



# EVERGLADE KITE

## NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades  
VOL 58 | Issue 11 | July 2018



Photo: Red Knot © 2018 Don Mullaney All rights reserved.

## Bird of the Month: The Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

The Red Knot belongs to the family of shorebirds that includes the sandpipers and phalaropes. These birds are the largest of the “peeps” in North America, measuring 10.5” in length with a 23” wingspan. They are also one of the most colorful in breeding plumage, sporting a robin-red chest. Another notable trait of the species is the tremendous distance they travel in their annual migration from Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America to their Arctic breeding grounds, over 9,000 miles. During the southbound migration and winter months, Red Knots inhabit intertidal zones, especially coastal mudflats, inlets, estuaries, bays and, occasionally, open sandy beaches. During their arctic breeding season, however, they inhabit the tundra, where they nest on

the ground on high and barren areas inland; usually near ponds or streams.

Their food consists of invertebrates, especially small clams, snails, crustaceans and marine worms located in the intertidal zone. On the tundra, Red Knots consume large volumes of terrestrial invertebrates such as insects (especially flies) but will also supplement their diet with green vegetation, including shoots, buds, leaves and seeds.

On their northern migration to the Arctic, the primary resting and refueling location for these and other shorebirds such as Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones, is New Jersey’s Delaware Bay. The

stopover is critically and perfectly timed with the arrival of nesting horseshoe crabs. These strange-looking prehistoric crabs spend the non-breeding phase of their lives in the deep coastal waters of the Atlantic, but, from May through late June, they travel to the shores of Delaware Bay. During the periods of high tide, female crabs with smaller hitchhiking males on their backs come ashore to deposit their protein-rich eggs in the sand. It is these eggs that become the critical refueling source for the birds, giving them extra weight for the fat-burning energy needed to complete their epic northbound journey.

Photographers – please note that next month’s August bird of the month is the Broad-winged Hawk.

## UPCOMING TRIPS JULY 2018

There are no trips scheduled for July.  
Enjoy the summer!

## SAVE THE DATE

**OCT**  
**19-20** **Audubon  
Assembly**

Save the date to join Audubon Assembly in West Palm Beach for Florida's premier conservation gathering, where grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources.

- Date: October 19-20, 2018
- Location/Lodging: Marriott West Palm Beach
- [For details, click here.](#)

## Audubon Everglades' Pathfinder Winner

by Susan Snyder

**Congratulations to Jessica Young of Palm Beach Central High School!** She was the winner of Audubon's Ruth and Seymour Miller \$3,000 scholarship award at the Palm Beach Post's Pathfinder Award Ceremony held at the Kravis Center on May 24.

Jessica has a long history of activities, studies, and research dealing with water quality and the South Florida environment. She was named Green Student of the Year for our area in 2016. Jessica was unable to be at the award ceremony as she was a finalist and was presenting her research at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, California!

Audubon Everglades has presented the \$3,000 Ruth and Seymour Miller Pathfinder Scholarship for many years. Thanks to Jack McLaughlin for doing the presentation!

# Profile: Chuck Weber

by Kristen Murtaugh



Photo: Chuck Weber

Chuck Weber is one of the best birders in South Florida and one of the most popular trip leaders for Audubon Everglades. I was pleased when he agreed to meet with me to talk about his life and work. Chuck grew up in Indiana near Ft. Wayne. He attended Ball State University, where he majored in Telecommunications, following up on an interest he had had since a kid. After college he held part-time jobs. At first he thought he would like to work in sports, but news seemed the better route. When a TV news reporting job at Channel 12 opened, he came down to Florida and has now been at Channel 12 for 37 years. In the past he filled in several times as a news anchor, but his work is now primarily on general assignments in the field, and he enjoys it immensely. Every day is different. His stories are wide-ranging in subject. He gets to meet lots of people. He is out and about, where things are happening, not in an office all day. He has covered Palm Beach County and federal court cases for the last 15 years and learned a lot from the experience. Chuck didn't like Florida at first but then became fascinated with the Everglades and the work of the South Florida Water Management District. He enjoys covering stories about the environment and talking to people about water issues.

Chuck's interest in serious birding dates to the late 1980s, when he took classes on birding with Ann and Phil Weinrich at Pine Jog. In the early 1990s, he became more active in birding and got involved leading bird trips through Gloria Hunter. He currently leads 5-7 trips a year for Audubon Everglades. His favorite birding locales are Frenchman's Forest on a good migration

day and Riverbend. One of his first bird trips was to the Glades, and he particularly enjoys birding and exploring different places there. The Glades habitat is different now because of the hurricanes. Chuck organizes the Christmas Bird Count for Palm Beach County, an enormous undertaking for Audubon Everglades. He enjoys the June Challenge and says that there are always birds around post-migration – stragglers or nesters we weren't aware of.

