



# EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 44, No. 8

May 2004

## CALENDAR

Sat. May. 1st, 8:00 a.m. – Frenchman's Forest Preserve, Palm Beach Gardens. Meet West side of Prosperity Farms Rd, north of PGA Blvd. Bring Lunch. Leader: Marvin Greenberg.

Tues. May 4th 8:00a.m. – Boynton Inlet. Boynton Beach, A1A south of Manalapan. Meet at south side of inlet on west side of A1A. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

Sat. May 8th – Spring Migration Count. Compiler: Cynthia Plockman, 561-585-1278.

Sat. May 8th – International Migratory Bird Day Palm Beach Zoo. See Pg. 2 for details.

May 27 – June 5 – Cruise the Amazon. For more information Contact: Claudine Laabs 561-655-9779.

## ASE WANTS YOU!

ASE has over 2200 members, some involved and some not. Are you one who does something or do you sit back and let others do the job? Have you wanted to help but couldn't because of lack of time? Well here is a way that you can help. All you have to do is send a few emails, or make a phone call, or write a letter. It doesn't take a lot of time and in return you would feel a sense of pride in knowing that you are helping. Every little bit helps.

Barbara Lea will e-mail out environmental issues, mostly on the local level, that would benefit from comments by the community. Choose what you'd answer to. Perhaps it's an issue near and dear to your heart; perhaps you really want to make a difference and make your voice heard. Here's an avenue open to you.

As this method of communication progresses you can expect to hear what is going on and what you can do to help. If Interested:

Send your e-mail address to Barbara at [barbara4audubon@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbara4audubon@bellsouth.net).

## TUESDAY May 4th , PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs

More Bird Behaviour: Migration  
by Clive Pinnock

"Spring has sprung" and birds are here, there and everywhere. Our resident birds are nesting and warblers are feeding in our trees. Swallow-tailed Kites grace our skies. Kestrels and Kingfishers become fewer and fewer. Birds come and birds go. Why do they do what they do?

Clive Pinnock's slide program will explain migratory behavior of several species.

Clive is the Manager of Okeeheelee Nature Center, where he has established many new programs: Raptor Chapter, Owl Prowl, Sunset Safari, Jurassic Peek, Marine Science and Tropical Rain Forests. He worked as a Wildlife Biologist for the National Park Service for 15 years. Prior to managing Okeeheelee, he spent one year as the Wildlife Education Coordinator at Lion Country Safari.

Please join us on May 4th at 7:30 PM at the Howard Park Community Center.



~ **PRESIDENT'S NOTES** ~  
by Claudine Laabs

It is an honor and a pleasure to become the new chapter president. Carol Shields has done a wonderful job and will continue as vice president.

During the next two years, I plan to reach out to communities from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Okeechobee. Palm Beach County's burgeoning development is creating challenges and opportunities for Audubon. I hope more members will make time to participate. Please come to me with your ideas and I may put you in charge of a committee!



**Don't Forget**



The month of June officially starts the Hurricane Season. Be prepared!

Visit the National Weather Service website for more information:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>



**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**

May 8th is International Migratory Bird Day, a major bird event celebrated across the country. Access to key locations along the migration route of millions of birds is critical to their continued existence. ASE is planning some special events to help bring about an awareness to this special event.

For those of you who are avid birders, we are having our Annual Spring Migration Count on Saturday, May 8. Contact Cynthia Plockelman at 561-585-1278 to get information on how you can participate in this event which we hold across the Palm Beach county.

For those with young children you might enjoy coming out to the Palm Beach Zoo from 9-3 p.m. that Saturday. The Palm Beach Zoo, in partnership with ASE and the Loxahatchee NWR, are holding an IMBD Festival. Children will be bird'banded', weighed, and measured when they enter the zoo. Activities around the zoo by various organizations will enhance the bird experience for all ages. Bird programs, storytelling, and showings of the movie "Winged Migration" are also planned to fill the day. The Palm Beach Zoo is located on Summit Blvd. just east of I-95 in West Palm Beach.

Volunteers for IMBD Festival We need a few folks to help out at the Audubon activity table at the Palm Beach Zoo for IMBD on Saturday, May 8th. There will be 2- to 4-hour shifts between the hours of 8:30-3:30 p.m. The area is shaded and there is no entrance fee to the zoo for those who volunteer. If you are able to help out your chapter and enjoy interacting with bright children, please call Carol at 964-1522.

**Educational Day at Pine Jog**

Have you ever wondered how your contribution to Audubon Society of the Everglades is spent? ASE earmarks part of the money for educational projects. Pine Jog Environmental Education Center received funding from ASE for its 4th grade Model Schools Program, which links Environmental Education with Student Performance on Florida FCAT Tests. Money went towards substitutes for teacher inservice, bus transportation, and Pine Jog's student participation fees.

The state sets certain standards that children must learn each year. ASE's money helped 4th grade classes at Cholee Lake Elementary, Greenacres Elementary, and Palm Springs Elementary learn about energy to help them pass the FCAT Tests. The schools were chosen based on the high percentage of students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. Pine Jog's program was developed to help the children gain knowledge about energy. It showed them that energy is not a renewable resource and needs to be conserved. Activities were held outdoors in the native Florida Pine Flatwoods environment so students could experience the connection between energy and the environment.

The program consisted of four different steps--day long inservice for the teacher, classroom instruction and discussion at the school, and a student field trip to Pine Jog with various outdoor activities, followed by 30 days of home energy savings. The end results showed the students that individually the amount of energy saved was not a lot, but as a group, it amounted to great savings.

