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EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 20, No. 1

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

OCTOBER 1979



YOUR COUNTY PARKS - EXISTING AND PLANNED

For its October 2nd program, the Audubon Society of the Everglades is pleased to present the Palm Beach County Director of Parks & Recreation, John Dance, who will speak about and show slides of area parks.

Mr. Dance is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, where he earned his Masters in Public Administration and many honors on the football field.

During his seven years in office, he has accounted for the acquisition and expansion of many county parks and recreation centers. These now total forty-five, with more coming. Currently he is chairman of the District 5 Florida Parks and Recreation Association.

Along with information on the facilities now offered, he will probably give us an idea of the additional parks under construction, such as Okechee, Ocean Ridge and Loxahatchee River Bend Parks, the 265-acre Thomas tract in Belle Glade and many others.

The public is welcomed at all ASE monthly meetings, which are held the first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, North Dreher Park Trail (off Summit Blvd. just east of the Zoo). Bring a friend to October's informative program.

(Sy Magnus)

THE AMERICAN EAGLE: SYMBOL FOR SURVIVAL

An exhibition of photographs and facts about the bird that is our national emblem opens at the Science Museum on Saturday, October 27. It is jointly sponsored by the museum and Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Over eighty full color and black and white photographs, taken by nature photographer Victor M. Banks, are complemented by texts which explore the history of the American Bald Eagle and examine its life style, characteristics, and habitats. This exhibit is touring nationally under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It will remain on view at the Science Museum through November 25.

In 1782, after six years of discussion, the American Bald Eagle was chosen as the national symbol for the United States over the objection of Benjamin Franklin, who felt the wild turkey to be a more respectable bird. Since then, the Bald Eagle has come to signify the independence and strength of America. However, today its continued existence is in grave doubt. The living embodiment of our national symbol has been ruthlessly hunted in the past for as little as fifty cents bounty.

At present, although protected by an Act of Congress and classified

as an endangered species, the eagle is not only still threatened by deliberate shooting, but also suffers greatly from man-made pollutants and destruction of its habitat. Several dedicated groups and individuals are working hard to preserve this magnificent predator. Hopefully, one day soon its numbers may return to something approaching former strength.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, October 13. Fall Bird Count (details below).

SATURDAY, October 27, 8 a.m., Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Meet at entrance parking lot for walk dealing with birds and botany. Bring your lunch.

FALL BIRD COUNT

If you have had some birding experience, but have never participated in a bird count, the Fall Count on October 13 is a good training session. Contact Gloria Hunter, 585-7714 for assignment to an experienced team. Christmas Count team members should contact their leaders.

Everyone, whether counting or not, is invited to bring a picnic supper and hear the count tally that same evening at 6 o'clock in John Prince park (south end, west of the Maintenance Bldgs.).

THE DEER OF BIG PINE KEY

Our November 23-25 field trip will feature close views of the Key Deer. These are a dwarf race of the Virginia Deer, and they are downright "cute."

Only in the lower Keys can these little animals be seen. Their population has increased during the last 20 years from a low of 50 to a high of 500 today. Almost none are in captivity.

They are about half the size of a normal white tail deer, reaching a

height of 30 inches and a weight of 50 to 60 pounds. Their life span is about six years, but they do a lot of living. In July we saw the males with velvet horns, which will be shiny and hard by November. One buck had nine points.

Early mornings and late afternoons are the best times to seek these little beauties. They haunt the flats at the north end of Key Deer Blvd. on Big Pine and the Forest Road on No Name Key. A fresh carrot will guarantee photographers a glorious close-up portrait.

Do your planning now to join us on our search for this wee beastie on its only free range in the whole wide, wide world. (Hank McCall)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

ASE is very pleased to be co-sponsoring the Bald Eagle Exhibit with the Science Museum. To help enhance the exhibit, we have invited Doris Mager, FAS Vice President for Raptor Research and Rehabilitation, to speak at the museum. On Friday evening, November 2nd, from 7 to 10, there will be a VIP evening for Science Museum and Audubon members. Ms. Mager will speak at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. ASE members need only show their current membership card for admission.

The same program will be presented for the general public on Saturday evening, November 3rd. Be sure to tell your friends and, by all means, I urge you to make an effort to attend.

On Saturday, October 20, ASE is sponsoring an Oiled Bird Rehabilitation Workshop, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. Major Louis F. Gainey has graciously given us the use of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission offices at 551 N. Military Trail for the workshop. Bonnie Findlay from Bambi Wildlife Sanctuary will pass on the knowledge and techniques which she learned last winter when we sent her to a similar workshop in Ft. Pierce. Bruce Bowman of the Game Commission will also be on hand and we hope to have Dr. Herbert

W. Kale II, FAS Vice President for Ornithological Research.

The workshop is open to anyone interested in attending. Bring a bag lunch; soft drinks will be provided. There will be a nominal registration fee of \$1.00. In order to have some idea of how many people for whom we need to plan, please call me, 848-9984, after 6 p.m., if you will attend.

