



"EAGLE LADY" AT ANNUAL MEETING

Florida Audubon Society's Vice President for Raptor Research and Rehabilitation, Ms. Doris Mager, will be the guest speaker for the Audubon Society of the Everglades at the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 3.

A pot luck dinner will precede the meeting at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center. All attending should bring a meal (enough to feed your family and two other persons), to be placed on the buffet table. Also, bring your own dishes and utensils. We will be providing the tea and coffee.

Ms. Mager will be speaking to us on her present work for the Audubon Society, especially her latest work on Bald Eagle preservation. Ms. Mager began her work with Audubon in 1962, when she was caring for injured birds in the Audubon Maitland Gift Shop. Sixteen years of caring for injured birds has resulted in a \$35,000 predatory bird center now under construction in Maitland.

Be sure to join us for a most interesting program on Tuesday, April 3, at the Garden Club Center. Pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m., annual meeting and program at 7:30 p.m. Use Summit Blvd. entrance to Dreher Park Trail North.

(Mary E. Nye)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 - 5:00 P.M. Evening Fly-in, Fisherman's Island, Flagler and Greenwood Drives. Park on Greenwood or Monroe Drives between Olive and Flagler. Do not block driveways. Limited parking only on Flagler Drive.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 - Spring Bird Count. If not a regular counter, but are interested in participating in this all-day endeavor, contact G. Hunter, 585-7714, for assignment. Everyone welcome to picnic and compilation of day's total. Meet at John Prince Park picnic tables west of maintenance bldgs. If entering from Congress along road bordering golf range, turn right at first bridge over canal, then right again to picnic area. The time - 6 P.M. Bring your own picnic.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

On Tuesday, March 20, the Society presented a check for \$10,750.00 to the Palm Beach County Library to establish an "Audubon Ornithology Collection." Channel 5 provided TV coverage. A feature article will appear in the Palm Beach Post once the books are selected. Thanks again to the Library Committee, Tom McElroy, Chairman, Pat Gleason and Mary Nye, for the many hours spent working out
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the details with Acting County Librarian Kathy Perinoff and her staff.

Volunteers are needed for two very important jobs. One, we need to audit our books for the past year and would appreciate anyone with this ability speaking to me. The other is the need to reactivate and reorganize our telephone chain. The purpose of the chain is to get as many people as possible advised of a particular need, when the occasion arises, in the shortest period of time. Should there be anyone willing to take on this task, please let me know.

On April 1st, Russell W. Peterson became the new president of National Audubon. Peterson, a scientist and winner of the 1977 Audubon Medal, was formerly director of the Office of Technology Assessment, an agency of Congress. He was elected governor of Delaware in 1968 and won national attention as a conservationist for his tough program to protect that state's coastal zone. We all look forward to a new era for Audubon and its varied goals.

Looking for something different to do? A conference on Florida Exotic Non-native Species (Fishes, Herps, Birds and Mammals), sponsored by Florida Audubon and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, will be held at Florida Atlantic University April 19-20. Contact Dr. Walter R. Courtenay, Jr., Dept. of Biological Science, FAU, Boca Raton 33431.

The weekend of April 27-29 will find the Florida Ornithological Society meeting at Dauphin, Alabama. For details, contact Curtis Kanesbery, 2900 N. Magnolia Ave., Pensacola, Fl. 32503

Also on the same weekend there will be a Barrier Island Conference, sponsored by Pine Jog, ASE, and Florida Sea Grant, at the Ramada Inn Oceanside, Ft. Pierce. Some teacher scholarships are available. For details, contact Marge Gordon, Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center, 6301 Summit Blvd., W.P.B. 33406; Phone (305) 686-6600.

Should you decide to stay home, our own Spring Bird Count is April 28; details elsewhere in this issue.

Letters and/or telegrams are urgently needed to our legislative delegation in Tallahassee urging them to support CS/HR 141 and CS/SB 26 to provide orderly termination of the Cross Florida Barge Canal (CFBC), including transfer of the Canal Authority to the Dept. of Natural Resources, transfer of lands in the Oklawaha River Valley to the expanded Ocala National Forest, permit sale of surplus canal lands, refund the canal counties for money spent on right-of-way, and establish an inter-agency committee on restoration and management plans. We need more support in the Congress as well. Write any and all Florida representatives requesting CFBC deauthorization.

Letters are also needed to our representative, Dan Mica, asking that he become a co-sponsor of HR 39 (Alaska Lands Bill). If you have not yet written letters to the Merchant Marines and Fisheries Committee, there is still time to do so. Representative John Bereaux is chairman of the committee. Two Floridians sit

on the committee - Representatives Edward J. Stack and Earl Hutto. We are asking their support of the Udall version of HR 39 which does not include the Huckaby amendment.

