



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 51, Number 7

April 2011

CALENDAR

Wed. Apr. 6, 7:30 a.m. ARM Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Trail. \$5 entry per car. Leader: Pat Canning.

Sat. Apr. 9, Pelican Island boat tour. Contact Claudine Laabs to register (561) 655-9779

Sun. Apr. 10, 8 a.m. Gumbo Limbo/Deerfield Island. Beach Hammocks Spring Migration. Meet at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Bl., Boca Raton at 8. Leader: Paddy Cunningham

Sat. Apr. 16, 8 a.m. Spanish River Park. Meet at split fence on S side of Sp River Bl, just W of A1A in Boca Raton. Leader: Ben Kolstad

Sun. Apr. 17, SUNSET/MOONRISE CRUISE, Lake Worth Lagoon. For more information and/or to register contact Claudine Laabs (561) 655-9779

Fri. Apr. 22, 8 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd., Boynton Beach. Meet outside Nature Center main door. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Sat. Apr. 23, 8 a.m. Frenchman's Forest, Palm Beach Gardens. W side of Prosperity Farms Rd, 1.5 mi N of PGA Blvd. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Marvin Greenberg

Sat. Apr. 30, 8 a.m. Spanish River. Meet as above. Leader: Ray Buchholz

Panama rescheduled for May 12-18. The new itinerary includes the Highlands and a visit to nesting Resplendent Quetzals. Call Claudine for more information 561-655-9779.

Program for Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner

You won't want to miss the April annual meeting and potluck dinner! James Currie will present *Birding Adventures TV: The Making of Bird Television-A Behind-the-Scenes Look*. James is the host and producer of this show. He recently immigrated to the United States with his family and currently resides in West Palm Beach.

A lifelong birder and native of South Africa, James Currie has 15 years experience leading wildlife and birding tours. His passion for birding and remote cultures has taken him to, amongst others, Central and South America, Fiji, Australia, North America, Africa, Europe, Madagascar and Iceland. He has contributed to several publications, including the acclaimed *Southern African Birdfinder*.

He is also an expert in the field of sustainable development and holds a Bachelor's Degree in African Languages and a Masters degree in Sustainable Environmental Management. From 2004-2007 James worked as the Managing Director of Africa Foundation, a non-profit organization that directs its efforts towards the upliftment of communities surrounding wildlife areas in Africa.

Perhaps, if time permits, James will let us in on the secret of his 'golden birds'! For more information, visit www.birdingadventures.com

Our Annual Meeting will be a pot luck dinner. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the food will be served at 6:30 p.m. The annual meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. People with last names that begin between A-J please bring a main dish, K-R bring salads and veggies, S-Z bring desserts. Please bring ready to serve food, we have no kitchen. We will supply the drinks. We will have our exciting Chinese raffle during the dinner. Please call Paton White at 561-818-7574 to donate raffle items. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

The program will take place at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach.

Committee Chairs Needed

Audubon Society of the Everglades committee chairpersons are remaining the same except for Field Trip Coordinator. Valleri Brauer is going to be the new Field Trip chairperson. We need people to assist the committee chairperson. Do you have any time you could spare to help us? We still have openings for

- membership
- email coordinator
- technology chair/electronic media coordinator, ie facebook and blogs
- library

The Everglade Kite

is the newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, published 10 times a year.

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2nd Vice President

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ASE on the Internet

<http://www.auduboneverglades.org>

Audubon Society of the Everglades, incorporated in 1966, serves communities in Palm Beach County. Our purpose is to promote the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment and to advance human understanding of our place in the total ecological system.

Moved Recently?

If you have moved and no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact Linda by email (hlinda@aol.com) or phone (561-742-7791). If you would rather receive this newsletter via email instead of regular mail contact Ben Kolstad, ben@kolstad.com. Thanks for helping us reduce our environmental impact and our printing/postage costs.

