



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades

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Photo: Northern Mockingbird © 2018 John Sutton. All rights reserved.

Bird of the Month: Northern Mockingbird

(Mimus polyglottos)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

The Northern Mockingbird is the state bird in five states in the United States: Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. It was also once the state bird of South Carolina but was replaced in 1948 by the Carolina Wren.

Mockingbirds are common backyard birds within their home range, but they very rarely visit feeders. They are more often observed on open lawns foraging for insects and are also frequently seen in fruiting trees and bushes. In addition, they are found in parks, forest edges, and open land with hedges, shrubbery and thickets. In these locations they can be seen perched conspicuously on vegetation, telephone wires and fences or running around on the ground.

The Northern Mockingbird is a medium-sized songbird measuring 10 inches in length with a small head, a relatively long thin, slightly downward-curved bill, and long gray-black legs. Its wings are short, rounded and broad, making its tail seem particularly long, especially in flight. It is mostly gray-brown in color, paler on the breast and belly, with two white wing bars on each wing. There are also two very noticeable white outer tail feathers bordering the tail.

Found alone or in pairs throughout the year, mockingbirds aggressively chase off intruders from their territory. Their aggression toward potential threats has no boundaries. They will confront not only other birds larger or smaller than they are, but will

just as assertively drive cats, dogs, other animals and humans away from the proximity of their nest sites.

One of the many traits of the mockingbird is the repertoire of its songs during the breeding season, sung throughout the day and often into the night. As is typical in songbirds, the male will usually sing from a highly visible location to proclaim his territory as well as to advertise his availability to a prospective mate. Unlike most other songbirds, however, the female mockingbird sings as well, usually more quietly than the male and more often in the fall.

Photographers – please note that next month's February bird of the month is the Brown Thrasher.

UPCOMING TRIPS JANUARY 2018

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

05 SAT (7:30A-12P) STA-1E (Brian Garrett) ● 1.5

06 SUN (8A-10A) Pine Glades (Mark Cook) 1.5

09 WED (7:30A-11:30A) Loxahatchee NWR (Rick Schofield) 1.5

11 FRI (8:30A-11A) DuPuis MA (Clive Pinnoch) ● 1.5

13 SUN (8A-12P) STA-2 (Susan McKemy, coord.) ● 1.5

19 SAT (ALL DAY) STA-5/6 (Rick Schofield) ● 1.5

20 SUN (7:30A-12P) STA-1E (Rick Schofield, coord.) ● 1.5

20 SUN (8A-10A) Wakodahatchee (Chris Golia) ● 1.5

26 SAT (8A-11A) Grassy Waters (Behind the scenes) (Walt Hakenjos/Paul Thomas/Cindy Bush) 1.5

27 SUN (ALL DAY) Three Lakes/Joe Overstreet (Rick Schofield) 1.5

MARCH 2019

The following advance registration field trips in March will become available for online registration on their corresponding dates during the month of January, e.g., registration for the March 02 trip begins January 02.

02 SAT (7:30A-12P) STA-1E (Rick Schofield, coord.) ● 1.5

07 THU (9:30A-11:30A) Lion Country Safari (Clive Pinnoch) ● 1.5

09 SAT (9A-2P) Lake Okeechobee (Paul Gray) ● 1.5

14 THU (ALL DAY) St. Sebastian River Preserve SP (Jody Levin) 1.5

22 FRI (10A-3P) Jonathan Dickinson State Park (Wildflowers & Scrub-Jays) (Lori & Tony Pasko) 1.5

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

- 0 **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 Friend priority

Monthly MEETING and LECTURE: "Waterbird Entanglement Prevention"

Sandy Reed, visiting member of Tampa Audubon

by Gail Tomei

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Tuesday, January 8 at 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!



Sandy Reed tells us that, during a birding trip to view Razorbills at the Sunshine Skyway Pier in the winter of 2012, she had a stunning revelation. It was there she first witnessed Brown Pelicans entangled in fishing line, something impossible to ignore. At the suggestion of Ann Paul, Audubon Florida,

Coastal Island Sanctuaries, Sandy initiated the Bird Protection Committee as a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations to brainstorm means to reduce injuries and mortality to birds from fishing line. According to FWC, entanglement in fishing line is the leading cause of death for Brown Pelicans. Some of the answers are amazingly simple and effective, similar to pulling a thread on a sweater. A quote of John Muir describes Sandy's Pelican journey well, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

ABOUT SANDY REED

Sandy has always admired and been amazed by birds, but she became more "all in" upon her retirement in 2009. Sandy has been a member of Tampa Audubon for 10 years and served as VP for 6 years; she has been the Bird Protection Committee Chair since its inception. She is an avid Backyard Birder and leads an 8-week OLLI class called "Natural Hillsborough." She loves to awaken people to the beautiful birds of Florida hiding in plain sight, right under our noses!

