



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

FEBRUARY 1979

DUAL PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

The Audubon Society of the Everglades will feature a dual program at its February 6th monthly meeting.

The first of the programs will be a presentation by Jack McLaughlin, ASE education chairman, and John Gregory concerning Explorer Post #290 which they have been directing through John I. Leonard High School. Two years ago when the Post was being organized, ASE agreed to become its sponsor and to lend assistance whenever needed.

Jack and John will now show us, via a slide presentation, some of the accomplishments of the Post, as well as some of their day and weekend camping/canoeing excursions made in the past few years at such interesting and probably familiar sites as the Loxahatchee River in Jonathan Dickinson State Park and the well-known Peace River.

The second program will be a half-hour slide presentation showing some of South Florida's more prominent parks and sanctuaries - such as Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, and the Lake Worth Intercoastal Islands.

Be sure to study your bird identification, too, as we will do our

best to quiz you during the presentation.

Join us on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center located on Dreher Trail North, off Summit Blvd., for a most interesting program. Be sure to bring your friends! You do not need to be a member to attend.

(Mary E. Nye)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, February 10 - Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Marsh Trail parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 24 - Jack Island State Park. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take Florida Turnpike to Ft. Pierce exit. Go east to U.S. Rt. 1, turn north and go all the way through town to the street leading to the north bridge (look for ALA North signs) and go east to ALA. Then north on ALA for about 1 mile to the park entrance on your left. Driving time, approx. 1 hour and 45 minutes. Mr. and Mrs. William Dowling of Ft. Pierce will be our leaders.

SATURDAY, March 3 - Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. See details on this bus trip elsewhere in this issue.
(Tom McElroy)

CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORT

On our twentieth Christmas Bird Count, sixty observers found only 140 species, ten below what one might normally expect. The absence of severe cold fronts failed to push many hardy species this far south; yet this mild weather turned up only two late stragglers: the Red-eyed Vireo and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

NEW SPECIES - For the first time on our count, William Dowling and Ollie Olsen identified a Western Tanager, bathing with Robins at Quail Ridge. The next morning Gloria Hunter and Marge Eaton confirmed the sighting.

GOOD FINDS - The Red-eyed Vireo, an excellent find in December and only our third count sighting, was chasing and fussing with a Solitary Vireo when Ray Plockelman and Tom McElroy found it. The observers even relocated the vireo later in the day.

A straggling Yellow-billed Cuckoo flew to a perch in a tree and allowed careful study by Tadjiu Trotsky and hpl for our fifth count record. For only our third time, the Wilson's Warbler at Loxahatchee Refuge was spotted by Paul Sykes and Ann Ayers and confirmed a few days later by Al and Barbara Liberman and Cecil Kilmer.

Near the same sparrow field as last year, Helen and William Dowling, Jane Brooks and Ollie Olsen again found two White-crowned Sparrows for our second count record. Three Clay-colored Sparrows (Trotsky and hpl) were present all week at Congress and Hypoluxo Road for our fourth sighting. Trotsky found a magnificent diamond-backed rattlesnake in this field after the count.

The Greater Scaup flew within twenty feet, reported Barry Vorse and Lorne Malo, to show its white "down to the tip of the wing" for our seventh record. Alan Parmalee, David Hasse and Joseph Sandella saw six Lark Sparrows, our sixth record.

Some Saves: Clapper Rail and Forster's Terns (Hunter, Bowman, Graves), American Wigeon (Eaton,

Liberman, Cooley, Wilson), Northern Waterthrush (Sykes, Ayers), Vesper Sparrow (McCall, Mueller).

Last year we were high in the U.S. with the following species: Cory's Shearwater 1 (this year 0), Least Bittern 43 (this year 33), Snail Kite 3 (this year 0), Limpkin 67 (35), Purple Gallinule 20 (9), Eastern Kingbird 1 (0), House Wren 142 (107), Gray Catbird (325 (287), Magnolia Warbler 1 (0), Ovenbird 13 (16), and Common Yellowthroat 737 (this year 656). (H. P. Langridge)

CORKSCREW SWAMP BUS TRIP

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is a 10,000 acre wilderness located in the Big Cypress Area of southwest Florida and includes the country's largest remaining stand of virgin cypress - some that are 700 years old.

The sanctuary is owned and operated by the National Audubon Society and is a major nesting area of the Wood Stork. It is a fascinating place filled with a large variety of plant and animal life. A mile-long boardwalk through the swamp provides a close-up look at much of this wildlife.

Audubon Society of the Everglades will be sponsoring a bus trip to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary on Saturday, March 3. Ann Ayers will be your guide.

The bus will leave Pine Jog Center, on Summit Blvd. west of W.P.B., at 7:00 A.M. SHARP and will return before 6:00 P.M. Dress for cool weather and walking; bring beverage and lunch. Don't forget your binoculars, birdbooks, and cameras.

Tickets may be obtained at the February 6 Audubon meeting at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Park, at 7:00 P.M. Cost is \$14.00 per person and includes the entrance fee at the sanctuary. Seats are limited, so don't miss out. For further information: 9-12 noon, call 686-6600; 1-9 P.M., call 965-6147.

P.S. If you want to read more about Corkscrew, see Nov/Dec AUDUBON.

