ ! O

11 SAT (8A-12P) STA-2 (David Simpson) ● ! O

28 TUE (9:30A-11:30A) Lion Country Safari (Clive Pinnock) ● ! O

TRIP KEY

EFFORT/DIFFICULTY

- **Easy:** Boardwalk or paved level surface; or birding mainly from bike / boat / auto
- **Moderate:** Improved trail; dirt and uneven surfaces
- ◆ **Challenging:** Improved or unimproved trail; uneven, rocky, and/or wet surfaces

DISTANCE

- ! O **Sitting/Driving:** no walking required
- ! <1 **Short:** less than 1 mile
- ! 1.5 **Medium:** 1-1.5 miles
- ! >1.5 **Long:** more than 1.5 miles

OTHER

- ★ New and/or unique trips
- \$ There is an associated cost
- 📅 Advance registration required
- 👤 Family-friendly
- ♿ Handicap Accessible
- 🌐 Audubon Everglades member priority

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September 2017

by Paton White

Welcome to our 2017-18 Season. By now you have seen the beautiful brochures produced by Sheri Felipe, noticed our new logo, and the words "Audubon Everglades." Officially we are still the Audubon Society of the Everglades, but, rather than using ASE, we will use "Audubon Everglades." There is a lot of information packed into this issue of the Kite, so be sure to read each article and review the brochures carefully. Field Trip Chairman, Rick Schofield, has put together an exciting schedule of birding for us, and Gail Tomei has created a wonderful year of general meeting programs.

We thank Gail, our outgoing membership chairman, for all her great work, and we are happy to announce that Doreen LePage has agreed to be the new chairman and to join our board.

The Board voted to donate \$250 to the second major update of the raptor compound at Okeehetee Nature Center. Callie Sharkey, ONC manager, feels support is vital since a bobcat was found in the compound and a wild young Red-tailed Hawk was trapped inside. We will invite Boy Scout Jacob McDougal to speak at a general meeting as we did Garrett O'Donnell.

Susan Davis of Project Perch confirms that 6 owlets

fledged at Crystal Lake Elementary School and the family now occupy 3 of the 4 artificial burrows.

Vicki Rogerson reports that she has seen up to 230 Swallow-tailed Kite gathering at their roost in a natural area.

Volunteer news: Be sure to see Susan McKemy's article on video-taping and Scott Zucker's on the exciting new beginning birding classes. Both need volunteer help.

In the next newsletter will be details about our upcoming Conservation efforts.

Susan and Roy Snyder attended the National Audubon Society convention in Park City, Utah. She passed out our 2016-17 field trip brochures and said that they were widely acclaimed.

The Board has voted to join other groups in an Amicus Curiae brief upholding water standards and opposing the State Road 7 extension.

Welcome to Audubon Everglades' new season 2017-2018!

Audubon Everglades Education Enrichment

by Vicki Rogerson
Education@AudubonEverglades.org

Here are a few of the educational outreach projects and activities Audubon Everglades engages in throughout the year. A big thank-you to the many volunteers who have made these endeavors possible. We always need and welcome volunteers!

This summer we rolled out **Bird Olympics** for an elementary school workshop. The kids had a blast. We checked their wingspan with our Wingspan Banner, compared their flapping rate to actual birds, measured their running speed for migration, and checked to see if they could smell as well as a Turkey Vulture! One of the showstoppers was Eating Like a Bird. It asks how many hamburgers or veggie burgers you would have to eat to gain 5% of your body weight every day in order to get ready to migrate. If you weigh 60 pounds, 42 burgers; if you weigh 100 pounds, 70 burgers; if you weigh 150 pounds, 105 burgers. You'd have to eat that many burgers for 10 days in a row to gain as much weight as many birds gain before they migrate!

This year we attended PBC's **1st Annual Elementary Pre-School Curriculum Rally** (K-5) on August 10. Three thousand teachers came by our table! We raffled off an Audubon Adventures gift basket with Audubon Everglades membership to two lucky teachers.

I'm excited about the **Annual Native Garden Tour** on October 1 in partnership with Florida Native Plant Society/PBC and North American Butterfly Association/Atala Chapter. We will be participating at one of the gardens in a Native Plant Habitat Giveaway for participants and sharing information on Plants for Birds.

The **Migration Celebration** at Green Cay on December 2 is an International Migratory Bird Day event. This year's theme celebrates the importance of migratory bird stopover sites and habitats. We will be having a lot of fun with a Flying Wild activity and sharing information on How to Help Birds Along the Way.

Monthly MEETING and LECTURE: “Other Flying Creatures Besides Birds: The Bats of South Florida”

by Frank Ridgley, DVM, Conservation and Research Department, Zoo Miami.

SEPT

05

Tuesday, September 5, 7PM meeting & lecture

Meeting and program is free and open to the public. 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

Little is known about our state's largest bat. Join us on Tuesday, September 5 at 7PM for an opportunity to learn more about the Florida bonneted bat and what is being done to save this endangered species. With a total population believed to be only in the hundreds, it is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and it became listed as federally endangered in 2013. Known as the Florida bonneted bat, its range is limited to sparse colonies spread across seven south Florida counties.

There are many reasons bats are important to the environment. Check this video on Zoo Miami's Florida Bonneted Bat Program: zoomiamiconservation.com/project/discovering-our-endangered-neighbor-the-florida-bonneted-bat/

About Dr. Frank Ridgley:

Dr. Frank Ridgley received his B.S. in Animal Science and his D.V.M. from Purdue University. While in New York, he served as Senior Veterinarian at the Buffalo Zoo, taught at Canisius College, served on several boards for veterinary medicine and wildlife

organizations, and was adjunct faculty for the residency program in laboratory animal medicine at SUNY at Buffalo. In 2007, Dr. Ridgley accepted a position at Zoo Miami as an Associate Veterinarian in the animal clinic. In 2011, he shifted his focus to field conservation and research efforts and became the Director of Conservation and Research at Zoo Miami. Dr. Ridgley is currently graduate faculty at Florida International University, the Chair of the Zoo Miami Animal Care and Use Committee, the Chair of the Zoo Miami Conservation Committee, and a member of the Florida Bonneted Bat Working Group.

He serves on the Steering Committee of the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, on the Steering Committee of the Florida Imperiled Butterfly Working Group, and on the Conservation Committee of the Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Also at the meeting, our expert, Clive Pinnock will speak about the September Bird of the Month, Northern Bobwhite.

Building a Brand



AUDUBON
EVERGLADES

Branding. It's a term we've all heard but might associate with large businesses or global corporations. However, branding is an important part of the success of nonprofit organizations, too. Having a strong brand is critical to building support and gaining trust in the community. And for Audubon Everglades, that's an essential part of moving our mission forward.

You've probably noticed by now that things look a little different! Our chapter recently went through the process of updating its logo and visual elements. We've begun to take a more intentional approach to what we put out for the world to see.

Although a brand is much more than a logo, we realize that a good logo is a strong foundation. It should work well for all media, including online and social media. In staying true to the history of Audubon Everglades, we've kept the Snail Kite as the main icon, but have given him a more modern, friendly feel.

As part of the process, we've also shortened the name we use when producing anything our members or community will see. Although we'll still be known legally as Audubon Society of the Everglades, Inc., which most would agree is a mouthful, the shortened name Audubon Everglades is more welcoming to future members.

The process of modernizing the logo and visual brand is part of a larger effort to be more intentional about branding and marketing. In thinking toward the future, it will help our chapter attract a wider audience and become more recognizable in the community.

Miss a Monthly Program? Or would you like to see one again?

Videos are now on the Website!

We are now recording the monthly programs for those who cannot attend, for those who want to hear/see a program again, and for you to share with others. Videos of current year programs will be available the week following the program at AudubonEverglades.org/meetings.

Videos of four programs of prior years are available at AudubonEverglades.org/programvideos:

- Rafael Galvez, Florida Keys Hawk Watch - Fall Migration through the Keys (Oct 2016)
- Dr. Frank Ridgley, Zoo Miami - Florida's Forgotten Wading Bird: American Flamingo (Feb 2017)
- Dr. Ken Meyer, ARCI - The year-round biology of the Swallow-tailed Kite (Apr 2017)
- Project Perch - Florida Burrowing Owls (Jul 2017)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you have experience recording and/or editing videos? We need your help to record the monthly programs! If you can help, please email Volunteer@AudubonEverglades.org.