On March 24 I hosted Sean McGuire, John Rauverol and Eric Fischer from Berkeley, California. Sean has walked from Alaska and hopes to arrive in Key West on April 9, drawing attention to the Alaska Lands Bill, HR 39, as introduced by Morris Udall. ASE is grateful to Channels 5 and 12, The Palm Beach Post and The Miami Herald for the excellent publicity provided Sean.

The Palm Beach County Schools Science Fair was held March 29-31 at the Palm Beach Mall. ASE provided judges in the Environmental Science category and awarded prizes in both Junior and Senior Divisions.

FAS SPRING CONFERENCE NOTES Ridge Audubon and Tampa Audubon chapters are winners in the recent membership drive conducted by Florida Audubon. Chapter presidents winning individual prizes were Overton Ganong, Tampa; Jane Cobb, Martin County, and Maggie Bowman, Pelican Island. Congratulations all! ... FAS recently received a \$10,000 grant for Dusky Seaside Sparrow Recovery efforts. Dr. Herb Kale, FAS Vice-President for Ornithology, heads the program. Twenty-six of the species (all male) are known to exist.... The FAS Fall Conference topic will be hurricanes.... As the Florida Legislature convenes, it is noteworthy to mention issues which will be of extreme concern to all of us. They are the Cross Florida Barge Canal, Areas of State Critical Concern and to whom the authority will be given to designate same, and ways to find more money for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. In addition, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is again pushing for retail sales of crocodillian products. Letters are needed opposing such a law... LIFE Magazine was in Maitland to interview Doris Mager. Look for her in a future issue..... Debbie Fritz, former newsletter editor of Tropical Audubon, has been named co-education director for Florida Audubon... Plans are underway to rename the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in honor of Allan Cruickshank. Should this fail, an information building will be named for him. (Leah Schad)

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE - TALLAHASSEE 32304

Senator Philip D. Lewis, Suite 409-C,
The Capitol
Senator Don C. Childers, 318 Senate Off.Bldg.
Senator H.A. Johnston II, 210 Senate Off.Bldg.
Rep. Gene Campbell, 432 House Off. Bldg.
Rep. Ed J. Healey, 207 House Off. Bldg.
Rep. Thomas F. Lewis, 325 The Capitol
Rep. Ray Liberti, 318 The Capitol
Rep. Jim Watt, 325 The Capitol
Rep. Eleanor Weinstock, 223 The Capitol

U. S. CONGRESS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senator Lawton M. Chiles, 443 Russell Bldg.
Senator Richard Stone, 1327 Dirksen Bldg.
both with 20510 zip
Rep. Daniel A. Mica, 512 Cannon Bldg., 20515

VULTURES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

High above the traffic jam at Royal Palm Way and County Road, a thousand turkey vultures wheel and soar. They revolve in their kettle, floating on the thermals of this bright winter afternoon. Through binoculars, they present an aerial ballet of spectacular beauty as they fly their V-shaped wings with five wing feathers outstretched like fingers. Unlike airplanes, they never collide or show a near miss.

Later in the day they drift southward to congregate over the Bath and Tennis Club. Their slowly changing flight patterns are a marvel of grace and elegance. As darkness falls, they settle into the palms and high trees between the beach and County Road.

The magic of evolution has given the turkey vulture unique powers. Their eyes are so keen that they can spot carrion by the swarms of green flies. They have snips in their beaks that can cut any tendon, and the skin on their heads cleans off easily. In terms of body weight per wing area, they have the lightest wing load of all birds. They even have a usable sense of smell.

Their sheer numbers raise many questions. Where do they feed? What do they do all day? Why is a pelican attractive and a vulture repulsive? How much of their flying is for pure fun? Where are other roosts?

A long-time resident, a keen observer, reports that as the birds settle in for the night they are silent, gentle, and kind to each other, never pushing or shoving like egrets. They arrive in his grove in October and leave in April. He has never seen them feeding, but they do keep his property well fertilized. And above all, in their loving groupiness, they smell. But if everyone is stinky, who would know it? (Hank McCall)

KITE STRINGS

One of our local birders, Barry Vorse, sports reporter with the Palm Beach Times, has started a new weekly column Thursday afternoons in the Leisure Section of the Times. Entitled "Birds of South Florida," the articles will deal mainly with identification of the birds we see locally. A full color illustration will accompany each article. Watch for it!

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Our birders advise that the northern migration of land birds is now beginning.

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The next monthly pelagic bird trip leaving the Ft. Pierce Marina at 7:30 A.M. is on Sunday, April 8. For reservations, send check for \$20.00 to Bill Dowling, 203 Tumblin Kling Road, Ft. Pierce 33450. For more information, contact G. Hunter, 585-7714.

