



# EVERGLADE KITE

## NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades

VOL 59 | Issue 12 | August 2019



Photo: White-winged Dove © Becky Matsubara Wikipedia

## Bird of the Month: White-winged Dove

### *(Zenaida asiatica)*

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

White-winged Doves originally occupied the deserts of the American Southwest, but they have extended their range eastward and are now regularly seen throughout the southern states. Related to the Mourning Dove, White-winged Doves are bulkier, with brown upper parts and white crescents along the wing which give the bird its name. These white crescents are most pronounced when the bird is in flight but, on a sitting bird, the white is seen along the leading edge of the wing. The bright orange eyes are surrounded by blue skin patches, and the black streak on each cheek adds to the bird's unique features. Its tail is short and round with white tips and the beak is longer than most of our more common dove species.

White-winged Doves forage on the ground for seeds and grain but will also take to trees and shrubs for fruits and berries. In foraging excursions, they often travel in huge flocks between roosting and feeding areas. While feeding on the ground, they swallow small gravel to aid in digesting the seeds that make up their diet. It is believed that they may also eat small snails and pieces of bone fragments to satisfy their need for calcium.

In the western states where these birds are most prevalent, they consume the fruit of the saguaro cactus and visit the flowers of these cacti to retrieve nectar. In so doing, the doves aid the plants in pollination. In the urban and suburban areas of

the southeastern U.S., White-winged Doves inhabit forested areas, including streamside woodlands, and backyards with dense tree growth, birdbaths and bird feeders.

During the nesting season the male chooses the territory and the general nesting area, but the female selects the specific nest site. This site is usually on a tree branch or crotch under heavy shade. In cities, the doves choose large ornamental shade trees like pecan, live oak, and ash. Elsewhere, they gravitate toward the interior of dense woodlands, particularly along streams. Occasionally they nest in colonies especially in isolated groves surrounded by good feeding areas.

[continued on page 3](#)

## UPCOMING TRIPS

### AUGUST 2019

10 SAT & 17 SAT **Duda Farms** 📍

Special Trip for Friends of Audubon Everglades  
Registration required.

# Audubon Everglades Friends Photos and Ice Cream Social

## 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](mailto:President@AudubonEverglades.org). We look forward to having you on our team!

### CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### Community Science Projects

(bird surveys, habitat projects, etc.)

#### Community Events

#### Conservation Advocacy Team

#### Education and Outreach

#### Social Media

#### Volunteer Organizer

AUG

06

Tuesday, August 6 at 6:30PM

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

We are serving up a sweet program this month that is sure to bring you relief from the heat. Join us August 6 for our Ice Cream Social and enjoy a cool ice cream sundae while you view a picture show of images created by our Friends members.

Audubon Everglades has some extremely talented members who have put together images of their

best bird and nature photography. Members will speak about their photos as they are presented. We always enjoy hearing the background story on what it took to get the shot.

Also on the program - August Bird of the Month: White-winged Dove. Come hear more about this backyard bird from our expert, Clive Pinnock.

Help us make this fun evening green.

**We encourage you to bring your own bowl and spoon.**

We'll supply the ice cream and sprinkles!



September's Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 3 at 7PM at **Origin Church, 6073 Summit Blvd**. The speaker will be LTC Jennifer Reynolds, Deputy Commander for South Florida, US Army Corp of Engineers, presenting "Lake Okeechobee -Balancing competing demands of water needs, safety of the dike, and discharges from the lake"

# Profile: Linda McCandless

by Kristen Murtaugh



Photo: Linda McCandless at Yellowstone National Park, June 2019

Linda McCandless is a Florida native who has never lived in any state other than Florida. She was born in Ocala and grew up in the Ocala National Forest. She graduated from the University of Central Florida (Florida Technological University then) in 1972 with a BS in Computer Science.

Linda worked from 1972 – 2015 as a software engineer at the Florida divisions of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, ITT North Electric, Stromberg-Carlson, and Siemens Corporation. She had several business trips to Latin America and Europe. A lengthy trip to Munich introduced her to sleet, something this Florida native had never experienced before. During the 1980s Linda tried out various sports. She took up snow skiing, earned a private pilot's license, and became a certified scuba diver. None of these pastimes quite fit in the long run. This was BB (see below).