Audubon Society of the Everglades Operating Budget

INCOME

Investment	7,000.00	
NAS	3,000.00	
Donations	2,500.00	
Membership local	2,000.00	
Merchandise Sales	500.00	
Fund Raising	2,000.00	
Field Trips	1,500.00	
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME		18,500.00

EXPENSES Preliminary Budget

Administration 2011-2012

Office Supplies/Postage	100.00	
Telephone	400.00	
Storage	450.00	
Website	200.00	
Fees, Licenses, & Taxes	350.00	
Insurance	1,500.00	
Accounting	2,500.00	
Fund Raising Expenses	400.00	
subtotal		5,900.00

Programs

Newsletter printing	7,500.00	
Newsletter postage	3,500.00	
Conservation award	100.00	
ASE brochure	900.00	
Hospitality	500.00	
Speaker expense	100.00	
Bush Wildlife Sanctuary	250.00	
Field Trips	1,500.00	
subtotal		14,350.00

Education

Lectures, school programs	-	
Everglades Day	2,500.00	
Library Purchases	250.00	
Green Schools	500.00	
Conference/ Convention	500.00	
Pathfinders Award	2,750.00	
festivals & exhibits	450.00	
workshops	450.00	
subtotal		7,400.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

27,650.00

Note about the budget: This year's budget reflects an expected operating loss. The board anticipates loss of funding from the Palm Beach County Cultural Council for our signature education event, Everglades Day. It also reflects the increasing costs of printing and postage for the *Everglade Kite*. In order to balance the budget, we will need to reduce our costs, which is why the *Kite* is going paperless (see announcement next page).

President's Column

Linda Humphries

I was leading a walk last weekend at Wakodahatchee. It is always so nice to see the familiar faces and exciting to see the new people who are joining our walks. We had a young girl join us with her grandmother and she was very interested in the birds and their names. I asked her if she had a bird book and she said no. I asked her for her address and I am going to mail her one of my many books. I had a neighbor from Canada ask me to borrow a bird book last week for their visit. She explained that she loved looking at them and wanted to look up the names. I try to give away my old bird books, especially to children. Look around your area and see if there are people who would enjoy your old bird books or old binoculars you no longer need. It is surprising to see how happy you can make someone by giving away something that is cluttering up your house.

We have been so lucky to have so many unusual birds in the area. I am writing this article on March 13. Most of these birds are still here at this date. Wakodahatchee and Green Cay have reports of a Virginia Rail. Okeehelée has a young Dickcissel, Indigo and Painted Buntings currently hanging out at their feeders. Our trip last weekend to Wellington's Flying Cow Road produced Canvasback and Northern Pintail ducks, a rarity for Palm Beach County, and many many limpkins. I have had phone calls about nesting sites for the limpkins this year. It seems to be a very good year for them. Also being seen out in the agricultural area were Yellow-headed Cowbirds and a White-tailed Kite. Make sure you go to our website, www.auduboneverglades.org and check out "getting out there" and select "birds" for the links to rare bird sites. TAS Birdboard has sightings being posted as they happen. Also www.ebird.com has a lot of information about birds being seen in this area. I understand a McGillivray's Warbler was just found down by Miami. I can't wait for the start of our spring migration. I hope you have a chance to join our bird walks and check out some of these exciting birds. See you at the annual dinner.

Field Trip Updates

Panama Adventure, May 12-18

Pacific coast, rainforest and highlands are included. There are two places available. Please call Claudine for more information (561)655-9779.

Pelican Island Boat Ride, April 9 4:30-6 PM

Meet to carpool to Sebastian and Captain Hiram's Marina to see the country's first National Wildlife Refuge. \$22.p/p For reservations, call Claudine (561)655-9779.

Sunset/Moonrise Cruise in Lake Worth Lagoon, April 17

Meet at Sailfish Marina on Singer Island at 7 PM. Bring a picnic dinner if you wish. \$26.p/p For reservations call **Claudine (561)655-9779**

Blue Cypress Lake Boat Ride, May 14

Enjoy a two hour morning tour of this pristine lake that boasts the highest concentration of nesting ospreys in the world. \$40. p/p. For reservations call Paton (561)818-7574

Bird of the Month

Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis is the taxonomic name of this South Florida specialty which you can see zooming around Wakodahatchee Wetlands in spring. Come to our April meeting to learn more about this secretive little rail.