New Free Beginning Birding Course

Audubon Everglades in collaboration with Environmental Resources Management (ERM) of PBC is pleased to offer a course this fall in the basics of birding. From Oct. 19 to November 9, on four consecutive Thursday mornings 8–10:30AM, beginning birders will explore the birds and habitats of four unique natural areas in Palm Beach County - Winding Waters, Seacrest Scrub, Juno Dunes and Frenchman’s Forest.

Environmental specialists from ERM and expert birders from Audubon Everglades will mentor course participants. Binoculars will be available for new birders. Registration is limited, so watch for more information on our website. Experienced Audubon Everglades birders interested in volunteering as mentors for this course should contact Scott Zucker VP-Conservation@AudubonEverglades.org.

FIELD TRIP CHANGES for the 2017-2018 season

by Rick Schofield, Field Trip Chair

There are a few changes in our field trips that you all need to be aware of. These changes were instituted to make it fairer to those wishing to attend our most popular trips.

1

Trips that require advance registration will open for registrations 2 months before the actual date of the trip. For example, you will be able to register for the February 3, 2018 trip to STA-1E beginning December 3, 2017. The only exceptions will be the Pelagic and Flamingo Quest trips, which will open for registrations on January 1, 2018.

We will post monthly notices of upcoming trips that will open for registration in our monthly Audubon Everglades email, on our Yahoo group, and on our Facebook page.

Reasoning: There were too many occasions where people registered in August or September for a trip the following spring but then forgot about it, said they hadn’t made a reservation, canceled at the last moment, or never showed up. This resulted in people on the waitlist being denied spots because they had made other plans -- not knowing if they would be offered a spot.

2

Priority will be given to Audubon Everglades members on several of the smaller, highly popular, advance registration trips. These trips will be listed as “Audubon Everglades member registration priority” in the online calendar, “A!” in media releases, and a new symbol in the Field Trips brochure. If you are interested in attending any of these trips, please make sure that your Audubon Everglades membership is up-to-date. Remember that the membership year runs from January through December while the field trip schedule runs from September through August.

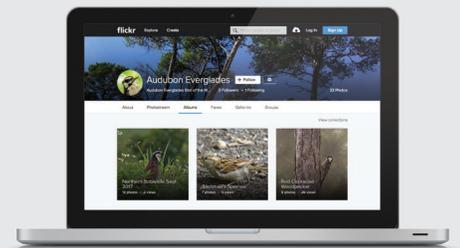
Reasoning: In the past too many members did not get spots because non-members beat them in registering for the popular trips.

3

Trips that have an associated cost (other than parking or entrance fee) will require payment at the time of registration. In addition, if you register and pay for a field trip but then cancel, you will receive a refund only if we are able to find a replacement.

Reasoning: We have had people cancel and renege on their payment for trips and have not always been able to find people on the waitlist to take their place. We are a not-for-profit organization and do not make money on our trips -- the charges for the few chargeable trips that we offer are based on the total cost spread across an expected number of attendees.

Audubon Everglades Meets Flickr



Audubon Everglades is migrating its picture applications to Flickr, the leading public photographic platform. Many thanks to Susan McKemy, VP Communications, for her efforts to bring Audubon Everglades into the 21st Century and to Sean Borak, our technical web team leader charged with re-envisioning the AudubonEverglades.org website.

The Bird of the Month is already on Flickr at flickr.com/photos/auduboneverglades/albums. The annual Photo-sharing & Ice Cream Social will soon be on Flickr, as well as the biannual Photo Club programs. Also, there will be an Audubon Everglades group, where members can add their own photos. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

2017-18 Audubon Everglades PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB: SEASON 2

Like a favorite TV show, the second season of the Audubon Everglades Photography Club promises to be an exciting year. Four of our nine programs will feature guest presenters to teach you how to become a better photographer; the other five programs will be dedicated to critiques (anonymous, of course) of your work by accomplished photographers in our area during friendly and supportive competitions. There will also be a “how to” workshop and four photo field trips with mentors. An exciting development this year will be the formation of a Photo Conservation Committee that will use member photographs to support the efforts of Audubon Everglades and other local conservation and environmental agencies.