In March 1993, Linda took a sightseeing trip to Alaska. There was a couple on the tour: she was into plants and flowers and always looking down; he was into birds and always looking up. They were having dinner on the boat one evening, when the naturalists excitedly called out a bird species over the speaker system so the gentleman could go look. Really excited, he ran out of the dining room to see the bird. Linda remembers thinking, "Birders are a very strange lot!" But now she wonders what bird she missed!

In 1995 she moved to her house on a small canal in west Boca Raton. One day in the late 1990s, she noticed

wave after wave of wading birds working their way down the canal. At the time, she didn't know a heron from an egret. She decided she wanted to know, so she started participating in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge bird walks on Saturday mornings. Linda intended to go only as many times as it took to learn the wading bird names, but the enthusiasm of the walk leaders - Pat Canning and Ruth Baker - rubbed off on her. She joined the walks almost every week, bought a National Geographic Field Guide, and started recording the date/location of each new bird she saw. Mostly the same people would come on the walks, and one morning Linda noticed someone missing. One of the leaders said, "Oh, she probably went to a different park to go birding." A new concept for Linda: she could go to other parks to look at birds! She started branching out, first locally, to Spanish River Park and Wakodahatchee, then further afield, to Hugh Taylor Birch, Merritt Island, and Duda Farms. She participated in field trips sponsored by Miami's Tropical Audubon Society to the Everglades and Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.

Linda's first birding trip outside of Florida was to Southeast Arizona in July 2001, where she saw scores of life birds. By now she was hooked on birding and began traveling, almost every year, and sometimes twice a year, to locations which would allow her to see new birds. Her many birding trips have taken her to the Dry Tortugas, Ft. DeSoto, north Florida, the Bahamas, New England, North Carolina, Texas, Colorado, California, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Wyoming and Montana, Illinois and Michigan, North Dakota and Minnesota. And not just once, but multiple times to some of these hot spots. The lists of the species highlights of these trips would double the space of this profile. The bird list that Linda started in February 2000 at Loxahatchee has lengthened considerably! She went to Minnesota this past February (The frigid temperatures didn't keep this Florida native from chasing and finding special species such as the Northern Hawk Owl!). This summer she spent 10 wonderful days in Yellowstone National Park with two other birders.

Twenty years ago, Linda joined a Boca Raton Audubon chapter. When that chapter disbanded, she became a member of Audubon Everglades. She has been an Audubon Everglades board member-at-large since July 2015. Through Audubon, Linda is

proud to have participated in several citizen science projects related to birds, such as the Christmas Bird Count, EagleWatch, Project Perch, and the Lake Worth Lagoon bird survey, and, through them, feels that she is helping to save our birds. Linda leads walks at Spanish River Park for Audubon Everglades and sends out the email reminders of the chapter field trips.

Linda says her life can be split into two phases: BB (before birding) and AB (after birding). She is grateful to Pat and Ruth for getting her hooked on bird watching twenty years ago. It helps her connect with nature, and it's good for her health. Some people struggle to find things to do in retirement; she has never had that issue: she just grabs her binoculars and goes birding or plans a birding trip. For Linda, though, the best part about birding is that it's a great way to make friends. She's developed what will be lifelong friendships with people she's met birding, both locally and nationally.

Linda is also interested in native plants. Her yard is small, but it's filled with natives. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the National Audubon "Plants for Birds" program and enjoys going on the annual Native Plant Society garden tour.

Last, but hardly least, is her dog, Charlie, a sweet rescue mixed breed she adopted from the Broward Humane Society. He's lived with Linda for seven years and brings her joy every day.

