



ALASKA - NOW OR NEVER

The May 2 general meeting will feature a slide presentation especially prepared by National Audubon, entitled "Alaska: Wildlands for Tomorrow," to promote and support the Society's efforts to help preserve over 90 million acres of public wildlands in Alaska. Within these 90 million acres lie this country's last remaining complete wilderness ecosystems.

We, as individuals, have until December 18, 1978 to write, wire and telephone our representatives urging them to support the provisions of H.R. 39, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, as reported out of the House Interior Committee, and to discourage any and all attempts to further weaken this piece of legislation. If Congress does not take action by the December deadline, the current protection laws will end and the land will fall prey to mining, timbering and other commercial interests.

In addition, critical habitat loss will hinder this country's only populations of Dall sheep, musk ox, polar bear and caribou. People living in the lower 48 states enjoy numerous species of migratory waterfowl, as well as an estimated 200-400 million migratory birds other than waterfowl... all from Alaska. Where will they go if this land is not protected?

Public interest and support carry a lot of weight when votes are cast, so we can safely say that Alaska's fate is in our hands. December sounds like a long way off... but it really isn't. We all know how fast time passes. We must write our letters of support now and not wait until the last minute. Just in case you don't know where to write, here is the address of your representative:

The Honorable Paul G. Rogers
2417 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Be sure to join us for a most interesting program on Tuesday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., 2501 10th Avenue North, Lake Worth. Bring your friends! (Leah Schad)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 7:30 A.M., John Prince Park, meet at Driving Range. Leader - Ann Ayers.

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 6:00 P.M., Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, Sunset Walk, dike parking.

And that's all for this season. Contact your new Field Trip Chairman, Tom McElroy, if you have some ideas or suggestions for next year. (Atha Green)

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES, INC.

Statement of Revenues and Disbursements

for the Year ended March 31, 1978

REVENUES:

Membership Dues	\$ 2,735.44
Merchandise Sales, Net	63.74
Sales Tax Discount	.25
Interest - Savings:	
First Federal S. & L. Association	629.73
Home Federal S. & L. Association -	
Merrill Trust Fund	331.87
Conservation Fund	4,546.60
Merrill Trust Fund (Home Fed. S. & L.)	10,000.00
Concerned Citizens, Inc.	2,294.38
Miscellaneous Donations	144.50
Total Revenues	\$20,746.51

DISBURSEMENTS:

<u>Officers</u>	
President	\$ 49.22
Secretary	111.91
Treasurer	69.39
<u>Committees</u>	
Conservation	797.61
Everglade Kite	1,446.96
Program	535.69
Education	800.00
Scholarships and Donations	1,102.00
Hospitality	47.71
Conferences and Conventions	211.70
Publicity	42.98
Field Trips	28.19
Membership	35.08
Christmas Count	157.37
<u>Contingency</u>	<u>1,477.35</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 6,913.16
Excess Revenues over Disbursements	\$13,833.35

Statement of Condition - March 31, 1978

ASSETS

First Marine National Bank and Trust, Lake Worth, Florida	\$ 275.33
First Federal Savings and Loan Association, West Palm Beach, Florida	12,518.01
Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, West Palm Beach, Florida (Merrill Trust Fund)	<u>10,331.87</u>
Total Cash on Deposit	23,125.21
Investments (Conservation Fund)	<u>57,500.00</u>
Total Assets	\$80,625.21

LIABILITIES & RETAINED EXCESS REVENUES

Liabilities - None	
Retained Excess Revenues	
Balance April 1, 1977	\$66,791.86
Current Year-Excess Revenues over Disb.	<u>13,833.35</u>
Total Liabilities & Retained Excess Rev.	\$80,625.21

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASE'S PAST YEAR

Year's end reports by committee chairmen are continued from the April issue of the Kite.

SANCTUARIES AND EXHIBITS

The Kitchin Creek Sanctuary had a good year, escaping from one major threat, a pine-woods fire, with minor damage. Also receiving a bonus of the new ban of powerboats on the upper Loxahatchee River.

The Lake Worth Islands showed the most successful nesting season in many years, especially for the Great Egret. The sanctuary received what I felt was good publicity in the form of an article by Susan Salsbury in the Palm Beach Post-Times. This article, rather than attracting new problems, helped explain the need for the public to be aware of the delicate situation of the nesting birds.

* * * * *

The ASE display at the South Florida Fair was a success, in the opinion of most of those who helped man the booth. During the 10 days, roughly 470,000 people viewed the display and a large percentage took the Audubon brochures.

