



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades

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Photo: Mourning Dove © Wikipedia

Bird of the Month: Mourning Dove

(Zenaida macroura)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

Mourning Doves are our most common and widespread dove ranging from southern Canada to central Mexico, occupying a wide variety of habitats. These gray-buff, slender-bodied birds have relatively small heads with very noticeable dark eyes. Their short legs and feet have a reddish tone and their long pointed wings have variable black spots. In males, an iridescent pink sheen is noticeable on the neck, especially during the breeding season. One of the most noticeable features of Mourning Doves is their long pointed tail (the longest of all our doves). Their flight is typically straight and fast and on take-off, their wings produce a whistling sound, another feature only common to Mourning Doves. The "mournful" call of the male is also easily recognized by bird enthusiasts.

With the exception of dense forested areas, Mourning Doves occupy farms, towns, open woods, roadsides (often seen perched on telephone wires) and

grasslands. They also occupy suburbs, prairies and even deserts. The vast majority of their foraging is done on the ground and their food is made up of seeds and grain. Many will also consume wild grasses, weeds, herbs, berries and occasionally small snails. To assist in the digestion of the hard seeds making up much of their diet, many swallow small sand granules and gravel which are kept in the gizzard. The doves will often come to backyard feeders where they fill their crops quickly with seeds that are found on the ground. In doing so, they are able to digest the food later while resting.

In courtship the male will incorporate a variety of display flights but on the ground, he approaches the female stiffly, with his chest puffed out, bowing and giving emphatic cooing songs. Once the pair-bond is established the pair will quite often be seen preening each other's feathers. The nest site is selected by the female and the nest is usually placed in a tree

or shrub. In the west, these birds have been known to place their nest on the ground and they are so well habituated to humans throughout their range, they will even nest on gutters, eaves or abandoned equipment. The nest is a very flimsy platform of twigs which the male brings to the female while she builds the structure.

Two white eggs are laid by the female and incubated by both adults for 14 days. After hatching both parents assist in caring for the young, feeding them "pigeon or crop milk" which is actually produced by the flaking off of the inner lining of the crop into a milky substance. The young grow quickly on this mix and are able to fledge after 15 days. They however continue to be fed and cared for by the parents for an additional 1 to 2 weeks. In the southern areas of their range, these birds are so prolific that they are able to produce 5 to 6 broods per year.

UPCOMING TRIPS

JUNE 2019

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

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan McKemy

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEER WITH AUDUBON EVERGLADES

Do you have some free time to share? Would you like to get more involved with Audubon Everglades? We have plenty of volunteer opportunities and are sure to have a place where you can make a difference. Remember, YOU are what hope looks like to a bird - get involved!

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 volunteer opportunities. If your interest area is not listed but you would like to volunteer, get in touch with us and let us know your interest. There are new ways to get involved all the time.

If you would like more information or are ready to get involved, please send an email to President@AudubonEverglades.org. We look forward to having you on our team!

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Citizen Science Projects

(bird surveys, habitat projects, etc.)

Community Events

Conservation Advocacy Team

Education and Outreach

Monthly meeting set-up and closing

Social Media

Volunteer Organizer

Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration and the American Oystercatcher

by Mary Dunning

David Carson | Senior Environmental Analyst, Palm Beach County

JUNE

04

Tuesday, June 4 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!



Photo: American Oystercatcher © Susan Young
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In his program, "Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration and the American Oystercatcher," David Carson will review how the mangrove, seagrass and oyster restoration efforts in the Lake Worth Lagoon have enabled a pair of American Oystercatchers to establish a permanent new resident "colony" with annual nesting efforts in the lagoon.

ABOUT DAVID CARSON

David Carson is the Senior Environmental Analyst at the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Division. He has a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida, a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University, and is a member of the Florida Bar. He has been working for the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Division since 1992.

The Lake Worth Lagoon was a freshwater lake until the late 1800s, when an inlet connecting it to the ocean was created. In the 1920s, sediment was dredged from the lake to create the Lake Worth golf course along 1.2 miles of lake shoreline. Dredging the lagoon created deep pockets in the lake that collected muck over time, resulting in the loss of oxygen, fish, plants and habitat.

