



# EVERGLADE KITE

## NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter for Audubon Everglades

VOL 60 | Issue 3 | November 2019



Photo: Pileated Woodpecker © Wikipedia

## Bird of the Month: Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

by Clive & Celecia Pinnock

The Pileated Woodpecker, measuring 16.5" in length, is the largest woodpecker in North America. This large bird, almost the size of the American Crow, is predominantly black with bold white stripes down the sides of its neck, white wing patches, which are obvious in flight, and it sports a bright red crest. This crest, present in both sexes, is less extensive in females than in males. Males are also distinguished by a red stripe on the cheek, whereas the female cheek remains black. The dark bill is used to chisel through the bark of dead trees in search of carpenter ants (a primary source of food) and other insects.

Pileated Woodpeckers are generally found in dense mature deciduous and mixed deciduous – coniferous forests throughout their range as well as in cypress swamps in southeastern United States. They also occupy woodlots, parklands, suburban areas, and backyards with plenty of mature trees and downed logs (a great source of termites, beetles, and beetle larvae). Additional fare includes bugs, cockroaches, caterpillars, spiders and other wood-dwelling creatures. The woodpeckers often use their long barbed tongue to get at quarry hidden deep in rotting wood. Their excavation leaves rectangular-shaped

holes and large wood chunks, characteristic of their foraging efforts.

Drumming on the decaying wood of dead trees and wooden telephone poles is used as a mode of communication between mated pairs and in establishing the large territory occupied by each pair. Monogamous by nature, each pair of Pileated Woodpeckers mates for life. However, if one of the paired individuals dies, another unmated individual in the surrounding community takes its place, enhancing the gene pool.

continued on page 2

## UPCOMING TRIPS NOVEMBER 2019

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

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

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

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

**10 SUN (8A-10A) Wakodahatchee** (Chris Golia) ●! <1

**13 WED (7:30A-11:30A) Loxahatchee NWR** (Rick Schofield) ●! >15

**15 FRI (8A-10A) Wakodahatchee** (Valleri Brauer) ●! <1

**16 SAT (6:30A-12:30P) Fall Pelagic** (Rick Schofield) ●! O

**16 SAT (7:30A-10:30A) Peaceful Waters** (Scott Zucker) ●! 15

**17 SUN (9:15A-11:30A) Riverbend Park (Birding by Bike)** (Vicki Rogerson) ●! >15 Bike rentals open at 9AM; No skinny tires.

**22 FRI (8:30A-10:30A) Peaceful Waters** (Clive Pinnock) ●! 15

**23 SAT (8A-11A) Riverbend Park** (Ed Kaweck) ●! >15

## JANUARY 2020

The following advance registration field trips in January will become available for online registration on their corresponding dates during the month of November, e.g., registration for the January 04 trip begins November 04.

**04 SAT (7:30A-12P) STA-1E** (Brian Garrett / Rick Schofield, coord.) ●! O

**18 SAT (ALL DAY) STA-5/6** (Rick Schofield) ●! O

**19 SUN (8A-12P) STA-2** (Susan McKemy, coord.) ●! O

**26 SUN (ALL DAY) Three Lakes/Joe Overstreet** (Rick Schofield) ●! >15

## 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

- ! O **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

by Mary Dunning

## November 2019 Monthly Meeting and Lecture Program:

### Eliana Ardila Ardila and Marc Kramer of "Birding by Bus"

**NOV  
05**

Tuesday, November 5 at 7PM

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

Dynamic couple Marc Kramer and Eliana Ardila Ardila of "Birding by Bus" will be the featured speakers at the November 5 Audubon Everglades program. In their talk Marc and Eliana will share photos and stories from their incredible adventures birding through North America in their VW Bus.

The couple met in 2006 and connected through their love of adventure, animals and birding. Marc is a veterinarian who specializes in the care of birds and exotic pets, and Eliana is the executive director of Project PetSnip, a low-cost spay and neuter clinic.