---

[White-winged Dove continued from page 1](#)

During courtship both members of the pair go through ritualized nodding and preening motions. Once the pair-bond is established, a flimsy nest constructed of various materials (sticks, weeds, grasses, pine needles, Spanish moss and feathers) is built anywhere from 4 to 30 feet off the ground. The male brings most of the material and the female builds the nest. Both adults incubate the 1- 4 pale buff eggs for 13-14 days. At hatching, the young are fed "pigeon milk" or "crop milk," a curd-like substance that is secreted from fat-filled cells that line the parent crop and regurgitated to feed the hatchlings. The young leave the nest at about 13-16 days and are fed by both parents for some time afterwards.



## CORRECTIONS TO JULY'S INSPIRATIONAL EAGLE STORY BY LINDA MCCANDLESS AND DOREEN LEPAGE

In the July issue of the Kite, the authors and portions of the article "Local Good Samaritan Saves Injured Bald Eagle" were inadvertently omitted. Apologies to Linda McCandless and Doreen LePage who co-authored the inspirational article. We hope you enjoy reading this happy ending and consider getting involved with EagleWatch.

### LOCAL GOOD SAMARITAN SAVES INJURED BALD EAGLE (Continued from the July 2019 Kite)

So, on May 31, Lou and Linda drove Liesel and a second immature Bald Eagle named Glory from the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary up to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland. Liesel and Glory were each confined in their own appliance-sized box for the drive. Upon arriving, they were weighed and given an initial health exam. After a short stay in the

bird mews, Liesel transitioned to the CBOP large flight barn, where within two weeks she proved she was ready to be released.

Shawnlei examined the EagleWatch database and determined a release site which met these criteria: the nest was in an accessible and safe area and the area was open enough to give the fledgling room to take off.

On the morning of June 12, Liesel was banded with a federally regulated metal band imprinted with a unique 9-digit number to identify her and released in an Orlando area neighborhood which has a nearby eagle's nest with two juvenile eagles. Highlights for Lou were that he was allowed to hold her in the car as the team drove to the release site and he was the one who released her!

To become a Bald Eagle Good Samaritan like Lou, please see: [Be an EagleWatcher](#)

[CBOP flight barn webcam.](#)

[Busch Wildlife Sanctuary website.](#)



Photo: Lou Ulrey with K28 Eagle

# THE BIRD NERD: AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

by Bob Dieterich

In this time of doldrums, before the fall migration starts, I thought it might be fun to inject a little levity. See the little bird quiz below that I came up with in a moment of idle contemplation.

Some bird names just don't seem to do proper justice in the description department. Try to match the scrambled alternate names in the left column with the accepted common names of familiar birds in the right column. Answers appear on page 5.

1. Harlequin Sandpiper
2. Sooty Falcon
3. Orange-crowned Warbler (really)
4. Greater Peep
5. Black-winged Redbird
6. Masked Fruiteater
7. Black-bellied Sandpiper
8. Warbling Thrush
9. White-winged Nightjar
10. Greater Yellowthroat

- a. Pectoral Sandpiper
- b. Cedar Waxwing
- c. Common Nighthawk
- d. American Robin
- e. Ruddy Turnstone
- f. Yellow-breasted Chat
- g. Ovenbird
- h. Scarlet Tanager
- i. Merlin
- j. Dunlin

# HAS THE SPIRIT OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT ALREADY LEFT THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S MANSION?

by Scott Zucker

During the past few years, Floridians have seen their state imperiled by catastrophic Hurricanes Irma and Michael, their waters polluted by blue-green algae and red tide, their beaches littered with plastic debris, their wild places threatened by fracking and development, their hope for Everglades restoration stalled, and their coastal areas endangered by sea level rise and the threat of offshore drilling.

Promoting himself as a “Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist,” Ron DeSantis narrowly won the 2018 election for Governor of Florida over Democrat Andrew Gillum, promising to prioritize “environmental issues, like water quality and cleaning the environmental mess that has resulted in toxic blue-green algae and exacerbated red tide around the state.”

To his credit he has tried to make good on those promises. But, in his first year as Governor, he has also signed a number of bills into law that will have far-reaching negative consequences for the environment. This year's funding for Everglades restoration and cleaning up the environment was a \$2.4 billion increase over last year's total, but \$200 million less than the Governor had promised in January. The funding includes \$682 million for Lake Okeechobee and Everglades restoration and improving water quality and Florida's springs, underscoring how, at least for this year, these have become bipartisan issues.