Smaller, though also successful, was the exhibit and brochure distribution at the Lake Worth Spring Festival. (Ray Plockelman, Sanctuary Director)

SALES

The Sales Table took in \$617.61 during the year of 1977-78, netting a profit of \$63.74. This is, I believe, a greater margin of profit than made in some previous years. The items which led in sales were notepaper and books. Among the latter are two excellent ones by Tom McElroy which deserve special attention.

The Sales Chairman wishes to thank Cecil Kilmer, Jeannie Robson and Roberta Channel, who took over for her on several occasions, and also expresses her appreciation to the many customers. (Billie Church, Chairman)

FIELD TRIPS

The chairperson wishes to thank all those members of Everglades Audubon who so generously gave of their time and knowledge to lead field trips. Their assistance added variety and interest to the trips.

Throughout the season the weather was mostly fair - sometimes perfect, except for the Singer Island beach walk Nov. 5 when strong winds brought rainfall and high seas. (continued)

Some exciting sightings were: Bald Eagle on nest at Barley-Barber Swamp, Sissor-tailed Flycatchers on Sanibel Island, Peregrine Falcon and Gannets at Playalinda Beach, Cape Canaveral, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

Persons present at the field trips - 367; species identified - 134. The greater enjoyment of field-trip learning could be advanced and enhanced by more generous participation of the general local membership. (Atha Green)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In reviewing the past year, I can only give a hearty thanks and extension of appreciation to my Board of Directors and committee chairmen. Each committee functioned flawlessly and reported their progress efficiently.

I would like to outline some of the major accomplishments during my administration. First, the formation of an Exhibit Committee became a reality. The committee worked hard and presented an exhibit at the South Fla. Fair that we can all be proud of. As I had hoped, this exhibit will make its way through bank lobbies, libraries, malls, and other public places.

Second, the Society acquired a telephone listing in the directory. The necessity of an Audubon telephone was quickly evidenced by the 10 to 15 calls daily. Third, education of our youth has always been a major area for Audubon. The Society is now the sponsor of an Explorer Post (Boy Scouts of America) specializing in environment and ecology.

Fourth, a Presidential Advisory Board was developed to give me professional advice and guidance. This "blue ribbon" panel was drawn from the medical, scientific, legal and governmental fields. Fifth, our Society funded a workshop for teachers entitled "The Natural History of Florida, Part I." The professional staff of Florida Audubon Society organized the workshop and was responsible for its great success. The planning for "Part II" is already underway.

During the past two years we worked with many organizations such as Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, State Energy Commission, Florida Environmental Defense Fund, Fla. Wildlife Federation, P.B. County Education Advisory Board, Dreher Park Expansion, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Southeastern Coalition of Audubon Chapters, Fla. Environmental Reorganization Commission, and P.B. County Dept. of Environmental Control.

We supported financially several organizations. Friends of the Everglades, Nature Conservancy, National Parks & Conservation, Fla. Conservation Foundation, National Wildlife Refuge Assoc., Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center, Coalition for Water and Science Museum & Planetarium were just a few.

We wrote letters to everyone from President Carter to Governor Askew to our County Commissioners. A few of the many issues covered included: dredging Lake Osborne, Big Cypress oil drilling, P.B. County Land Use Plan, beach dune preservation, Everglades National Park, White Amur (grass carp), Peanut Island, purchase of Loxahatchee River Corridor,

motorboats on Loxahatchee River, wetlands and estuaries protection, coastal zone management, phosphate mining, electric power plant development, Cross Florida Barge Canal, restoration of Kissimmee River, aquatic plant control, I-95 in North P.B. County, and the "bottle bill."

In closing, I would like to thank my Advisory Board for their professional expertise. I also would like to thank my Board for unending hours of hard work. I merely set the course for the ship - your Board did the rest.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for your support during my terms. It is all of you that make ASE the greatest Society in the country. Give your new president, Leah, and her Board the same support you gave me and nothing will stop us.

(Mike Burkhardt)

CONSERVATION NEWS

Reporting on the Fox property development, Conservation Chmn. Doris Henriquez said this project first came to our attention in 1974, when it was opposed by the South Florida Planning Council (SFPC) to which Palm Beach County then belonged. ASE learned about it through committee attendance at a county planning workshop and took a strong stand against the development as proposed. We were aware that the majority of the property was wetland (and still is, as members of ASE and other conservation groups toured property during dry season in a 4-wheel drive truck and were stuck in the mud four times). We also felt the projected 18,000 population was an appalling density for that particular area.

The property consists of about three sections lying between the W.P.B. water catchment area and Royal Palm Beach, which makes it an excellent barrier between the catchment area and that village.

