

EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF THE EVERGLADES
(serving Palm Beach County, Florida)

Volume 43, No. 11

August 2003

CALENDAR

Tues. August 5th — GENERAL MEETING

Members' Slides Presentations
7:30 PM at the **NEW LOCATION**

▶▶ Howard Park Recreation Center ◀◀

Tues. September 2nd — GENERAL MEETING

"Florida's Wildlife"

With David Hitzig, Director, Bush Wildlife Sanctuary
7:30 PM at Howard Park

===== **FIELD TRIPS** =====

Saturday August 9th AND Saturday August 16th

Duda Farms, Belle Glade

See Page 3 for details

For further information you can call:
Gloria Hunter at 561-585-7714

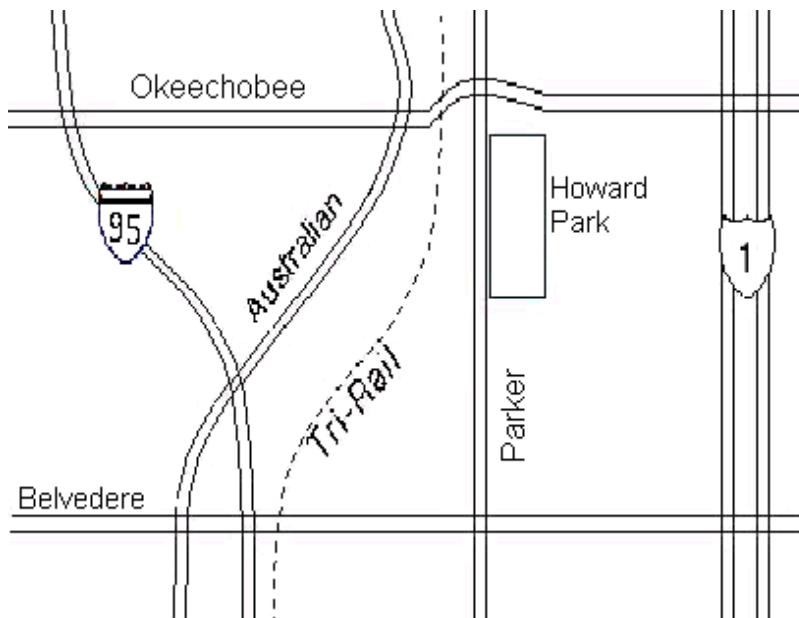
TUESDAY, August 5th PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, Program Chair

THE BIG PICTURE

Or, at least a lot of little ones. It is members' photo night, so bring your year's best photos to our meeting at the new location. Bring prints, digital or slides. (We provide the projector and carousel tray) Slides are limited to 15 per person - please, no man-made objects or people, unless taken on an ASE field trip.

Join us at 7:30 P.M. at
Howard Park Community Center !



IMPORTANT REMINDER

▶▶ **NEW LOCATION:** ◀◀

This month's General Meeting, and all following meetings, will take place at our new location, **Howard Park**, in the Recreation Center.

Howard Park is located east of I-95 about 400 yards south of Okeechobee Blvd. between Parker Ave. and S. Lake Ave.

The phone number for the park's Recreation center is:
561-835-7055

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

— Carol Shields —

We're giving away land!

Actually developers are developing what land we have faster than we can save it.

Precious land issues are up front in the news. Recently, in The Palm Beach Post there have been articles on how most of the Florida's employed are in construction rather than manufacturing. Officials in Palm Beach County are considering land use issues and growth management.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades has been, and can potentially be, stewards of protected land. Our island sanctuaries in the intracoastal are a prime example. Fisherman, St, John, Hunter, and Bingham islands are all in the care of the Audubon Society, in established leases set forth by the owners. The Audubon Society oversees the islands. We clean-up trash, take bird counts, and periodically visit the islands for exotic removal. But most importantly, these islands have remained natural and hopefully will continue in perpetuity.

Our Audubon chapter also fights for land that citizens have paid tax money for and should be protected. Environmentally sensitive lands (ESL) are properties purchased through the bond program with Palm Beach County tax payers' money. We paid to have these lands protected in perpetuity. Yet we are currently fighting against having a road built through one of these pieces of property.

You might have heard of the Pond Cypress Reserve in Royal Palm Beach. This is ESL property purchased with your bond money and the county commissioners want to develop a reliever road through the pristine wetland. What trust can we have in the county if they don't hold to their promise of keeping ESL properties as is. These are, after all, sensitive lands.

You can help protect our lands by voicing your concerns and getting involved even if it means writing one letter or making a phone call.

You can consider protecting your own undeveloped land through a conservation easement. This is a way for a landowner to voluntarily place permanent restrictions on future use of his or her land, thereby protecting its particular natural attributes. This legal agreement provides for a conservation agency to hold the easement and enforce the restrictions. Your responsibilities and rewards of ownership continue, and unless specified otherwise, you retain full control over public access. There are organizations, including the Audubon Society, that can serve as the conservation agency on such agreements. A conservation easement is permanent and binds all present and future owners of the eased land. it is recorded like any other title interest, and goes with the land whether it is transferred by sale, by gift, or by devise.

