



# EVERGLADE KITE

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES



VOLUME 20, No. 8

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JUNE 1980

### SEA TURTLE CENSUS

The first-ever census of sea turtles nesting on Atlantic beaches from Virginia thru Florida will be taken this summer in a cooperative research effort involving the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and local conservation groups.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades June 3rd meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park, will feature two of the turtle researchers working on the project.

Lou Fallon of the Florida Department of Natural Resources Field Laboratory in Stuart is working on the life cycles of turtles and spends her summers saving nests and operating a head start program for baby turtles. Dewey Worth of Applied Biology at Stuart tagged nesting turtles for DNR and surveys active nesting beaches every night of the summer-long season.

Fallon and Worth will describe the research project aimed at determining the status of Atlantic turtle populations, including greens, loggerheads, leatherbacks, ridley's, and sawbills. The information is needed to regulate the fishing of the open ocean stock.

Audubon members will be briefed on ways they can participate in the

census by "ground truthing" the nest and crawl observations to be made by light-plane flights eight mornings through the summer. Volunteers on these mornings will walk segments of beach shortly after daybreak, counting and identifying crawl tracks and nests left from the previous night.

### LAST TWO FIELD TRIPS

Saul Rimberg reports on the Palm Beach Lake Trail trip: On May 3rd at 8 a.m., 35 birders met at the Royal Poinciana Chapel parking lot and were greeted by Marge Eaton, our guide. Migration of land birds was still in progress and we were fortunate in being able to sight many warblers. Among them were redstarts, Cal May, black-throated blue, blackpoll, black and white, and yellow throat.

Noisy bird calls on the Rabbit Hill lawn caught our attention and revealed five exotic, colorful, red-crowned and yellow-headed parrots. These were a few of the 100 parrots which have been breeding in Florida for about 10 years. Upon hearing the song of the spotted-breasted oriole, we searched and succeeded in locating the bird, beautiful in its spring plumage. This was a first for some birders. We sighted 25 different species of birds.

Nature was in full bloom and

Marge pointed out the rich plant life, both native and foreign species. Among them were the giant kapok trees, banyan, sea grape, pandanus, cycads, and native flowering shrubs and vines. A visit to the orchid greenhouse was a most enjoyable treat. Also, special permission was granted by the Four Arts Center to open the gates to us on Saturday to view the splendid Chinese gardens, a delightful way to end our trip.

Hank McCall tells of the Sanibel trip on May 16-18: The roseate spoonbills showed their beautiful shell pink in banks of color. Ding Darling Refuge sheltered over two hundred of these birds, and they snoozed the daylight hours away with togetherness in one big mangrove clump.

"Their red eyes," said George Weymouth, our well-informed guide, "indicate that they are primarily night feeders." These pink birds feed together in the flats until about 9 a.m., then they perch and nap until sunset. When feeding, the birds swish their bills sideways through the water.

Also in the shallow flats were black skimmers, dowitchers, black-bellied plovers, knots, willets, turnstones, tri-colored herons, and reddish egrets. On one occasion we could see six species of herons without moving our binoculars.

About 24 birders showed up for our 7 a.m. Saturday start. After birding with our excellent guide, all were free to follow their individual tastes of shelling, beach walking, swimming, relaxing, and talking.

#### NEW PRESIDENT FOR FLORIDA AUDUBON

Peter R. Mott from Darien, Conn. was elected president of the Florida Audubon Society on Saturday, May 17, 1980, at the Board of Directors meeting in Orlando. He will assume his duties on June 30th.

Mr. Mott has been involved in education and conservation issues for more than 20 years. Most recently he was headmaster at St. Luke's School, New Cannan, Conn. Prior to this he held a similar position at Moses Brown School in Providence, R.I. He has been an instructor at the National Audubon Society camp in Maine, was the principal investigator for Massachusetts Audubon Society in their investigation of Bird Hazard at Logan Airport, and acted as field coordinator for Mass. Audubon and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their Herring Gull Population Study. He was also principal investigator for the International Salt Company in its project, Conflict of Flamingo Breeding Colony With Establishment of Solar Salt Operation, Bonaire, Netherlands West Indies.

Mr. Mott received his B.A. from Yale University in 1954 and his Masters in Education from Harvard University in 1961. He is affiliated with the Independent Schools Association of R.I., New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and Intercultural Action Learning Program. He has served on the Boards of Directors of the Nature Center for Environmental Activities, Westport, Conn.; New Cannan Audubon Society, Research & Design Institute, John Hope

Settlement House, Providence Youth Guidance Clinic, Audubon Society of R.I., and Pesticides Advisory Committee, Town of Concord, Mass.