In 2018, Marc and Eliana stepped away from their jobs to pursue their dream of a North American birding big year. They hit the road, traveling 25,000 miles from Florida to Alaska and back in a 1978 Volkswagen Westfalia Bus they named "Valentina". In between birding and repairs on the VW, the couple married in Alaska and spent their honeymoon birding in Attu.

Marc and Eliana share their big year journey and



Eliana Ardila Ardila and Marc Kramer

other adventures with 12,000 followers on their Facebook and Instagram pages.

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

## Holiday Pot-Luck Dinner, Raffle, General Meeting and Lecture Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019 | South County Civic Center

Audubon Everglades' first general meeting at The South County Civic Center promises to be fun, delicious and educational! Join your friends and **bring a "ready to serve" dish for at least for 4 people.** Suggestions include a main course, side dish, salad or a really yummy dessert. **Please bring your own plate and cutlery.** Volunteers are needed for both set up and serving. Contact Paton White to help 561.818.7574

Woodpecker continued from page 1

Nesting occurs in wooded areas occupied by the woodpeckers throughout the year, but Great Crested Flycatchers, Wood Ducks, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Screech Owls, European Starlings and Eastern Bluebirds often compete for their nest cavities. Occasionally, roosting cavities are shared with bats and swifts. At a prospective nest site, located in a dead tree or the dead branch of a live tree, both sexes tap or drum on the wood. The nest

cavity, which is usually oblong in shape rather than circular as with other woodpeckers, is typically 15-18' above ground. Each year, a new nest is excavated by the pair. The female lays three to five white eggs, and both sexes incubate them for about 18 days. The young, fed by both parents on regurgitated food, leave the nest in 26 - 28 days after hatching but remain with the parents for two to three additional months.



# Profile: Dr. Pete and Lora Lekos

by Kristen Murtaugh



Photo: Pete and Lora Lekos

Pete and Lora Lekos moved to Loxahatchee four years ago, when Pete retired from his 33-year dental practice in Belleville, New Jersey. When they ran into Scott Zucker at Peaceful Waters, their conversation about Audubon Everglades (AE) and nature photography resulted in Pete's helping Scott found the AE Photography Club and serving as its president.

Pete grew up in Brooklyn and earned two bachelor's degrees - biology at City College of New York and pharmacology at Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. He got his DMD at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. His interest in photography started in 1969. By 1982 he had joined the New Jersey Camera Club and was competing world-wide. In the '80s he was judged the #4 nature photographer in North America and #12 in the World by the Photographic Society of America (PSA). He has an impressive number of national and international awards and has published his photos in many nature guides and magazines, including *Birders World*, *N.J. Outdoors*, and *Outdoor Photography*. The Associated Press hired him to cover games of professional teams at the Meadowlands. He was a speaker and judge for local camera clubs and international competitions of the PSA.

Pete has two fascinating interests. He collects and restores pinball machines and jukeboxes. He is also a professional musician and plays bass guitar and sings oldies from the '50s and '60s with his band "The Validations."

Lora grew up in New Jersey and lived most of her life in the mountains. Her parents enjoyed birds and always had a Cardinal in snow on their Christmas cards. She remembers her family's excitement seeing a pheasant in their backyard and her own astonishment seeing her first Pileated Woodpecker.

There were flocks of Wild Turkey in the driveway and Turkey Vultures perched on the neighbor's roof.

Lora earned two degrees in biology - a bachelor's at Thiel College in PA and a master's at Farleigh Dickinson University in NJ. She worked as a microbiologist and was the first female Group Leader in slimicides for the Drew Chemical Division of Ashland Oil in Boonton, NJ. She published internationally and authored four U.S. patents and one international patent. She served on the Environmental Commission of Denville NJ under three mayors. While her daughter was young, she worked as a substitute teacher and, for a short time, as Director of the Kumon Math and Reading Center. When her daughter left for college, she became an Adjunct Professor in the Biology and Chemistry Department of the County College of Morris in Randolph NJ. The College President appointed her to the Safety Committee, and, soon after, she was hired as the school's full-time Coordinator of Environmental Health and Safety. She was an active member of the College Health and Environmental Safety Society of New Jersey and served two years as its President.