The restoration of the Lake Worth Lagoon began in 2004 by partners Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, Florida Inland Navigation District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, and the City of Lake Worth. Completed in 2012, Snook Islands is 1.2 miles of restored shoreline that includes over 11 acres of mangroves, 2 acres of oysters, 3 acres of salt marsh grass, and 60 acres of seagrass habitat north and south of the Lake Worth Bridge.

The restored areas have created increased feeding, nesting, and roosting opportunities for fish and wildlife, along with some improvement to water quality, but the greatest success of the project is the overall contribution of increased biological productivity to a highly impacted lagoon, and the Oystercatchers are just the most visible manifestation of the improved habitats," said David Carson. The Oystercatcher pair have successfully raised 7 chicks in the past 5 years.

July's Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 9 at 7PM at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The speaker will be Susan Lerner, Director of Horticulture at the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, presenting "Native Plants & Wildlife: the case for local stewardship of the planet."

Profile: Mary Dunning

by Kristen Murtaugh



Photo: Mary Dunning

Mary Dunning was appointed to the Audubon Everglades Board in April. She is going to oversee public relations, which will include management of the production of the Kite and development of press releases.

We met for our interview a few days after she had spent the previous weekend up at Fort DeSoto. Mary is a relatively new birder – she has been birding for just over a year and a half. But she is a serious birder, and she had heard that this was the time (mid-April) to explore Fort De Soto State Park. She had gotten lots of information and tips from birder friends on where to go and what birds to expect there. Mary was excited to report she had added 8 lifers to her list, including a Kentucky Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and a Dickcissel spotted the last day.

Mary is a native Floridian. She was born in Miami and lived there until 2002, when she moved up to Wellington with her family for her husband's job and for better schools for their daughters. As a child she spent a lot of time in the outdoors camping and fishing in the Keys. Her family also frequently visited Matheson Hammock Park and Bill Baggs Florida State Park. Mary has always loved animals but did not take a special interest in birds until she moved to Palm Beach County. She remembers going to Wakodahatchee with a friend and falling in love with the Wood Stork. Her husband and daughter gave her binoculars and a bird field guide for Christmas. She joined Audubon Everglades in November 2017. Her first trip was to Wellington Preserve. That trip inspired her and marked the start of her enthusiastic

interest in birding, and she has since clocked more than 30,000 miles on her car, birding 20 counties in Florida. Mary is curious and adventuresome. She expressed deep appreciation for the birder community she has become a part of and gratitude for the friendships she has made.

Mary has her bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Miami and is a classically-trained flutist. While she did not have a performance career, she remained in the music world, working for the Concert Association of Florida, which booked renowned musicians, opera singers, orchestras and dance companies for concerts in South Florida. For 8 years she was the Artistic Operations Manager, managing contracts, dealing with venues and logistics, and creating the playbills. The halls were packed for their concerts, and Mary met many acclaimed performing artists. After she moved to Wellington, she spent 7 years at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County as Director of Membership and special events. Since 2012, she has been working for other non-profit organizations in Palm Beach County, mostly in the area of health and human services. She is currently in the fundraising office of the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach.

Mary's other passion is her native plant garden. Just before we met, she had learned that her garden was going to receive the FLOWER award on Earth Day (Fabulous Landscape of Wellington Earning Recognition). Mary's garden had been one of the stops on the Palm Beach County Native Plant Society's Native Plant Garden tour in November 2018 and had caught the attention of the Village of Wellington. She has had her garden for two years now. She was inspired by a friend in Lake Worth who had made her yard a native plant oasis. There are 50-60 different species of native plants in her garden, including fruit trees (mango, banana, carambola).

Audubon Everglades has projects relating to gardening for birds. Mary's garden is certainly inviting to our feathered friends. She has had two Screech Owls there for the last couple years and recently hung a nesting box. She left a 20-ft pine snag in her yard for woodpeckers. The yard also has multiple Pond and Bald cypress trees, Strangler Fig trees, Sabal palms, and a water feature.

I was impressed by Mary's energy and commitment to spending as much time as possible in the field birding while managing a full-time job. She says she challenges herself with birds. It's a great outlet for her energy and her need to keep moving. She looks forward to contributing her time and talent in her work with Audubon Everglades. She brings many gifts to the AE Board. Broad experience in organizational management and public relations, knowledge of native plants, and an exponentially growing knowledge of birds. Welcome, Mary!