Despite allocating most of the money requested by DeSantis to clean up our waterways, the legislature did little to solve the problem of protecting our waters at the source of runoff. Bills were defeated that would have funded septic tank remediation and inspection, protected customers from unlawful wastewater discharges, reduced nutrient runoff into springs, raised standards for more Florida-friendly fertilizer use by landscapers, managed and reduced runoff and nutrient pollution from bio-solid discharges into nearby watersheds, and protected our waters in other ways. No legislation was even proposed to insure that agriculture and urban development pollution is cleaned up prior to entering our waterways.

The legislature also deeply disappointed the public by allocating only \$33 million dollars for the Florida Forever land acquisition, woefully short of the \$100

million requested by DeSantis and the \$300 million level historically sought by environmental groups. And \$0 were allocated to the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program to protect these lands from the gluttonous developers who are devouring Florida's available land.

Our State Parks will suffer, since they received only \$33 million of the \$50 million requested by the Governor. As a result, urgent repairs and restoration needed for state parks in the Florida Panhandle ravaged by Hurricane Michael will not be completed.

And, despite good bills introduced by key Democratic legislators, little headway was made toward reducing our reliance on fossil fuels or addressing ways to mitigate the affects of the greatest danger facing Florida - climate change.

The legislature also failed to address the plastic pollution problem. Several bills, including one sponsored by Sen. Ken Rader of Palm Beach County that would have banned the use of both plastic bags and straws, never even made it out of the majority controlled committees.

And, despite a bipartisan desire to ban fracking in Florida, the Majority leadership (Republican) of both houses blocked any comprehensive legislation aimed at banning all three forms of fracking. Instead, they pushed bad, partial fracking solutions, which were defeated, that would have allowed the most prominent form of fracking, matrix acidizing, to continue.

In the end Governor DeSantis signed three bills into law that could have long-term negative effects on the environment:

1.) The Wetland Mitigation bill allows local governments to permit wetland mitigation for private development on lands they purchased for conservation purposes, further threatening our remaining 9 million acres of wetland. This bill comes at a time when the EPA through WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) is seeking to redefine what constitutes a wetland in order to make it easier for states that wish to have their own assumption permitting programs (404 permitting) to be able to dredge and fill wetlands.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently reaffirmed its commitment to assuming 404 permitting.

2.) The deceptively named Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) bill will build three new toll expressways across more than three hundred miles of Florida's largest remaining swaths of agricultural and undeveloped land at an eventual cost of billions to the taxpayers. The bill's primary beneficiaries will likely be rich landowners and developers, asphalt and highway construction lobbying groups, and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, who all championed the bill to the detriment of rural families, wildlife and its habitats, carbon sequestration, and water quality and availability.

3.) House Bill 7103 basically removes home rule regarding a local municipality's ability to incorporate affordable housing, likely encouraging more urban sprawl development. In addition, the bill facilitates additional sprawl by making it nearly impossible for Floridians to challenge local government on land use decisions, ultimately allowing an accelerated destruction of more of Florida's wild, undeveloped and agricultural environment.

So, is Governor DeSantis the Teddy Roosevelt conservationist that he fashions himself? Observing the atrocities of for-profit hunting and the destruction of large swaths of land for immediate profit by mining, drilling and logging interests, Teddy Roosevelt dedicated himself to preserving wildlife and wild places and permanently protected 230 million acres of land and established 5 national parks, 18 national monuments, 51 wildlife refuges, and 150 national forests. He called it “vandalism ... to destroy or permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird.” Governor DeSantis is only in the middle of his first year as Governor and, while I give him the benefit of the doubt, I can't help but speculate, particularly after witnessing the bad bills he signed into law this year, that his conservation legacy in Florida will not resemble that of Teddy Roosevelt. I hope he proves me wrong.

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 available to members of Friends of Audubon Everglades. 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](https://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 \_\_\_\_\_