CUSTARD APPLE TRAIL

The Custard Apple Nature Trail in John Prince Park has been enhanced by the planting of 16 new native trees, according to a report by Louise Morgan for Friends of the Custard Apple Trail, the group which would welcome volunteers for its Thursday morning trail maintenance meetings.

Included in the recent plantings were Black Ironwood, Spanish Stopper, Canella (Cinnamon Bark), Fiddlewood, Jamaican Caper, Mastic, Red Cedar, Red Stopper, West Indian Cherry, Thatch Palm, and Pop Ash.

Purchase of these trees was made possible by ASE's Nature Trail budget and by donations from the following: Lantana Woman's Club, Dr. William S. Wells, Mrs. Lois Dias in honor of Larry Dias, Frank Greenberger and sister in honor of Mrs. Theresa Greenberg, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Angus, also in honor of Mrs. Greenberg.

* * * * *

The Saturday afternoon guided Nature Trail walks, sponsored by ASE at 3 p.m., are well-attended. The Jan. 6 walk, led by Louise Morgan and Dorothy Winkfield, had 15; on the 13th, with leaders Ann Ayers and Hazel Boyd, there were 22, and on the 20th, Sara Schenck and Ruth Trumpower led a group of 23 interested visitors.

Leaders for Jan. 27 are Marge Eaton and Dorothy Winkfield; Feb. 3, Gloria Hunter; no one yet for Feb. 10, and on the 17th, David Silverman.

The walks will continue at least through March and leaders or assistant leaders are badly needed. Please call Louise Morgan, 585-0496, or me, 686-4254, and volunteer a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon.

(Sy Magnus)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A recent workshop on the Loxahatchee Slough/River was conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Most all State agencies involved in issuing permits within the designated area were represented. (Even Bankers Life and

Casualty sent some one, since it owns a large portion of the area.)

Doris and Ed Henriquez, who represented ASE, reported the consensus of the small group discussions was that the slough and river should be protected and given first priority.

Immediately on the heels of the Corps workshop, the National Park Service held a public meeting at Tequesta to discover how much local citizenry interest existed in the proposed Wild and Scenic River status of the Loxahatchee River. I represented ASE at this meeting, which included staff persons from Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Encon, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jupiter Inlet District, Sierra Club, Scouting, Pack & Paddle Club, and the Martin Co. Commission.

Persons interested in endorsing this river for Wild and Scenic status may send their comments to: Regional Director, National Park Service, 1895 Phoenix Blvd., Atlanta, Ga. 30349.

Just a reminder that FAS has extended the membership drive to Feb. 15. If you have friends who are interested in becoming members, encourage them to do so now by sending check and membership information form to Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Fl. 32751.

A telephone call from the Alaska Coalition in Washington advises that H.R. 39 (Alaska Public Lands Bill) has been re-introduced with some 124 sponsors. Letters are urgently needed to Florida's entire delegation asking them to become co-sponsors. (As of 1/25/79, Florida sponsors included Layman, Fascell and Pepper.) There is a break in Congress Feb. 9-12 for those interested in personally contacting our district representative.

On Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m., the Southeast Audubon Chapters of Florida are sponsoring a workshop on the "Art and Science of Arguing Our Case." State Senator Bob McKnight and Metro Miami Commissioner Ruth Shack will be guest speakers. The meeting, to be held at the Doc. Thomas House, is open to anyone wishing to attend.

(cont'd.)

In accordance with our chapter's Bylaws, the Nominating and Budget Committees for 1979-80 were appointed at the January Board meeting. Chairing the Nominating Committee is Sy Magnus, with Peggy Teahan and Marge Eaton. The Budget Committee will be chaired by Pat Gleason, with Jack McLaughlin and Marcia Perry.

ASE extends sincere sympathy to Anita Gardner on the death of her sister, Lucy, on December 26. Lucy, along with her sister, worked behind the scenes - proofreading the Kite for years and maintaining our important scrapbook. Her smiling face at our monthly meetings will be missed by all.

I attended the FAS full Board meeting on January 27. The principle topics, important because of its deficit budget, were finances and fund raising projects. (Leah Schad)

DRY TORTUGAS TRIP

Field Trip Chairman Tom McElroy received the following information concerning a proposed Dry Tortugas trip being arranged by Broward Audubon.

Boat "CAN'T MISS" out of Key West tentatively reserved for weekend of May 11 thru 13. This drift fishing boat has capacity of 50 people. About

15 can sleep on board, but sleeping bags, air mattresses, etc. needed whether on board or on beach. Facilities at Dry Tortugas are sparse so take shelter and food for the trip.

Leave Key West on Friday, May 11, at 11:30 P.M., arrive at Dry Tortugas about 6 A.M. Saturday. Stay there until Sunday noon, back at Key West about 6:00 P.M.

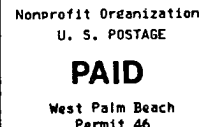
Cost - \$45.00 per person - includes boat transportation and water, nothing else. To bind contract with the boat, need checks by Feb. 9. Make out to Alfred E. Griffin, mail to 7440 N.W. 9th Street, Plantation, Fl. 33317.

This is a first-come, first-serve deal. If not sufficient interest, money will be refunded. If you pay, then find you cannot go, money cannot be returned.

For more details, consult Tom McElroy, 585-6195, or Gloria Hunter, 585-7714, both of whom have made similar trips.

There may be a bus, at about \$24 each, from Broward to Key West. Also advise Mr. Griffin if you are interested in that.

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