



EVERGLADE KITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

Serving Palm Beach County, Florida

Volume 54, Number 7

April 2014

CALENDAR

Fri. Apr 4, 7:30 a.m. Daggerwing Nature Center, 11435 Park Access Road, South County Regional Park, Boca Raton.

Leader: Sue Young

Sat. Apr 5, 7:45 a.m. STA 1E. Car pool around Storm Water Treatment Area managed by South Florida Water Management District. Space limited. Call Linda to register: 561-742-7791

Sun. Apr 6, 8:00 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at corner of A1A and Spanish River Blvd. Check website for parking alternatives.

Leaders: David and Lee Hasse

Mon. Apr 7, 7:30 a.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, 13026 Jog Road, Delray Beach. BEGINNING BIRD WALK. Meet at top of boardwalk. Leader: Paton White

April 11- 13. Audubon Academy.

Parrish, Florida. See website for details

Sat. Apr 12, Three Lakes/Joe Overstreet.

All Day trip. Bring lunch. Car pool.

Park entrance fee. Contact Rick at ase@rschofield.net for details and to register

Sun. Apr 13, 8:00 a.m. Mangrove Park "Plus." 700 NE 4th Ave. Boynton Beach. Behind St. Mark's Church.

Leader: Linda Humphries

Fri. Apr 18, 5:30 p.m. Wakodahatchee Wetlands. PHOTO WALK. Bring your camera. Meet as above. Leader: Valleri Brauer

Sat. Apr 19, 8:00 a.m. Frenchman's Forest. 12201 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Chuck Weber

Tue. Apr 22, 9:00 a.m. Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach. 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. EARTH DAY. Meet at main doors to Nature Center. Leader: Linda Humphries

Sat. Apr 26-27, Ft. DeSoto/Spring Migration. Cost TBD. Leader: Paddy Cunningham. Contact Linda to register: 561-742-7791.

Sat. Apr 26, 8:00 a.m. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above.

Leader: Brian Hope

Water, Land and Birds—Conserving All That Makes Florida Special

Eric Draper, Executive Director, Audubon Florida

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 meeting & lecture

Come join us on Tuesday, April 1 to hear Eric Draper, Executive Director Audubon Florida, "Water, Land and Birds—Conserving all that makes Florida Special"

Eric Draper is Executive Director of Audubon Florida. A Florida native, Eric Draper is a career conservationist and is recognized as a leading advocate for Everglades restoration, water resource protection and land conservation. Previously, he was National Audubon's Sr. Vice President for Policy, staff director for the Florida House of Representatives Majority Office, and started Florida TNC's government relations program.

Current service includes appointment to the EPA's Environmental Finance Advisory Committee and Commissioner Putnam's Water Resource Advisory Committee. He serves on the boards of the Council for a Sustainable Florida and the Florida Ocean Alliance. Previous service included the Clinton-Gore Transition Team, the Florida Soil and Water Conservation Council and the Florida Water Management District Review Commission. He studied philosophy at the University of South Florida.

Our Annual Meeting will be a pot luck dinner and is open to the public. 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. Paton White and Maxine Schreiber will create our usual raffle. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

This annual event is free and open to the public—join us and bring-a-dish! Rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach.

Also at the meeting—April Bird of the Month, White Ibis. Come to our April meeting to hear more about this fascinating bird from our expert, Clive Pincock. Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

David Sibley at the Summit Library!

David Allen Sibley, ornithologist and author, is coming to the Main Palm Beach County Library located at 3650 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach on Wednesday March 26, at 6:30 p.m. He will discuss his new edition of "The Sibley Guide to Birds." This book is considered to be one of the most comprehensive guides to bird identification [the first edition is what stated the *Kite* editor's interest in birds back in 2000]. In 1979 a trust donation enabled Audubon Society of the Everglades, to establish one of the finest ornithological libraries in the southeast with the support and assistance of the Palm Beach County library system. This collection, housed at the Summit library, is an ongoing project containing one of the most comprehensive selections of bird books found anywhere in Florida. "It is my sincere pleasure to invite you to attend in the Multi-Purpose Room. We hope that before or after this exciting program, you get to take the opportunity to view the Palm Beach County Library System's Audubon Collection, one of the largest of its kind in the Southeastern United States." says Adam Davis, Main Library Manager.

Bird-of-the-Month Pictures

Please send May Bird-of-the Month GLOSSY IBIS pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the ASE web site to SheilaElliot@yahoo.com. Identify the name for credit, and if there is anything specific to look for in your picture (like banded, in molt, etc) feel free to add a few words for the caption. Meanwhile please enjoy our growing on-line gallery of member pictures on the web site (click Bird of the Month on left side scroll-down topic list)

The Everglade Kite

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

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Cynthia Plockelman 561-585-1278

1st Vice President

OPEN

2nd Vice President

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Alan Parmalee 498-0996

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Janet Schreiber 689-2530

Corresponding Secretary

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Field Trips

Valleri Brauer 385-9787

Membership

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Bird ID

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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.

In Memoriam

Gifts to ASE were received in memory of the following:

Donna Foiles
Freida Prince
Mae Berlanti

Audubon Society of the Everglades will hold its annual membership meeting, which includes election of officers and approval of the budget, at our April first meeting—no fooling! Dinner starts at 6:30 (doors open at 5:45), with the program to follow at 7:30. Here is the budget as submitted by the treasurer for approval at the meeting:

	2013-2014 budget	2014-2015 budget proposed
INCOME		
Investment	9,300	6,000
NAS	3,000	3,000
Donations	3,000	3,500
Membership local	4,000	4,000
Merchandise Sales	100	250
Fund Raising	1,500	750
Field Trips	2,000	1,000
Pathfinder		450
Audubon Prints		10,000
TOTAL	22,900	28,950
Everglades Day	14,000	6,000
IN KIND		
Speakers in kind	1,100	1,100
Rent in kind	1,800	1,800
TOTAL	2,900	2,900
TOTAL INCOME	39,800	37,850
EXPENSES		
Administration		
Office Supplies/Postage	200	300
Storage	500	500
Website & other computer progs.	450	700
Fees, Licenses, & Taxes	300	300
Insurance	1,700	1,700
Accounting	1,700	1,800
Fund Raising Expenses	500	500
Audubon Prints		5,000
Conservation Area Restoration		7,800
TOTAL	5,350	18,600
Programs		
Newsletter printing	2,800	3,000
Postage & Fees	1,400	1,000
ASE brochure	1,000	1,000
Hospitality	600	300
Speaker expense	1,100	1,000
Rent	1,800	1,800
Field Trips	1,300	1,000
TOTAL	10,000	9,100
Education		
Lectures, school programs	2,400	2,000
Everglades Day Grant	2,500	2,500
Library Purchases	250	250
Green Schools	500	500
Conference/ Convention	700	700
Pathfinders Award	3,000	3,000
Festivals & exhibits	300	300
Donations	500	500
workshops	300	400
TOTAL	10,450	10,150
Everglades Day	14,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,800	37,850

PAPER COPY OF THE KITE

ASE has converted our *Kite* subscription list from paper delivery to electronic delivery (email) because of the monthly expense. If you are a CHAPTER MEMBER OF ASE you are receiving your copy in the form (email or paper) as you requested and do not need to contact us. If you are a NATIONAL MEMBER and want to continue to get your *Kite* (email or paper) and have not already contacted us, you must contact Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net). You will always be able to read the *Kite* on our website, www.auduboneverglades.org

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON?

We are delighted to have you as a member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades as well. We hope you will join us at our meetings and trips. If you wish to continue to get the *Kite*, please contact Gail Tomei and let her know if you prefer to receive your *Kite* by mail or by email. Gail Tomei (561-969-7567/blackgrouper@comcast.net)

President's Column
Cynthia Plockelman

Thank you, ALL ASE MEMBERS—for the opportunity to be President of our “Audubon Society of the Everglades” chapter of Florida Audubon Society. We have met numerous opportunities and challenges in keeping our members on track and involved in a difficult era of anti-environmental “things.” As I prepare to “retire,” I should tell you that we have an outstanding chapter and I am certain it will continue to meet the challenges being thrown our way. Fiscally, we are sound, and environmentally, we are certainly among the leaders.

The programs have been outstanding, and have highlighted the quality of environmental activists in Florida on the whole. That does not mean we can relax and “go with the flow.” Being engaged in Florida’s constantly changing population, with a huge number of people coming and going all the time...would boggle others. We deal with it as a fact of life. “Everglades Day” is certainly on the map, and a marker for everyone to put on their calendar each year—good attendance this year, again, even with a lapse of newspaper help.

Our programs have been outstanding and we are looking forward to the presentation by Eric Draper, FAS Executive Director in April. Look for the list of officers proposed for election (see box below) this term and PLEASE. give them the needed support, as you helped me.