Chuck finds that birding is a wonderful way to get away and be renewed. Getting out in the woods helps people with demanding jobs keep their sanity. He enjoys leading trips because he can expose people to birding as a hobby and show them different parts of the county. He is pleased to see a lot of young people birding and using e-bird these days. We are continually expanding our knowledge about birds. The reappearance of flamingos is a case in point. Not since the plume hunters have there been flamingos seen in Florida and the Caribbean, which now seem to be a mixing zone for the species. Chuck has been impressed with the executive leadership of Audubon Everglades in the last 10+ years and the direction the chapter is taking. The brochures are excellent. The chapter has become a vibrant organization and a rich and positive resource for the community.

Chuck Weber's birding skills make him one of the best birders in south Florida. He is conscientious about helping all participants on his trips see the rare birds as much as possible. And participants always come back from his trips with an impressive list of

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# Monthly MEETING and LECTURE: “The Delaware Bay Connection: The Red Knot and Horseshoe Crab”

**Clive Pinnock, local Naturalist and developer of the Bird of the Month list**

by Sheila Hollihan-Elliott

## THANK YOU FROM GREEN SCHOOLS

by Lauren Butcher  
Green Schools Recognition Program Coordinator

On behalf of FAU Pine Jog and the Green Schools Recognition Program, I wanted to once again express our sincere thanks to Audubon Everglades for sponsoring a 2018 Judge’s Choice Award for habitat improvement. We were honored that you could attend our 10th Annual Green Schools Awards event to present this award to this year’s recipient, Elbridge Gale Elementary—thank you so much!

As you know, the teachers, administrators, and students at our 122 Green Schools work incredibly hard to cultivate cultures of sustainability on their campuses and in their communities. Judge’s Choice Awards make a real difference to these schools, allowing them to continue growing their green programs and practices. It is inspiring to see the creative ways they use these funds to grow their Green School initiatives!

We greatly appreciate everything that Audubon Everglades does to make the Green Schools Recognition Program possible. As one of our most involved community partners, we simply could not do it without you.

Thanks again and best wishes for a wonderful summer!

## PHOTOGRAPHER DEADLINE JULY 31

PHOTOGRAPHERS - if you want to show your pictures at the August 7 Ice Cream Social and Photo Sharing meeting - Limit your photographs to 6 digital images (original jpgs, or jpg scans of prints or slides) or one edited video clip no longer than 3 minutes and email the images as attachments to Gerry Felipe by Tuesday, July 31 at [President@AudubonEverglades.org](mailto:President@AudubonEverglades.org). Email subject should say “Audubon Ice Cream Social Photos” and should include the photographer’s full name and image title(s) if applicable.

Large prints and paintings brought to the meeting for display are also welcome.

JULY

10

Tuesday, July 10, meeting & lecture 7PM

Meeting and program are 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!



Photo: Clive Pinnock

### About Clive Pinnock:

As a native of the Caribbean Island of Jamaica, Clive has been passionate about nature since childhood and has nurtured a keen interest in marine and avian studies, while developing his ability to recognize birds by song/calls as well as by field identification.

With a bachelor’s degree from The City College of New York and an associate’s degree in Business Management from Taylor Business College, Clive Pinnock worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the National Park Service for 15 years, after previous work at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in New York and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona.

He also worked for Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation as the Manager of Okeehelée Nature Center for 16 years. There he established several programs and exhibits in Marine Science, Raptor Ecology, Science for Seniors, Deer Management, and Gopher Tortoise Monitoring and participated in annual bird surveys. He has also participated in annual community events such as Everglades Day, Earth Day, NatureScaping, and Dark Sky throughout his 16-year tenure with Palm Beach County. He is currently an active member of the [Florida Marine Science Educators Association](#), a group committed to educating Florida residents about their precious marine resources.

He is currently the Bird Keeper at Lion Country Safari, where he oversees the care of Caribbean Flamingos, Southern Ground Hornbills, Loridae, and Budgies. He is also working with other Lion Country Safari staff to establish a wild bird monitoring program.

Finally, as a member of Audubon Everglades, Clive has served on the Board of Directors and currently leads field trips. He also develops the Bird of the Month list and with his wife Celecia, writes the monthly bird articles and gives those presentations at the monthly meetings.

This month he will speak about the July Bird of the Month, the Red Knot.

