



EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 44, No. 6

March 2004

CALENDAR

Tues. Mar. 2nd — GENERAL MEETING
7:30 PM at Howard Park

▶ ▶ Howard Park Recreation Center ◀ ◀

Fri. Mar. 5th 6:00 p.m. — Moonlight Boat-ride.
Tour Audubon's Palm Beach Sanctuary Islands
by boat.

Sat. Mar 6th 9:00 a.m. — Nature walk at the Cus-
tard Apple Trail in John Prince Park, Lake Worth.
Leader: Bruce Offord

Tues. Mar. 9th 9:00 a.m. — Delray Oaks Natural
Area, 1 mile south of Linton Blvd. On Congress
Ave. Entrance is on S.W. 29th St. Parking limited
to 10 cars, so please carpool.
Leader: Barbara Liberman

Sat. Mar. 13th, 8:00 a.m. — Wakodahatchee Wet-
lands, Delray Beach. East side of Jog Rd, 1.5
miles north of Atlantic Ave. Meet at boardwalk.
Leader: Doug Beach

Sat. Mar. 27th, 8:00 a.m. — Frenchman's Forest
Preserve and other local areas. Meet West side of
Prosperity Farms Rd, north of PGA Blvd. Bring
Lunch. Leader: Marvin Greenberg

Sat. April 10, 8:00 a.m. — Hugh Taylor Birch State
Park and Bonnet House, Fort Lauderdale. Meet
inside park entrance, north side of Sunrise Blvd.
Just west of A1A. Optional tour of Bonnet House
historical site follows. Bring lunch if staying.

TUESDAY March 2nd , PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, Program Chair

AMAZON: PHOTOGRAPHER SHARES ADVENTURES

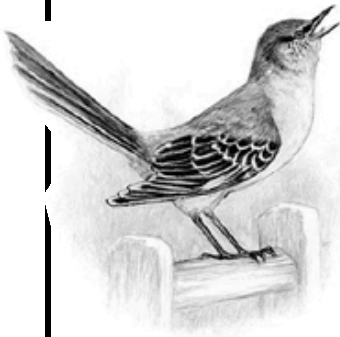
South Florida shutterbug Claudine Laabs is headed up the Amazon again, With a paddle, a crew, and a camera. In the past 20 years she's been to the region a dozen times, leading trips for West Palm Beach's Audubon Society. . . Laabs is giving a 30 minute slide show entitled "Up the Upper Amazon" — the presentation focuses on the Amazon basin and 3 recent trips to the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a 5 million-acre lowland rain forest preserve, the largest of its kind in the world.

Attendees can learn more about this pristine area of Peru that neighboring natives call "the jungle of mirrors." Except for a few rangers and visiting scientists, the reserve sees few human visitors. . . Among so much exotic fauna, a range of birds, jaguars and monkeys make the region their home.

Laabs has been photographing in the Everglades since 1981 and her work has appeared in a variety of publications, including Audubon calendars and World Wildlife Fund books by Victor Cruz, for Miami Newtimes.

Please join us March 2 at 7:30 PM at the Community Center in Howard Park.

Note: Tom Lodge, our scheduled speaker, asked for a later date after the revised edition of his book is available.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

— Carol Shields —

My head is spinning from so much going on in the chapter these days. Conservation issues, field trips, special events, sanctuaries, important meetings and workshops . . .

. . . whew, I need to catch my breath.

So I decided to clear my head for a short while and write about birds. Not just any bird. A bird that we are all familiar with, but perhaps don't realize how amazing it is. The mockingbird.

The mockingbird is the Florida state bird. A rather drab gray-feathered friend, who is commonly found throughout the state.

But it's those songs he sings. Do you realize what an astounding number of songs come from this creature?

Mockingbirds are so aptly named because they 'mock' the songs of other birds it hears. And it doesn't stop there. Not only does it copy sound of other birds, but it can also mimic squirrels, frogs, crickets, sirens, bells, home alarms, and even the whirring and squeaks of a washing machine.

No other animal on earth comes close to the ability of the mockingbird when it comes to its song mimicry. Researchers have found there appears to be no limit to the number of songs a mockingbird can pick up. During mating season the male, which does most of the singing, may master more than **400 songs!** To the female this may suggest he has survived for a while and has established a territory with plenty of food.

Such an amazing songbird should get more respect (despite the fact he dive bombs your cat as it walks across the yard). Next time you see – or more likely hear– the song of the mockingbird, take the time to listen closely to his songs. You might be surprised at the repertoire of tunes he brings to your ears.

