



EVERGLADE KITE

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

Volume 45, No. 3

December 2004

>>> CALENDAR <<<

SAT. Dec. 11, 8:00 a.m. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Boynton Beach. Meet at Marsh Trail. Lee Rd. west side of 441, south of Boynton Beach Blvd. Admission to Refuge is \$5 per car. Leaders: Marge Eaton and Gloria Hunter.

TUES. Dec. 13, 8:00 A.m. John Prince Park, Lake Worth. Meet opposite campground entrance. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.

SUN. Jan. 2, Christmas Bird Count. See page 3 for more details.

SAT. Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m. John Prince Park, Lake Worth. Nature Walk on Custard Apple Nature Trail. Meet near campground entrance. Leader: Bruce Offord.

TUES. Jan. 11, 8:00 a.m. Okeehetee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd. WPB. Leader: Ethel Kujanpaa.

~ Field Trips ~

Gloria Hunter

The South Florida Water Management District is escorting bird trips in STA-1W from 8:30 to noon on the following Saturdays: December 18, January 29, February 5, February 19, March 12, March 19, April 9 and April 16.

Admission is by reservation only (no fee). STA-1W is just west of 20-mile Bend on S.R. 880. For reservations and instructions call Lois Chapman at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 561-734-8303.

This should be an ideal opportunity to observe wintering ducks and other waterfowl.

"Gazing on beautiful things acts on my soul,
which thirsts for heavenly light."

~~ Michelangelo ~~

TUESDAY December 7th, PROGRAM

"EVERGLADES HANDBOOK"

by Thomas E. Lodge, Ph.D., CEP

Dr. Lodge is an ecologist with over 30 years experience. His book *The Everglades Handbook, Understanding the Ecosystem* is widely used as a college text and by lay people getting involved with the Everglades restoration - now in its second edition. Dr. Lodge manages to pack more information on a page than anyone else, which makes his book important for your home library, so bring your wallet or checkbook.

Most of Dr. Lodge's work has been with environmental consulting firms, but he spent two years as the director of the Kampong in Miami, a botanical garden and home of David Fairchild, the plant explorer. He grew up in Ohio where he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University (1966) with Departmental Honors in Zoology. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Miami in 1974, where his dissertation involved the physiological ecology of fish in the Everglades.

Please join us for the HOLIDAY BUFFET and this excellent Everglades program on December 7, 7:30 PM at the Howard Park Community Center.



ASE would like to
Wish everyone a
Happy and healthy
Holiday Season.

~ President's comment ~
Claudine Laabs

The holiday season is upon us and we will soon leave this year and its hurricanes behind. The power of nature is impressive and awe-inspiring. "The earth is home and the ways of nature are truth" a Jamaican poet once said.

DO YOU LOVE MANATEES?

We need a representative to attend quarterly meetings of the Manatee Awareness Group (MAG) and some boat shows. Are you interested?

Best wishes for the holidays!

Wakodahatchee Sunset Walk

By Wilma Zane

The sunset walk at Wakodahatchee Wetlands on Tuesday, Nov. 9 was very well attended. This was the first field trip in a long while that was scheduled for late afternoon. Purple Gallinule, Sora and Least Bittern were among the many species seen. Just before sunset the islands become spectacular sights with White Ibis, Snowy, Cattle and Great Egrets coming in to roost. Wilma Zane, Barbara Liberman and Dorothy Brindle led the walk with 35 people attending.

The next field trip scheduled for Wakodahatchee boardwalk is on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8:00 am. Delray Beach, East side of Jog Rd. 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Ave.

New Birds

By Hank McCall

The most successful invasion of the U.S.A. was by the cattle egret. A handful arrived in Florida in the early 1950's. After crossing the Atlantic from Africa they worked their way through Brazil, the Caribbean islands to Palm Beach county. Last summer we saw thousands in North Dakota.

According to Sibley's guide more than 65 species of parrots have been recorded in Florida. Breeders include the red crowned, yellow headed, monk, yellow-chevroned, white-winged, and budgies. His guide shows 27 species active here.

Both the hill and common myna birds are established, and the Eurasian collared doves seem more abundant than the mourning doves. The red-whiskered bulbul breeds in homestead, and the spotted breasted oriole is thriving.

Cuties to look for are the Java sparrow and the nutmeg mannikin. Finally, there are big birds like the black francolin, the peafowl, and the muscovy duck.

While we weep for the endangered Cape Sable sparrow, rejoice for the colorful "New guys on the block."

'State of the Birds' Report Reveals America's Birds Are In Trouble

New York, NY, Monday, November 1, 2004 - The National Audubon Society has released the first national "The State of the Birds" report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of Audubon Magazine, "The State of the Birds" paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30 percent of North America's birds are in "significant decline." The overall state of the birds shows:

- * 70 % of grassland species are in statistically significant declines
- * 36 % of shrub-land birds are declining significantly
- * 25 % of forest bird species are declining significantly
- * 13 % of wetland bird species are declining significantly
- * 23 % of bird species in urban areas are declining significantly

According to the "State of the Birds," these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural cyclical rise and fall in bird populations, "statistically significant declines" are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

"Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," said Audubon President John Flicker. "Birds signal that we are at risk next." Flicker went on to say, "People created these problems and people can solve them if we act now."