Another option is to bequeath you land to a non-profit organization that undertakes stewardship of property for protection.

If you wish to keep urban sprawl from covering all of Palm Beach County; if you enjoy the view of wooded areas teeming with wildlife, then check into the options I have suggested above. There is always a way to help.

Don' Miss Out!

Duda Farms Field Trips— by Gloria Hunter

August brings our annual visit to the flooded fields of Duda Farms in Belle Glade to look for the shorebirds and wading birds that concentrate on these fields. To reduce the number of visitors at any one time, Duda Farms is kindly allowing two trips again this year. The dates will be Saturday August 9, and Saturday August 16. The fewer the number of cars involved in these trips, the more enjoyable they are for everyone, so please plan to carpool and to limit your participation to one trip only!

Please meet at the Target store at the northeast corner of the intersection of Southern Blvd. (State Road 80) and 441/State Road 7. We park on the west side of the parking lot, next to the garden center. Carpooling is required and we leave Target at 7:00 a.m. Return to the coast will be around 12:00, noon.

Come with a full tank of gas; bring binoculars and spotting scopes, fluids, snacks, sunscreen, and hats. There will be very little walking but expect intense heat and glare. We will see myriad migrating shorebirds and spectacular gatherings of our local wading birds.

Please note that we are responsible for everyone arriving and departing as a group. The farms are private and not open to the public and we have special permission from the Duda Farms management to bird on their property for these two annual field trips.

For questions, please call me at 561-585-7714. Please DO NOT Call Duda!

Airshow of Cliff Swallows

By Hank McCall

Seven miles south of Kenmare, ND there is a small concrete bridge on the Wildlife Trail of DesLacs River Refuge. We were so intent on watching a Western Grebe and her chicks that at first we failed to notice the cloud of Cliff Swallows swarming above the bridge. A solid stream dove under the east side and another solid stream came out of the west side to swarm up 200 feet and then dive under the bridge again. They were having great fun flying at full throttle.

Under the bridge three concrete support beams were covered on both sides with what looked like coconut shells with holes in their sides. There were at least 1000 of these mud apartments slapped together with common walls, floors, and ceilings. Little heads poked out of the holes to watch the fast flyers zipping by.

We will never forget the sheer joy energy of this colony of cliff swallows.

Save The Date!

From: Leah Shad
Member, Conference Planning Committee

Mark your calendars now for September 17, 2003! "Can We Keep Agriculture in the South Florida Ecosystem?" is the theme for an Agro-Ecology Conference set for September 17th at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning. The purpose of this conference is to provide direction to the scientific research Community regarding agricultural research necessary to support ecosystem restoration, including CERP implementation. The conference objective is to understand agriculture as a long term component in the south Florida landscape and explore the scientific basis for decision-making.

Registration fee is \$20.00 before September 3, 2003 and \$25.00 after that date. The fee covers lunch, refreshments, and materials. For additional information please call Doreen DiCarlo, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University in Palm Beach Gardens at 799-8553.

Thank You Volunteers!

July's Meeting Hospitality
was provided by:

Volunteer's name will be in next
month's KITE

ASE's 5th Young Naturalist Program ***"Prey and Predator"***

The Audubon Society of the Everglades is once again bringing nature closer to the children. This year the Palm Beach Zoo will be host to our Young Naturalist Program (YNP).

The YNP will be held Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 until 12:30 at the Palm Beach Zoo, 1301 Summit Blvd. in West Palm Beach. This year's theme highlights the food chain, an integral web of prey and predator. We will have guests with live animals and activities relating to the food chain. Refreshments will also be served.

This program is offered free to school-aged children ages 6-15 accompanied by an adult. Scout groups are also welcomed. PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY. There will be no registration allowed the day of the event. To reserve your spot call 561-433-4063, or 561-434-5327. Seating is limited.

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

In Florida, a special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades. Your membership will include subscriptions to AUDUBON Magazine and the EVERGLADE KITE.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Regular Membership ----- \$20.00
Senior Citizen ----- \$15.00

Recipient of Gift Membership:

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

Make check payable to: **National Audubon Society**

and send to:

Membership Chair
Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL, 33416-6914

E00 7XCH

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Recreation Center in West Palm Beach.
The public is welcome.

Deadline for submissions for the Sep. issue is August 14th.

Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
West Palm Beach,
FL, 33416-6914

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, Florida
Permit 46

The Everglade Kite
is published 12 times a year

President

Carol Shields - 561-964-1522

Kite Editor

Tammy Peeples
Audubontam@yahoo.com

Field Trips

Linda Most - 561-684-8693

Bird Identification

Gloria Hunter - 561-585-7714

ASE Internet Address

Audubon@auduboneverglades.org

Website

Auduboneverglades.org



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER