



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 18, No. 9

Ruth Trumppower, Editor

JUNE 1978

VISITING THE EVERGLADES

On Tuesday, June 6, the program for the evening will consist of two films.

The first film is entitled "The Everglades" and was produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1971, the film won the Gold Medal Award in the Atlantic Film Festival. With its beautiful photography we will revisit this familiar yet always new and strange part of our state.

The second film is entitled "Birds on a Seashore." This short film has no narration; merely the natural sounds of the many varieties of shore birds flying, soaring, and nesting.

Members and guests are welcomed at the ASE monthly meetings held in the 2nd floor Community Room of the First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. of Lake Worth, 2601 Tenth Avenue North, Lake Worth. (Mary Nye)

NEWS FROM FAS

President Leah Schad sat in on the FAS Executive Committee meeting on May 20 and brought back the following:

Charlotte Tremel is now heading the Environmental Education section; Dee Parlak has taken over the duties of Alex Friedman, former executive V.P.

FAS adopted a resolution to support the Marco Island/Collier County Chapter because Deltona is again asking for dredge and fill permits.

The FAS Fall Convention will be held at Hilton Inn South, Orlando, on Oct. 26-28. Subject will be "You, the Environment, and Cancer."

FAS announced that, thanks to efforts of Charles Lee, 28 acres in the coastal ridge area at Palm Bay near Melbourne have been deeded to the Audubon Society. Known as the Turkey Creek Sanctuary, it is expected to eventually encompass 54 acres.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Even though it is a holiday, Tuesday, July 4, will still be the date for ASE's July monthly meeting, so mark your calendar accordingly.

CHANGING ADDRESS?

Our membership chairman suggests that, at the same time you notify NAS of any change of address, you also send her a postcard giving the change. This will speed up the delivery of your Kite.

Send card to: Ms. Cecil Kilmer, 2738 North Military Trail, Lot 155, West Palm Beach, Fl. 33409.

SPRING COUNT

A record number of species - 122 - were counted in the annual spring count on April 29. This was the highest in the 18-year record of the count in our area. Almost all counters felt there were fewer birds, but the lack was in the number of each species, certainly not in the variety of species seen.

There were a number of firsts for a spring count, including the sighting of a reddish egret and a Swainson's thrush. Eighteen roseate spoonbills were spotted winging their way through the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.

An unusually large number of yellow-billed cuckoos were noted. A ruby-throated hummingbird was spotted feeding in bromeliads lodged in a cypress hammock. And willets were recorded for only the third time ever on a spring count. (Pat Gleason)

AFRICAN SAFARI

Excerpts from a letter from Joan Vogel, former ASE membership chairman, about her Big Game & Birds Safari. Sorry space doesn't permit all of it.

"On Feb. 6, Anne and I flew from London to Nairobi, Kenya, and spent the first day and night there at the New Stanley Hotel. Wednesday we were up early and on our way to the Mara Masai Game Reserve via the Rift Valley. The valley is really enormous and impressive. The reserve is contiguous with the Serengeti National Park and is possibly the last place left in Kenya to see game in great numbers.

"We saw lots of elephant, buffalo, giraffe, monkeys, lions, some jackals, hyena, tapi, Coke's hartebeest, Thomson's and Grant's gazelle, impala and waterbuck. We stayed two nights and then journeyed on to Lake Naivasha and to Hell's Gate Gorge and Lake Nakuru National Park. Here we concentrated on birds and saw thousands of lesser flamingos, also the rare Lammergeyer at Hell's Gate.

"We were at Lake Naivasha Lodge two nights and then on to Samburu game

Reserve via the equator at 7774 ft. and Thomson's Falls. Samburu Lodge and the reserve are on Uaso Nyiro River and crocodiles are everywhere! In addition, we saw Kirk's dik-dik, Busa oryx, African hare, reticulated giraffe and unstriped ground squirrel. Lots of birds, including Somali ostrich and long-tailed widowbird.

