



# EVERGLADE KITE

## newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 56, Number 3 December 2015

### CALENDAR

**Dec 4 Fri. 8 am Green Cay Wetlands,** Boynton Beach, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road. Meet outside Nature Center main door. (Valleri Brauer)

**Dec 5 Sat. 7:30 am STA 1E,** RSVP REQUIRED: Send email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com)

**Dec 5 Sat. STA 5,** RSVP REQUIRED: Send email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com) (Paddy Cunningham)

**Dec 12 Sat. 8 am Peaceful Waters,** Wellington, 11700 Pierson Rd. SW corner of Village Park. Meet at entry to boardwalk (Scott Zucker)

**Dec 12 Sat. 10 am Riverbend Park, Battlefield History and Bird Walk,** Jupiter, 9060 Indiantown Rd. Meet in parking lot in front of bike/canoe rental. (Jim Howe)

**Dec 12 Sat. Indian River Boat Ride,** Plus Ducks & Shorebirds stops, All Day Trip, RSVP REQUIRED: Send email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com), cost \$35 per person (Paddy Cunningham)

**Dec 13 Sun. 7:30 am STA 2,** RSVP REQUIRED: Send email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com).

**Dec 14 Mon. 7:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands,** Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Paton White)

**Dec 16 Wed. 7:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR,** Boynton Beach, 10216 Lee Road, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the Marsh Trail (Rick Schofield)

**Dec 20 Sun. 7 am STA 1E, "Unofficial Christmas Bird Count",** RSVP REQUIRED: Send email to [asetripinfo@gmail.com](mailto:asetripinfo@gmail.com).

**Dec 20 Sun. 4 pm Wakodahatchee Wetlands,** Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Valleri Brauer)

**Dec 30 Wed. 9 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands** Delray Beach, 13206 Jog Road. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Leader TBD)

**SAD NEWS – our wonderful treasurer Randy Hall suddenly passed away. Please keep his wife Mary Lou in your thoughts.**

### Annual HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER and LECTURE "Working Birds," by Susan Faulkner Davis, Award-Winning Bird Photographer, *Audubon Magazine, Nature's Best Photography Magazine* Tuesday, Dec 1, Dinner 6:00 p.m. Meeting & Lecture 7:00 p.m.

About the speaker: I am the child of a career Army soldier and grew up moving between the wild arid lands of central Texas and the lushly manicured farms of Germany's southernmost state of Bavaria. My grandmother, a school teacher and amateur biologist, introduced me to the plants and animals of my native northern Pennsylvania hills at a very early age. In time, the woods, fields, creeks, marshes and their inhabitants became my haven and a place to learn and explore. Each time my family moved it was easy for me to adjust as I found commonality in every new landscape I encountered. As a result I have always seen nature as my true home.

That thread of nature runs through my life. It is present in the jewelry I designed and made for many years. My leisure activities almost always include the outdoors... backpacking, camping, hiking, kayaking, gardening, traveling. The day I heard a Coopers Hawk screaming outside of my home was a turning point. It was a juvenile bird that had caught a dove from our feeder. He went about eating it on the lawn while I photographed him at a close range. Even with an inexpensive camera the detail I captured was astonishing to me. That was my start; I found my passion for photographing birds.

I found nature photography after a career in 3-D design. It is my way to escape the urbanization that plagues coastal south Florida where I now make my home.

Florida is, in many ways, a paradise. Living at the northeast corner of the Everglades, I focus on the many water and wading birds and animals that live here. I am obsessed with detail as I photograph, trying to learn as much as I can about every species I encounter. I try to capture the great beauty I witness in each animal. My ultimate goal: I hope that once you see life as I do that YOU will do your utmost to act to preserve our precious natural earth and her inhabitants.

You can find me on Facebook at Susan Faulkner Davis Photography.

Awards:

*Audubon Magazine* Amateur photography award for 2013

Publications:

*Audubon Magazine* January 2014. Purple Gallinule

*Nature's Best Photography* Summer 2014. Purple Gallinule

The meeting is free and open to the public – bring a dish and join us at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, rooms 101 and 102, 6301 W. Summit Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the food will be served at 6:00 p.m. Our annual holiday meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. People with last names that begin A-J will bring desserts; K-R main dishes; S-Z salads and veggies. Please bring ready-to-serve food, as we have no kitchen. We will supply the drinks. We have great items donated for our "Lucky Draw." Come join in the fun—we look forward to seeing you!