During the ensuing years, the county left SFPC and joined Treasure Coast Planning Council, which immediately took up the protest against the Fox proposal. The Co. Commissioners had, in 1974, consented to the development against the advice of SFPC and some members of the county staff. The controversy has been going on for four years and ASE was unaware of any immediate decision to be made until alerted by Charles Lee of Florida Audubon.

We immediately responded to Mr. Lee's information and contacted TCPC, to learn that a judicial hearing before a hearing officer was to start in March. We gathered all the information we could from public sources and arranged to have Don Richardson, FAU instructor who has studied this area, serve as the ASE expert witness. Also, a member of the Conservation Committee was present at all but one session of the 9-day hearing. We are not the only ones opposed to it - Charles Lee spoke in opposition for both Florida and National Audubon.

The hearing closed for a half day so those who wished could attend the County Commission meeting at which Mr. Fox and his attorney opposed a population density cut to 9,000, as proposed by Planning Director Ray Liberti. ASE made a statement approving this and the Commissioners later approved density reduction.

(continued)

Reasons for the density cut were that public roads in that area, as well as other facilities, could not handle 18,000 more people. Because the plan proposes a geriatrics clinic for development residents plus others, this would add to the traffic problem. We have no quarrel with the general idea, but this particular area is not equipped to handle it. Also, since the project was first proposed, a law has gone into effect preventing developments being limited to housing for specific age groups - and there is no provision for schools.

Another reason for opposition is that it is proposed to dredge a large lake on the higher ground and use the spoil to fill the wetlands. These should be protected - a nesting sand-hill crane and red-cockaded wood-peckers are among the many wildlife species found there. The property is extremely beautiful in its natural state and is of great value not only to elderly or sick people, but to all the people of our area as protection for the water catchment basin.

The final decision by the hearing officer on this development will not be available for three or four months.
(Doris Henriquez)

(The above is a classic example of the work required on some conservation **issues**. Now you see why we need more **members** (with time) on the Conservation Committee - Ye Ed.)

MEMORIES OF COSTA RICA

We'd like to share the joys of a trip to Costa Rica with our Audubon friends. A botanical tour was a different "kettle of fish" for us. Members and friends of the "Rare Fruit Council International" sponsored the horticultural tour of Costa Rica. Its purpose was to visit various native fruit markets, taste the fruit and collect the seeds to bring back.

With a minimum of Spanish and lots of charades, we managed to get the message across to the Costa Rican vendors. The colors, shapes, sizes and names of the fruit were extraordinary. Names as unusual as

cherimoya, mangosteen, mamey sapote, jaboticaba, etc. As Floridians, we were all familiar with pineapples (super delicious), papaya, guava, bananas and avocados.

Highlights of our trip included a visit to an experimental farm in Turrialba near San Jose. The Organization of American States carries out experiments on the 2,500 acre farm to help the little farmer in Costa Rica. Here I saw jakfruit, the largest tree fruit grown (from 10 to 40 lbs.) The flesh around the seeds is eaten fresh and the seeds, cooked, are edible too.

As we traveled around the region known as the "Switzerland of Central America," we saw lush countryside where coffee grew in abundance. Other agricultural products are sugar cane, bananas, abaca (manila hemp), maize, rice and beans - lots of timber, too, as most of Costa Rica is forested.

An exciting part of our trip was a visit to the Irazu volcano, alt. 11,257 feet, which last erupted in 1963. The wind carried the black ash over the central valley as far as 71 miles away. It took three years for San Jose (capitol of Costa Rica) to recover from this disaster and remove 40,000 tons of ash from its streets. From the brink of this crater both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are visible. A magnificent sight!

Shopping for native crafts was pleasurable. However, many of us agreed that Mexican and Guatemalan crafts were superior. In San Jose, the Museo Nacional had an exquisite display of pre-Columbian objects. In another section of the museum, native artists exhibited paintings and sculpture fit for Norton Gallery viewers.

We came home loaded with kilos of the aromatic Costa Rican coffee for our neighbors and kept other exotic seeds for our little garden.
(Helen Reiskind)

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Remember - address changes go to Membership Chairman Cecil Kilmer, 2738 N. Military Trail, Lot 155, W.P.B. 33409, or call 689-1961.

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SUN DAY POSTER
CONTEST UNDERWAY

The Education Committee of ASE is sponsoring a poster contest in honor of SUN DAY, May 3rd. This is a national initiative to promote solar energy and research in this country and throughout the world.