February's Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 5 at 7PM at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The speaker will be Dr. Mark Cook, Lead Scientist for the Everglades Systems Assessment Section of The South Florida Water Management District, presenting "Wading Bird Nesting Responses of 2018: A Precursor to a Hydrologically Restored Everglades?"

AUDUBON EVERGLADES PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

by Scott Zucker



Photo: Winners of November photo competition that were present at meeting when ribbons were awarded. © Scott Zucker 2018. All rights reserved.

Step into the photo world of our January featured speaker Lance Worley and discover how he finds the ultimate photographic experience when shooting landscapes in the wild. Join Lance on Jan. 19 at 7PM at the monthly Photography Club meeting and journey through local habitats and remote parts of the world as he presents a program on landscape photography.

Twenty-two Photography Club members visited Wakodahatchee Wetlands on December 1. They relished the opportunity that morning to photograph a wide array of wading birds, some of whom were already nesting or building nests on the nearby tree islands, as well as several alligators and alligator hatchlings, all sights that make Wakodahatchee a special place.

The Photography Club's next field trip is to Peaceful Waters in Wellington on January 19. The group will meet at the idyllic 30-acre constructed wetlands at 7:30AM to capture the variety of flora and fauna in the morning light. We also hope that photographers will have a chance to photograph the resident otters.

As always, Club President Pete Lekos and the more experienced photographers will be offering individual instruction to the novice photographers on how to capture great images.

Our December photo competition, which included "Zoology" as our special nature category and our regular "Nature Only" category (any type of nature image), had over 200 submissions. Award winning animal photographer Alan Fabricant served as our guest judge. Some breathtaking photographs were entered from all three levels (Beginner, Advanced, and Salon), spotlighting the improvement that club members are making in their craft. [The list of winners can be viewed in "Competition results" on the website.](#)

To learn more about the upcoming competitions, future presentations, and field trips scheduled for this year and to find out more about membership and meetings (time and place), visit the [Audubon Everglades Photography Club page](#) on the Audubon Everglades website.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING TUESDAY DONATIONS

by Linda McCandless

Thanks to you, Audubon Everglades received donations totaling \$1115 in its recent Giving Tuesday campaign. Your donations to Audubon Everglades stay in Palm Beach County and allow us to continue to support Project Perch as it seeks to stabilize and increase the population of Burrowing Owls; they also allow us to purchase and install additional Purple Martin houses.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who supported Audubon Everglades this #GIVINGTUESDAY. If, perhaps, you intended to donate on Giving Tuesday but missed the day, it's not too late. [Please visit this page.](#)

HELP! WE'VE OUTGROWN OUR NEST!

by Linda McCandless

Attendance at our general meetings has been growing, so much so that we have begun looking for a new meeting location, and we would like your help. The location should seat 120-150 and have audio/visual capabilities. Our new venue should be located central to our membership demographics (between Southern Blvd to the north, Lake Worth Road to the south, Florida's Turnpike to the west, I-95 to the east). [If you know of such a place, please email us.](#)

AUDUBON EVERGLADES RECEIVES DONATION FROM FPL

by Paton White

Florida Power and Light has generously donated \$2000 to support Audubon Everglades' Plants for Birds program. We've decided to channel the funds to the Green School program. The Green School program is one that Audubon Everglades has supported for years, both financially and by providing judges. The program encourages schools to green both their facilities and their curriculum with the goal of teaching their students to save energy and the to protect the environment. Over 120 school applications are received annually, and awards are given at three levels: Schools of Excellence, Quality or Promise. Many of the schools do not have the resources to advance, so, after discussion with Lauren Butcher, Green Schools Program Director, our chapter has decided to provide grants of up to \$500 to four schools for campus habitat native plant improvement projects that benefit wild birds and native pollinators. Lauren expects these grants to be highly sought after, and an Audubon Everglades committee will choose the winners. We plan on sharing the results with you in spring 2019.

EPA PROPOSAL UNDERMINES CLEAN WATER ACT AND THREATENS WILDLIFE

by Scott Zucker



Photo: A recently restored section of the Kissimmee River.

We have witnessed the Trump Administration roll back protections under the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Act, the Clean Air Act, the Obama-era climate change policy regarding methane and greenhouse gas emissions and fuel efficiency standards, and the NASA Climate Monitoring System. Its most recent and perhaps most alarming decision, the reinterpretation of the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule calls for the EPA to roll back Federal Water Protections under the Clean Water Act to tens of millions of acres of wetlands, streams and ephemeral waterways (streams that flow only after precipitation but constitute nearly 60 percent of all U.S. waterways).

The decision could have a major impact on wildlife, recreation, and drinking water. In addition, groundwater would no longer be federally protected. Environmental groups estimate a total of 60-90 percent of U.S. waterways affecting an estimated 117 million people could lose current federal protections from pollution and development. Only major waterways, rivers, tributaries, wetlands adjacent to federally protected waterways, certain lakes and ponds, reservoirs, and ditches used for navigation or affected by the tide would be protected. States would be given regulatory control over most of these areas, including certain wetlands used for agriculture, storm water control areas, and water and wastewater treatment systems.

