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MEETING PLACE CHANGE

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The Audubon Society of the Everglades will return to the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center for its regular monthly meetings beginning with the Tuesday, September 5, meeting.

And the route to the Center has also been changed, since the former Dreher Park entrance on West Lakewood Road is shut off by the fencing which now encloses the park.

Take Summit Blvd. to Dreher Trail North, marked by the stoplight just east of the zoo. Turn north to reach the former W. Lakewood Road, where a slight jog to the west brings you to the Center.

"Planet Ocean," an aquatic classroom which makes you aware of the miracle of water, will be featured at the September 5th meeting. Members are invited to bring guests and the public is invited.

John Conklin, a staff member of this large museum and marine science showcase on Virginia Key near Miami, will present the program.

More than 100 exhibits built around such themes as The Solar System, Man in the Sea, The Weather Engine, etc. are housed at Planet Ocean

in film shows and visitor-participation exhibits which range from walking through an indoor hurricane to touching Florida's only iceberg.

Planet Ocean is run by the International Oceanographic Foundation and directed by Dr. F. G. Walter Smith, who founded I.O.F. in 1953. A serious purpose underlies all its Disney-like technology - to prevent the pollution and destruction of water resources through increased awareness of our oceans and all they contain and create.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Of particular importance to our Society is the completion of our first certified audit by Dale Blocher, CPA. Mr. Blocher and his staff have spent many hours (probably more than anticipated) preparing our STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS. The report will be available at the September meeting for any member to peruse. Mr. Blocher will also be available to answer any questions. In view of several recommendations made as a result of the audit, a revised budget will be prepared for membership approval. Committee members Ruth Trumpower, Chmn., Margery Eaton and Ray Plockelman will complete this task by September 17. Any recommendations should be forwarded to them prior to that date.

During the school year, Florida

Audubon Society publishes a specialty newsletter, THE SANDSPUR, which is sent to all environmental teachers in the state. Educators with whom we have talked find the publication a most useful tool. However, due to financial problems, it is about to die. In order to insure the continuation of THE SANDSPUR, your Board of Directors voted to fund the program for 1978-1979 as a cost of \$1,200.

Fran Thew, Junior Education Coordinator, has found it necessary to tender her resignation. Anyone willing to assist in this program, please contact me.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Holly Mesa who has volunteered her telephone for Audubon Society use in the coming year. Arrow Electric Co. has been most gracious during the past two years, not only letting us use their number and their able receptionist, Rosemary King, but also by donating the extra cost for our benefit. We thank you.

The 1978-79 ASE Program is enclosed in this issue of the KITE. Additional copies will be available at the general meetings. We would also welcome volunteers to help distribute the Program throughout the county. Please speak to Mary Nye or to me about this. (Leah Schad)

MOON WATCH - SEPT. 17

The first field trip of the season will be a Moon Watch, to be held at Palm Beach County's JUNO PARK, starting at 8 P.M. on Sunday, September 17th.

To reach the park, go north on U.S. 1 to Howard Johnson's in Juno. Turn right on Donald Ross Rd. and go north along the beach for .9 of a mile to the park entrance. Use the parking lot on the west side of the road, cross the road and walk down the steps to the beach.

The object of a Moon Watch is to observe, count, and, if possible, identify the silhouettes of birds as they pass between the moon and the obser-

ver's spotting scope. If conditions are right, observations can number in hundreds per hour, or you can miss completely. Moon watching (for birds, that is) is always a gamble.

We are asking everyone with scopes (15x or 20x eyepieces are best) and tripods to bring them. Extra observers are needed, so all members & friends are welcome. Everyone should bring a folding lawn chair for his or her comfort and to make the actual watching as comfortable as possible. Members with scopes should practice setting them up over a reclining lawn chair. A pillow is helpful for final adjustment. A little practice will save a lot of confusion in getting started.

Other useful items would include a flashlight, lens tissues, a note pad, and insect repellent.