After two nights here, on to Meru National Park, the land of Elsa of "Born Free." Here we saw, among other things, many kinds of eagles, warblers, hornbills and hoopoes. Next we went on to Mountain Lodge for one night. Here every room has a balcony which looks out on the waterhole. We were at 72000 ft. and the temperature dropped to 48 degrees in the night. We especially liked watching the elephants, with two very young ones in the herd. Also saw bush pig, Sykes monkey and white-tailed mongoose. Birds also were numerous and I liked the speckled mousebird and the green pigeon.

"On to Amboseli Game Reserve for one night, where a Greater Galago joined us in the dining room and there were genet cats in the roof of our lodge. Here we saw a perfect picture of a hyena eating a gazelle, flanked by four quite young cheetah. The hyena had stolen the cheetah's kill. Also about 20 vultures waiting their turn in the background. Birds included Taveta golden weaver, secretary bird and the white-bellied Go-Away-Bird.

"On to Tsavo National Park where the road signs say BEWARE OF ELEPHANTS, THEY HAVE RIGHT OF WAY. We also saw the enormous Shetani Lava Flow and lots of European storks migrating on the thermals. We visited Mzima Springs and saw Peter's finfoot and fish swimming counterclockwise.

"On Feb. 20, we returned to Nairobi via Hunters' Lodge. Here we saw safari ants; one of our party stepped in them and promptly pulled off her jeans and started scratching. Back to the New Stanley Hotel for a night and a visit to Nairobi National Park where we saw a giraffe silhouetted against the Nairobi skyline. That night a lion attacked a cow and a pony in Lanyatta suburb. All told, we traveled 2788 km. in Kenya."

MAY FIELD TRIPS

On May 6th, a group of "birders" met at John Prince Park and were led by our excellent guide, Ann Ayers.

We traversed the nature trail and sighted several warblers in spring migration - redstarts, black-throated blue, blackpoll and oven bird.

Also sighted a close range were a least bittern, immature black-crowned night heron, brown thrasher, purple gallinule, and a Caspian tern. A total of 26 species was observed, which was a good average for this time of year.

P.S. Sally and I have seen a great horned owl several times at Century Village at night, where it perches on antenna wires. Night hawks and purple martins have also been visiting that area. (Saul Rimberg)

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The May 14th Sunset Walk along the road and dike at Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge did not produce any large flights of birds heading for their roosts, but did give a good look at about 25 black-necked stilts.

According to our experts, the field on the north side of the road to the dike is now a good place to find shore birds, as the partial drainage leaves the muddy high spots they like to probe for food. Young gallinule and killdeer were among the birds seen by the 22 people on the walk.

SUN DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Our Education Committee would like to thank and congratulate the following winners in the ASE SUN DAY poster contest:

Grades 1-3:

- 1st- Aretha Francisco, Lincoln Elem.
- 2nd- Robert Collins, Lincoln Elem.
- 3rd- Alissa Marks, Delray Beach
Elementary

Grades 4-6:

- 1st- Dennis Pattison, Belvedere Elem.
- 2nd- Karen Rose, Belvedere Elem.
- 3rd- Michael Paul, Plumosa Elem.

Grades 7-9:

- 1st- D. Pattison, Conniston Middle

Explorer Post 290, the environmental interest Scout group which is sponsored by ASE at J.I. Leonard High School, is finishing its second successful year. Major activities have included canoeing the Loxahatchee River and camping in the Ten Thousand Islands, Peace River and the Florida Keys.

Recently the group competed against 11 other posts in the Gulf Stream Council BSA Explorer Olympics. Our post won 15 medals, including 10 gold, from 24 events for a third place overall finish.

(Jack McLaughlin)

CONSERVATION NEWS

A state-wide effort is pending to create a state board of representatives from all environmentally concerned groups for the purpose of promoting more cooperation on conservation and similar issues. Discussed and approved by ASE's Conservation Committee and Board of Directors was a project to meet with other South Florida groups in order to coordinate our thoughts on such issues and relay them to this area's representative on the state board when it is formed.

An intense feeling of uneasiness has been generated in local conservationists by the large number of dredge and fill permit applications which have sprouted within the past few months. Several proposed developments, located on the edges of the Loxahatchee Slough, are under investigation because of the probable adverse effects on the needed wetlands in those areas. In one case of an "after the fact" permit application, ASE has objected strongly and other objections will probably be forthcoming.

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