Maybe you too can explore different way to conserve energy in your home!



**BIRDER-CLOUT**

A new federal economic report states there are 46 million bird-watchers in the U.S. America spent \$32 billion in 2001 on one of the most popular outdoor activities in the nation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report, "Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis" is the first to analyze data from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

USF&WS director, Steve Williams, states, "Nearly one in five Americans is a bird watcher," adding: This report recognizes what we always thought to be true. Birdwatching is very popular and contributes greatly to our economy". Per the report, birders spent \$32 billion on such items as binoculars, travel and food, as well as bigger purchases such as canoes, cabins, and off-road vehicles. These purchases generated \$85 billion in overall economic output, \$13 billion in federal and state income taxes, and supported more than 863,000 jobs.

"What is man without the beast? If all of the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man." ~ ~ Chief Seattle ~ ~

~ ~ A Life Well Lived ~ ~

by Barbara Liberman

A longtime member, Cecil Kilmer, passed away on February 12, 2004, at the age of 94; which milestone she reached one week before her death. Cecil continued to attend meetings, whether Native Plants, Audubon Society, Tropical Orchid Society, the Lake Worth West Democratic Club and her Condo meetings through April 2003, when she suffered a stroke. Although her activity had diminished over the past couple of years, (she did continue to drive), her interest in gardening, birds and politics remained. She was a reader and enjoyed theater, movies and concerts.

Cecil never missed a field trip and could be recognized by her well-groomed, poised demeanor, never a hair out of place no matter how tired she was, or how hot, humid or windy the day. She was sought out by others for her extensive knowledge of all plants, both native and exotic. This was learned from her worldwide traveling. She remembered most plants and birds she ever saw and could tell you where she had seen them. Stories of her travels could keep listeners enthralled and could make a long car ride seem short.

It was not only this passion for the natural world, but her professional career with the Justice Dept. in D. C. that provided inside glimpses into Washington. Cecil was never one to brag about her accomplishments, but she did say that when she left her job, it took two persons to fill it. Her extremely prominent bosses relied on her expertise and advice.

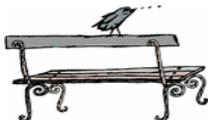
Mostly, it was her courage, fierce independent spirit, and the determination to achieve and satisfy her goals in life which inspired those who knew her. Although reticent about speaking out at meetings, she had no qualms about speaking her mind, whether or not her ideas pleased others. She grew up poor, on a Kansas farm. It was here she learned much of the natural world from her father, preferring the outdoors to household activities. With no high school in her hometown, she was determined to graduate. So, as a young teenager, she left home for her high school education. Then on to business school, after which opportunity called her to Washington D. C. Leaving the farm and the mid west was a call to freedom and it was here that she drank in the vibrant cultural life available in Washington. She birded with well-known Washington officials and traveled to all continents, excluding the two poles. Her world bird list was greater than her US list.

After 40 years in Washington, Cecil retired to West Palm Beach, owning her first piece of property in a mobile home park. Soon the lot became a veritable oasis: Eschewing a lawn, the land surrounding the home was lush with fruit and native trees, orchids, and a variety of plants. Her green thumb never found a plant she couldn't grow. She was generous in sharing seedlings with friends and acquaintances. Because there was so much to learn about the plants and birds in South Florida, Cecil soon joined organizations to help in this respect. She was a staunch member of Audubon's Conservation Committee and also spent time as Membership Chair. When the mobile village was sold, this Eden had to be forsaken. Her move to a condo development, with all its rules demanding conformity was but another challenge for her to conquer. She became known as the, "Flower Lady," using natives both front and back and eventually became the landscape guru, advising the manager what plants were advisable and which had to be removed or not planted.

Cecil will be sorely missed, but will be remembered for her courage in overcoming many of life's obstacles, her knowledge in many areas, and her strong beliefs in what she felt to be right and true. Though physically separated from her family, the bond which tied her to them was strong, and she is remembered with love and affection. At the end, it was her niece, Ellen who put aside her own activities, to care for her beloved aunt. An appropriate finale to a life well-lived.

**THANK YOU ASE**  
**from Richard Mark Byrnes**

I want to thank all of the Audubon members and Audubon board of directors who helped me with my Eagle Project. Through your generous donations and support, I was able to raise the \$928 needed to build benches for the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The benches are made out of plastic lumber, so they should last a long time. They will be used for seating in Environmental Education programs at the Refuge.



**MR. SQUIGGLE**  
*By Tammy R. Peeples*



Wiggle squiggle  
Went the worm.  
I watched him dance,  
Curl and squirm.

Then a birdie  
Swooped on down,  
And plucked him up  
From the ground.

Food for one,  
The worm had spun,  
Mr. Squiggle  
Had no fun.

**HOSPITALITY CELEBRATIONS**

Do you have a birthday, anniversary, or special event that falls on Audubon's Tuesday general meeting night? Would you like Audubon members to share in your celebration? Just let our Hospitality chairs, Mary Lou or Sheila, know you'd like to take care of the refreshments or just the food for that night.

We will announce your special event, whatever it may be, to the members that evening. You could bring a cake, cookies, or whatever you choose to share with the membership that evening.

Mary Lou is at 533-0216;  
Sheila can be reached at 627-0510.



## 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

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

**Deadline** for submissions for the **June 2004** issue is **May 10th**.

### Audubon Society of the Everglades

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