If there are no birds, we can contemplate the moon, walk the beach, catch a falling star - or whatever...
(Tom McElroy)

ACRES OF BIRDS

How often we travel to faraway spots to see the birds in great numbers. All that energy, all that money spent chasing the horizon, over the next hill, around the next bend. Sometimes it is better to stop and take a look about nearby. Such was the case this July and August in Palm Beach County. Duda Farms literally "runneth over" with birds. Thousands of shore birds, waders, and swimmers gathered on the flooded fields for their busy summer feeding and breeding.

Paul Sykes and Howard Langridge led us there one Sunday morning. Heavy truck farming operations make for only Sunday permission, and then only by special arrangement. Paul Sykes, 1-278-5177, or Gloria Hunter, 585-7714, would be the ones to contact concerning this.

The fields were swarming with greater and lesser yellowlegs, long- and short-billed dowitchers, all three varieties of peeps, pectoral and stilt sandpipers, whistling ducks, mottled

ducks, and various herons.

Howard has a miraculous sight for the rarities, picking out three ruffs, a Florida record. ("Pardon me, ladies," admitted the male chauvinist, "they could have been reeves.") We also saw a reddish egret and a purple gallinule.

Among the newborn were black-neck stilts, all legs and head; and gallinules, coots and ducklings, trailing mama in flotilla.

The thrill of the day was on leaving Duda Road. We saw a great swarm of dragon flies, and working them were four splendid swallow-tail kites. Their bodies were clear white and the wings had the blue steely look. What a ballet to see them swoop and turn, eating on the wing! They gave us fifteen minutes of this fine show.

So when your mind turns in yearning for the faraway treasure, look about your own county; your acres of birds are right here.
(Hank McCall)

ADVANCE NOTICE ON THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Again, by popular request, our annual Thanksgiving weekend birding safari will be to Everglades National Park on November 24 - 26.

The park is always an exciting place to bird and photograph. One never knows what's around the next bend, on the next pond, or in the sky above. For some, it should be a good chance to add such birds as the short-eared owl, roseate spoonbill, short-tailed hawk, and reddish egret to your lists.

Ample camping facilities are available in the park at that time of year. We will be using the area closest to Flamingo. However, those of you planning to use the motel or cottages in Flamingo should make your reservations early. Write or call Flamingo Inn, Flamingo, Fl. 33030, (305) 358-5480 or (813) 695-3101

More details on daily schedules will follow in a later issue of the KITE.

KITE STRINGS

A July letter from Mary May Campbell starts out "Just returned (to Ohio) from our '40" (in Mich.). How beautiful to sit on the deck and watch our 'private' deer herd every evening ... beaver swim across the pond trailing aspen boughs Our bittern thumps, pileateds pound, and purple- and gold-finches call merrily. Michigan roadsides are gay with wild lupine, Queen Anne's lace and myriad wildflowers. Fortunately, the environmental segment of the population has influenced the 'powers that be' not to spray our lovely 'weeds' anymore."

She tells of enjoying the Kirtland's warblers and sent a clipping which says this year's nesting for this tiny jackpine songster looks very good in north central Lower Michigan. The article tells of efforts to establish suitable Kirtland's habitats in five different forests so that 30,000 acres are always at the

stage suitable for warbler nesting.

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With apologies from Ye Ed. - promised to put the following directions to Bambi Sanctuary in the Aug. KITE but forgot. Go west on Southern Blvd. to U.S. 441 (intersection is 2 miles west of Turnpike overpass and has traffic light). Turn left over canal, turn right immediately on first road. The Sanctuary is about a mile down this winding road. Drive-in gate will be closed, but there is a walk-in gate.

Talked to Miss Bonnie Findlay who manages the Sanctuary and was amazed at the variety of nestling birds she is mothering right now - everything from least terns to woodpeckers to night herons. The address is 10948 Acme Rd., W.P.B. 33411, and the phone is 793-2473. ASE contributes toward the expenses involved in feeding and caring for the injured birds, but am sure she can use additional financial help.

