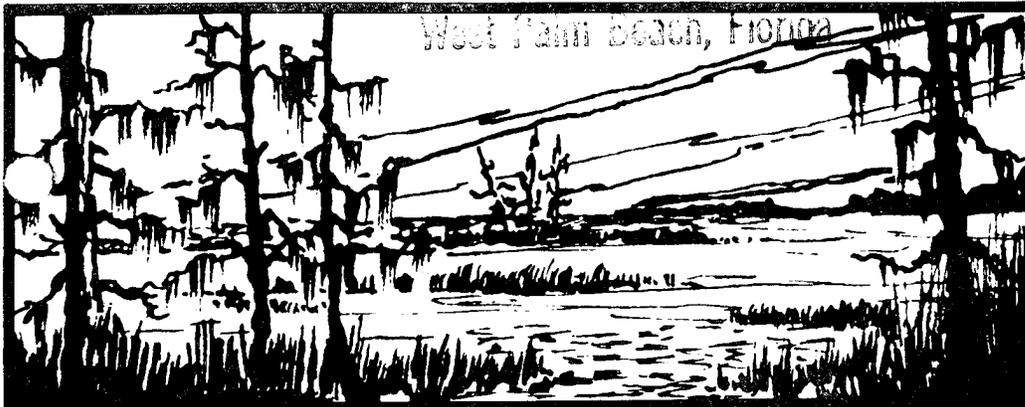


West Palm Beach, Florida



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 20, No. 5

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

FEBRUARY 1980

RESEARCH TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Brion Blackwelder, founder and coordinator of the Environmental Coalition of Broward County, will present the program at ASE's February 5th meeting. He and an associate, with the aid of a large map and other props, will describe the Environmental Toxics Action Program they are working on under a grant from EPA.

The presentation describes what is necessary to combat an environmental problem from an individual's standpoint, referring particularly to problems in South Florida - carcinogens in drinking water, air pollutants, hazardous wastes, food chain and pesticide contaminants, etc.

Mr. Blackwelder, a native of Washington, D.C. and a graduate of Duke University, has gradually worked his way south. He was director of the South Carolina Environmental Coalition from 1972 to 1978; then a staff member and researcher for the Florida Conservation Foundation.

As a curtain-raiser, our own Dr. Elwood Bracey will present a mini-program, "A Medical and Wildlife Safari in New Guinea and Australia." Come and bring your friends to the ASE meeting on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, N. Dreher Park Trail.
(Simon Magnus)

FIELD TRIP NEWS

The January 5th "Wet and Dirty" hike drew 14 hardy bird observers. We saw acres of beautiful primitive wetlands, 31 species of birds, and a pair of playful otters.

The Titusville weekend showed a wonderful display of water birds. Twenty-four observers appeared on Saturday and Bob Barber led us into the thick of the birds.

We saw 93 species, including tens of thousands of ducks - widgeons, pintails, ringnecks, teal, redheads and canvasbacks. The coots outnumbered the total of all ducks. A driving rain hit us at 10 a.m., breaking up the party. After the rain we saw a pair of loving eagles circle about, kissing in the near arcs. A white-phase reddish egret stood still and close so we could all get a good look. Just before lunch we spotted by the telescope a peregrine falcon. And at the day's end, Cecil Kilmer found her sedge wren.

On Sunday, eight of us sailed with Johnny Johnson on a pelagic trip. The seas were big and rolling, sending stomachs rolling too. Birds seen were parasitic and pomerine jaegers, Audubon and Manx shearwaters, gannets and four types of terns. What a privilege to be with Johnny.

(continued)

Don't overlook our 7:30 a.m., February 23, field trip at the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, with Howard Langridge leading. Meet at the Marsh parking lot. Do plan to come.
(Hank McCall)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In all my years of membership in Audubon Society of the Everglades, no meeting was so well attended as that on January 2nd. Almost 200 people came to see Slick and learn of the fate of the Timber Wolf. Your support is always needed. Let's keep up the good attendance! Bring a friend to the next meeting.

By now many of you know that Marcia Perry resigned as our treasurer to accept a position in Atlanta, Ga. The Board of Directors approved the nomination of Don Braender to fill the vacancy. Don and his wife, Marge, are new to our area and ASE. Before retiring to Tequesta, Don had his own business and has served as treasurer in several civic organizations. We are fortunate to have the Braenders among us and appreciate Don's willingness to handle our finances.