Lora had avid birders among her work associates who took her on bird walks. Pete encouraged her to take her photography to a higher level. She joined camera clubs, upgraded her equipment, and learned more about birds and how to photograph them. She has won many photography awards but was most proud to have been chosen to represent her club in the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs, competing against entries from 27 other NJ clubs and winning 2 gold medals. Her image of a Great Egret with chicks received Honorable Mention by the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs and moved on to win International Honorable Mention by the PSA. Recently, she was honored when her image of an Osprey with Fish won the AE Photography Club 2019 Image of the Year Award at the Salon level.

Pete and Lora use their science backgrounds and love of photography in many volunteer efforts. One of their projects with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife involved monitoring and maintaining a trail of bluebird nest boxes at Pequest Wildlife Management Area. Pete also photographed the birds, their eggs, and the fledglings. In another project Pete's photographs helped the Fish and Wildlife scientists identify the endangered bats mixed in with the population of some 70,000 bats in an old iron mine cave in Hibernia, NJ. Every summer they head north and photograph nesting birds on Long

## 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

continued on page 4

# ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

## SUNDAY, NOV. 10, 9AM-3PM

Audubon Everglades and the [Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association](#) have teamed up for the Florida Native Plant Society's Annual Native Plant Garden Tour for the third year in a row. All three organizations will be together at the Forchheimer Bird & Butterfly Garden (link for garden list below) to answer questions and share information on creating your own bird and butterfly friendly habitat.

October is Florida Native Plant Month, and what better way to help our year-round and migrating birds than to learn how to up your native plant quotient! Birdscaping your yard to provide food, water and shelter is much easier when you see examples of plants specific to our south Florida region. When you plant for birds, you are helping wildlife and the environment, and, who knows, you may get one of those "one in a million yellow cardinals" to visit your bird-friendly yard.

Audubon Everglades members are entitled to a special admission price of \$5 for admission to all 7 gardens. Non-members pay \$10, and children 13 and under come in free. This year we have 6 self-guided gardens and one not to be missed online video tour. We will be selling tickets in advance at the Audubon Everglades November 5 chapter meeting.

Tickets are available the day of the tour at any of the gardens and are good for the entire day. The tour is self-guided, and there are docents and plant lists at each garden. All participants are invited to enter the 4th annual photo contest. For contest rules, see the link below.

Our three organizations are very excited to once again be donating a bird and butterfly habitat to each household while supplies last. This year's habitat gift consists of a selection including, but not limited to, Blue Porterweed, Coral Honeysuckle, Firebush and Jamaica Caper.

[Click here for more information, including garden addresses and photo contest.](#)

We hope you can join us November 10 and do some birding at these amazing native plant gardens. You are sure to pick up some tips on enhancing your yard to attract and support birds!

For further questions, contact: [Vicki Rogerson](#).

Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's  
**ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR**  
**7 Native Gardens**  
5 Private Gardens & 2 Public Gardens  
**Sunday, November 10th**  
**9 am- 3pm**  
**\$10 for the day - FNPS members free**  
**Pay at your first garden - cash & check only**  
**(rain or shine)**  
**Receive a butterfly and bird habitat!**  
**A native plant gift from 3 local organizations**  
**(while supplies last)**  
Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association  
AUDUBON EVERGLADES  
**PHOTO CONTEST!**  
**free with admission - rules at each garden**  
www.palmbeach.fnpschapter.org  
561-247-3677  
www.facebook.com/PBCC.FNPS

Lekos continued from page 3

Island to aid scientists documenting the populations. They have been trained by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to document turtle nesting in Highland Beach. They stake the nests with the date and species. Three days after the eggs have hatched, they dig up the nests and inventory the eggs to record the number of hatched eggs, unhatched eggs, still born, dead and live turtles. The live turtles are taken to Gumbo Limbo for rehabilitation and release. They volunteer for U.S. Fish & Wildlife, giving free photo tours at Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge (LWR) every Sunday morning. They also participate in the LWR photo mentoring program for school children.

Their latest volunteer initiative is a tram tour for disabled, elderly or injured people who want to do nature photography at LWR but can't walk the two + miles necessary to get to good shooting spots. They completed on-line and field training. Pete has been certified to drive the tram, and Lora is waiting for a driver opening. This creative program will start in November.

Pete emphasized the AE Photography Club's focus on "how to." Members are not just looking at photos; they are learning what makes them successful. One of the club's appealing features is the one-on-one mentoring novice members get in the field from experts. With today's digital cameras, feedback can be instant; settings can be analyzed and improvements tried immediately. The monthly meetings feature nationally and internationally known nature photographers who show their images and talk about how they took them. There are workshops on using software editing programs. The bi-monthly competitions are divided into proficiency levels and judged anonymously by distinguished guest nature photographers.

I asked Lora and Pete what principles are most important in creating a successful image. Pete listed the big four: 1. Exposure and Sharpness, 2. Subject, 3. Lighting, and 4. Composition. If your photo isn't sharp, ditch it. Lora stressed the importance of choosing the right subject and presenting it effectively. They both remarked on how much the Photography Club members have improved their images. They encourage AE members to come to a club meeting and see how much they can learn from the guest speakers and the members.



# REMEMBERING GLORIA HUNTER

by Chuck Weber



Photo: Gloria Hunter

Audubon Everglades recently lost a tireless champion with the recent passing of Gloria Hunter in Vermont. She was 97.

Known for her love of life and keen knowledge, Gloria took on many roles and accomplished much for the chapter and local birding.

A couple of younger birders recently asked how sightings of rarities were shared in the days before internet and smart phones. In Palm Beach County, the answer was Gloria Hunter.

Gloria acted as the local link in the state hotline phone chain. And, she actually wrote down and kept track of which species each birder needed for their personal lists, and called when those birds were seen.

Long-time Audubon Everglades members and birders fondly remember attending the many birding field trips Gloria led. She served as field trip coordinator for many years.

The trips Gloria arranged to Duda Farms were especially memorable. She never failed to remind us not to slam our car doors, lest we scare off the birds, an admonition we continue to this day. Cognizant of the great opportunity access to the farm afforded, Gloria worked hard to maintain the relationship with Duda.

Many also knew Gloria for her stewardship of the Audubon Everglades collection at the main County library branch on Summit Boulevard. An avid reader, Gloria loved books and enjoyed curating the chapter's collection.

A fixture on our Christmas Bird Counts, Gloria even took the role of compiler for several years. She continued to advise subsequent organizers, including this writer.

I feel so fortunate Gloria took me under her wing when I was a beginning birder. On one outing at Spanish River Park with Gloria and fellow birding legend Howard Langridge, I was desperate to see my first Connecticut Warbler. Gloria directed me to a particular path and area. I saw not one, but two, that day.

Very much connected to birding, the study and cultivation of native plants also drew Gloria's interest. She transformed her yard on the sandy coastal ridge into a shady native plant and wildlife oasis. Gloria readily shared her vast knowledge of trees and shrubs, as well as countless potted plantings from her home.

While Gloria and I frequently talked birds and plants, our conversations delved into many areas. I especially

cherish the memories Gloria shared of growing up in a very different Palm Beach County.

As a girl, Gloria's family lived in the south end of West Palm Beach. She told of cows being led across South Dixie Highway for grazing on vacant scrub land. Hard to imagine given what this area looks like today.

I saw Gloria open her heart, even her home, to others. Gloria was a strong woman, but one time discussing one of her acts of kindness, she used the line, "We are our brother's keeper."

That really sums up Gloria's life, in my mind. She continually shared herself and many insights. We are indeed our brother's and sister's keepers, including keeping our planet and environment.

I feel so fortunate to have been a friend of Gloria's, and am much richer for it.

[Here is a research paper that Gloria Hunter co-authored with Paul Sykes, BIRD USE OF FLOODED AGRICULTURAL FIELDS DURING SUMMER AND EARLY FALL AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT.](#) While many of us never knew Gloria, we can certainly see the footprints she left everywhere.



Photo: *Pentas lanceolata* 'Gloria's Heirloom Pink' is a selection found by Gloria Hunter, in the 1950s on the island of Palm Beach.

# Treat Yourself to a Unique Learning Adventure: THE 2020 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP TRAINING COURSE

by Scott Zucker and Mary Young



Photo: Paul Davis explains the importance of estuaries and hammocks at MacArthur Beach State Park during the 2019 Stewardship Course. © Scott Zucker

Imagine walking through native habitats with distinctive flora and fauna that you have never experienced . . .

Once again, Audubon Everglades is offering a seven-week Conservation Stewardship Training Course, an exciting educational opportunity to explore the beautiful natural habitats surrounding us in Palm Beach County. The course will run on consecutive Mondays, from February 3 to March 16, 2020, from 9AM to 1:30PM.

Fifteen expert instructors will engage participants in understanding how five fragile Florida habitats sustain plants, birds and wildlife, cope with invasive flora and fauna, manage species of concern, and adapt to growth and climate change. They will also explain the function and importance of the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

This basic environmental education course will include field exploration, complemented by classroom study, an advocacy component and special presentations during the catered lunch provided each Monday. Throughout, Stewards will be guided in developing a personal plan of action that will empower them to aid and advocate for their environment.

To bring you this experience, Audubon Everglades is partnering with the [PBC UF/IFAS Extension](#) with support from [Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge](#), [Loggerhead Marinelife Center](#), and [PBC Environmental Resources Management](#).

## The syllabus includes the following dates, topics and natural areas:

- Feb. 3: Two topics: Ecological Overview of Greater Everglades, including PBC, and Pollinators in a Butterfly Garden, to be held at UF-IFAS Extension at Mounts Botanical Garden
- Feb. 10: Freshwater Wetlands, to be held at ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- Feb. 17: Pine Flatwoods, to be held at Cypress Creek Natural Area/Classroom: Jupiter Farms Park
- Feb. 24: Scrub, to be held at Yamato Scrub Natural Area/Classroom: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton
- March 2: Beaches and Dunes, to be held at Juno Dunes Natural Area/Classroom: Loggerhead Marinelife Center
- March 9: Estuaries & Hammocks, to be held at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park/Classroom: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches
- March 16: Conservation Advocacy, to be held at UF-IFAS Extension at Mounts Botanical Garden

## [Conservation Stewardship Training Course](#)

[View the complete 7-week course syllabus.](#)

**Scholarship Opportunity for College Students:** We are offering scholarships for college students to take this course free of charge. If you are a college student or you know one who would be interested, this application is to be completed and submitted by January 16, 2020.

**Save this date:** The Monday after the course ends, March 23, 2020, from 9AM to 1:30PM, we will be sponsoring a Climate Symposium to explain the problems Climate Change pose to birds, wildlife, humans and the environment and what we, as citizens, can do to help. Current and former Stewards, as well as anyone on the course waiting list, will be invited to attend.

Course Fee: \$98.00 includes seven catered lunches.

[Register for Conservation Stewardship Training Course.](#)

For more information email: [stewardship@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:stewardship@auduboneverglades.org) or call (561) 876-8815.

The Conservation Stewardship Training Course is open to the public, so be sure to tell your conservation-minded friends about it.



# Kirsten Hines Guest Speaker at AE Photography Club November 25 Program

by Scott Zucker



Photo: Kirsten Hines

Capturing beautiful photos of South Florida native plants requires being both a brilliant photographer and an expert on flora endemic to our region. Our November 25 speaker, the author, photographer and conservationist Kirsten Hines, is just such a person, and she will surely inspire us with her presentation, "Reflecting Nature."