THE 10TH FLORIDA JUNE CHALLENGE BEGINS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1!

by Vicki Rogerson

The June Challenge is a friendly competition designed to keep us birding through the summer heat while non-birders retreat indoors and miss all the fun. The aim of the competition is to challenge individual participants to see as many species as possible within the boundaries of his or her county between June 1 and June 30.

Becky Enneis of Alachua County created the June challenge and its rules in 2004. Marie Zeglen of Gainesville, Florida will be compiling all the lists submitted by each county in Florida. Audubon Everglades will post the results of the statewide county lists on our Audubon Everglades Community Facebook page after the state compiler posts them on BRDBRAIN. A big thank you goes out to Marie for undertaking this job.

If you're not already a member of [Audubon Everglades Community Facebook page](#), visit our page and click the Join button and one of our moderators will add you as a member. During the Challenge, participants can use the AE Community page to ask questions and share sightings.

Post your tallies on the AE Community page and send after sending to Marie Zeglen to claim your Palm Beach county "bragging rights."

Quick summary of the rules:

1. Count only birds found within a single county, ideally Palm Beach County. Explore your home turf

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RECAP OF 2019 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

by Reinaldo Diaz, J.D., President, Lake Worth Waterkeeper

We recently came out of a disastrous legislative session, where we saw no real progress towards addressing Florida's water quality woes. Overall the state seems intent on continuing its legacy of bending over backwards for developers while doing everything in its power to remove your rights to get in the way of development.

Governor DeSantis vetoed HB 771, which would have banned municipalities from enacting plastic straw bans. On its face this is a great win for environmentalists; it protects home rule by leaving local governments the opportunity to take easy steps to address a major factor of ocean pollution. However, this ban on bans only addressed single-use plastic straws. If you participate in one of our clean-ups, you'll understand that straws (although increasingly common) are just one of the many single-use plastics that are the problem. Water bottles, bags, and utensils are among the most common plastic litter we find. The most effective municipal bans include all single-use plastics; a great example is the recent ban passed by the Town of Palm Beach.

There's an uncomfortable truth to be realized here. Yes, plastic pollution is a massive problem that we all need to address, but it is not what will kill our waterways. Plastic pollution is something that can be addressed through outreach and education; the real fix lies in the community's change of lifestyle and its move away from using these products. This takes time, of course (often more than one generation), but we are seeing real progress with younger generations and their attitude towards plastic waste. Changing demand for plastic in the market will be a more effective long-term solution than trying to force it with sweeping legislative change. In the meantime, the communities that are most heavily impacted (like Palm Beach) can exercise their home rule to gently ease us towards that plastic-free future.

The things that will kill our waterways (long before plastic can) do require sweeping legislative changes. These include addressing the issues of overdevelopment, water quality standards, and climate change. Unfortunately, these issues went ignored during this session, or even worse:

Against nearly every Florida environmentalist's warning, the Governor signed HB 7068, which will lead to three massive tollway extensions running

nearly the length of the state. The proposed tollways would pave over some of Florida's best farmlands and natural areas. Critical wetlands will be cut to pieces, seriously compromising water quality for the Everglades and many rivers and springs throughout the state. The wildlife corridor will be fragmented, destroying what's left of the habitat of the Florida Panther and many other endangered species. Aquifer recharge areas will be lost, placing us in a position where it is projected that we will not be able to meet future water demands.

These tollways are another example of government waste, of diverting funds away from underfunded budget items - such as Everglades restoration - that are crucial to the state's environment. And done just so that a select few land-owning developers can turn a massive profit.

Considerable resistance to these tollways is expected, so the legislature made sure to stay one step ahead with HB 7103, which is branded as a "community development" bill. Some feel that this bill is the last nail in the growth management coffin because of the various growth management issues and actions it includes, such as effectively ending affordable housing projects in Florida. The bill reads like a developer's wish list, and the cherry on top is requiring citizens to pay legal fees if they lose a comprehensive plan challenge.

Comprehensive plans dictate how a piece of land should or should not be developed, and major projects like the proposed tollways will have to go through their development as their first step. HB 7103 includes a requirement that people who bring citizen-enforcement actions to ensure that local governments follow their comprehensive plans pay the attorney fees of local governments if they lose their challenge. For most citizens, this is enough to dissuade them from ever taking on a challenge.