All county students in grades 1 through 9 are eligible to enter. Entries are to be judged and prizes awarded to the top entrants in three categories: grades 1-3, grades 4-6 and grades 7-9.

Posters must be no larger than 2 by 3 feet and must be received by Fran Thew, Golfview Jr. H.S., or by Jack McLaughlin, John I. Leonard H.S., by May 2. Outstanding entries will be on display at the Palm Beach Mall. (Jack McLaughlin and Fran Thew, co-chairmen)

KITE STRINGS

A boat trip from Key West to the Dry Tortugas is being organized by folks in Atlanta for May 20-21. Cost will be \$25 per person. For further details, call Gloria Hunter, 585-7714.

Barry Mills, 11-year-old son of members Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Mills, was awarded his 100 Birds Badge by ASE shortly before moving to Morganton, N.C. last month. Barry worked for over a year on his bird observations with his friend, Paul Shapiro, who received his badge last year, and with more experienced birders. Barry is a careful bird observer and also shows artistic talent in painting birds. We wish him good luck in his new home and hope he continues his interest in natural science.

Why can't we have one too? The AUDUBON LEADER reports that the Connecticut legislature has enacted a law requiring five-cent deposits on beer and soft drink containers. Five states have now banned throwaway cans and bottles - two more may soon be added.

Representative Ed Healey has introduced H.B. 279 which also requires the five-cent deposit. A senate companion bill was filed but was killed in the Senate Commerce Committee. H.B. 279 is still being pushed, but it doesn't look hopeful.

Wonder why so many folks like to see those cans littering every park and parkway. You say you don't - well then - push.

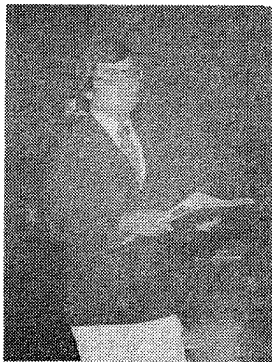
It will be some time before the ASE Program Schedules are ready. In case you may need to contact any of your officers or directors in the interim, below is a list (with home phones) to clip for reference:

President - Ms. Leah Schad, 848-9984
1st Vice President (Programs) - Miss Mary E. Nye, 588-8455
2nd Vice President (Sanctuaries & Exhibits) - Ray Plockelman, 585-1278
Secretary - Mrs. Atha Green, 622-9527
Treasurer - Ms. Marcia Perry, 967-3663
Nature Trail - Simon Magnus, 686-4254
Education - Jack McLaughlin, 684-0663 and Ms. Fran Thew, 964-0894
Conservation - Mrs. Edward G. Henriquez, 582-5900
Sales - James Husky, 588-5901
Membership - Ms. Cecil Kilmer, 689-1961
Publicity - Dr. Patrick J. Gleason, 588-6793
Field Trips - Thomas P. McElroy, Jr., 585-6195
Everglade Kite - Ms. Ruth Trumpower, 585-3968
At Large - Mrs. Alice Stearns, 582-5747
At Large - Mrs. Frank Eaton (Marge), 582-7260

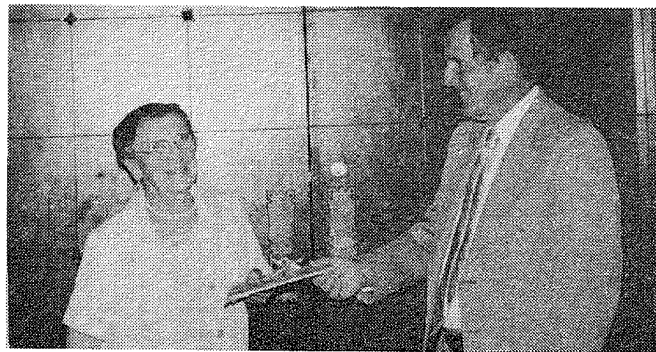
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Traveling and birding this summer? Ye Ed. and other armchair travelers would be happy to hear about your adventures. Have a story on Africa coming up, will publish others as space permits.

SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING



Outgoing President Mike Burkhardt gives his annual report and incoming President Leah Schad hopes for an equally successful year.



For many years of service, ASE will honor Alice Stearns by providing two Nature Trail benches in her name. Tom McElroy announced this surprise and also presented a small gift.



Dick Tillis was an excellent speaker on environmental education. Sorry so many missed him and the very good dinner, not to mention the chance to visit with friends during a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Mike, his wife Marcia, Alice and Leah enjoy the after-dinner and meeting fellowship.



Mary Nye and Walter Gworeck of Lung Assoc. discussing her new job as program chairman?

EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. Box 6762
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33405

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