



EVERGLADE KITE

newsletter

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 56, Number 4 January 2016

CALENDAR

Jan 2 Sat. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, Registration REQ'D: send email to cweber4aves@comcast.net. Coordinator: Chuck Weber

Jan 3 Sun. 7:30 am STA 1E, Registration REQ'D: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com.

Jan 10 Sun. JAMES CURRIE Leader, Special Fund Raising Tour at STA 2, Space Limited. \$25 "Chapter-only" members, \$30 others. By time you read this, trip may be full. Inquire by email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. (NOTE: in brochure this is scheduled for Jan. 9- Sunday Jan 10 is the correct rescheduled date).

Jan 10 Sun. 8 am Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Bch, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd. Meet outside Nature Center main door. (Valleri Brauer)

Jan 11 Mon. 8 am West Delray Regional Park, Delray Bch, 10875 W. Atlantic Ave. Meet at Bold Rock Circle (2nd drive on left). (Sue Young)

Jan 13 Wed. 7:30 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR, Boynton Bch, 10216 Lee Rd, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the Marsh Trail. (Rick Schofield)

Jan 16 Sat. 8:00 am Grassy Waters Preserve, "Behind the Scenes", 8264 Northlake Blvd WPB. Meet at Nature Center. (Paul Thomas & Walt Hackenjios)

Jan. 16, Sat. 10-11 am. Create a Pinecone Bird Feeder, event for children, Main Branch PBC Library on Summit Blvd. 3650 Summit Blvd, WPB

Jan 17 Sun. 7:00 am STA 1E "PHOTOGRAPHER'S SPECIAL", Registration REQ'D: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. (Don Mullaney)

Jan 23 Sat. Three Lakes/Joe Overstreet, All Day Trip, Registration REQ'D: send email to ase@rschofield.net. (Rick Schofield)

Jan 23 Sat. 8:30 am Wakodahatchee Wetlands, BEGINNING BIRD WALK, Delray Bch, 13206 Jog Rd. Meet at top of boardwalk. (Chris Golia)

Jan. 23, 10 am-1 pm. Community Build with Lego Blocks at Mounts Botanical Garden WPB. 551 N Military Trail (across from airport runway).

Jan 24 Sun. 8 am ARM Loxahatchee NWR, Loxahatchee Impounded Landscape Assessment (LILA): "Getting the Water Right in the Everglades", Boynton Bch, 10216 Lee Rd, \$5 entry per car. Meet at the Marsh Trail. (Mark Cook)

Jan 26 Tues. Lion Country Safari, "Behind the Scenes with Clive Pinnoch", Registration REQ'D: send email to asetripinfo@gmail.com. entry fee.

Jan 30 Sat. All Day Trip, Merritt Island, Registration REQ'D: send email to valleribrauer@gmail.com (Valleri Brauer)

Jan 30 Sat. 8:00 am Peaceful Waters, Wellington, 11700 Pierson Rd. SW corner of Village Park. Meet at entry to boardwalk. (Scott Zucker)

Jan 31 Sun. 6:30 am Belle Glade, Southern Palms Crossing (Costco) Shopping Center, 11001 Southern Blvd. (intersection Lamstein Lane). Meet in parking area N of Starbucks and S of Costco gas station. (Chuck Weber)

Monthly Membership Meeting & Lecture:

Tuesday, Jan 5, 7pm

"Palm Beach County's Natural Areas: A Great Success!" by Richard Moyroud, Owner Mesozoic Landscapes Native Plants Expert

About the speaker: After graduation from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, I established Mesozoic Landscapes, specifically to propagate and promote the great diversity of plants native to Florida, also offering consulting and landscape design with native plants. I have published many popular and scientific articles.

In 1981 I was a charter member of the Palm Beach County chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, served two years as president, and for more than a decade I edited the FNPS newsletter. Our active FNPS chapter worked diligently to help pass two county bonds for land acquisition, leading to the purchase and conservation-based management of many high-quality natural areas. In 1995 the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners appointed me to the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee, and I continue to serve to this day.

In 1984, the Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) was formed; I was a board member and continue to educate the public about pest plants.

In 1985, I was hired to help create a private garden on 11 acres in Palm Beach (Gemini Botanical Garden), where I stayed until 1994. The plant species selected were native to our phytogeographic region and planted in groupings that reflected natural communities. Thus, species from Florida and nearby Caribbean islands resulted in a unique landscape adapted to the soils and climate of the region. Today, I collaborate with Fairchild Tropical Garden, Montgomery Botanical Center, and Atlanta Botanical Garden.

