



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades

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Photo: Broad-winged Hawk © 2018 Lester Shalloway. All rights reserved.

Bird of the Month: Broad-winged Hawk

(Buteo platypterus)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

The Broad-winged Hawk is the smallest of the group of raptors (Birds of Prey) that belong to the genus *Buteo*. This genus contains all of the daytime, or diurnal, hunting hawks, the Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) being the only exception.

Broad-winged Hawks have two color morphs, light and dark, the latter of which is the rarest. They are 15" in length with a wingspan of 34" and an average weight of 14 oz. As is the case with most raptors, the female is larger than the male. Unlike most other Buteos, which are characterized by their broad wings with rounded wingtips, Broad-winged Hawks have broad wings with noticeably pointed wingtips.

The typical color patterns of the more common light phase morph are solidly brown above with mottled underparts varying from coarsely barred brown and white to finely barred rufous and white. The black and white tail bands are prominent even from a distance. Juveniles are generally described as having a black moustachial streak, which is also seen in the adults, dark-bordered underwings and indistinct bands on the tail.

During the breeding season this raptor inhabits the deciduous or mixed forests of eastern North America and southern Canada. They usually nest near forest openings and bodies of water far from human disturbance. Here, their diet consists of small mammals (rodents), amphibians (frogs and toads)

and insects (grasshoppers, bugs, ants, and crickets).

Although Broad-winged Hawks interact only with their mates during the breeding season, during fall and spring migration they form large flocks, often mixing with other raptors. These flocks can sometimes number in the tens of thousands. Although the majority of the Broad-winged Hawk population winters in the forest and forest edges from southern Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia, many juvenile birds spend their winters in Florida, especially in the Florida Keys.

Photographers – please note that next month's September bird of the month is the Peregrine Falcon.

UPCOMING TRIPS AUGUST 2018

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Improve your health by Volunteering!

According to a June 2018 article in "The Balance Small Business" volunteering is good for your health!

The benefits of volunteering show up quickly and have long-term effects. PsychologyToday reports that the social interaction of volunteering improves mental and physical health. The benefits of consistent socializing through volunteering include better brain function, improved immune function and lower the risk of other health issues.

Audubon Everglades is an all-volunteer chapter. We need the support of many to do the important work we do. If you have special skills or an interest in any area, please let us know (Email President@AudubonEverglades.org) - we would love to have you be a part of the volunteer team which makes Audubon Everglades a success!

Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Kite Newsletter Coordinator
- Media, Press Releases
- Social Media Coordinator
- Speakers Bureau volunteers
- Website update support (Wordpress)
- AE representative for the League of Women Voters (PBC) 2nd Solar Co-op Steering Committee

Profile: Paul Davis

by Kristen Murtaugh

As an employee of Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management for 25 years and Director of the Environmental Enhancement and Restoration Division when he retired in 2013, Paul Davis had interacted with members of Audubon Everglades, especially Rosa Durando, Leah Schad, and Cynthia Plockelman. After his retirement, he wanted to be active in and share his resources with a volunteer organization focused on the environment, and Audubon Everglades was one of the groups that appealed to him. The members are active, passionate and usually take well thought-out positions on environmental issues. So, four years ago, he started coming to monthly meetings and getting involved with the chapter's conservation projects.

Paul was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology at SUNY Stony Brook, he decided to head south to find warmer waters. He has always loved being close to the ocean and on or under (!) the water – sailing, surfing, kayaking, canoeing, diving, paddle boarding, and windsurfing. In 1974 friends were moving to South Florida to attend FAU so he decided to join them and live at the beach and eventually married one of the friends. Working in a state water quality lab and volunteering to monitor sea turtles on "his" beach gave him valuable experience. Palm Beach County ERM was formed and was looking for someone with his unique combination of expertise, and he started a long career in endangered species conservation and coastal habitat restoration.

Paul's interest in birds came from his grandmother who lived in New England. He received his first large-format Audubon book at age 16. In his work managing marine and estuarine habitats he had to monitor coastal birds and so learned more about the various species. While he does not call himself a "birder" or attend many organized birding trips, his eyes and ears are always attuned to finding birds, which makes his wife nervous while driving with him. Like sea turtles, birds are important indicator species that show how well our ecosystem is doing. As birds (and turtles) go, so do we, Paul says.