.....There, I've caught my breath
Now back to work.

Back by Popular Demand

Audubon Society of the Everglades and Okeehchee Nature Center are offering a second class in Beginning Birding. This is a repeat of the sold-out Beginning Birding class that was held in November. The spring workshop will be held at Okeehchee Nature Center on March 20 from 9:00 – 12:00; followed on March 27 by a special field trip for workshop participants.

Okeehchee Nature Center manager Clive Pinnock, an accomplished birder and field naturalist, will present an introduction to birding. Topics covered will include basic bird identification, basic bird behavior, an introduction to field guides, how to choose and use binoculars and spotting 'scopes, and dos and don'ts when birding in the field.

Also planned is a special treat for participants: an up close and personal visit with some of the birds of prey that live at Okeehchee. The workshop costs \$10.00 per participant and reservations are required.

Please call the Okeehchee Nature Center at 233-1400 to register. The Nature Center is located in Okeehchee Park at 7715 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach, 1 mile west of Jog Road.

Moonlight Boat-ride to the Sanctuary Islands

On Friday, March 5th at 6 p.m. you can tour Audubon 's Palm Beach Sanctuary Islands by Boat. Tickets are \$20.00 and advanced reservations are required. Bring along a picnic basket if you wish.

Contact Claudine Laabs at
561-655-9779 to reserve your spot today.

AMAZON CRUISE - May 27 to June 5

Spend 2 days in the cloud forest, then board a 100' river boat to visit The Pacaya-Samiria Reserve! Roundtrip Airfare, A/C cabin on a 100' boat, meals included for \$2150 per person. Limit 10 people.

For more information Call
Claudine Laabs 655-9779

ASE's ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Audubon Society of the Everglades is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2004 at the Airport Hilton located at 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida (just west of I-95 at Southern Boulevard).

A reception with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 4 p.m. will precede the meeting. Tickets for the reception are \$25.00 and may be obtained from our treasurer, Leah Schad. Please make your check payable to: Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to Leah at 3634 North Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407. Tickets will also be available at the March general meeting. Deadline for reservations is March 29th. In addition, your ticket stub will enter your name in a drawing at the meeting for Bushnell digital camera binoculars.

Members wishing to attend the annual meeting only should arrive by 5:45 p.m. Doris Mager, Florida's Eagle Lady, will be our guest speaker after the business portion is completed. In addition to her program with Birds of Prey, she will tell us about her future plans.

We hope you will make a special effort to join us. Doris Mager holds a special place in our Audubon chapter. With our sponsorship, she has been coming to West Palm Beach for almost 30 years giving her lecture to thousands of school children.

Field Trip of Interest

How would you like to travel the legendary Danube River by barge/hotel? Gladys Maloy, a former resident of Palm Beach County, is organizing an excellent field trip on the Danube River. Maloy lived in Romania while serving with the Peace Corps, speaks the language fluently and has made this trip herself on several occasions.

If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting adventure log on to:
www.danubedeltatrips.com

Final Tally on Fundraiser

Thanks to the generosity of Laurin Healy, Mary Nye Egly and Dr. Paul Gingras our net income from the fundraising appeal has increased to \$4989.23.

The Board of Directors is grateful to all who responded in such a positive manner. This is the first time that we included fund raising in our budget. However it has become necessary due to low interest rates, decreased grant income and other vagaries of the economy. We thank you again for helping us continue our programs.



~ ~ Plungers ~ ~

By Hank McCall

Early one morning over the Loxahatchee, a kingfisher hovering above the stream made an all-out plunge into the water for his fish. At Wakodahatchee during the summer least terns perform their aerial ballet and then dip and dive to catch their tiny fish. Osprey hover and make their plunge feet first. Gannets and their kissing-cousins, the boobies, make spectacular plunge-dive like arrows hitting the water with no splash. Best of all to watch are pelicans feeding on mullet. They poke out their necks, tuck in their wings, and make a twisting plunge into the sea.

Do you like Quotes?

* This is by Chief Seattle, 1854 *

"All Things are connected.
Whatever befalls the earth
Befalls the sons of the earth.
Man did not weave the web of life.
He is merely a strand in it.
Whatever he does to the web,
He does to himself."

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

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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 phone number for the Recreation center is: 561-835-7055. The public is welcome to attend.

Deadline for submissions for the **April 2004** issue is **March 10th**.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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