With her master's degree in biology and her background as an environmental educator, she draws on many talents to inspire the re-greening of South Florida's urban corridor. Her photography illustrates her co-authored books, *Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens* (2015 Florida Book Awards winner, Home & Garden), *Birds of Fairchild* (2015 Florida Book Awards winner, Coffee Table Book), and the recently published *Biscayne National Park*. She is also co-author of the award-winning book *Key Biscayne* and the Institute for Regional Conservation's online native plant resource, *Natives for Your Neighborhood*. Kirsten's photography has appeared in *Shutterbug*, *Expressions*, *Audubon*, various nature photography showcases, public art programs, and solo and juried exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally.

## October Field Trips Wrap Up

Photography Club members hit the boardwalk and berms of Peaceful Waters Sanctuary in Wellington just after sunrise on October 12. Ornithologist Dr. Mark Cook and professional wildlife photographer Jim Abernathy joined the group and shared their expertise with club members. The highlights of the day were five photogenic Roseate Spoonbills and three cooperative Wood Ducks.

Butterfly Magic was the theme for the Photography Club's October 18 visit to Butterfly World in Coconut Creek. Butterfly World is the world's largest butterfly park and home to more than 20,000 live butterflies from every corner of the globe as well as exotic birds and plants. Its concentrated environment offered club photographers wonderful opportunities to see and capture images of butterflies, many of which are not otherwise seen in South Florida. Pete Lekos, Alan Chin Lee, and some of the more experienced club members offered one on one instruction during the visit.

## October Photo Competition Results

Our October photo competition, which featured our regular "Nature Only" category (any type of nature image) and "Botany" as our special nature category, had nearly 200 submissions. Expert flower

photographer Steven Roth, who had wowed the club members last year with his botany images, served as our guest judge. We had some breakthrough winners from all three levels (Beginner, Advanced, and Salon), spotlighting the improvement that club members are making in their craft. [For a list of winners see 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), please visit our [informative club section on the Audubon Everglades website.](#)

## Kite Flashback

**What were they talking about in October 1980? How about 120 Wilson's Phalaropes, 76 Avocets at Duda Farms and a flock of over 20 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Boca!**

### ALL ABOUT BIRDING

The annual Fall Bird Count will be taken on Saturday, October 18 (make a note of the change of date on your new annual program). If you are interested in participating in this census, call Gloria Hunter for assignment to an experienced leader. Those who have counted before are reminded to contact their area leaders for instructions.

The compilation will be held at the home of Ann Ayers, 2944 Creek Road, W.P.B., at 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Palm Beach County birders have added two more species to our county bird list recently. Paul Sykes discovered a Seaside Sparrow along the shore on Hypoluxo Island on August 30. Paul conjectured that the immature bird may have overshot its destination farther to the north.

Howard Langridge spotted a Long-billed Curlew on recently drained fields at Duda Farms, Belle Glade, on August 24. This impressive large sandpiper, with its very long decurved bill, was seen by everyone participating in the weekly census.

Duda Farms continued to produce record numbers of many species of migrating shore birds. A new high of 120 Wilson's Phalaropes was counted on August 31. That same date produced a new record of 76 American Avocets, a species only recently added to our county lists.

Elsewhere in the area, a second record of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was made in early September when Brian Hope discovered a flock of more than 20 feeding in the Boca Raton Polo Grounds. (Gloria Hunter)

# AUDUBON EVERGLADES 2019 HAWK WATCH



Photo: Peregrine Falcons © Dan S.

The John D. MacArthur Park is a 437 acre park situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Lake Worth Lagoon. This subtropical coastal habitat is along the Atlantic flyover, where our group of 24 Audubon Everglades (AE) birders were able to see both the local native birds and the migratory ones. The foot traffic across the boardwalk gave us excellent opportunities to interact with the public, provide exposure for the club, and spread our passion for birding and our environment.