**August’s Monthly meeting - Annual Ice Cream Social and Photo Sharing will be held Tuesday, August 7 at 7PM at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.**

# NATURAL AREAS UPDATE by Mary Young

## AND REMINDER



Photo: Loxahatchee Slough © Mary Young All rights reserved.

Things are looking positive for our Natural Areas. Although the estimated budget request was \$4 million, the Palm Beach County Commissioners have currently proposed \$3 million in their “preliminary” 2019 budget for the Natural Areas.

We hope that at least the proposed amount will carry through to the final budget.

The last chance to voice your opinion will be when the PBC Commissioners unveil their proposed budget at two budget hearings on September 4 and September 17, each at 6pm at Robert Weisman Governmental Center, 6th Floor, 301 N Olive Avenue, WPB. This is when you, the public, will have an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Natural Areas. Hope to see you there.

## Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Update by Mary Young

Your last chance to have input into the new plans for recreational opportunities in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge ends August 3, 2018. The Refuge has been asking for suggestions for evaluation and inclusion in the plans for the newly acquired 2586-acre Strazzulla tract as well as for the entire Refuge.

Based on the input received, the Refuge will develop a detailed Visitor Services plan, which will outline a range of management alternatives.

To view the 25 original proposed recreational enhancements, see our June Kite article, “Refuge Hosts Scoping Meetings to Examine Expanding

Mandated Recreation Opportunities,” on page 2 and continued on page 5.

During the two scoping meetings held in May, there was much public comment regarding the future shaping of the Refuge. Many sportsmen urged the Refuge to allow airboat access to hunting. The duck hunters, however, voiced opposition to airboat use as harmful to waterfowl hunting.

To support or oppose one or more already proposed recommendations or to suggest your own, do so before August 3, 2018. Email your comments to: [armloxvsp@fws.gov](mailto:armloxvsp@fws.gov), or send by mail to: A.R.M. Loxahatchee VSP, P.O. Box 924, Freeport, FL 32439.

*Chuck Weber continued from page 2*

sightings. So, I could not miss this opportunity to ask Chuck to give us some tips for improving bird identification skills. These recommendations can enhance the birding experience both for people starting out in birding and for those of us who have been birding for years.

1. Learn from other birders. Chuck said he was extremely fortunate to have great mentors. He still consults Brian Hope regularly, and, when the opportunity arises, he talks with newer birders too.
2. Birding in groups can be fun, but birding alone or with only one or two others increases learning and skill level. You must rely on your own senses and knowledge.
3. Listening for and learning calls and songs greatly helps with identification and adds to the enjoyment.
4. Note how each species moves and behaves. The habitats they prefer are also telling.
5. Get a handle on when the different species appear during the year. This can help rule out some species and help determine if something is early, late or rare.

Audubon Everglades is fortunate to have Chuck Weber as one of its trip leaders. His generosity in sharing his skills, knowledge, and time in the field with us has made all of us better birders.

### CORRECTION

*by Sheila Hollihan-Elliott, Managing Editor*

Last month, June 2018 KITE, we accidentally combined two separate articles into the Doug Tallamy review. To correct this, we have put the separate [“12 Things You Can Do to Help Our Birds”](#) by Vicki Rogerson, Education and Plants for Birds Committees, online.

We are changing the dates of our membership year. 2018 members will receive 5 additional free months.  
The 2018 membership year runs from January 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019. Join Friends of Audubon Everglades today.

# JOIN AUDUBON

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There are two ways to join Audubon Everglades:

**FRIENDS OF AUDUBON EVERGLADES MEMBERSHIP:**

All your membership dues and contributions are put to use supporting local conservation projects and educational programs in Palm Beach County. You will receive 12 issues of the Kite newsletter, priority for some special trips and discounted rates at some events and vendors. Join using the PayPal link off our website or by mailing the attached membership application. The Audubon Everglades Kite newsletter is available by email only.

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP:**

includes membership in Florida Audubon and Audubon Everglades plus one year of the Audubon magazine. [Join online here.](#)

Your NAS membership does not grant you the special privileges and discounts afforded to those that are local Friends of Audubon Everglades members. If you choose to join us through National Audubon Society, please also consider becoming a Friend of Audubon Everglades to support local conservation and education initiatives.

**Yes, I want to become a member of FRIENDS OF AUDUBON EVERGLADES**

Join now using PayPal. Go to [AudubonEverglades.org/membership](http://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 (Single)  \$20 (Student)  \$20 (Senior)  \$35 (Household\*)  \$75 (Patron\*)

Please feel free to give above the membership amount with a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you selected Household or Patron Membership, please provide the names of all members living at the same address.  
(2 adults and children under age 18)

Household/Patron Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_