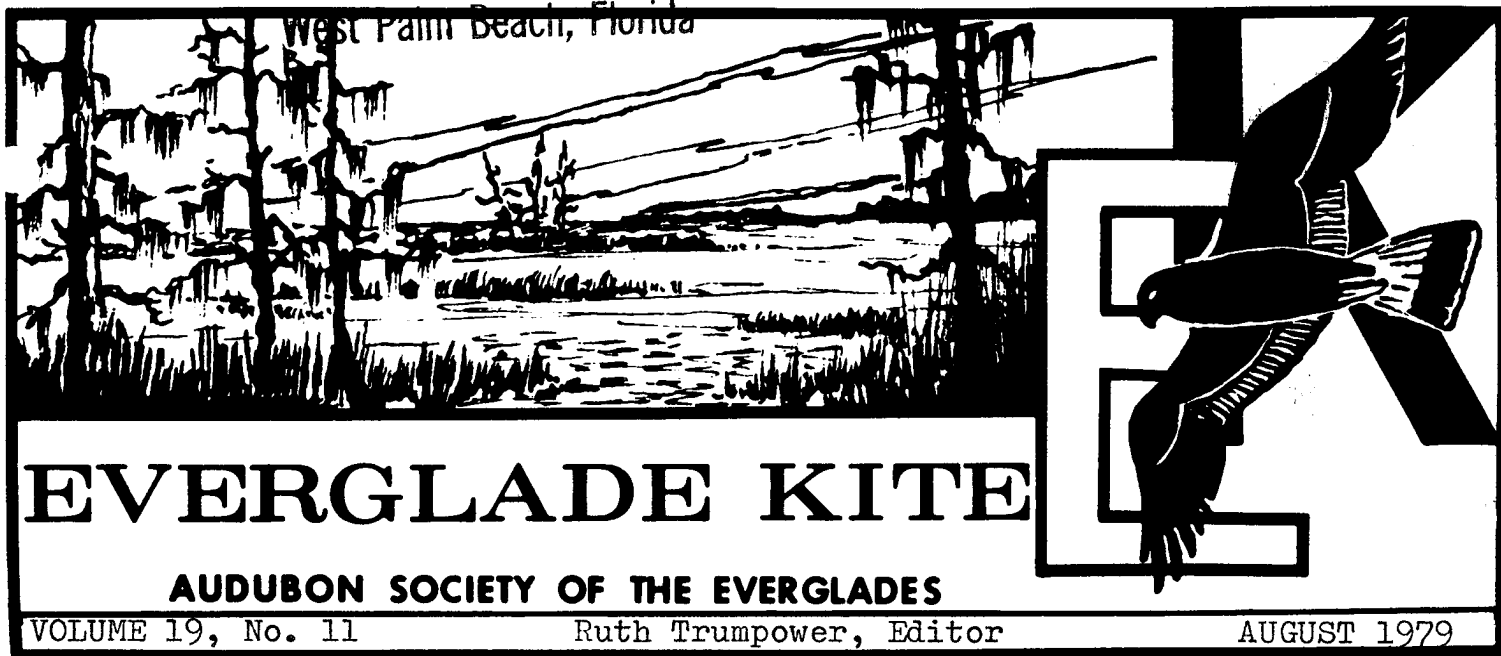


West Palm Beach, Florida



## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES

For the August 7th meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, we will feature David Wedge, second generation West Palm Beacher, graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in science, and a beekeeper with over 25 colonies of bees.

Mr. Wedge is program chairman of the Beekeepers Association of West Palm Beach. The title of his presentation is "Bees and Pollination." Not only will he speak and show slides - he and other beekeepers accompanying him will explain some of the equipment used in beekeeping. As an added feature, they will offer samples of honey.

In a short conversation with him, I learned many interesting things - such as the fact that 92% of the food we eat is due to bees. If you think otherwise, come and ask them about this and any other questions you may have concerning bees.

The public is welcome at all Audubon meetings, so bring your friends to the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Tuesday, August 7, at 7:30 p.m. The center is located on Fisher Trail North, off Summit Blvd. just east of the Zoo. A short business meeting follows the program, then refreshments and a social period provide a chance to meet friends and browse through the interesting items on the sales table. (Sy Magnus)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

On Friday, July 13, Education Co-chairman Jack McLaughlin and I led a turtle walk on Jupiter Island. The small group that arrived for the evening's trek were more than rewarded for all the walking and the insect bites.

We found our first turtle, a tagged loggerhead, within the first 15 minutes. After watching the entire process, including the turtle's return to the sea, we proceeded northward on the beach to discover another loggerhead beginning to scoop out her nest. While we waited for her to begin laying her eggs, we gazed upward at the millions of stars in the clear night sky - how beautiful it was with no street lights, headlights or moon (did not come up until 11:45) to interfere. As we scanned the heavens, we were treated to our first bonus for the evening - a satellite moving in a northwesterly direction. Our second bonus was the many shooting stars.

But the best was yet to come as we left turtle #2 and continued north into the refuge. Finding no more tracks, the group consensus was to turn back. However, at the pleading of young Jeremy Johnson, who wanted to keep going, we did so and, at 11:15 p.m., found our big bonus of the evening - a green turtle scooping out a saucer-like area to dig her nest!

Two more loggerheads were seen on the return to our cars, but the green turtle was the thrill of the evening. A most successful turtle walk. (NOTE: Special permission is needed to be on the north end of Jupiter Island after sunset.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public hearing on the Kissimmee River Restoration Project at the South Florida Water Management Office on August 8 at 7 p.m. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Letters are needed to our Senators Chiles and Stone, urging their support of S.R. 222, the Alaskan Land Bill.

Florida Audubon Society is forming a statewide speakers bureau to help promote the many matters related to our cause. Anyone interested in being included is asked to contact me.

This Society will participate in the county-wide Royal Palm Festival with an information booth at Lake Worth's Summer Festival in Bryant Park on Sunday, August 26. Please contact Exhibits Chairman John Agnew (home, 683-6792, or at Science Museum) if you can spare an hour or two to help man the booth.

Congratulations to the Town of Lake Park on their recent passage of an ordinance forbidding the planting of melaleucas, Brazilian peppers and Australian pines on town-owned property. Let's hope they will eventually remove the trees that are already there and encourage homeowners to do the same.

Florida Power & Light will hold a petition hearing for variance on the burning of high sulphur fuels on August 10, 10 a.m., at the So. Fla. Water Management District office.

Another hearing, to provide the opportunity to comment on a request for reclassification of the Everglades Agricultural Area canals from Class 3 to Class 4, will be held at SFWMD on August 21 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. See "Conservation News" for more on these. (Leah Schad)

## BIRDING IN ALASKA

The top bird listers in the American Birding Association and the top bird tour leaders in the U.S. congregated this year at Attu, Gambell, and the Pribilofs in Alaska between May 10 and June 20; 34 on Attu, 35 at Gambell, and about 23 on the Pribilofs. These islands far off the coast of Alaska have produced regularly many Asiatic vagrants that excite even the most dour of observers. So for six weeks, H.P. Langridge joined Paul Dumont of Washington, D.C., Robert Ake of Norfolk, Va., and William Blakeslee of the U.S. Army in order to visit these islands.

Because of rain, snow and fierce winds (high of 51 mph.), sound rain suits, rubber boots, down jackets, long underwear, water repellent gloves and an utter contempt for luxury were necessary before stepping into the field. Fog and rain grounded all air traffic to Attu for 2½ weeks, Gambell for 4 extra days, Cold Bay for 1 day, and St. Marys for days and days and days. The weather this year shattered our schedules.

The main features of the Attu landscape were beautiful snow-covered mountains and tons upon tons upon tons of World War II rusted debris: trucks, bulldozers, tools, stoves, piles of nails, remnants of Quonset huts, miles of wire, gas masks, helmets, and scores of barrels -- you name it, it was there rusting. The lumber was not rotting swiftly, so thousands of boards with nails protruding made walking dangerous.

The Asiatic strays that I saw on Attu were Tufted Duck, Smew, Mongolian Plovers, Rufous-necked Stints, Red-throated Pipits, Bramblings, Green-shanks, Indian Tree Pipits, Common Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Long-toed Stints, Rustic Buntings, Siberian Rubythroat, Eye-browed Thrush, and Common Pochard.

A few glimpses of life on Gambell were the head of a butchered gray whale, the paw of a polar bear, the dead murre and auklets lying near the boats, the walrus skulls with tusks being cleaned by burning, the honey

buckets, the many headless skins of birds lying everywhere to confound the observer, the seal hides being split on large frames by women for the making of umiaks or skin boats, the meat of whales, seals and birds hanging on frames drying, the many dogs, the three-wheeled Hondas, and the simple wooden boxes used as caskets scattered on top of the ground in the mountains.

The strays that I saw at Gambell were Ringed Plovers, Mongolian Plovers, Wheatear, Slaty-backed Gull, Siberian Rubythroat, Terek Sandpiper and the Dovekie. But the Ross' Gulls ("fire bellies" as the Eskimos call them) with the unbelievably intense pink on the underparts drew even the jaded observers to marvel at them for hours.

The neatness and the cleanliness of St. Paul in the Pribilofs, the well-kept cemeteries with painted fences around them, the painted houses and, except for the seal processing buildings, no evidence of living off the wild-life, were in direct contrast to Gambell, where life and death were highly visible.

On the Pribilofs, the strays I saw were Common Pochard, Siberian Rubythroat, and the Oriental Cuckoo - a fitting stray to end our trip. (Howard P. Langridge)

#### NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

The following notes are from Louise Morgan, who served as ASE delegate to the NAS convention at Estes Park, Colorado.

"It was a wonderful experience. The meetings and workshops were most interesting and very educational, and the various off-meeting tours were great. The mountain tops still had much snow, along with gushing streams, wildflowers galore, and birds. My Lifer was a Mountain Plover at the Pawnee Grasslands.

"The attendance of many younger people impressed me. To listen to and be with officers and members of other societies was an inspiration. Attendance hit the 1,000 mark, but everything was well handled and the food was very good.

"I took the Legislation Workshop, at which Elvis Stahr and his staff spoke and discussions centered on the work of Audubon's Washington office. Was quite impressed by National Audubon's new president, Russell W. Peterson. Particularly appreciated two of his remarks, "Birds taught us conservation." and "Badges of pride are the binoculars around our necks."

"The convention emphasized our seven major concerns: conservation of wildlife and natural environment habitats, especially streams; energy conservation, comprehensive planning for solar and other sources; reduction of pollution and improved air quality; better planning for the use of resources and land use; more public interest in public lands, particularly Alaska; protection of the biosphere, and stabilization of human population.

"Carl W. Buchheister was given an Award of Honor by the National Resources Council of America. He stressed faith in our cause and said today we are needed as never before.

"Many thanks for allowing me to be your delegate to the convention." (Louise Morgan)

#### THE QUEST FOR KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

The quest for a Life bird is always exciting, but the pursuit of a truly rare species really adds zest. This spring, 197 singing male Kirtland's warblers were counted in Michigan's 60 by 100 mile nesting area. This means that, as of May '79, only 394 individuals existed in the entire world.

Each pair will lay four or five eggs which, by fall, will engender 900 to 1000 birds strong enough to make the long, hazardous flight to the Bahamas. Life is cruel; only 400 will return.

To see or hear this species, the easy way is to go to Grayling or Mio, Michigan, in May or June. Each morning at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. a guided, disciplined group leaves from both places. No wandering from the trail or tape playing is permitted. The birds are spotted by the loudly singing male, who usually performs from a tree top or snag. On rainy days and late in June, they sing but do not expose themselves to sight. So the eager birder may only get a "heard" bird and not a "seen" bird.

The Kirtland's existence is threatened by its over-specialized nesting habits. Only jack pines 5 to 7 years old are acceptable, and jack pines only sprout from land devastated by forest fires. These fires are contrary to forest management policies, so natural sprouting areas are limited. Once the trees reach 10 to 12 feet, the warbler will no longer use them.

To add to the odds against existence, the brown-headed cowbird finds the Kirtland's a gracious host for its eggs. So man has set several hundred cowbird traps which must be tended daily by a patrol of 12 jeeps and trappers. The cowbirds are killed and the jays, cardinals, sharp-shinned hawks and various song birds are set free.

Meantime, a vast jack pine farming effort of controlled burning, seeding, planting and cultivation goes on. Considering that there have been some two billion species of life on this earth and only two-three billion exist today, the Kirtland's warbler has long odds against survival.

Besides the usual hazards of weather, ocean storms and predators, its continued existence depends on trapping cowbirds, special reforestation, government funding, public support, and luck. Without this vast effort of man, this little bird would disappear in two or three years.

If you expect to have it for your Life List, go soon. (Hank McCall)

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### Three important public meetings:

On August 8 at 7 p.m. there will be a public meeting at SFWMD, 3301 Gun Club Rd., concerning the Kissimmee River. The Corps of Engineers would like input on restoration of the river and surrounding areas. As you may recall, the Kissimmee at one time flowed gently and naturally cleansed itself. Not so after the Corps straightened it out into C-38. Now they would like to restore it to something like its original shape.

FP&L is scheduled for a public hearing on August 10 at 10 a.m. at SFWMD to petition for a two-year variance to change air pollution standards for particulates and opacity. FP&L claims change necessary because of high sulphur fuel (2½%) they will burn. Most agencies agree that FP&L hasn't demonstrated a need for the changes, nor a plan to deal with this matter long range, e.g. installation of emission control devices.

There will be a meeting August 21 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at SFWMD on a petition by the agriculture industry to get several Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) canals changed from Class III to Class IV. Presently the canals don't meet Class III standards. It is the old "don't break the law - get the law changed" game. One of the major differences between

Class III and IV waters is that there are pesticide limits for Class III. West Palm Beach pumps water from one of these canals. This should provide an interesting show of forces. All are open to public and I urge your attendance. (Walter Gworek)

### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Greenacres City: Shirley Slouka

Juno Beach: Mrs. Lillian Martin

Jupiter: Carol Cunn, B. Hamlin York

Lake Park: G.A. Scambler, Maria Zabelny

Lake Worth: Ms. Vera Buxton, Mrs. Allen Flamholz, Miss Martha Lake, Mrs. Elsie Milling, Julianne C. Rask, Jean E. Takekawa

North Palm Beach: J.C. Buckmaster, C. A. & Louise Carr, Mrs. Miriam D. Rapson, The Stubbs Family

Palm Beach: Charles J. Clarke, Ita Cortale, Marcia Vale Hiscock, Jane Porteous, Richard & Jo Ann Sellwood

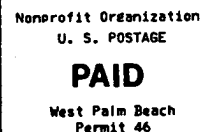
Riviera Beach: Dwight Green, Phyllis S. Corcester

Tequesta: Mr. & Mrs. Donald P. Braender

West Palm Beach: Gary M. & Dawn Brown, Donald Chattaway, David Cochran, M. Masciarotte, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Miller, Bruce Paty, Garry Perrin, Michael S. Zimmerman

Out-of-State: R. Mistretta, Crystal Lake, Illinois

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