ALSO AT THE December 1 MEETING: Bird of the Month: "Screech Owl."  
Come learn from Clive Pincock about this bird.

## Report on Eagle Scout Project

*Susan McKemy*

Eagle Scout Garret O'Donnell updated us at our Nov 3 monthly meeting with a post-project report including a financial report, a summary of the work completed and before and after photos of the project area.

The project was completed on 2 work days in Oct (17th and 23rd), included almost 300 "person" hours to complete - mostly other scouts, and Garret's family including his grandfather, parents, sister and cousins.

The team did a LOT of very hard manual labor digging up the main walkway, adding weed barrier, replacing the main walkway with gravel 3 inches deep, adding soil to the bottom of the mews which were below grade and new sand on top so the individual enclosures did not flood when it rains.

The project was funded primarily with donations from ASE and attendees at the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Garret expressed his deep and sincere gratitude for the financial support of the ASE and its members for funding the project and had a special "Thank You" to ASE member Sue Revie for her significant financial contribution.



### BIRD OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Please send January Bird-of-the Month Ruddy Turnstone pictures (jpg format) to be posted on the AudubonEverglades.org 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. If you have hi-res versions of what you send, including .tiff files, please send these duplicates for occasional ad-hoc media photo requests from ASE. 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). Check out the full 2016 list on the website as well: <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/2016-birds-of-the-month-list/>

## President's Letter

*Paton White*

What a great way to start December! I love our annual holiday party and am looking forward to yummy food (supplied by you), delightful decorations (thanks to Vicki Rogerson) and a great program with Susan Davis. If you don't know Susan, she and her husband Don are members, and she designed our new logo. Our wonderful long-time Kite editor, Ben Kolstad, will be turning over the Kite to Sheila Elliot and Susan starting with the February issue.

And speaking of Ben, his annual Thanksgiving weekend field trip is Sat, Nov. 28. The next day is an amazing trip to Roger Hammer's private garden in Miami which Linda Humphries put together. I hate to miss both trips but am excited to be spending a long Thanksgiving week with my entire family in Houston. My grandsons have no interest in birds but my six-year old granddaughter carries her pink camouflage binoculars everywhere and we have plans to go "tweeting" for the ducks and geese that fill the local fields -- as well as local hawks!

Those who attended the November 3 general meeting heard Cory Callahan talk about how important birders are to gathering information for scientists and that by using e-bird to report all our observations we are creating a valuable resource for ornithology. We have two Christmas Bird Counts approaching. For the second year we are doing an "Unofficial CBC" in a new circle that includes STA-1. You need to register for this December 20<sup>th</sup> trip. If you have never participated in a count, it is a wonderful way to learn how to do counts, and how to count massive numbers of birds. Join the count and then have breakfast with us afterwards. It is a great way to make new friends for the New Year!

## Report from 2015 Audubon Assembly

*Linda McCandless*

The Audubon Assembly is Florida's premier conservation conference and thanks to ASE's conference scholarship program, our chapter was able to send seven delegates to the event. Held October 23-24 in Maitland, the focus of the Assembly was "Florida's Parks, The Heart of Natural Florida". ASE-members Paton White, Susan McKemy, Marcia Yeip, Gail Tomei, Linda McCandless, Danielle Vande Zande and Kathy Walters joined delegates from the 44 other Audubon chapters in Florida.

On Thursday, the day before the formal conference, we visited the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland. The Center focuses on the rescue, medical treatment, rehabilitation and release of Florida's raptors and is open to the public. This year, CBOP released their 500th rehabilitated Bald Eagle!

Friday morning, our delegates participated in two field trips:

- Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is a one-way, 11-mile drive and the area contains various habitats: marsh, open water, and oaks.
- Wekiva Springs State Park where Susan saw her lifer Brown-headed Nuthatch!

These trips were so impressive that ASE hopes to organize a future field trip combining these two natural areas and the CBOP.

