



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades
VOL 60 | Issue 1 | September 2019



Photo: Red-bellied Woodpecker © Spinus Nature Photography Wikipedia

Bird of the Month: Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

Primarily a bird of the southeastern United States, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is a pale medium-sized woodpecker common in forests, suburbs, swamps, riverside woods and city parks. In recent years it has been extending its range northward. Its black and white barred back, white upper tail coverts, and barred central tail feathers help to identify the species. More noticeable are the bright red crown and nape of the adult breeding male (red crown is absent in females). The bellies of these birds are off-white with a pale orange tinge in the center and often difficult to observe while the birds are clinging to the

bark of trees. They fly in the typical undulating flight of woodpeckers, and the white patches near their wingtips are visible only in flight.

As they traverse the main branches and trunks of trees, they lean away from the trunk, supporting themselves on stiff tail feathers. This posture is used by woodpeckers as they forage in the trees for insects hidden in the crevices of the bark. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers are omnivorous and, although the majority of their diet consists of a variety of insects and spiders, they also consume acorns and other

nuts, the seeds of pines, and seasonal fruit, including berries, oranges, mangoes, and grapes. They have also been observed eating lizards, tree frogs, eggs and nestlings of small birds, oozing sap and even small fish.

Nests are placed in natural or drilled cavities of dead trees (hardwoods or pines), abandoned nest cavities of other woodpeckers, dead limbs of live trees, fence posts and nest boxes. The same pair may nest in the same tree year after year, but typically excavate a new cavity each year, often placing the new one beneath

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UPCOMING TRIPS SEPTEMBER 2019

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

07 SAT (7A-12P) STA-1E (Susan McKemy, coord.)

● 1.5

10 TUE (8A-10A) Wakodahatchee (Chris Golia)

● 1.5

14 SAT (8A-10A) Frenchman's Forest (Melanie & Steve Garcia)

● 1.5

15 SUN (8A-10A) Spanish River Park (Luis 'Beto' Matheus)

● 1.5

21 SAT (8A-10A) Coral Cove Park (Mark Cook)

● 1.5

21 SAT (5P-7P) Wakodahatchee (Valleri Brauer)

● 1.5

22 SUN (8A-10A) Juno Dunes (Melanie & Steve Garcia)

◆ 1.5

23 MON (8A-10A) Seacrest Scrub (Sue Young)

● 1.5

28 SAT (8A-10A) Spanish River Park (Linda McCandless / Kathy Walters)

● 1.5

29 SUN (8A-10A) Serenoa Glade Preserve (David Gabay)

● 1.5

OCTOBER 2019

Online registration for both of our October advance registration field trips is currently open.

NOVEMBER 2019

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

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

● 1.5

07 THU (4P-6P) Grassy Waters (Sunset Canoe Fly-in) (Cindy Bush)

● 1.5

09 SAT (8A-12P) STA-2 (Susan McKemy, coord.)

● 1.5

16 SAT (6:30A-12:30P) Fall Pelagic (Rick Schofield)

● 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

- **Sitting /Driving:** no walking required
- **Short:** less than 1 mile
- **Medium:** 1-1.5 miles
- **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

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project

by Mary Dunning

Lt. Col. Jennifer A. Reynolds, Deputy District Commander for South Florida, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SEP

03

Tuesday, September 3 at 7PM

Meeting and program are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30PM. Origin Church, 6073 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach. We look forward to seeing you there!

Audubon Everglades is monitoring the progress of Hurricane Dorian.

For the latest status of our September meeting, [please check our website.](#)



Photo: Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds (U.S. Army) being recognized as the 2018 Champion of the Everglades. Pictured with Audubon Florida Executive Director Julie Wraithmell (left) and Director of Everglades Policy Celeste De Palma (right). © Jayme Gershen

Come hear Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer A. Reynolds, Deputy District Commander for South Florida, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, discuss the restoration projects in the Everglades.

Lt. Col. Reynolds will discuss the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration project, highlighting critical projects in the Everglades. Lt. Col. Reynolds was recently recognized as the 2018 Champion of the Everglades by Audubon Florida and was honored with the Public Service Award during the 2019 Everglades Coalition Conference.

She has served as the Deputy District Commander for South Florida in the Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since June 2015, working on hurricane response and recovery, water

management operations, Everglades restoration, and the full portfolio of Corps activities in south Florida.

In 2017, she deployed from Florida for 7 months to serve as the Deputy Commander of the Mosul Dam Task Force in Iraq. Her previous assignments include Chief of the Corps's Unified Operations Center in Washington D.C. in 2014-2015, Assistant Director, Civil Works from 2011 to 2013, and numerous Army engineering assignments with combat and combat support units worldwide since 1995. She has served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany. Her undergraduate degree is in natural resource management and her graduate degree is in strategic planning.

October's Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 1 at 7PM at Origin Church, 6073 Summit Blvd. The speaker will be Dr. Dale Gawlik, Professor, Biological Science & Dir. of the Env. Science Program, FAU, presenting "Everglades and the Ecology of Wading Birds."

Profile: Sue Young

by Kristen Murtaugh



Photo: Sue Young

Sue Young has been a birder friend of mine for several years. I've seen her high level of birding expertise and learned from her generous sharing of tips; I've watched her develop strong bird photography skills; I've seen her beautiful garden with its inviting plantings for birds and butterflies, and I've admired the art work and photographs in her home from the trips she and her husband Stuart have taken to Africa, Asia, Japan, the Galapagos, and India. So, interviewing her for the Kite and learning more about her life was a treat.

Sue grew up in the countryside near Flint, Michigan. The closest neighbor was a farm a quarter mile away. Sue has a treasury of fond memories of a childhood spent close to nature. She collected wildflowers and kept turtles, newts and salamanders as pets. Active outdoors, she loved walking in the woods and fields, riding her bike, and running with her dog. The basement was full of tropical fish aquariums. Sue's job was to go into the woods and collect mosquito larvae to feed them. Her mother and grandmother had wonderful flower gardens. Sue was particularly fond of the peonies that had been transplanted from her great-grandmother's yard to her childhood yard. When she had a home of her own, Sue dug up and moved some to her own garden. Her mother had a fine orchid collection, which Sue was responsible for watering. Sue was an early "bird watcher." She fed birds, watched them through binoculars, and consulted a Roger Tory Peterson guide. A Red-tailed Hawk pair nested across the street. A Blue Heron rookery was not far away. She remembers being dive-bombed by Red-winged Blackbirds.

A licensed paralegal, Sue worked for 25 years as a law

clerk at the circuit court level in Oakland, Michigan. Her responsibilities included taking care of the jury, being the liaison between the attorneys and the judge, swearing in witnesses, and scheduling cases. While the paperwork could be boring, the work was always interesting and full of human drama; the cases were right out of the news – murders, divorces, etc. Perhaps the most exciting experience was clerking in the first assisted-suicide trial of Jack Kevorkian. Sue and her husband Stuart, a criminal defense lawyer, met in court. In 2005, the two moved to Ft. Myers. Stuart is an avid golfer and Sue picked up the sport. She took her binoculars with her and enjoyed watching the geese, nesting ducks, and Eastern Bluebirds on the course and hearing the songs of thrushes in the woods. Sue was able to garden year-round in Florida and learned about plants that thrive here. Her interest in birds led her to a bird walk at Bunche Beach in Ft. Myers. Here she met a group of nice people talking about the differences between look-alike shore birds; it was her first taste of the difference between "birding" and "bird watching."

In 2010 Sue and Stuart moved to Boynton Beach. She discovered Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Green Cay Nature Center and the bird walks at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Soon she found out about Audubon Everglades and started going on walks and field trips. Her interest in birding grew; the movie "The Big Year" came out in 2011; and in 2011 Sue started listing and eBirding. She is grateful to several local birders who have mentored her – Brian Hope, Al Peregrinelli, Kenny Miller, Bart Scott, and Tom Smith. Sue is always learning something new and particularly loves the treasure hunt aspect of birding: the search, the quiet, the awareness of her surroundings, and the excitement of finding the special bird, the perfect little prize, and then opening it up and finding out more about it. In October 2015 Sue got a camera, and in recent years photography has added to her enjoyment of birding. She has submitted more than 7,000 photos to eBird! Sue took painting classes at the art school in Ft. Myers, and I saw a wonderful collection of flower paintings at her house. Since she started working in photography, however, she has not been painting. But anyone who sees her stunning images on flickr knows that there is an artist behind the lens!

I asked Sue to give me some tips I could pass on to new birders or to birders who, like myself, want to move to the next level. The most important tool, she

said, is a good, detailed check list for the area you are birding. Field guides are not always specific enough on the status and distribution of birds, on whether certain species are rare or common at different times of year. Bird with others who can teach you, and bird by yourself and try to figure out what you are seeing. Know the common birds well before you try to identify rare species. Learn the habitat and behavior of your target birds, e.g., whether they forage high in a tree or low on the ground.

Sue leads regular field trips for Audubon Everglades at Seacrest Scrub and Morikami Park. She contributes to important Citizen Science initiatives in her work as a Christmas Count Volunteer and an EagleWatch Volunteer. Her conscientious and informative eBird reports from her frequent trips to local hot spots are a terrific aid to anyone planning to bird in our area. Sue is a year-round resident of Palm Beach County. If there's a special bird somewhere in our region even in the summer, Sue will find it, either "birding by car" or by defying the heat and humidity to track it down!

[Woodpecker continued from page 1](#)

the previous year's nest. Nest cavities are usually less than 50' above ground but can be as high as 120'. At the start of the nesting season, the male Red-bellied Woodpecker will usually begin excavating more than one nest cavity, but it is the female who selects the site that is used for nesting.

Two to six white eggs are laid, and both adults participate in the 12 – 14 day incubation period. The young are fed by both parents and leave the nest 22 – 27 days after hatching. The parents may feed the young for 6 weeks or more after the young leave the nest. In northern regions of the range, one brood is raised, while 2-3 broods are raised in southern regions.

AUDUBON EVERGLADES PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

by Scott Zucker



Photo: Pete Lekos introducing the guest judge at a 2018 Photo Club meeting. © Lora Lekos

The fourth season of the Audubon Everglades Photography Club promises to be one of our best with seven scheduled field trips to great photogenic locals, five competitions with expert judges, four programs featuring award-winning photographers and two hands-on workshops designed to improve your photos.

The fun gets underway this September 16th when Club President Pete Lekos, an internationally recognized wildlife and nature photographer, presents a special Post-processing Workshop, where Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, Elements, and Photos (a Mac program) will be introduced, explained and demonstrated to help participants optimize their images. (Bring three images on a flash stick drive.)

On Monday, September 23, our first program of the year, “Black and White Photography in the Digital Age,” will feature guest presenter, Art Silvergate, an accomplished photographer who enlightened our club two years ago with his extremely practical program, “Become a Better Photographer Without New Equipment.” Now Art will show us how to capture the nostalgic beauty of black and white photography with our modern digital equipment.

Club members will roam the boardwalk and berms of Peaceful Waters Sanctuary looking for great photos on Saturday, October 5, during our first instructional field trip of the year. We will meet in the parking lot at 7:15AM. Pete and some of the more experienced members will be offering one-on-one instruction during the walk.

These three kick-off events should have you ready to take winning photos for our first friendly assigned-subject competition of the year on Monday, October 28: Botany. We will also have a Nature Open subject competition then as well. There will be plenty of ribbons to go around since the competition levels are divided into three groups: Beginner, Advanced, and Salon.

There will be at least one award of merit and multiple honorable mentions for each level. For both competitions that evening, Steven Roth, an expert Botany photographer who presented on the subject last September, will be judging.

To learn more about the competitions, presentations, and field trips scheduled for this year and to find out more about membership and meetings (time and place), please visit our [informative club section on the Audubon Everglades website](#). Refreshments are served at all meetings.

While Audubon Everglades Photography Club membership is encouraged, it is not a requirement. Guests may attend up to two club meetings. However, entry in club competitions and attendance at field trips require membership. You can join at any event or field trip.

Club Chairman and founder, Dr. Pete Lekos, a widely published and award-winning photographer, says, “Our goal is to increase our knowledge of photography, inspire one another in our photographic activities, and, especially, to make new friends.”