For the full release on the State of the Birds Report, visit:
www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/index.html

CONSERVATION REPORTS by Rosa (Cissie) Durando



The rubber of the first wheel hit the road 9am. November 1st. Our chapter, with the FL Wildlife Federation and the Loxahatchee River Coalition administrative hearing took place. We had two great expert witnesses, one whom had an excellent article beginning on page 1 of the Sun's POST. Joe Schweigart, formerly employed by the South FL Water Management District, summarized what many of us have been saying, for over one year, is the problem. Herbert Zebath, formally of the Department of Environmental Protection, was the other star witness that worked for the government. The results of the administrative hearing offices will go to the South FL Water Management District board meeting on Dec. 8th.

The escalating development pressure gave rise to a proposal by a 4000 acre orange grove in the heart of the Acreage Community to have intense city-like development. (The 2nd wheel.) Undoubtedly this will also encourage an adjacent 4000 acreage of groves to apply for a county land use change. (The 3rd wheel.)

There is already a proposal to further circumvent the intent of the county \$150 million bond issue voted on by the public to preserve sensitive land and the Agricultural Reserve Area. The 4th wheel development in the Ag. Reserve was to get a carrot in the shape of 1 unit/1 acre as opposed to 1 unit/5 acres if they clustered the development on 40% of the land and 60% was to remain agriculture or water resources.

The well know developer, GL Homes, is "influencing" the SFWMG with \$20 million to bail them out on a project, totally unrelated to the Ag. Reserve, miles to the north in another drainage basin. This also will have to be voted on by our county commissioners.

November 19th the Regional Planning Council held a hearing for an annexation proposal of 62 acres adjacent to the Vavrus proposal and Scripps/Mecca. The county has it as 1 unit/20 acres. The Gardens would allow up to 61 units so now this is the 5th wheel! There will be more on this in the next newsletter.

The Sun Sentinel and the POST have good editorials supporting our opinions.

I attended the first local meeting of the Legislative Delegation. My presentation stated the obvious charade played out from October '03 to the present. Originating in Tallahassee, involving the bureaucracy, and some politicians, with no public referendum or input, obvious collusion, we were handed a fait accompli in the shape of a major dismantling of our long-standing duly accepted Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I am referring to Scripps at Mecca.

The 20th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference will be held in Naples January 13-16, 2005. Interested? For more details call me at 561-965-2420.

From our Membership Chairperson

~ Jeannie Girard ~

We would like to welcome the following new members to our chapter:

Miriam Orlow	Arthur Daniels	Florence Sayegh
Joseph Oxer	Betty Davidoff	Rebecca Scgigel
Donald Peyser	Max Day	Christine Schwartz
Dr. Barbara Kane	June De George	Avi-Laurie Semo
The Town of Gulfstream	Henry Dean	Lucille Schrage
Richard Alvarez	Harvey Del Dinkin	Robert Slobin
Anita Amigo	Adrienne Deutsch	Nancy Southwick
Grace Andell	Marilyn Dill	Alice Squires
Margaret Appel	Harver Evans	Brad Stanmberger
rand jesse Araskog	Jack Feldman	Seymour Statman
Oscar-Mae Archila	Helen Ferrar	Joy Sinclair
Elizabeth Avidane	Jeane Geeher	StevenGardens
Sandra balwin	Anthony Gioudomni	Anna& Robert Stone
Heather Barton	Sam Gordon	Bruce Turnbull
Jennifer Bennett	S Y Greene	Raymond Vigeant
Joan Birnbaum	Gail hastings	Mildred Weiss
Ellen Boyle	Joann Hersey	Valentina Wilde
Helen Jean Boynton	Mervin Jacobs	Larry Zielinski
Kenneth Brehm	Ellen King	Cheryl Beamon
Carol Brixius	John&Pamela Korn	Barbara Beyer
Eric Brodie	Natalie Levine	Rick Block
D. Brown	Phillip Littman	Toby Dubov
Clifford Brown	Holden lutz	Muriel Huxtable
Floyd Brown	Scott Marcellus	sally Kneised
Ralph Brown	Charlene Mc Intosh	Eddie mobley Jr.
Joan Bullitt	Silvan Medina	Donald Oliver
Janet Bussell	Evelyn Newman	Sandford Rivka Sadja
Diane D Cappella	Alana Olson	Marie Sartori
Christine Carter	Barbara Olson	Susan Branson
Marni Charnow	Donna Rienzi	
Kelly Dace	Mark Riise	
	Madge Roak	



CHAPTER T-SHIRTS *The Perfect Holiday Gift!*



We have a new supply of T-shirts that we are selling as part of the chapter's fund raising efforts.

The shirt comes in dark green with our logo...the Everglade Kite and our chapter name in white. Sizes included medium, large, extra large and extra, extra large.

Cost at the meetings is \$15.00. If you wish to order by mail please do so by sending a check in the amount of \$15.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Please make funds payable to:

Audubon Society of the Everglades,
P. O. Box 16914,
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



It is time for experienced birders in the area to start thinking of the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Doug Beach will be the new Christmas Bird Count Compiler for the county and he will appreciate all the help he can find!

The date this time is Sunday, January 2, 2005. Those who have participated before are urged to contact their team leader before long.

If you are interested in joining us for the first time, call Doug at 738-9552 or Gloria at 585-7714.

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

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Audubon Society of the Everglades
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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 January 2005 issue is **December 10th.**

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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