In 1986, as a charter member of the Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN), I helped launch and edit the yearly guide to nurseries and plants. Still seeing problems with the correct use of natives in landscapes, we decided that a detailed guidebook was needed, so in 1991 the AFNN published "Xeric Landscaping with Florida Native Plants", written and edited by Michael Jameson and me.

In 1990, as conservation chair of the Florida Native Plant Society, I was appointed to the Endangered Plant Advisory Council, a state board under the Commissioner of Agriculture. The council evaluates and ranks species considered so close to extinction that they are listed as endangered or threatened in Florida. We also evaluate requests for grants (offered through the Division of Plant Industry) intended to help in research and recovery for the most critically endangered species. I still serve on EPAC, and have chaired the group since my initial appointment.

Mesozoic Landscapes is located at 7667 Park Lane Rd. Lake Worth 967-2630

Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments in rooms 101 and 102 at FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, (near Jog Road) in West Palm Beach. Meeting is free and open to the public.

Also at the meeting: January Bird of the Month: Ruddy Turnstone. Come to our January meeting to hear more about this bird from our expert, Clive Pinnoch.

In Memoriam

Gifts to the Audubon Society of the Everglades were received in memory of Randy Hall from Janet Schreiber and Cathy Hanson.

If your employer or other organizations have a matching gift program, please consider adding ASE to your giving plans.

COMING SOON
Everglades Day Festival
Songs of the Everglades:
Celebrating Migratory Birds

Feb 20 Saturday 9 to 4 rain or shine

Mark your calendar for this free, fun, educational 17th Annual Everglades Day Festival at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Part-time volunteers are always needed: contact Susan Snyder at roysue@bellsouth.net for info and to sign up. www.auduboneverglades.org/everglades-day-2/

**GREEN SCHOOLS RECOGNITION
PROGRAM**
VOLUNTEER JUDGES NEEDED

Help us score GREEN SCHOOLS applications. You will find the project very interesting. This is a competition open to all public and private schools in Palm Beach and Martin County. Cash prizes are given. ASE was a member of the original planning team 9 years ago. Pine Jog Environmental Education Staff holds a luncheon training session Friday, March 4th (mandatory for new judges; highly recommended for past judges). A week later, Friday, March 11th: Schools' Applications are sent to the volunteer judges—each judge receives three electronic applications to score. Scoring is due Monday, March 28th when Judges' Score Sheets are due back to Pine Jog. The gala award luncheon is TENTATIVE May 25th. For more details contact Andrea Lazzari alazzari2014@fau.edu, Susan Snyder roysue@bellsouth.net or call Pine Jog at 686-6600. www.ourgreenschools.com

**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 January meeting (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.

President's Letter
Paton White

Happy New Year! In our December newsletter I shared that I planned to go "tweeting" with my six-year-old granddaughter. I was so pleased that we saw snow geese and even unusual hawks fairly close, but all she could talk about when we got back was the great blue heron and I saw it through different eyes. Her description was "bigger than me and it sounds like a frog when it starts to fly" and then she gave a hysterical pantomime of how it catches fish. What fun it was. Speaking of seeing things through different eyes, I think everyone who attended our holiday meeting came away seeing birds that we know well with many new insights into them. Susan Davis's pictures opened up many new and interesting facts about blue herons and many other birds. If you missed it, there is good news, she only got half way through her presentation and we will do the second half next year. This is one meeting you will not want to miss!

An Ag Reserve update: There will be several important issues that the Board of County Commissioners looks at in January. Please sign up for conservation updates so we can inform you of what is happening and what you can do to make a difference. One thing that really shocked me was that for all the Ag Reserve issues, the commissioners are only receiving about thirty e-mails or calls and basically always from the same people. They have made it harder to reach each commissioner by eliminating the e-mail "to all commissioners" so now you have to include each one's email address, but if you go to our website the addresses are all listed. I was a little slow, but after several issues I realized that the easiest thing is just to make a BCC group, saves a ton of time.

Another conservation issue to watch is the extension of State Road 7. We will need a lot of support on this as it threatens Grassy Waters and the water supply of West Palm Beach and the Town of Palm Beach.

I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year!