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Letter to the Editor: "There are almost as many different opinions as there are people in any group, and Auduboners are no exception. But there is always ample opportunity at general meetings to get up and address the group if you want your opinion known, and by so doing you can find out if anyone shares the same opinion. That surely is better than mumbling and grumbling in your seat, distracting others and making it hard for them to hear."
(Lee Wilson)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lake Worth: Catherine W. Kidder,
Mrs. Clothilde Rocchi

Palm Beach: Royal Firman Jr., Lawrence J.
Stoll, Richard S. Weinstein

Palm Springs: Frank E. Byerly

Riviera Beach: Norine Rouse

Tequesta: Paula Grois, Robert O. Price Jr.

West Palm Beach: Arthur F. Beyer, Mrs. Beatrice
L. Boltuck, W. Heaton Jr., MD.

ALL POINTS WEST

On July 1, Al and Barbara Liberman and HPL jammed food, sleeping bags, suitcases, and binoculars into Al's uncomplaining vehicle for a month's birding trip to the lower Rio Grande Valley, Big Bend, southern Arizona, and California. We realized that whatever happened could not exceed the Eaton-Ayers-Hunter abortive western trip for pure drama.

Before we left Florida, Al and Barbara had added the Mississippi Kite, Prothonotary Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanager to their state lists. But when we reached Santa Ana, Al's tenacious behavior asserted itself. He stayed with a bird until he saw it. We spent two days of hiking before we saw an adult Hook-billed Kite and an immature. Their plumages, hooked bills,

and white eyes made the miles of hiking well worth the effort.

Al spent over a day dogmatically trying for the enormous Brown Jays, only to have Barbara stumble into them when she got lost. Al kept after the Harlequin Quail for hours until he saw the birds, so he really stays with a bird until he gets it.

Al's car was amazing. To reach the Buff-bellied Flycatcher on a nest, an unbelievable rough road strewn with boulders and crevices had to be driven in Arizona. In a full half day we made it up and back, despite holding our breath for several hours. To reach Sycamore Canyon and the Five-striped Sparrow, the car had to bump over boulders in a dry river bed, so it was no surprise that before the month was over the manifold had to be welded.

The Berylline Hummingbird, a Mexican species, posed for us at feeders at Ramsey Camp in Arizona, but at a Patagonia feeding station, the bird of the summer was a Plain-capped Starthroat, a second record for the U.S. Al called Paul Sykes, who couldn't resist. Paul flew out to Tucson by dark, saw the bird by noon the next day and barely caught his 2 p.m. flight back to West Palm Beach. Because of this bird, we met bird friends from all over the U.S. Sadly, the home owners took down the hummingbird feeders to go on vacation, so many observers who flew and drove in for the weekend were bitterly

disappointed and somewhat irate.

While Al and Barbara were being entertained on a bird tour by Will Russell, Rich Stallcup, and Davis Finch, HPL was solitarily hiking the deserts and mountains seeing a coati-mundi family feeding, watching rattlesnakes, and being harrassed by a sow peccary with young.

On Mt. Pinos, three majestic California Condors challenged ten Black-footed Albatrosses around our fishing boat as our most exciting moment in California. Al's car added 12,000 miles to its list, Al added 91 birds to his life list; Barbara, 96, and HPL, 19. (Howard Langridge)

AUDUBON LOSES AN ARDENT SUPPORTER

Dr. Milton G. Nelson, one of the charter members of ASE, former board member and former secretary-treasurer of the Conservation Fund, passed away in July at the age of 92. He was very involved with Wildlife Films in earlier days and actively worked for the Conservation Fund until retiring at 90. An educator of note, Dr. Nelson helped provide scholarships for young men who otherwise were not able to attend college. His wife, Mrs. Helen Nelson, sister-in-law of Mrs. Alice Stearns, is a resident at Mediana Nursing Home, 1710 Lake Worth Road as the result of an accident. She would welcome letters or visitors.

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