ASE Executive Committee Nominations Slate

President—Paton White
1st Vice President—Linda Humphries
2nd Vice President—Susan McKemy
Secretary—Alan Parmalee
Treasurer—Janet Schreiber

Election of officers for the term 2014–2016 will take place at our annual meeting, Tuesday April 1 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

**Bird of the Month for April:
White Ibis**

April’s bird of the month was known to early settlers of southwest Florida as “the Chokoloskee chicken” because of its size, abundance, and its habit of frequenting yards and neighborhoods—and presumably, like everything else in the culinary world, it tastes like chicken. A frequent visitor to Florida’s lawns and gardens, *Eudocimus albus* uses its long decurved bill, bright red in breeding season, to search for tasty (and lawn-damaging) arthropod grubs to eat.



White Ibis, by Ben Kolstad

Sometimes confusing to new birders, young white ibis aren’t white—they’re brown! But they’re not brown ibis, or Glossy (next month’s BotM), just juvenile White Ibis.

Come to our April meeting to hear our own bird expert, Clive Pinnock, tell us more about these characteristic (and charismatic) south Florida birds.

April is the Coolest Month—For Birders!
Ben Kolstad

T. S. Eliot once wrote that April is the cruellest month, and in the dreary world depicted in “The Wasteland,” it might even be true. But any birder who lives in South Florida knows that April is not the cruelest, but the coolest, month for birdwatching. Not according to the thermometer, of course, because you can already feel the hints of the summer heat and humidity that make life so, um, interesting here.

But if you’re a birder in South Florida in April, you get the feeling that something cool is just to happen—and probably will, right before you get there! That’s because all the birds that survived the breeding season up north and made their leisurely way south through Florida last fall, and then survived the “winter” on their “wintering” grounds, start to pass through south Florida, this time all dressed up to go a-courtin’. That’s right. It’s migration time again!

As I look back over my April sightings in Palm Beach County since 2001, I see the usual suspects: a dozen warbler species, the lovely tanagers (Summer and Scarlet are their names), buntings of many colors (Indigo, the dimorphic Painted), etc. But there’s also the La Sagra’s Flycatcher I saw at Spanish River Park on the first ASE trip I ever went on; the Great Crested Flycatcher that shrills its police whistle from a crotch in the slash pine; even the Black-whiskered Vireo I finally saw at “the mound” (OK, that was on May 1, but c’mon. Close enough.)

Keep your eyes on the weather (seriously, there’s a website run by a couple of Miami birders (Badbirds reloaded, <http://badbirdz2.wordpress.com>, run by Angel and Mariel Abreu) that shows and interprets radar reports of interest to birders in south Florida. From a WLRN article by Mark Hedden last year:

On their site you can watch the radar action almost every night in April and early May. You can see a cloud of birds lift up from Cuba at sunset and move across the Florida Straits. Sometimes the cloud disappears just as it hits the Keys, meaning the birds are landing, most likely to avoid wind or bad weather. But sometimes the cloud keeps moving, across the Keys and Florida Bay, the birds dispersing into the Florida Peninsula.

And that’s what we’re looking for, of course: birds moving up out of the migrant traps farther south, into our own migrant traps (Spanish River Park in Boca Raton, Frenchman’s Forest in Palm Beach Gardens, some secret spot known only to you and your closest friends).

When migration time rolls around, keep your binoculars next to the phone, along with the already-prepared alibi/excuse for the boss/spouse/kids, so you can get out and see what will only be around for a minute. Better make sure that minute isn’t the one before you get there!

DID YOU KNOW??

In 2011 there was a survey published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: roughly one in five Americans—about 47 million people—is a birdwatcher. Birders are huge revenue generators for the U.S. economy, spending over \$40 billion on equipment and activities related to bird watching. Birding expenditures also created 666,000 jobs and \$31 billion in employment income. About \$6 billion in state tax revenue and \$7 billion in federal tax revenue were derived from birding-related recreational spending.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
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ATTENTION: This could be your last issue of the *Kite*! See inside for details.

The *Everglade Kite* is published 10 times a year by Audubon Society of the Everglades, P.O. Box 16914, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-6914. Also available on the web: www.auduboneverglades.org.

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 state of Florida at <http://ccfcorp.dos.state.fl.us/search.html> and searching by name Audubon Society of the Everglades or calling in Florida 850-245-6052. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Articles NEEDED! Send to ben@kolstad.com by the 10th 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 will receive 6 issues of *Audubon Magazine*, and membership in Audubon of Florida, but unless you give us your email, you will not receive the *Kite*. 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.