We welcome Mr. Mott to Florida and wish him every success in his new position. (Leah Schad)

#### CONSERVATION NEWS

FOX PROPERTY - A good compromise took place when the Governor and Cabinet ordered the preservation of 338 acres of wetlands contiguous to the West Palm Beach Water Catchment Area instead of the 13 or 14 in the developer's original plans. In addition, the Cabinet placed several very strong conditions on the development order which, if not met, could axe the entire project. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has voted to appeal the decision. It is our guess that Mr. Fox will do likewise.

SECTIONS 16 & 21 - To be mined for shell rock and then developed by Rubin Construction Company. Section 16 is all wetlands and is immediately adjacent to the water catchment area. We are therefore opposed to anything being done in this section. We were represented at the public hearing by Dr. Dwight Goforth; Rose Durando has also attended several meetings for us in order to gather information. We are also being kept informed of the situation by Mr. William Boose, attorney for the developer.

SUWANNEE RIVER - On June 18, 1980, the Environmental Regulation Commission for the State of Florida will hold a public hearing on the continued designation of the Suwannee River between State Road 6 and Suwannee Springs as an "Outstanding Florida Water." This designation for that portion is due to automatically lapse on March 1, 1981, unless the Commission acts to continue the designation prior to that date. This hearing is to consider that question. Comments may be mailed to the Department of Environmental Regulation, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Fl. 32301.

MUNISPORT - Tropical Audubon sends word that DER chose not to defend their permit to Munisport because of consistent violations of that permit. Two weeks ago, DER filed suit in Dade Circuit Court to revoke the permit because of failure to post bond and remedy violations noted earlier. Governor Graham has now reversed his support for Munisport. ASE financially supported Tropical in the critical environmental battle which will now contribute to wetlands protection across the state. Harvey Abrams of Tropical suggests we might want to write Governor Robert Graham, The Capitol, Tallahassee 32301; Mr. Jake Varn, Secretary, Dept. of Environmental Regulation, 2600 Blair Stone Rd., Tallahassee 32301, and Ms. Rebecca W. Hanmer, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 345 Courtland St., Atlanta, Ga. 30308, and thank them for the recent actions.

PALM BEACH COUNTY LAND USE PLAN - Many of us have been briefed on the revised land use plan for Palm Beach County. In addition, several attended the first public hearing. It's a good plan. It will have the law behind it - the previous plans were only recommendations.

CAVE BILL - We have been asked to support this bill (HB 1557 by Grant and CS 910 by Trask) which prohibits disturbing caves or similar formations, or obstructions designed to control access thereto, or signs relating thereto; prohibits the selling/offering for sale or exporting of speleothems; prohibits storing or dumping of certain chemicals in caves, etc. Passed House and Senate Natural Resources Committee. Final passage looks good. Write your state legislators for their support.

JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK - Once again ASE supported the Girl Scouts in their effort to keep Camp Welaka and the state park intact. The Martin County Commission went before the Governor and Cabinet on May 20 requesting 1.8 acres be taken out of the park and used for a connector road between Country Club Drive in Tequesta and County Line Road. The Dept. of Natural Resources will make a recommendation when they consider the matter later in the summer. The Martin County attorney is quoted in the Miami Herald as saying the Cabinet must "balance the interests of the Scouts against the rights of the majority of the citizens of Martin County and the Village of Tequesta." We were under the impression that the park belongs to the citizens of Florida and see no need to use state park lands when an alternate site known as Iroquois Road is available. It would be a good idea to express your views to Dr. Elton Gissendanner, Dept. of Natural Resources, 202 Blount St., Tallahassee 32304.

TURTLE CENSUS - The Conservation Committee was unanimous in its decision to take part in a turtle census scheduled for the summer under the auspices of several governmental agencies. Bob Bergen will be coordinating ASE's part in the project. (Further details on Page 1.) If you would like to help, please speak to Bob.

Everglades National Park has a new superintendent, John M. Morehead. Interestingly enough, Mr. Morehead says he knows nothing about the Everglades. Morehead comes to Florida from Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior, where he has been superintendent for the past 10 years.

Palm Beach County Home has adopted as its service project the collecting of cancelled U.S., foreign, and commemorative stamps for Florida Audubon Society. ASE salutes the staff and patients for their concern for the injured Birds of Prey Program.

NEXT CONSERVATION MEETING - JUNE 11,  
7:30 P.M., SCIENCE MUSEUM. (Leah Schad)

#### THANKS - AND A REMINDER

A box containing over 3,000 stamps has been forwarded to Florida Audubon Society at Maitland where the proceeds from their sale will buy food for the Birds of Prey Program for days.

Many thanks to Tom Sanko's fifth grade science class at Palm Beach Day School which passed this great quantity of stamps as one of its class projects this year.

This successful project might serve as a reminder to all our members that the Birds of

Prey Program is wholly dependent upon the sale of used postage stamps for its expenses. Collect the stamps from all your incoming mail, leaving a wide margin of envelope around each stamp, and bring them to our meetings when you've collected a number of them. Involve the business where you work, your next door neighbor, the local scout troop!

#### BIRDING NOTES AND NOTABLES

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announces the water level in Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge Management Area will be drawn down beginning June 1 in order that the fields may be planted in grains attractive to the wintering water birds of the area. As the water levels fall, shorebirds and waders will gather to feed in the emerging fields. Plan a visit to the Loxahatchee Refuge in the next few days.

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On April 29, Macklin Smith, vacationing from Ann Arbor, Mich., spotted an immature Red-footed Booby from the sixth floor of an oceanfront condominium. After studying the slowly circling bird for several minutes, noting its all-white tail and dark mantle, and catching a glimpse of reddish legs, Macklin dashed to his car, pursued the bird as it worked northward and saw it again from the Lake Worth Public Beach for further study. Although occasionally found in the Dry Tortugas, this is the first record for the East Coast.

Macklin's quick alerting of H.P. Langridge and Gloria Hunter enabled them to find the booby floating offshore within scope range for good studies before it flew northward in the dusk.

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The ASE Spring Bird Count, with an able assist from several members of the Royal Palm Chapter, tallied 110 species of birds on May 10th. Although the count was made several days later than usual, Howard Langridge says the number of species recorded was about average for spring counts here. The "best bird" of the day was probably the Philadelphia Vireo found by Brian Hope. There were great numbers of several species of warblers. Twenty-eight people participated.

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The spring migration has come and gone, with a few days when every tree and bush seemed to be teeming with many-colored warblers. There have been 28 kinds of warblers reported this season, several species of thrushes, a few heart-stopping sightings of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and one very rare Black-headed Grosbeak (reported by Jim Arnold). Keep alert during the summer for always-hoped-for vagrants from the Bahamas. See you with the shore birds at Duda in August and September? (Gloria Hunter)

#### DEATH OF A LEGEND

I first met Slick in the spring of 1979 in Orlando at the FAS Spring Conference. After seeing this beautiful animal and the film, "Death of a Legend," which his owner had brought along, I could hardly wait until they

came to West Palm Beach for an ASE program. On January 2nd last, Slick attracted probably the best monthly attendance ever. The film told the story of the timber wolf from birth to sometimes violent death.

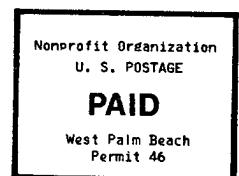
On May 10th, Slick met a violent death when he was shot in the head by an Ontario County, New York, dog warden and his body promptly incinerated by a local veterinarian. His owner, John Harris, has pleaded not guilty to the charge of "failure to protect the public from an attack by a wild animal." The trial date is set for June 19th unless Ontario County drops the charge.

Leslie Cole, the man on whose farm the tragedy took place, was eye witness to the entire incident. The dog warden had allegedly instructed the witness to say nothing. However, when reporter Dick Burdette of the Orlando Sentinel Star telephoned Cole, he related these facts: Slick didn't attack anyone or anything; never bared his teeth or attempted to bite anyone. He was tied up trying to break free and was trying to resist a metal hoop attached to a long pole--the kind used here in Florida to capture alligators.

ASE members, friends and guests knew Slick for a brief time...but long enough to see his beauty and gentleness.

So that Slick's death will not be in vain, letters are needed to Gov. Hugh Carey, The Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224, requesting a grand jury investigation into the whole matter. This is the third wolf John Harris has lost in New York state. The other two were poisoned. Letters to Gary Stewart, Sheriff, Ontario County Courthouse, Canadaigua, N.Y. 14424, expressing your feelings about the matter would also be beneficial. Senseless killing of any animal should not be allowed to continue. (Florida Audubon is starting a defense fund for John Harris. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so by sending a check made payable to CLEM & JETHRO SERIES, c/o Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Fl. 32751.)

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