Our rights to challenge development are under attack because they are getting in the way of questionable projects like the tollways. Voters throughout the state need to pay attention and keep these bills in mind for the next election. If not, before long our environment will be completely paved over and we'll be left standing in a hot empty parking lot asking ourselves, "what happened?"

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and find some new birding spots. Doing more than one county is permissible, but each must be reported separately.

2. Each bird on your list must be seen, not just heard, and it must be observed in Palm Beach County. There have been complaints in the past about the no-heard-birds rule. The most substantial objection involved the possibility that secretive birds would be harassed until they came into view. To this I'll simply say: Don't do that. Respect the birds. Use playbacks judiciously and avoid harassment. Rely on patience and birding skill.

3. You'll be competing with birders in your own county to see who can amass the longest individual list, but let the others know if you find something good so they can go out and look for it too. It is, after all, a friendly competition.

4. Any free-flying bird is countable for the purposes of the Challenge, but keep track of how many ABA-countable and non-countable species are on your list. Report them in this format: "Total number seen (number that are ABA countable / number that are not)," e.g., 115 (112 / 3). eBird will automatically do this for you if you use it to manage your species list. When you are on the eBird website go to My eBird, and the very first section will show Your Stats by County and includes your species total for the month and ABA area total ticks.

5. Send your eBird list to Marie Zeglen at kayaker3955@gmail.com for the final compilation by midnight on Monday, July 1, 2019.

Hints for new Challengers: Bird as much as you can during the first and last weeks of the month, to get late spring and early fall migrants. And remember, the deadline for results is midnight on Monday, July 1. Please be sure to send your individual results in to Marie Zeglen by the deadline in order to be counted, and then post on the Audubon Everglades Community Facebook page!

For questions, contact Vicki Rogerson: Education@auduboneverglades.org or 561-352-7835.

Happy Birding!

THE BIRD NERD: BIRDS WHO SAY, “WHO NEEDS FEET?”

by Bob Dieterich

Birds are quite remarkable among the classes of vertebrate. They are the only ones that are exclusively bipedal, meaning that they balance and move about on two feet. Among mammals, besides humans, the only bipeds are kangaroos and wallabies, unless you count jumping mice. To be sure, many dinosaurs, progenitors to the bird lineage, were bipedal, but they're no longer with us.

Birds, of course, have another means of locomotion, namely flight, and some groups have taken this to the extreme, to the point that their feet have become nearly vestigial. Take swifts as an example. They are supreme aerialists, in rapid, fluttering flight for most of their waking hours. Their tiny feet are used almost exclusively as holdfasts to vertical surfaces. In fact, swifts have a unique foot structure called pamprodactyl, in which all four toes face forward, facilitating that grasp. Together with hummingbirds, swifts form the Order Apodiformes, a term derived from Greek meaning “footless.” Hummingbirds have a more standard foot structure, but the feet are reduced to mere grasping appendages. Bird banders have a difficult time with hummingbirds, having to use band sizes “0” and “00.”

Goatsuckers, or nightjars, are another group of extreme aerialists. The Whip-poor-will, Chuck's-will-widow, and nighthawks belong to this group. When they're not out hawking for flying insects at dawn or dusk, they rest without the use of their feet on the forest floor or position themselves along, not across, tree branches. Their feet are so inconspicuous

that even the field guides don't illustrate them. In some recent taxonomies they're included in the Apodiformes.

Kingfishers, another group where feet perform as mere perching appendages, have another unique foot structure called syndactyl. The second and third digits are fused along half their length; the fourth digit forward and the first digit back complete the arrangement. They spend almost their entire lives either perched on a branch or flying and diving for open water prey. The exception is when they creep into their streambank burrows to tend their nests.

Swallows, like swifts, pursue insect prey on the wing. They're most commonly observed coursing over open water or fields. Unlike swifts, though, swallows like to perch and have better developed feet of the standard anisodactyl type. They are frequently observed resting on overhead wires, lined up in a row, and numbering in the hundreds. I have seen swallows during the fall migration in Cape May, NJ, where I believe an estimate of a quarter million is not an exaggeration.

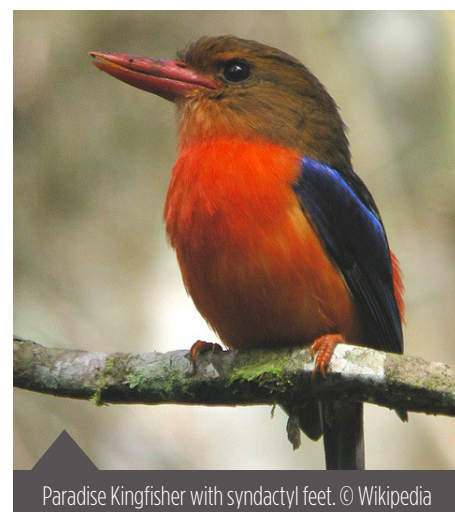
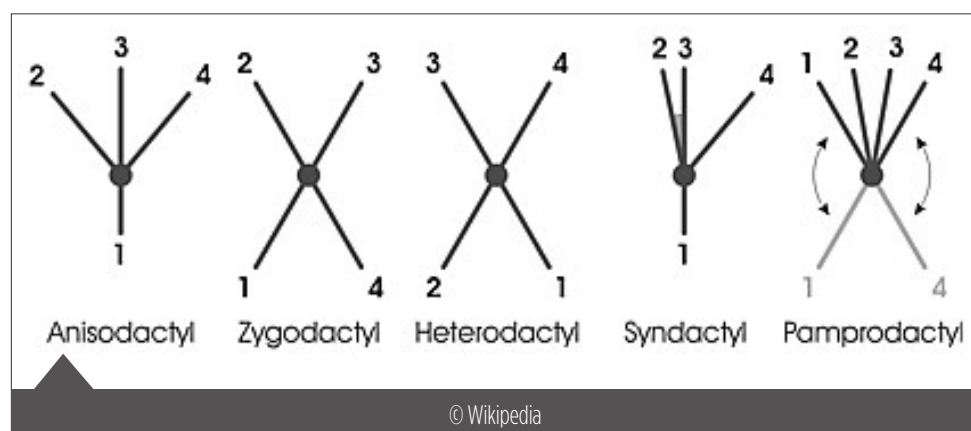
So, the bottom line is that birds, while they may not have invented flight in the long course of evolution, have perfected it and offer us endless fascination with their way of living.



Chimney Swift with pamprodactyl feet. © Wikipedia



Rufous Hummingbird showing tiny feet © Wikipedia



Paradise Kingfisher with syndactyl feet. © Wikipedia



Photo: Global Big Day 2019 at Green Cay was a great success. This young attendee is sporting an Osprey tattoo from Audubon Everglades! © Vicki Rogerson 2019. All rights reserved.



Photo: We're expecting! Daggerwing Nature Center has residents in the new Purple Martin houses provided last summer by Audubon Everglades. Audubon Everglades wants to recognize Eagle Scout Justin Galin, whose efforts were key to the success of this project. © Shelly Rozenberg 2019. All rights reserved.



Photo: Some of this year's new residents at Daggerwing Nature Center. © Shelly Rozenberg 2019. All rights reserved.



Photo: Daggerwing Nature Center's Manager Sean Mallee and Assistant Naturalist Lindsey Hammond are doing their first Purple Martin nest check with assistance from Shelly Rozenberg, AE's new Purple Martin Project co-chair. They will be recording signs of nesting activity, eggs, hatches, and fledging for the rest of the season until the Purple Martins and this year's young migrate to South America for the winter. © Shelly Rozenberg 2019. All rights reserved.



Photo: From left to right- Kat Rahla (Audubon Everglades), Melissa DiPasquale (Coral Sunset Elementary Assistant Principal), Terri Girolmetti (Single School Culture Coordinator), and Vicki Rogerson (Audubon Everglades) congratulate Coral Sunset Elementary, recipient of the Green Schools Judges' Choice Award of \$500 for Habitat Improvement from Audubon Everglades.



Photo: Susan Snyder, Audubon Everglades Board Member Emerita, announces the Green Schools Judges' Choice Award for Habitat Improvement at the Green Schools Award event at FAU. This award is given in honor of Stella Rossi and Rosa Durando, who were instrumental in the passage of the first sensitive lands bond issue to secure many of our public lands in Palm Beach County. © Kat Rahla 2019. All rights reserved.

The 2019 Membership year runs from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020. 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 \$ _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

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 _____