

Audubon Everglades

# EVERGLADE KITE

*Monthly newsletter for our invaluable members.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Bird of the month:  
The Golden Eagle
- Plant of the month:  
Purple Thistle,  
Nuttall's Thistle
- Program Feature: The  
Flamingo Project with  
Dr. Steven Whitfield
- Field Trips are Back!
- Join the Photography  
Group!
- Volunteer  
Opportunities

## BIRD OF THE MONTH: GOLDEN EAGLE

**BY CLIVE & CELECIA PINNOCK**

The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), measuring 30 – 40 inches long, with a wingspan of 80 – 88 inches, is one of the largest birds in North America, as well as one of our largest raptors. The yellowish to tawny--brown feathers on the neck and head are some of its most prominent features. The adult eagle's overall body color is brown, with juvenile birds displaying well-defined white patches at the base of the primaries (seen when they are in flight) and a white tail with a distinct dark terminal band. Additionally, the large beak, feet, and talons of the bird equip it with the tools that make it one of the most efficient aerial predators. In flight, the wings (held slightly uplifted) and tail are broad, enabling the bird to remain aloft for hours as it surveys the terrain below, looking for potential prey.

Predominantly observed in open to semi-open mountainous or hilly regions in western North America (rare in eastern states), the Golden Eagle occupies similar habitats in Europe and Asia. Its habitat includes cliffs, tundra, grasslands, coniferous forests, farmlands, and areas along rivers and streams. The species is

important to many Native American tribes, who admire the eagle's courage and strength and ascribe mystical powers to the bird and even to its feathers.

Golden Eagles are capable of astonishing speed and maneuverability for their size. They have been clocked at more than 200 miles per hour, diving on prey from impressive heights. Their prey includes small to medium sized mammals, such as hares, rabbits, foxes, ground squirrels, and prairie dogs. They are also capable of taking larger mammals and birds, including livestock, deer, mountain goats, cranes, and swans, to name a few. Snakes, fish, and carrion are also on the menu when available, and the list is by no means exhausted.

Usually nesting on cliffs, Golden Eagles will also nest in trees, on the ground, and in man-made structures such as windmills, observation towers, nesting platforms, and electrical transmission towers. Nest placement is typically where the birds are able to view the surrounding terrain. The nest, built by both sexes, is a bulky platform of sticks, lined with weeds,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**GOLDEN EAGLE**  
(*Aquila chrysaetos*)

**OUR MISSION:**

EDUCATING AND INSPIRING PEOPLE TO  
CONSERVE WILDLIFE, ESPECIALLY BIRDS, AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS THEM.

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## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT

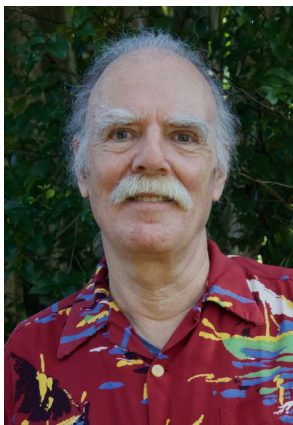


Photo Credit: Mary Young

**Greetings, everyone!**

I see that birding has been especially active in many of our PBC birding hotspots, and I hope that you are watching for some of the incoming fall migrants. Many of our fall favorites have returned or have been sighted passing through the area. Noteworthy birds seen in the past few weeks have included the Alder Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Mourning and Swainson's Warblers.

**Delta Variant of Covid Virus**

The fourth wave of the Covid-related virus, which has been driven by the Delta variant, continues to impact Florida and Palm Beach County. I encourage you to please continue to take the necessary precautions to stay safe.

**Tuesday, October 5, at 7 PM Zoom Monthly Meeting**

We are excited to have Dr. Steven Whitfield from Zoo Miami's Conservation and Research Department as our featured presenter at this month's general meeting. Dr. Whitfield will speak about the iconic American Flamingo and the efforts currently being made to help this beautiful bird acquire enhanced protection status.