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FOR SALE: Volumes I and II of "The Book of Birds" published by the National Geographic in 1939 - \$22.50 the pair. Contact Bette Longhurst, 965-5659.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Year-end reports by some officers and chairmen are given below. Others will be published in the May KITE.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - 1978-79

The field trip schedule for the 1978-79 season included 18 events. These varied from short morning walks to weekends at Everglades National Park and Highland Hammock State Park. Attendance at these events varied from a dozen to 75 people.

As usual, this schedule relied rather heavily on the use of Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. Due to the implementation of some rather extensive management plans, the refuge was not as consistently productive as in prior years.

To profit by this year's experiences, perhaps we should consider some innovations as to areas and trip objectives. While birding will undoubtedly continue to receive major emphasis, I feel that some interpretative trips relating to the ecology and land problems of the area would be most informative. One thing is certain: the schedule of field trips is a cohesive force that does much to keep the organization on a continuing functional basis. This interest will continue if we can utilize our best leadership and adjust somewhat to the demands of time.

(Thomas P. McElroy, Jr.)

1978-79 ANNUAL PROGRAMS REPORT

In reviewing the past year, we have had many varied programs at our regular monthly meetings. Some of these programs were designed to provide entertainment only. However, as interesting as they were, we made fervent attempts to educate our general assembly on matters concerning our high quality of life and our high quality environment.

We had programs concerning the Everglades such as "The River of Grass," the Loxahatchee River and the many refuges. Mr. Jim Cogswell spoke to us about the Civil Defense program and nuclear power. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Director Jerry Cutlip enlightened us on the new sanctuary system. And Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Ewers (Science Museum & Planetarium) gave a truly interesting presentation on Alaska.

In closing, I would like to thank the many members for their able assistance and suggestions. It's really all of the ASE members working together as a team that makes all the programs work.

(Mary E. Nye)

NATURE TRAIL REPORT

Guided Nature Trail walks at John Prince Park have been very well attended (averaging 20 each) by appreciative adults and children. These walks will continue until the end of April. Two Girl Scout walks were also guided.

We have had very good cooperation from various groups of leaders and we thank them very much. Notices in the Lake Worth Herald, the Shopper, the Palm Beach Post, and in

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store windows have helped greatly.

These walks have also brought us additional help, very much needed, for the Thursday morning nature trail maintenance work, as well as some new Audubon members.

Come over and help or watch us.
(Sy Magnus)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of January 31, 1979, the Audubon Society of the Everglades had 970 memberships. The NAS records of June 30, 1978, showed ASE with 976 memberships. (Cecil Kilmer)

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Atlantis: Mrs. Walter Nash

Belle Glade: Ann Tyler

Jupiter: Mae V. O'Boyle, S.R. Greenblatt, Mrs. Gladys Lane

Lake Park: Andrew Birdsall, Laurence Chalfont, Barbara A. Knight, Jeanne Pontz

Lake Worth: M.K. Cuyler, Robert C. Hein, Norman Kenneway, Betty Larson, Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Pippin

Lantana: R. Leroy

Loxahatchee: Tom Mercers

Manalapan: Michael Kennedy

Naples: E.C. & H.M. Williams

North Palm Beach: Joan Kane

Ocean Ridge: David C. Price

Palm Beach: The Addison Family, Mrs. Lillian Harbater, Eva Karstens, Victoria Lustig, Miss Esther Northridge, Mrs. H.M. Peppard

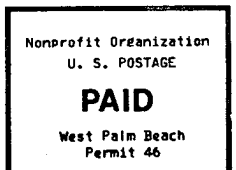
Palm Beach Gardens: Lynn Huber

Riviera Beach: Margaret M. Mahoney, Barbara Oetzman

West Palm Beach: Edith Bierbrier, Mr. & Mrs. L.L. Bishop & Family, Ms. Dawn Carlyle, Randy K. Dimmett, Patty Donnelly, Sandy Fagin, Mrs. Mary Finch, Natalie Gardner, G.W. Gawthrop, Robert Jahn, Oliver Jones, Dr. & Mrs. John M. Monroe, Mr. & Mrs. Irving Oblas, Dr. H.K. Peacock, Kathleen Piller, Mr. & Mrs. Giles Prendergast, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Rice, Mrs. E.B. Schiring, Miss Mary Margaret Semple, K.C. Shannon Jr., Robert & Ethel Solow, Mrs. Y.Q. Stephens, Timothy R. Tucker

Out-of-State: Marie M. O'Brien, Holbrook, N.Y.; Dr. Ronald J. Glasser, Minneapolis, Minn.

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