Just a reminder that the FAS annual convention will be held at the Eden Roc on Miami Beach October 26-28. A timely topic, Hurricanes, will be discussed during the all-day Saturday program. The FAS Board of Directors convenes Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The annual Members' Meeting is scheduled for Saturday from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. All the field trips are arranged for Sunday. This new format is being tried in the hope that more people will be able to attend both the convention and the field trips.

Dr. Russell W. Petterson, president of National Audubon, will be the guest speaker at Saturday evening's banquet. I will have registration forms at our October meeting for those interested in attending.

The ASE Board of Directors voted to financially support Tropical Audubon Society and the Miami Isaac Walton League in their legal battle to prevent the dumping of garbage in a sensitive wetlands area next to Biscayne Bay. The project is known as Munisport, City of North Miami.

Can we increase our membership by 20%? If we can, during the year June 30, 1979 - July 1, 1980, National Audubon offers a \$5.00 bonus for each new (not transfer) member. It's a challenge that we can accomplish if each of you will try to persuade a friend to join in our fight for conservation and preservation of our land, air, water, wildlife and way of life. (Leah Schad)

* * * * *

ASE's 1979-80 program schedules were sent out with the September KITE. If you didn't receive one, they are available at monthly meetings and, hopefully, at various libraries and

Chambers of Commerce. If your library or Chamber doesn't have it, advise Ye Ed., 582-4401, (after Oct. 8) and we'll see that some are delivered there - unless you can pick them up at meeting and do so for us.

* * * * *

BAMBI BIRD & WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, INC.
10948 Acme Road
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33411

Dear Fellow Members:

Bambi Wildlife Sanctuary has committed itself to the Coast Guard and U.S. Fish & Wildlife for setting up an oil contingency plan and being in charge of it. ASE President Leah Schad has promised a workshop later, which I'm sure will be most helpful.

We do, however, need some immediate help. The phone number here is 793-2473 (Bird). It will be one of the emergency numbers used in the event of an oil spill. We would appreciate members calling us who have the following knowledge:

1. Know Dan Mica.
2. Know a County Commission member.
3. Know the owner or manager of Lion Country Safari.
4. Are a member of the Everglades Club, Bath & Tennis, Society of the Four Arts, or know the managers.
5. Know the manager of the Breakers.
6. Know anyone on the boards of any of the local hospitals.
7. Know the Captain or Mate of an oil tanker, either active or retired.
8. Know the President or Chairman of the Board of either Florida Power & Light or Southern Bell.
9. Any member who is a veterinarian, doctor, nurse, or who has had medical experience.
10. Any member who has had experience handling wild birds.
11. Any member willing to volunteer a few hours a week to learn how to handle birds, so they could help in the event of an oil spill.
12. Any member who knows the editors of any of the local newspapers or the heads of any local radio or TV stations.

Please phone us as soon as pos-

sible so we can take this first step together.

The sanctuary itself is badly in need of the following:

1. Airplane carrying cages, any size.
2. A small autoclave.
3. Roll of green fiberglass screening.
4. Small surgical instruments.
5. Rolls of hardware cloth, any size.
6. Freezers and refrigerators, new or used.

We are a tax-exempt, non-profit organization and any of the above would be a tax deduction for you.

Please contact us soon. We do need your help.

Bonnie Findlay
President

PARTICULARLY FOR BIRDERS

The fall meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society is on October 5 to 7, with the St. Lucie Audubon

Society, Ft. Pierce, as hosts. Headquarters will be at the Ramada Inn Oceanfront Resort there.

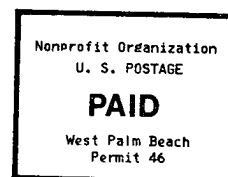
Various field trips are scheduled Saturday morning. After lunch there will be a general membership meeting and presentation of ornithological reports, followed by a banquet that evening and ending with a bird slide program.

A pelagic trip from the St. Lucie Inlet is the highlight of Sunday's schedule.

This is your opportunity to rub shoulders with birders from throughout Florida, catch up on all the state birding news, maybe even add a few birds to your list! Ft. Pierce is only 60 miles away; plan to attend all or part of this weekend.

For further information, call Gloria Hunter, 585-7714, or Bill Dowling, Ft. Pierce, 464-8825. Reservations are necessary for the banquet and pelagic trip. (G. Hunter)

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