**Field trips**

Exciting news! Audubon Everglades field trips will resume this October after a near year and half hiatus. To learn more about our upcoming field trips, please check our calendar at [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org) and be sure to see the article in this month's Kite on how you can participate. If you are interested in leading a field trip for the 2021-22 season, please contact our Field Trip Scheduler, Paula Gatrell, at [Paula@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:Paula@auduboneverglades.org).

**Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB)**

Audubon Everglades has been accepted as one of only a handful of Florida Audubon Chapters to participate in the inaugural installment of the Audubon Future Leaders for Equality Diversity and Justice in the Environment program (FLEDJE), a six-month series of tutorials and seminars to help provide us the tools we need to further diversify our membership and serve underserved communities in Palm Beach County. The Audubon Everglades team will be led by AE Board Member Debbie Smith, and AE Board Member Marianne Gabel and AE Volunteer Autumn Kioti will join her.

**Amazon Smile**

We continue to receive many donations from Amazon, thanks to your use of the special Amazon Smile program when ordering. As of May 2021, the donations have totaled \$789.51, a great resource for us. To get started using Amazon Smile, simply go to "Smile.Amazon.com," sign in, indicate Audubon Everglades as your agency of choice, and bookmark the page. From then on, when you are ready to explore Amazon, click on your bookmarked "Smile" page, and you are ready to order. They will send us a percentage of your sales without your paying anything extra. We appreciate your donations when you use this site. Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Scott Zucker**  
President



## GOLDEN EAGLE (CON'T)

grass, leaves, and moss. The mated pair (life-long pair bond) may have two or more alternate nest sites, using them in different years.

Two to four whitish eggs with brown blotches are laid. Incubation is done by both adults for 41 – 45 days. The female remains with the young most of the time at first, while the male does most of the hunting, bringing the prey to the nest. When the young are about five weeks old, the female joins the male in hunting. The young are capable of flight at 60 – 70 days after hatching.

The 2021 Bird of the Month Series continues to focus on North American species requested by our Audubon Everglades members. Each month, information on the featured species will cover its description, range, habitat, food, and reproduction. This information is also included in the Bird of the Month Power Point presentation at each monthly meeting.



PROGRAMS



JOIN



SOCIAL MEDIA

# AUDUBON EVERGLADES PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## BE PART OF AUDUBON EVERGLADES PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

*By Mary Young*

While "Friends" membership now includes participation in Audubon Everglades Photography Group (AEPG), mailings will only include limited photography information.

To receive all photography events information, including the ability to submit your photographs to critique sessions and to post on our AEPG Facebook page, please send an email to: [aepgregister@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:aepgregister@auduboneverglades.org) and provide your name, email address and phone number.

Please note that unless you send an email to register for Audubon Everglades Photography Group to the above email address, you will only receive partial information about our photography activities.

**Membership in "Friends" of Audubon Everglades is required to be part of AE Photography Group. To join "Friends" of Audubon Everglades, please [click here](#).**



## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP MEMBERS

### THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR TALENT!

We would love to use our talented members photos for our newsletters. If you're a member of the photography group and would like to see your photo featured here or on social media, tag us on Facebook and Instagram.

# VOLUNTEER



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY: VOLUNTEER WITH AUDUBON EVERGLADES

BY SCOTT ZUCKER

Become actively involved in AE and support our mission to inspire and educate others to conserve wildlife and the environment. Help ensure that future generations can enjoy all the wonders that nature has to offer! We have plenty of volunteer opportunities and are sure to have a place where you can make a difference. If you have a special interest or talent or simply want to give to the community as an Audubon Everglades volunteer, please check this list of volunteer opportunities.

If your interest area is not listed but you would like to volunteer, get in touch with us by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator Chris Golia at [chris@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:chris@auduboneverglades.org).

# CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

## Plants for Birds Garden Stewards

Volunteer gardeners or plant lovers are needed to help once a week or so for a few hours in the Audubon Everglades Plants for Birds Teaching Garden at FAU Pine Jog Educational Environmental Center in West Palm Beach. Tasks may involve weeding, pruning, plant identification, watering, transplanting, and mulching to help the garden thrive. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Lauren Butcher at [lauren@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:lauren@auduboneverglades.org).

## Purple Martin Stewards

Volunteers are needed to support our ten Palm Beach County Purple Martin partner locations by assisting with public outreach, education, housing, etc. No previous knowledge of Purple Martins is required. All that is required is a desire to learn and a passion to make a positive change for Purple Martin conservation. Shelly Rozenberg, our Purple Martin Project Coordinator, guarantees that volunteers will fall in love with these unique and social birds! Please contact Shelly at [shellyrozenberg@bellsouth.net](mailto:shellyrozenberg@bellsouth.net).

## Community Outreach

Assist with other volunteers in staffing the Audubon Everglades Display booth at local events and festivals. Have fun interacting with the public while providing valuable education about birds and the environment. Experience or prior training is not necessary, and all materials/information are provided. Please contact our volunteer coordinator Chris Golia at [chris@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:chris@auduboneverglades.org) for more information.

## Everglades Kite Publication Assistant

A volunteer is needed to lay out the monthly version of the Audubon Everglades Kite for publication on the Website. Proficiency with InDesign software required. We will provide the necessary software as needed. Experience with publications helpful. Please contact Sabeena Beg at [sabeena@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:sabeena@auduboneverglades.org).

## Workshop Coordinator

We are looking for a volunteer to implement educational programs, working with our AE team and members and other community resources. Workshop design should be experiential, related to birds and/or the environment, and relevant to the AE mission. You will work with our Education Chair and the public and coordinate with our Communication Director to publicize the workshops. Please contact our President Scott Zucker at [Scott@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:Scott@auduboneverglades.org) for more information.

## Library Liaison

Coordinate with the Palm Beach County Library (main branch) to collaborate, augment, and promote the ongoing Audubon Collection of books on ornithology, a project Audubon Everglades helped establish in 1979, which has become one of the most informative and complete collections of bird books found in Florida. about our photography activities.



## FEATURED PRESENTOR DR. STEVE WHITFIELD

Conservation and Research Specialist, Zoo Miami

The Florida flamingos. Who are they? Where did they come from? Where did they go? Join Conservation Biologist Dr. Steven Whitfield of Zoo Miami as we unravel the mystery of this iconic bird.

Throughout the 19th century, large flocks of American Flamingos were noted by naturalists visiting South Florida. Yet, by the start of the 20th century, the flamingos had disappeared, the victims of unregulated hunting for food and for the emerging plume trade. In the early 20th century, several wealthy industrialists imported flamingos into Florida to inhabit private ponds on their estates, and some birds escaped into natural areas.

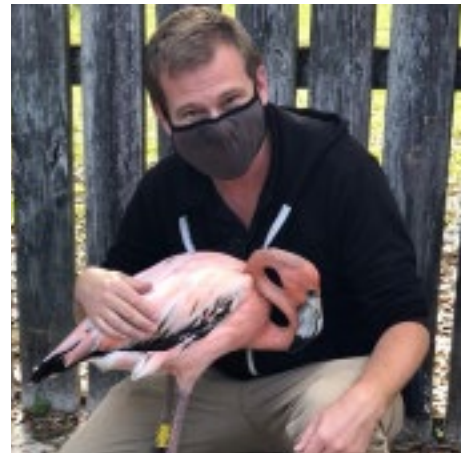
With wild flocks lost and escaped captive birds on the loose, ornithologists and wildlife biologists have speculated during the 20th and 21st centuries about the origins of flamingos in Florida: Are they the last wild birds surviving in remote areas? Are they escaped individuals of just one more introduced species finding a home in Florida's warm climate? Or are they birds from outside Florida reclaiming habitats where they once lived before hunting drove them extinct?

Dr. Whitfield will clarify the history of the species in Florida, address cutting-edge science by Zoo Miami's conservation team and partners to identify the origins of the birds, and highlight efforts to help

this species recover in Florida's natural areas.