Another nomination approved by the Board is that of Cathy Laessig, who has agreed to head the Audubon Wildlife Film Series which the membership voted to re-instate. We are grateful to Maggie Bowman, president of Pelican Island Audubon, for sharing with us all the knowledge that makes their series such a success. She has passed on a wealth of information and new ideas. Those of you who expressed so much interest in the films are asked to speak to Cathy. She will need lots of good help.

The Palm Beach County Schools Science Fair is scheduled for February 21, 22, 23 at the Palm Beach Mall. ASE will provide judges and award prizes to first and second place winners in the Senior and Junior Divisions to students whose exhibits display outstanding work in the environmental/conservation category. We need several volunteers for judges.

Interested? Please speak to me.

In accordance with the newly adopted bylaws, the Nominating Committee is as follows: Cathy Laessig (Board), chairperson, Steve Bollinger and Ann Ayers from the membership. The Finance Committee members are Ruth Trumpower, chairperson; Don Braender, Pat Gleason and Peggy Teahan.

The Board of Directors adopted a resolution of commendation for Hal Scott as he leaves the office of president of Florida Audubon Society. The resolution will be presented at his retirement dinner. We also voted to invite Mr. Scott to our annual meeting and present him with a small token of our appreciation for his years of service to Audubon.

Doris Mager will be in town at our invitation on February 18 and 19. Jack McLaughlin has arranged for her to speak at five elementary schools.

On the conservation scene you will be pleased to know the EPA decision regarding Munisport in North Miami was favorable to the environmental cause and ordered the developer to stop work within three days (December 12 or thereabouts). We supported Tropical Audubon financially in this project. The EPA decision is one which goes a long way in protecting wetlands in the state. Tropical advises us that the developer will no doubt shift the fight to Washington, so more work will be needed.

Letters are needed to Representative Dan Mica and Senators Chiles and Stone urging them to support the Fisheries Management Plan as presented by the Superintendent of Everglades National Park.

If you read your recent AUDUBON SOUTH, you saw where Congressman Mica voted in favor of using Mirex as a pesticide to fight fire ants. He needs a flood of letters telling of our disappointment in him for voting for this dangerous chemical.

UPDATE ON THE FAMILY SOLAR ENERGY CONFERENCE: The date and place have been changed to Saturday, April 19, at Palm Beach Junior College in the

Allied Health Service Building. Children will occupy several classrooms.

Our list of co-sponsors has grown considerably. We are pleased that so many organizations are joining with us in this worthwhile endeavor. They include Palm Beach Junior College, Florida Solar Energy Center, Florida Solar Coalition, Florida Environmental Information Center, Science Museum and Planetarium of Palm Beach County, Energy Information Center of P.B. Co. Cooperative Extension Service, REAC X, American Lung Association of Southeast Florida, Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club, and Tropical, Royal Palm, South Dade and Martin County Audubon Societies.

The Junior College will give CEQ points for teachers attending the conference. Lunch will be served in the college cafeteria for \$2.50 per person.

Seating capacity in the conference room limits us to 200 adults. There will be ample room to accommodate the young people. Also, due to college policy, there will be no registration at the door except that which the college requires. Attendees must complete the necessary forms, which will be mailed in the March KITE, and send them with registration fee and lunch money in advance of the conference. Fees will be \$5.00 for single, \$2.00 for an individual student, \$12.00 for a family registration. Additional forms will be available for distribution to the public.

Speakers who have already agreed to participate include Mr. Doug Root, Education Consultant, Florida Solar Energy Center; Dr. Gerard Ventre, Director of the Technology Transfer Division, Florida Solar Energy Center; Mrs. Joan Partington, Florida Solar Coalition; Mr. William Partington, Director, Florida Environmental Information Center; Dr. Roger Messenger, PE, Florida Atlantic University; Dr. John Parker, Assistant Professor of Physical Sciences, Florida International University; Dr. Ralph Ewers, Director, Science Museum and Planetarium; Mr. Rodney Boyd, plumbing contractor and consultant, and Mr. Don Kazimer, manufacturer of solar panels and consultant.

Please start telling your non-Audubon friends about the conference. Remember, we are trying to educate the public, so we need to encourage them to attend.