Everglade Kite To Go Paperless

Attention, members of the Audubon Society of the Everglades. As you may have noticed, for the last couple of years we've been trying to convert our *Kite* subscription list from paper delivery to electronic. We have a good start: nearly 100 of our active members are on the electronic *Kite* subscription list. Unfortunately, this is just a drop in the bucket. Take a look at the expenses in this year's budget. Notice that our budget, while fairly large for an Audubon chapter, is still only around \$27,000. Notice also that our income is slightly (actually, substantially) below \$20,000. Notice also that by far the largest budget expense item is the printing and mailing of the *Everglade Kite* to every one of our nearly 2700 members. That's \$10,000 of our \$27,000 expense budget (nearly 40%!) devoted to printing and mailing this piece of paper you hold in your hands. \$1,000 per issue. And we've only been able to hold the line on our costs to this extent by eliminating two monthly mailings with our combined summer issues. We simply can't afford to keep printing and mailing our newsletter to our large membership; we just don't have enough income to support it.

Facing this reality, we are asking you to consider what it is you value in our newsletter. If you want to know about our field trips, they're online and in the electronic version of the *Kite*. Program info? Also online and in the electronic version. Bird of the Month? Ditto. Conservation efforts? The same. Who to contact on our Board? Also in both places. By electing to receive the newsletter electronically you can continue to receive all the information in the newsletter without incurring the enormous expense to your chapter's budget of the paper *Kite*.

Therefore, the *Everglade Kite* is going paperless.

WILL WE DELUGE YOU WITH EMAIL?

NO! Here's our promise: There will always be an UNSUBSCRIBE option. And your email address will not be given to anyone.

HOW SOON WILL THIS HAPPEN?

The Audubon Society of the Everglades is committed to regularly informing members of the many activities of the Chapter. The conversion to an electronic newsletter will happen when we are confident we have done everything we can to make sure this goal has been met. Notices similar to this will appear in future issues of the *Everglade Kite*. We anticipate a changeover in October.

If you, like me, are simply unwilling to give up your paper version of the newsletter, I urge you to become a local member, in addition to (or instead of) a National member. We are committed to maintaining the paper version of the *Kite* for our local members at a sustainable cost. It's just one of the many benefits of local membership, in addition to priority signup for limited-space field trips, birding workshops, and other chapter events.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please call Paton White 561-818-7574, or email Linda Humphries, hlandaase@aol.com.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Articles NEEDED! Send to ben@kolstad.com by the 15th of the month.

Join Audubon Society of the Everglades

There are now two ways to join ASE: Chapter-only membership, and membership through the National Audubon Society.

Chapter-Only Membership

When you become a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades by using the form at right, all of your membership fees are put to use supporting **local** projects: Everglades Day; Education Programs such as model schools and field trips; Scholarships; and Conservation activities. Audubon Society of the Everglades members also receive 10 issues of the *Everglade Kite* newsletter. Send your check, payable to ASE, along with this form to

Membership, Audubon Society of the Everglades
P.O. Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

National Audubon Society Membership

If you join ASE through the National Audubon Society, you also receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida. For details, visit www.audubon.org. To join the National Society, send your information and check to

National Audubon Society Membership Center
PO Box 422450
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Be sure to include the code **C9ZE000Z** with your application so NAS will know how to process your payment.

Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE)

YES! I want to become a **chapter-only member** of ASE. Enclosed is my check made payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades for:

Regular \$20 Senior (62+)/Student \$15
 Household \$25 Patron \$50

I would like to save ASE postage and printing costs; please send my *Kite* via email

I would like to donate an additional

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

I would like to volunteer for:

- Education
 Conservation
 Everglades Day
 Fundraising
 Other: _____

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (refreshments at 7) at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, located on Summit Blvd, near the intersection of Summit and Jog, in West Palm Beach. The public is welcome to attend.