We split up so we could participate in all three learning sessions: Sea Level Rise, Diversity in Conservation, and Making the Case for Florida's Conservation Lands to Public Officials. We came away with ways we can implement what we learned, including:

- Consider the aspects of diversity when planning our calendar, activities, and events.
- Advocate for our parks by notifying park officials when we use their park, let them know how many people attended, and what we saw.
- To protect our parks, start a Citizen Support Organization (CSO), like a "Friends" group, a coalition of people dedicated to the park.

A highlight of the Assembly was the keynote address by Rafael Galvez, the director of the Florida Keys Hawkwatch (FKH). FKH is the southernmost migration project in the continental US. No other project in the world has documented higher numbers of Peregrine Falcons in a single day or an entire season.

All seven of us who attended were inspired by the commitment and dedication of so many people enabling their chapters to accomplish amazing things, including building nature centers and education buildings, participating in education programs and Eagle Watches. An individual volunteer can make such a huge difference!

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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	(M-F only AFTER 5:30 pm)		
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\*denotes board members

all phone numbers 561 area code unless otherwise indicated

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR ASE CHAPTER ONLY MEMBERSHIP

All chapter only memberships expire on 12/31/2015. If you have not renewed your membership, you can renew at the December or January meetings (cash or check), pay online with your credit card at <http://www.auduboneverglades.org/membership/> or send a check to the PO box on the back of this *Kite*. All RSVP field trips give priority to chapter only members, so if you sign up for a 2016 field trip, make sure your membership is already paid. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Gail Tomei, blackgrouper@comcast.net or (561) 969-7567.



#### 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](http://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)

## Bird of the Month for December Screech Owl

Our December bird of the month is one of the most common, but infrequently encountered, birds in the county (unless you have an active nest box or tree hollow). The Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*) is a truly charismatic critter who occurs in two distinct color morphs: gray and red. It's also the least fussy owl in North America, comfortable in urban, suburban, rural, wet, dry, agricultural, and other ecological zones. Their diet consists mostly of insects and other small invertebrates, but they also take small birds. This last trait accounts for the reactions of most birds to the distinctive trill and whinny call of these pint-sized raptors. For an amusing read about one Palm Beach County resident's experience with these owls and their adaptation to city life, I recommend Andrew Furman's recent collection of essays, *Bitten* (University Press of Florida, 2014); the last chapter recounts his experience helping his son build a nest box for these little owls.



Screech Owl at Green Cay. Photo by Sandi Smolker

### Save the Date

#### John James Audubon at the Art on Park Gallery

On Saturday, December 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, the Artists of Palm Beach County (APBC) will host a lecture and slideshow “John James Audubon, the Man, the Artist, and the Society that Honors Him” presented by Maxine Schreiber at the Art on Park Gallery, 800 Park Avenue, Lake Park. The presentation is an offshoot of the “Audubon of the Everglades 50 Year Anniversary Exhibit,” which opens on November 16<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 30.

Ms. Schreiber, a noted landscape painter, APBC Board Member, and formerly Fine Arts writer for Examiner.com is also an active member of the Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE). John James Audubon's monumental work *Birds of America*, still considered one of the greatest examples of book art, consists of 435 hand-colored, life-size prints of 497 bird species made from engraved copper plates. In addition to sharing about Audubon's life, his artistic techniques as well as information about the Audubon Society of the Everglades chapter, Schreiber will present a slideshow of nearly fifty of his magnificent prints.

Mark your calendars for December 12th and make sure to take a look at the exciting exhibit. To honor the Audubon of the Everglades upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, artists were instructed to submit images reflecting the ASE's mission to conserve wildlife, especially birds, and the environment that supports them. The juried exhibit presents the works of accomplished Palm Beach County artists in a variety of mediums including oils, pastels, photography, watercolors and mixed media. A portion of the proceeds from all sales will benefit the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Gallery Hours: Noon to 6PM, Monday - Saturday. Telephone 561- 345-2842; [www.artistsofpalmbeachcounty.com](http://www.artistsofpalmbeachcounty.com)



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**Articles NEEDED! Send to [auduboneverglades@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneverglades@gmail.com) before 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](http://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 (or to use PAYPAL go to [auduboneverglades.org](http://auduboneverglades.org)) 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Everglades Day
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications

Audubon Society of the Everglades general meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30) 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.