—Paton

**VERO - WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER
WETLANDS FACILITY**

David Simpson

Everyone has heard of the Viera Wetlands in Brevard County, but did you know that Indian River County has a wetlands? Tucked away next to the interstate on 8th St. in Vero Beach is the West County Wastewater Wetlands Facility, Vero Wetlands if you will. The wetlands are open daily from 7 to 3. Treated waste water filters through 13 cells of varying depths and vegetation types, providing habitat for a wide variety of plants, birds, and animals. Grassy berms between the cells offer miles of easy walking and wildlife viewing. A cypress dome near the southern boundary hosts numerous water birds that roost every night. Early visitors can watch a parade of egrets, herons, and others leaving by the 100's, but many birds remain at the wetlands for all to see.

Unlike Viera Wetlands, access to this site is strictly by foot. Not to worry, though. The berms are easily traveled and there is lots to see, even within a short walk. I hope to see you out there. You never know what we might find!

For the entire article, go to www.auduboneverglades.org/birds/other-birding-locations/

Call for Bird Photos for Constant Contact

I write the constant contact mini email newsletter every month, sending it out the weekend before the monthly meeting. I always pick out a photo I think is good (or whatever I can find) and put it in the photo area of the newsletter. What if we start a monthly contest and have a couple photo people from ASE choose one of the photos for me to use each month? Would someone like to do this? Contact Linda Humphries 586-854-0145.

PS—in the meantime, I'd love to receive your latest bird photo until the contest gets going—call me to see if I've already received a picture for the next emailing.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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*denotes board members

all phone numbers 561 area code unless otherwise indicated

ASE's Scrapbooks

In the past, ASE kept physical scrapbooks of press clippings and other ephemera, which will be on display for the April 5 special 50th Anniversary Member Meeting. After that, they will be donated to the Palm Beach Historical Society where they will be conserved, preserved, scanned, and made available to historians, scholars and the public.

Meanwhile we are starting a new on-line "scrapbook" of press clippings at www.auduboneverglades.org/press/press-clippings/, a sub-tab under the "press" tab above the picture. Take a moment to check the ASE web site for the latest press notices, including the "coffee table" Art & Culture Magazine "Flamingoes of Palm Beach County" (p 52).

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)

Bird of the Month for January: Ruddy Turnstone

Ben Kolstad

Kicking off this year's "shorebird series" of birds of the month is a strikingly patterned shorebird that is a regular and common wintering species here in Palm Beach County: Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). One of the most widespread and common wintering shorebird species worldwide, RUTU prefers rocky coasts and shorelines where it can put to good use the foraging habit that gives it its common name: turning stones over with its bill. This habit, combined with its unusual shape, make it recognizable from a fair distance. Pete Dunne, in his *Essential Field Guide Companion*, describes its appearance thus: "The body is pointy and ovate, shaped somewhat like a croissant. The head appears too small for the body; the bill is short, pointy, and seems very slightly upturned; and the bright orange legs are stumpy, comically short." The short legs are presumably responsible for its characteristic "waddling" gait.



Ruddy Turnstone, Camp Wesumkee, Florida Keys. Photo by Dr. Lester F. Shalloway

Like several other shorebirds, it has a striking plumage pattern in flight, with bold outlines everywhere: a thick white stripe down the middle of the back and white stripes outlining the wings make it quite an eyeful, even in winter plumage. Dunne again: Its flight is "strong and direct, with stiff hurried wingbeats. Not particularly nimble, ruddy turnstone seems to require a braking effort or premeditated care when landing." This bird can be seen almost anywhere on our beaches or along the shores and docks of the Lake Worth Lagoon. There are records in every season, but it is least commonly found in summer.

Bird of the Month Selections for 2016

Clive Pinnock

2016 Birds of the Month will be these shorebirds seen in Florida:

Jan Ruddy Turnstone	Jul Lesser Yellowlegs
Feb Sanderling	Aug Greater Yellowlegs
Mar Western Sandpiper	Sep Solitary Sandpiper
Apr Least Sandpiper	Oct Spotted Sandpiper
May Semipalmated Sandpiper	Nov Killdeer
Jun Willet	Dec Black-bellied Plover

BIRD OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Please send February Bird-of-the Month Sanderling 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).

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Articles NEEDED! Send to 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. 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) 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

☐ Everglades Day

☐ Monthly Meetings

☐ Fundraising

☐ Conservation

☐ Finance Committee

☐ Community Outreach

☐ 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.