At the invitation of Mr. Nat Reed, I had the honor and pleasure of attending the week-end meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society in Hobe Sound on January 19 and 20. Saturday morning I attended their Scientific Activities Committee meeting where a great deal of the discussion centered around a newly acquired research ranch in Arizona. Sandy Sprunt, of the National office in Tavonier, gave a most enlightening slide lecture on endangered species. Saturday afternoon I chaired a meeting with members of both National and Florida boards to work out new financial arrangements for the three-way membership. Sunday morning I attended the National Board meeting.

During the social activities I was able to meet a number of the members of the National

Board and this was indeed a pleasure. Names now mean something instead of ink on paper. You can be proud of the caliber of people serving us on the National level. They are all dedicated to the AUDUBON cause. (Leah Schad)

BIRD SPECTACULARS IN FLORIDA

The Christmas Count of Cocoa attracts the top birders of the nation because of the wide variety and numbers of birds to be seen. This year, 192 different species were listed.

Our party encountered lesser scaup ducks by the thousands at day break in an abandoned orange grove at Hacienda del Sol. We were listening for owls, but we heard a rumbling and rustling noise in the dark sky above. As light crept in, we could see formations of hundreds of ducks gliding in on set wings for a landing. We enjoyed the concert of whistling wings for over an hour. While counting other birds, we worked the grove and came upon a hidden lake.

There were the ducks! They covered the lake in a solid sheet. They were a duck blanket stretching as far as we could see, an unbelievable number of individual ducks. There was no activity; the ducks just peacefully snuggled up to each other and snoozed.

Eagle-eyed Al Liberman spotted a pair of oldsquaw in among those thousand upon thousand of scaup. He is a leader par excellence.

About 9:30 the lesser scaup began to fly. What a spectacular sight! The sky was filled with fast-flying, circling birds. Through binoculars they seemed a solid mass moving as a low-flying scud.

We turned in an estimate of 25,000, but in our hearts we all know that number is way too low. What a glorious adventure it is to go birding!
(Hank McCall)

HELP ASE AND FAS

Over the years, the Society's sales table has accumulated a number of items which have lost their appeal for us - but will interest others if put in a bargain sale.

That is why Dick and Nancy Harrington, Sales Co-chairmen, plan an Audubon Society White Elephant Booth at the Lake Worth Chickee Beach Festival on Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23.

To make it more interesting and productive, since the proceeds will be split between Florida Audubon and ASE, members are asked to contribute white elephant items and bring them to our February 5th monthly meeting.

Nancy has advised that almost anything in saleable condition will be welcomed - bric-a-brac, lamps, books, small furnishings, etc., etc. Space rental at the festival will cost \$10 per day and half of the two-day fee has already been contributed. If some member(s) would contribute the other \$10, this would insure that all proceeds go to the two societies.
(continued)

Ye Ed has probably the most elephantine of all white elephants - a pair of adjustable crutches. If anyone wishes to bespeak them before the sale days, I would be absolutely delighted to remove them from my sight for a contribution of \$6.00 and will deliver them to the meeting or wherever. Call me daytime at 582-4401.

If you have any questions about the sale, or getting items thereto, or can staff the booth for a couple of hours, call Dick or Nancy at 734-3532. And don't miss the festival. It will be a biggie - Caribbean steel band, arts/crafts, ethnic foods, many, many other events.
(R.T.)

NATURE TRAIL NOTES

Our every-Saturday, 3 o'clock, January thru April, Guided Nature Trail walks at John Prince Park have thus far been very well attended by enthusiastic participants (20 each trip) and led by knowledgeable and also enthusiastic leaders. Thank you all!

We still need help to maintain the Nature Trail. Work days are

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Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., but other arrangements could also be made.

Anyone interested in helping with the guided walks or working with us c the trail, please call me, 585-0496.

Two more Memory Tree donations have been made:

By Anita Gardner in memory of her sister, Lucy, who was a long-time, very well liked and faithful member of Audubon.

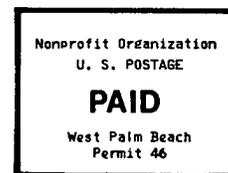
Any by Roberta Knight in memory of Alice Swain, who passed away last September 30 in Illinois. Alice was one of our past presidents and she and Atha Green, in the 1960's, originated the design for the EVERGLADE KITE.
(Louise Morgan)

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Don't forget - an Audubon membership drive is now underway. If ASE can increase its membership by 20 percent over June 1979 before June 1980, our Society will be eligible for a \$5 bonus payment on each membership.

Talk to your friends now about joining to enjoy Audubon publication and activities and also to give Audubon causes the support which they so urgently need at this time.

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