Floridians should be concerned, considering our state's dismal track record of protecting our waterways and watersheds. Florida, which has already lost 9.3 million acres of wetland, could see her remaining 11 million acres dramatically impacted, resulting in loss of wildlife, water quality problems and even water shortages. One third of all threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands. Wading birds such as Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks often feed in the receding waters of ephemeral ponds. In addition, Florida's 11,000 miles of rivers, streams and waterways could be under even greater assault by pollutants, further exacerbating the Cyanobacteria problem in Lake Okeechobee and the Red Tide outbreaks along our coastlines.

The decision to change WOTUS would benefit farmers and fossil fuel, chemical and mining interests and developers who have lobbied against the Obama-era Clean Water Rule. Farmers would be freer to use harmful fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides on their property, where soil runoff from rain and irrigation into bordering waterway has been reported by the EPA as the leading source of pollution to our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Oil, gas, mining and chemical companies would be freer to transport through these protected areas and to dump pollutants in nearby unprotected waterways. The EPA reported in 2007 that nearly a quarter of a billion

pounds of toxic chemicals was released into American Waterways. Real estate and golf course developers would have an easier time polluting, rerouting and paving over wetlands. Freed from environmental impact scrutiny by the EPA, more gas and oil pipeline projects would be green-lighted.

This decision not only undoes Obama-era protections that expanded the definition of navigable waterways to include smaller streams and tributaries but reaches back to undo certain protections for streams put in place by President Bush 41 and strengthened by President Bush 43, who were both avid fishermen.

"The rollback will take us backward," warned Daniel Estrin, general counsel and advocacy director at Waterkeeper Alliance, of the EPA's proposed rule change. One hopes that this rule change will not bring back the days before the Clean Water Act, when Americans in 1969 witnessed the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland burning on television.

Water quality touches all of us every day through the water we drink, shower and play in, and use to irrigate our gardens, and it touches the birds and wildlife that depend on water for survival. Please contact the EPA during the 60-day public comment period and let them know how you feel about the proposed changes. The 60-day public comment period about the proposed changes has not been defined yet, but we will send out an email to alert you when it has. [Please sign up for the Audubon Everglades Email List to receive conservation alerts.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, FEB 9 20th Annual Everglades Day Festival

Audubon Everglades is a co-founder and has been a major sponsor for the last 20 years of Everglades Day at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Plan to attend this fun and educational family-friendly festival. Details will be in the February Kite. [See flyer at the website.](#)

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DO YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE VOLUNTEERING?

by Susan McKerny



Those who volunteer understand that by helping others they help themselves. We would love to have you join the team of Audubon Everglades volunteers. It takes many people to do everything we do, and many hands make lighter work. Won't you consider volunteering with us this year?

If you have a special interest or talent or simply want to give back to Audubon Everglades as a volunteer, please check the list of opportunities below for an area where you might get involved. If your interest area is not listed and you are ready to volunteer, get in touch with us and let us know your interest. There are new ways to get involved all the time. To see if your interest and expertise are a good match for one of these volunteer needs or to get more information, please send an email to President@AudubonEverglades.org. We look forward to having you on our team.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Team Organizer

Program Support

(Audio Visual, room set-up and closing)

Citizen Science Projects

(shorebird surveys, Eagle Watch, Purple Martin project)

Communications and Connections

(Newsletter, Social Media)

Community Event Support

Conservation Advocacy Team

(conservation policy advocates and public advocacy outreach)

Education and Outreach

(Plants for Birds program, speakers, Pathfinders and Science Fair judges)

Past, Present and Future Volunteers Invited to a Special Volunteer Appreciation Event

by Vicki Rogerson



This is not your grandma's Volunteer Appreciation - unless she was a birder!

Please R.S.V.P. by January 2 so the planning committee will know you're coming. You can R.S.V.P. by email to Vicki Rogerson at Education@auduboneverglades.org, or you can phone or text her at 561-352-7835. Let us know if you would like to bring a guest or are interested in carpooling. We look forward to hearing from you and to celebrating you on January 12!

[Click here for further details](#) or contact Vicki.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP TRAINING – REGISTER NOW

The 2019 Conservation Stewardship Training Course is open for registration. This seven-week basic environmental education course with fifteen instructors on consecutive Mondays, from February 4 to March 18, 2019, from 9AM to 1:30PM includes field exploration, classroom study, an advocacy component and catered lunches. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)



Photo: 2018 Stewards at Pine Jog Environmental Center learning about Pine Flatwood habitat from instructor, Kristi Moyer. © Mary Young 2018. All rights reserved.

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 _____