Dr. Steven Whitfield is a conservation biologist at Zoo Miami, where he leads conservation research projects with rare and endangered species, including Gopher Turtles in South Florida, amphibians in Central America, and American Flamingos in Florida. Since joining Zoo Miami's conservation team in 2015, Dr. Whitfield has been working to build a scientific basis for the conservation and recovery of Florida's iconic flamingos, more than a century after the last large flocks of wild birds were devastated by hunting in the late 1800s.

*Dr. Whitfield holds his PhD and MS in biology from Florida International University and has more than 20 years of experience conducting conservation fieldwork in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean.*



## THE FLAMINGO PROJECT

PRESENTED BY DR.  
STEVEN WHITFIELD  
CONSERVATION AND  
RESEARCH SPECIALIST  
, ZOO MIAMI

- Zoom Hosted Presentation
- Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7PM
- 6:45-7PM Social time with fellow members and presenters

[CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER](#)





## AUDUBON EVERGLADES FIELD TRIPS

After a long pause from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021, the much-anticipated Audubon Everglades birding field trips will resume in October.

Field trips have been sorely missed, and we are all anxious to resume these outings. This year we will be offering a diverse choice of outings and programs. Most trips are led by volunteer Audubon Everglades leaders. Unless otherwise indicated, they are free and open to the public. When you arrive, we will have our

usual sign-in sheet with some additional Covid prevention practices we need to follow.

With safety in mind for all participants and volunteer trip leaders at AE sponsored and led field trips during the Covid-19 pandemic, Audubon Everglades recommends that face masks be worn and social distancing be practiced. Audubon Everglades also recommends that you stay home if you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell.

Audubon Everglades Field trip leaders reserve the right to refuse those who exhibit these symptoms.

Please see our [Calendar](#).

### Spanish River Park

Field Guide: Kenny Miller

Take a morning walk with Kenny Miller and discover the resident birds and migratory visitors at beautiful Spanish River Park in Boca Raton.

Date: Sat. 10/2/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Fee: Free

Park entrance fee for cars: \$17 weekdays/\$19 weekends.

Metered parking along the roads outside the park.

Meet: Please meet at the Northern most parking area.

### Tall Cypress Natural Area

Field Guide: Bruce Pickholtz

Join Bruce Pickholtz to look for birds in the dense canopy of tall Cypress trees at this beautiful Broward County Park.

Date: Sun 10/3/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Please meet at the parking lot.

### Jonathan Dickinson State Park Scrub Jay Walk

Field Guide: Park Staff

Walk through the imperiled Florida scrub habitat and learn about this unique ecosystem and the wildlife that depends on it to survive, particularly the Florida Scrub Jay.

Date: Wed 10/6/2021

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fee: Entry fee of \$6.00 per vehicle, unless you have a park pass.

Meet: Take the first left after the entry to the Ranger Station, then park in the small lot just ahead on the right.

### Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum at FAU Jupiter Campus

Wed 10/6/2021 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Field Guides: Tuly Datena and Alana Edwards

Visit this created native garden nestled within the Jupiter campus, which showcases various South Florida ecosystems and is a favorite stopover for migratory birds. Learn about the native plants and the birds and pollinators that frequent the area.

Date: Wed 10/6/2021

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Fee: Free

Park in visitor parking and use Multispace Meters

Meet: Meet at Gazebo in Arboretum

### Frenchman's Forest

Field Guides: Melanie & Steve Garcia

Known as the Home of Seven Ecosystems, this 172-acre natural area in Palm Beach Gardens is a great spot to see migratory birds and many of the native resident birds.

Date: Sat 10/9/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Meet in parking lot.

### Orchard View Park

Field Guide: Sue Young

Stroll around this lovely six acre neighborhood park, which has proven to be a hotspot for migrant songbirds the past few years.

Date: Mon 10/11/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Please meet by parking area.

### STA 5/6 Hendry Glades

Field Guide:

Through a partnership with Hendry-Glades Audubon, the South Florida Water Management District will offer the public escorted birding trips to Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5/6) located at the Blumberg Road Public Access Trailhead.

Date: Sat 10/16/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Registration is required through Hendry Glades Audubon. For more information and to register please visit: [https://www.hendrygladesaudubon.org/?page\\_id=110](https://www.hendrygladesaudubon.org/?page_id=110)

### Seacrest Scrub

Field Guide: Sue Young

The 54-acre Seacrest Scrub Natural Area in Boynton Beach has a variety of migratory and wintering songbirds.

Date: Sat 10/23/2021

Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fee: Free

Meet: Meet in parking lot.

# VIRTUAL & PEACEFUL WATERS

Field Guide & Artist: Autumn Kioti

This two-part workshop, one part virtual, one part in-person, is a journey to the crossroads of art, ecology, and exploration. During the virtual portion of the workshop, we will begin by reviewing Autumn's version of nature journaling and its materials and then explore various techniques in preparation for part 2 of the workshop. During part 2 of the workshop, we will meet in person at Peaceful Waters Sanctuary in Wellington, where we will use the techniques taught in part 1: finding the questions in nature, learning to create images "in the field," and using the natural world to journey deeper into ourselves and our artistic practices. This workshop is offered through a partnership between Audubon Everglades and Wildness is

## Part I (Virtual) -

Date: Fri 10/8/2021

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Materials Fee: \$3.00

Zoom Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nature-journaling-its-for-the-birds-tickets-167952599747>

Meet: Virtually

## Part II (In Person) - Peaceful Waters

Date: Sun 10/24/2021

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: Free

Meet: At Peaceful Waters in the Parking lot.



## WORKSHOP SERIES NATURE JOURNALING: IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

FEATURING ARTIST: AUTUMN KIOTI

# VIRTUAL & ARTHUR MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE REFUGE

Field Guide & Artist: Autumn Kioti

In this two-part workshop, one part virtual, one part in-person experience, we'll journey to the crossroads of art, ecology, and exploration. During the virtual portion of the workshop on October 22, we will begin by reviewing Autumn's version of nature journaling and its materials and then explore various techniques in preparation for part 2 of the workshop. During part 2 of the workshop, when we meet in person at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, we will use the techniques taught in part 1: finding the questions in nature, learning to create images "in the field," and using the natural world to journey deeper into ourselves and our artistic practices.

## Part I (Virtual) -

Date: Fri 10/22/2021

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nature-journaling-its-for-the-birds-tickets-167970760065>

Materials Fee: \$3.00

## Part II (In Person) - Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Date: Sun 10/24/2021

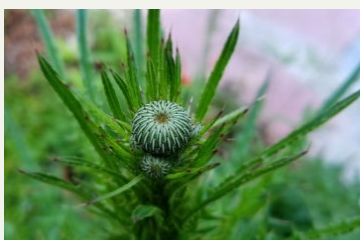
Time: 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM

Fee: Free

Meet: Meet in front of Visitor's Center







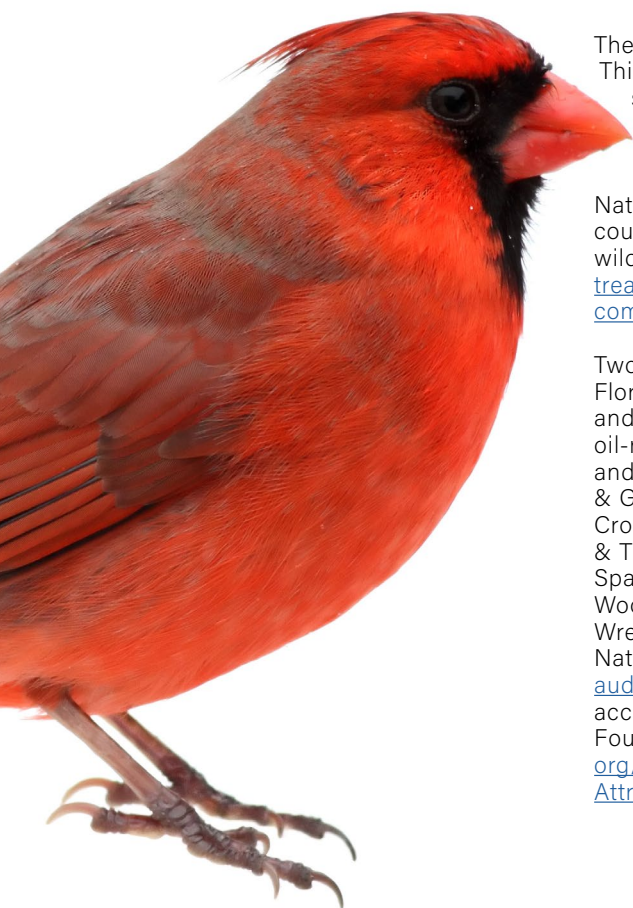
*Nuttall's Thistle Bud by S. Laurence*



PURPLE THISTLE WITH SKIPPER AT LOXAHATCHEE SLOUGH NATURAL AREA IN FEBRUARY. PHOTO BY S. LAURENCE

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Purple Thistle, Nuttall's Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*, *Cirsium nuttallii*) - By Susan Lawrence



The botanical name of the Purple Thistle is *Cirsium horridulum*, "horrid" so called because of the extreme prickliness of sharp spines on leaves and stems. According to George Rogers' Treasure Coast Natives blog, however, "Nothing could be less horrid than this proud wildflower" and I agree. <https://treasurecoastnatives.wordpress.com/2013/02/15/purple-thistle/>.

Two native thistles occur in peninsular Florida: the purple thistle *C. horridulum* and Nuttall's thistle *C. nuttallii*. The oil-rich seeds of both *C. horridulum* and *C. nuttallii* are prized by Cardinals & Grosbeaks, Chickadees & Titmice, Crows & Jays, Finches, Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Nuthatches, Orioles, Sparrows, Thrushes, Vireos, Waxwings, Wood Warblers, Woodpeckers, and Wrens, according to The Audubon Native Plants Database <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/>, and also according to the Florida Wildflower Foundation <https://flawildflowers.org/resources/pdfs/Publications/AttractingBirds.pdf>.

To its list of significant ecosystem support services, we must add that the Thistle is the larval host plant for the Little Metalmark and Painted Lady butterflies, a nectar plant for Black Swallowtail, several Skippers, and other butterflies. The flowers also attract bees, wasps, beetles and other insects, and even hummingbirds. <https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Cirshorr>.

Thistles are an ethnobotanical marvel too. The Houma people of Louisiana make a traditional medicinal remedy using the leaves and root of the plant infused in whiskey as both an astringent and as an expectorant. The Seminole used thistle down for the feathery end of blowgun darts. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirsium\\_horridulum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirsium_horridulum)

Despite these impressive credentials, thistle is generally not recommended for planting in the home garden, likely because of those daunting thorns, and for its tendency to spread throughout



# PLANT OF THE MONTH (CON'T).

the landscape. For what it's worth in Iowa and Arkansas the *Cirsium* genus is listed as a [noxious weed](#).

Yet, thistle is one of those fascinating, vigorous plants that perfectly typify Dylan Thomas' "force that through the green fuse drives the flower." The Nuttall's Thistle in our garden is well over 6 feet tall and growing, and measures nearly 3 inches in diameter at the base - it's the size of a small tree! We may yet rue the day we fell in love with this

beguiling giant, but as Blaise Pascal said, "The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of... We know the truth not only by the reason, but by the heart."

*Helen Laurence is a regular contributor to Audubon Everglades. A Master Gardener who loves plants, birds, and butterflies, Helen has a lavish native plant garden on her five acre property bustling with birds and butterflies. Helen also volunteers at our recently established Educational*

*Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Pine Jog Educational Environmental Center.*

## YOUR NAME HERE!



We left this area open for you! Do you have something you love and want to share with the Audubon Everglades community? Look no further! Audubon Everglades newsletter team would love to hear from you! All ages are welcome.

Contact [Scott@auduboneverglades.org](mailto:Scott@auduboneverglades.org) for more information and how to join our team.

# HAPPY BIRDING!