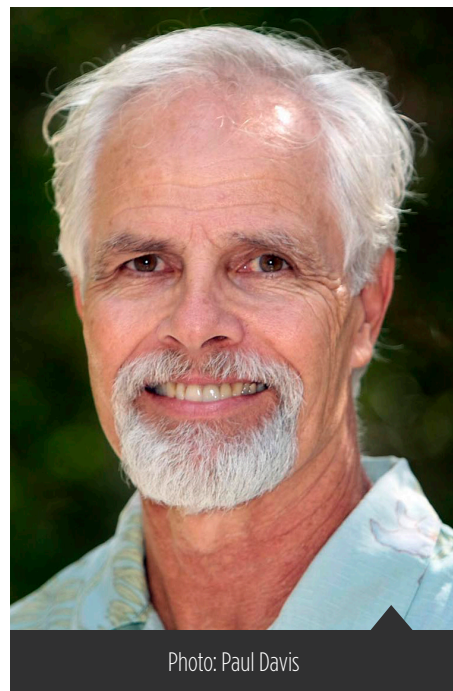


Photo: Paul Davis

Paul's wife still works but will retire soon. His daughter just walked for her PhD in Neurobiology at Emory University and has moved to Brooklyn, NY. Paul rocked her in a hammock when she was an infant and there they watched birds together. Her first word was "bird!" Paul's son lives in Tallahassee and will make him and his wife grandparents very soon.

Paul is involved with the International Dark Sky Association, which promotes sound, smart lighting to reduce the environmental impacts of light pollution and works with communities on light ordinances and policies. It was Paul who administered the 1988 Palm Beach County Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance that established lighting standards and regulated existing and new lighting along the beaches to reduce sea turtle impacts.

He is on the board of the Gale Academy of Environmental Science and Technology at Forest Hill School which provides environmental science education to an underserved community. He is also a member of the Shoreline Resiliency Working Group, which provides input about the benefits of living shorelines to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact.

He also works with the Sea to Shore Alliance, a non-profit organization concerned with the conservation welfare of sea turtles, manatees, and right whales throughout the Southeast US and Caribbean. Paul manages the Healthy Habitats and Oceans marine debris environmental education program, using a unique mobile environmental education classroom (a converted church bus) which he takes to schools

Monthly MEETING: Members' Photos and Ice Cream Social

by Sheila Hollihan-Elliott

AUG

07

Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30PM

Meeting is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30PM for the fun and camaraderie. 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!

Everyone's favorite meeting of the year – Make YOUR OWN ICE CREAM SUNDAY followed by a picture show! Members share their best nature photos and tell us their stories.

As anyone who's visited our website knows, Audubon Everglades is blessed with a number of extremely talented photographers. Some of the best bird pictures we've seen have been at the photo sharing meeting, so don't miss this one!

And, if some of the best bird photography in the state isn't sweet enough for you, we're also throwing our annual ice cream social, so come join us!

Although the deadline for digital photographs that will be shown at the August 7 Ice Cream Social and Sharing meeting has passed (July 31 deadline was published in July Kite), large prints and paintings brought to the meeting for display that night are welcome.

Also at the meeting – August Bird of the Month: Broad-winged Hawk. Come hear more about this fascinating bird from our expert, Clive Pincock

September's Monthly meeting – Celeste De Palma, Director Florida Everglades Policy, Florida Audubon – presenting "Restoring America's Everglades: Current State of Affairs and Next Steps" – will be held Tuesday, September 4 at 7PM at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

EMERGENCY AVIAN ALERT! Have you seen any Florida Scrub-Jays recently in Palm Beach County?

What's the situation? Recently Audubon Jay Watch received some concerning news from Palm Beach County. It appears that the last of the Florida Scrub-Jays on public lands surveyed through Jay Watch have vanished. Before they add Palm Beach County to the list of counties where there "once were FSJ" they would like our help to determine if there are any remaining on private lands. With Jay Watch surveys nearly completed, they are pulling data together for the annual recap that will happen in November.

Please share any recent sightings of Scrub-Jays in

Palm Beach County with Audubon Everglades and we will pass the information along to the Scrub-Jay Watch team. If you have a photo or sound recording of the observation, please send that as well.

If you'd like a little refresher about the Florida Scrub-Jay, [watch this wonderful video](#) created by the Archibald Biological Center used for Florida Jay Watch training.

If you have a recent sighting or would like to help, please contact [Vicki Rogerson](#) at 561-352-7835.

SAVE THE DATE Audubon Florida Assembly "Rising Tides"

OCT

19-20

by Paton White

Join Audubon Everglades Board Members and Friends in West Palm Beach for the Audubon Florida Assembly, Florida's premier conservation gathering, where grassroots leaders from around the state and Audubon's professional staff and partners grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources. This year the subject is climate change. [Click here for details.](#)

ENROLLMENT SCHOLARSHIPS: We take great pride in our entire membership's knowledge of environmental issues and encourage current members of Friends of Audubon Everglades to sign up for one of 18 partial scholarships offered by AE. Each one is \$100 of the \$135 enrollment fee. Note that you will be reimbursed after attending both days of the Assembly. Because we have a limited number of scholarships and want to distribute them fairly, this is how to apply:

1. Notify [Paton White](#) by Monday, August 13 of your interest. If we have less than 18 applicants, you will be notified how to proceed.
2. If we have more than 18 applicants, Paton will notify the whole group at 7:30PM on Friday August 17, and the first 18 to reply will get the scholarships.