As the only (as far as we know) nature-only Photography Club in Florida, we welcome nature photographers of all skill levels. Members share their work, meet and form friendships with other photo enthusiasts, have their work critiqued by experts, and grow as photographers in this exciting digital age.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Susan McKerny

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

Community Science Projects
(bird surveys, habitat projects, etc.)

Community Events

Conservation Advocacy Team

Education and Outreach

Social Media

Volunteer Organizer

THE BIRD NERD: HERE WE GO AGAIN

by Bob Dieterich

Last month's bird quiz was well-received, so we'll give it another try.

Some bird names are derived from elements of the human condition. By the same token, bird names can be used as descriptors of humans themselves. Match the cryptic word scramble of the entries in the left column with the common names of North American birds in the right column. Answers appear on page 6.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mitred Prelate | a. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher |
| 2. Polar Madcap | b. Loggerhead Shrike |
| 3. Red-billed Beachstrider | c. Ruffed Grouse |
| 4. Lily-livered Insectivore | d. Arctic Loon |
| 5. Cellulose Decoy | e. Northern Cardinal |
| 6. Crusty Airhead | f. American Coot |
| 7. Masked Bandit | g. Brown Booby |
| 8. Irritated Curmudgeon | h. Barnacle Goose |
| 9. Old Glory Geezer | i. Wood Duck |
| 10. Toasted Dimwit | j. American Oystercatcher |

EAGLE WATCH

by Linda McCandless



Photo: Bald Eagles © Wikipedia

Bald Eagle nesting season starts in October with eagles all over the state refurbishing last year's nests. Eggs are typically laid in late November or early December and are incubated by the adults for 30 to 33 days. Bald Eagle young are generally ready to fledge, or take their first flight, by 10-12 weeks of age.

Over 40 nests have been recorded in Palm Beach

County since 1995, and several were known active in the past breeding season. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission no longer surveys all nests annually, and that's where you can help.

Are you interested in becoming an EagleWatch Volunteer? If so, you must participate in EagleWatch training, either in person, or online, [BUT EITHER WAY YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE HERE.](#)

In-person Training

Date: Saturday October 5, 2019

Time: 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Location: Jonathan Dickinson State Park
Kimbrell Education Center
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Online Training

Date: Sunday October 6, 2019

Time: 2PM – 4PM

Location: Via computer

Questions? Contact Linda McCandless, Palm Beach County EagleWatch Coordinator, by email to LindaM@AudubonEverglades.org

Duda Farms Wows Again

by Mary Dunning

Each year the Audubon Society of the Everglades organizes over 100 birding field trips for members and the community. Field Trip Coordinator Rick Schofield and others contribute countless volunteer hours to provide these opportunities. We know how much you love getting out and seeing birds in different habitats, and we are always thrilled to receive positive feedback about our efforts. Here is a letter we received from member Paula Gatrell about her recent trip to Duda Farms.

Hello,

I have written about my birding adventure to Duda Farms on 8/10/19 and would like to share it with other members.

Birders are familiar with early alarms, and our reward was the gorgeous sunrise over Belle Glades

and the spectacular flocks of birds at Duda Farms. Audubon Everglades Society (AES) has been visiting Duda Farms for 30 years. The land is privately owned and managed solely for agriculture with access by AES field trips only. The farmers flood the fields in late summer through early fall to prevent subsidence of the muck soil and to kill nematodes, which feed on the roots of plants. As the water begins to drain off, mud flats emerge attractive to shorebirds. Bird use of the fields is a coincidental artifact of the schedule of flooding the fields, rather than an attempt to create shorebird habitat.

The Auto Caravan Birding Tour was well organized. Communication between the cars was done by hand-held two-way radios with Chuck Weber serving as our primary spotter. There were many fields to visit with frequent stops for photography opportunities. The group saw 65 species of

birds, including American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Caspian Terns, both Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover, and Roseate Spoonbills. The bird that had everyone doing their happy dance was the Red-necked Phalarope. This arctic bird was spinning in circles, picking at the water's surface. [You can view the complete list of this amazing birding adventure on eBird by clicking here.](#) This local trip should be on everyone's bucket/birding list.

*Thank you,
Paula B. Gatrell
Member, Friends of Audubon Everglades*

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 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 _____