The action premieres Monday, September 25, with “15 Ways to Improve Your Photography Without Buying any Gear” by award-winning photographer, Art Silverman. Our first field adventure will be at Mounts Botanical Garden on September 30 at 10AM. See the Photography Club link on our website for details.

Club Chairman and founder, Dr. Pete Lekos, a widely published and award-winning photographer says, “Our goal is to increase our knowledge of photography, inspire one another in our photographic activities, and, especially, to make new friends.”

As the only (as far as we know) nature-only Photography Club in Florida, we welcome nature photographers of all skill levels. Members will be able to share their work, meet and form friendships with other photo enthusiasts, have their work critiqued by experts, and grow as photographers in the digital age.

MEETING DETAILS:

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 7PM (doors open at 6:30PM)

St. Michael's Church, 1925 Birkdale Drive, Wellington, FL 33414. (Go west on Forest Hill Blvd., pass 441/SR 7, and make the first right turn just past the Stribling Way traffic signal. The church entrance will be on your left.)

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Audubon Everglades Member Individual-\$30, Household \$40;

Non-Member-\$40, Household-\$50.

While Audubon Everglades membership is encouraged, it is not a requirement. Guests may attend up to two club meetings. So have your camera ready, your lens and sensor spotless, and prepare to make photography a more exciting and rewarding hobby!

Photo: Great Horned Owl babies © Julie Zambory 2014. All rights reserved.



Audubon Everglades is “Going Green!”

We are excited to announce that we are “Going Green!” As a conservation organization, we are “walking the talk” and reducing the amount of material we print and mail. This will help minimize our impact on the environment. We encourage others to do likewise.

“Going Green” has many benefits for you and the organization:

- The content will be more timely since we won't need the longer print production and mailing time. Electronic newsletters reach you by email almost instantly with no wait to reach your physical mailbox.
- We can expand the information contained in the Kite since there will be no page limit.
- We can provide 12 issues rather than 10!

Besides these benefits, “Going Green” will also lower the environmental impact and the cost of producing the Kite. We trust you will agree that this is an all-around win!

Beginning with the October issue, the Kite Newsletter will be all electronic. To read the Kite newsletter, simply open your email. Or, like now, you can download it from the AudubonEverglades.org website.

If you are not getting the Kite Newsletter by email now, send your current email address to Membership@AudubonEverglades.org. Include “Kite Newsletter” in the subject line to make sure you stay connected with all the exciting things happening at Audubon Everglades!

Chapter Membership

Your support of Audubon Everglades allows our chapter to support conservation issues, create educational programs, make donations to protect birds, lead field trips, and inspire our community to become advocates for the environment. Audubon Everglades members receive special privileges on select field trips.

As presented in our annual budget and at both the March and April general meetings, there will be an increase in the membership fees on Sept 1. All renewal memberships are due on January 1; those received before that date will be good until January 1, 2019.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

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Dated Material - DO NOT DELAY

The Everglades Kite is published 12 times a year by Audubon Everglades, a 501(c)(3) organization #59-6019854. We gratefully accept any donations or bequests at AudubonEverglades.org/donate. We offer Amazon Smile and eBay fundraising programs, as well as direct giving.

Audubon Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7PM (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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There are two ways to join Audubon 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 conservation projects and educational programs. You receive 12 issues of the Kite newsletter and priority for some special trips and events.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP: includes membership in Florida Audubon and Audubon Everglades plus one year of the Audubon magazine. Join online at Audubon.org by selecting JOIN. Or send a check for \$20 per person along with your address and email to National Audubon Society, PO Box 97194, Washington DC 20090-7194.

The Audubon Everglades Kite newsletter is available by email only.

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

Join now using a credit card: Go to AudubonEverglades.org/membership to complete the application.

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: \$25 (Regular) \$20 (Student/Senior) \$35 (Household) \$75 (Patron)

Please accept my additional contribution of \$ _____

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