These scholarships are made available from our long-time secretary Alan Parmelee's bequest. They honor Alan's deep dedication to both the environment and our chapter.

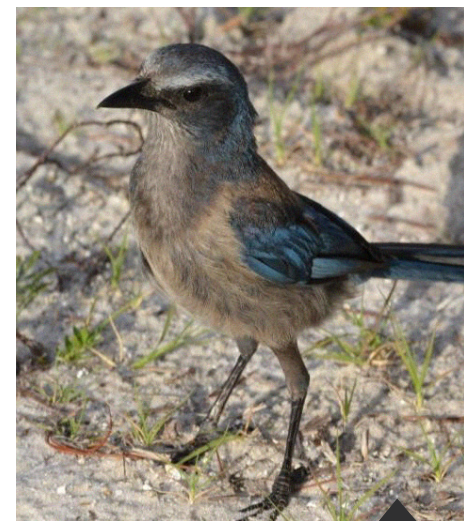


Photo: Florida Scrub Jay © Susan McKerny

THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT UNDER ATTACK

by Scott Zucker

Last month marked the 100th anniversary of The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which states that it is unlawful to kill, hunt, sell, trade, or possess most native species of birds in the United States without a permit. The MBTA is a foundation piece of conservation and environmental legislation that most Americans take for granted. It is what insured that the wading birds we enjoy while visiting our Florida lakes and wetlands were not all slaughtered for their plumes.

And, until this year, the position of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which has the responsibility to enforce the MBTA and to protect nearly 1000 species of migrating birds, was that any human activity that resulted in the death of protected migratory birds could be penalized, even if a bird's death was unintended.

Regrettably, the Trump administration has changed how the law is interpreted. MBTA's penalties will now apply only to activities that purposely kill birds. Any incidental take – no matter how inevitable or avoidable its impact on birds – is now exempt from protection under the law, meaning all logging, mining, agricultural, oil and other energy industry activities are now exempt from the law.

Seventeen former top Department of the Interior officials from almost every Republican and Democratic presidential administration since the early 1970s have renounced this new interpretation of the MBTA.

If this change had been in effect during the catastrophic 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which killed an estimated one million birds and destroyed numerous breeding grounds, BP would not have had to pay 100 million dollars toward the restoration of damaged beaches, fragile marshland, and forests across the Gulf Coast. The fine would have been considerably less.



Unfortunately, the interpretation of the changed law can be subjective. In the policy directive given to the USFWS, a “Frequently Asked Questions” memorandum for implementing the law describes a homeowner who lights a fire, knowing that Chimney Swifts are nesting in his chimney. He will have violated the MBTA if USFWS finds that he lit the fire to intentionally destroy the swifts’ nests, but he will not have violated the MBTA if USFWS finds that he lit the fire to heat his house.

In an effort to bring attention to the devastating impact on the North American bird population, many states and leading conservation groups have dubbed 2018 the “Year of the Bird” and have asked the Trump administration to abide by the spirit and traditional interpretation of the law.

In addition, a coalition of groups led by the Audubon Society has filed a federal lawsuit in New York against the Department of the Interior, which oversees USFWS, challenging this change in the interpretation of the MBTA that puts birds in peril.

[Please share your concern about this needless killing of birds allowed by the Trump administration's callous interpretation of the MBTA with the Department of the Interior by clicking here.](#)

Paul Davis continued from page 2

and special events, and he coordinates monthly beach cleanups at Boynton Inlet.

When I asked Paul what he did when he wasn't out enjoying and caring for his beloved coastal habitats and their denizens or educating groups about conservation, he told me about his love of the ukulele. He belongs to three different ukulele groups including one which plays at assisted living facilities, and he gets the most enjoyment entertaining the audiences at memory care units.

Paul sees his role at Audubon Everglades as translator of science between government entities and the public. His strong scientific background and knowledge and his experience make him a valuable member of the Audubon Everglades Conservation Committee. His mentoring has helped make us more credible partners with like-minded organizations. Paul was involved with planning and organizing the Audubon Everglades Conservation Stewardship Training course and teaches one of the classes. He has helped involve members of our chapter as advocates for good environmental policy and as volunteers for citizen science projects in Palm Beach County, including monitoring the Least Tern rooftop colonies, studying the Lake Worth Lagoon bird utilization, and gathering data on habitat restoration and creation (e.g., Snook Islands). We are grateful that Audubon Everglades is one of the places where he chooses to commit his seemingly endless energy in retirement!

**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 who 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 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 _____