This event was from 0900 to 1500. The South Florida

weather was a warm 83 degrees and ocean breezes prevailed. The visibility was excellent. We set up on the boardwalk, scanning the sky, lagoon and tree line. Members also walked the boardwalk to the beach area in search of birds.

The Audubon Hawk Watch was led by birder David Simpson, who delivered a No Pishing bird experience. His knowledge of sizes and shapes as well as behavioral traits and movements were astounding to this newbie birder's ears. David had spotting scopes set up. Both AE birders and foot traffic were mesmerized by a majestic male Osprey perched on a dead black mangrove.

People asked, are there Hawks here? Yes! Our Hawk Watch Birding Adventure landed us 34 species of birds. The following is a partial list: 1 Cooper's Hawk, 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 15 Ospreys, 7 American Kestrels, 17 Peregrine Falcons, 55 Blue-winged Teal, 8 Royal Terns, 1 Forster's Tern and 11 Lesser Black-Backed Gulls. [The complete list and pictures are available on eBird.](#)

We had a rare surprise bird. A Brown Noddy was spotted and photographed on the beach by Julie Zambory and Jane Arden.

Watching the winged wonders in their various hues, plumage, shape and size made a rewarding day.

## Volunteer Judges Needed for Palm Beach County Science Fair Thursday, December 12, 2019 - South Florida Fairgrounds

In an effort to increase our children's understanding of science, the Palm Beach County School District sponsors an annual Science Fair open to any student in the county. We need adults to judge their imaginative and interesting projects. The school system will give a training session to all judges to inform them of the process and the rubric to be employed in the evaluation. The Science Fair has always been a very rewarding experience for volunteers because it gives them an opportunity to get to know many intelligent and dedicated young people.

If you are available to judge, [please register here](#). To volunteer or for more information/questions, please contact: [Fred Quan](#) OR [Vicki Rogerson](#).

# BIG SIT at Wellington's Peaceful Waters

by Linda McCandless

Al Pelligrinelli and I let the birds come to us at "The Big Sit!" on Saturday, October 12, at Peaceful Waters in Wellington.

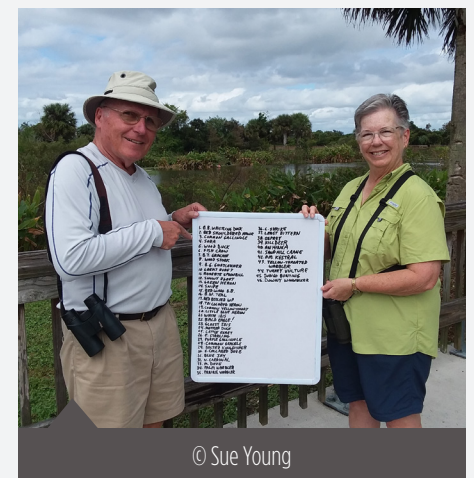
"The Big Sit!" is an annual, non-competitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. The rules are simple: tally all bird species seen/heard from a predetermined 17-foot diameter circle. It's a 24-hour event, but our circle was open from 7:30AM to 11:30AM. We anchored our circle in the gazebo in the middle of the wetlands boardwalk.

We tallied a very respectable 49 bird species, including Sandhill Cranes, flyover Wilson's Snipe and Bald Eagle, and we even saw a family of playful otters. [Click here to view eBird list for the day.](#)

Many thanks to the people who stopped by, and a special thanks to Doreen LePage and Pat Demko who stayed all morning and added several birds to our list.

Two reporters for the Wellington Town-Crier newspaper interviewed us and took photos. [You can read the article about our "Big Sit!" here.](#)

If you like sitting around watching birds, come join us next year, particularly since there is talk of adding a second "Big Sit!" circle in a different area of the county.



© Sue Young



## 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 ([make checks payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades](#))

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Gift a Friends of Audubon Everglades Membership!

