

Palm Beach County Library System  
West Palm Beach, Florida



# EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 21, No. 3 Ruth Trumpower, Editor DECEMBER 1980

## EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

John M. Morehead, Superintendent of Everglades National Park, will present a program about the park at the December 2nd meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Mr. Morehead, whose home town is Estes Park, Colorado, came to his present position from Isle Royale National Park where he also served as superintendent.

He has been with the National Park Service since graduating from Colorado A & M with a B.S. in Forest Recreation, except for his military years as an instructor in mountain warfare.

Mr. Morehead has been Chief Ranger at Yosemite, Asst. Supervisor at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and a Ranger at Grand Teton National Park and six other national parks or areas. He also served as technical consultant for the National Park Service for Universal Studio's Sierra TV series.

For the latest information on the Everglades, as well as plans for its future, join us on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Trail North.

In addition to a fine program, you can do some Christmas shopping at the Sales Table. And don't forget to pick up a copy of ASE's revised 1980-81 Program Schedule which replaces the one mailed in the September KITE.

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:30 a.m. - Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Marsh Trail parking lot. The group will walk Marsh Trail, the levee and the boardwalk (time and weather permitting), with Ray Plockelman as leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 - Christmas Bird Count - see article Page 3.

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!!!

Season tickets to the Audubon Wildlife Film Series make wonderful stocking stuffers. Only \$10.00 for four exciting evenings, or \$5.00 for students.

Give yourself some tax-relief this holiday season by making a tax-deductible contribution to the film series: \$25 Supporting Member, \$50 Sustaining Member, \$75 Donor, \$100 Patron. Call 582-8275 for more information. (Pat Orris)

## AUDUBON ALASKA TOUR

The Audubon 2-week tour of Alaska this summer was full of unusual adventures and opportunities to see wildlife. Led by naturalist James Tate, Ph.D., the tour included Sitka, Juneau, Glacier Bay, Anchorage, Mount Alyeska, Mendelhall Glacier, McKinley National Park, and St. Paul in the

Pribilofs. Most of the tour was by air.

We enjoyed the slightly Russian flavor of Sitka and especially Sitka National Historic Park, with its many totem poles and nature trails. In this general area, Southeast Alaska, our national bird is flourishing and it was a pleasure to see the bald eagle quite commonly. We found a total of 29 bird species at Sitka.

Lowering, chilly skies were the rule during most of the trip. Juneau was no exception, but 35 bird species were observed here, including Vaux's swift, Steller's jay, the winter wren and the dark-eyed junco. Near Juneau we watched salmon struggling up shallow streams.

Glacier Bay was a really unforgettable experience. Moving up the bay past the many glaciers, we spotted humpback and killer whales, and harbor seals floated by on cakes of ice. Cormorants, puffins, murres, pigeon guillemots, black oystercatchers, harlequin ducks and northern phalaropes were seen, many in great numbers. Nearby at Gustavus we spotted the pine siskin, and the blue grouse was almost tame.

Our bus trip from Anchorage took us through a 100-mile tour inside McKinley National Park to our destination at Camp Denali, a group of log cabins with a splendid view of beautiful Mt. McKinley. Here we observed moose, caribou, Dall sheep, grizzly bears and beaver. One persistent beaver kept building dams which caused the road to be inundated, although park personnel destroyed each dam. He was finally persuaded to build elsewhere. Among the 52 birds found in the park were the long-tailed jaeger, the glaucous gull, Arctic tern, willow ptarmigan, wheatear, Arctic warbler, gray-crowned rosy finch, white-winged crossbill and golden-crowned and white-throated sparrows.

Our last adventure took us to the Pribilofs, treeless but covered with lush green grasses. Here we met the friendly Aleut population who are employed by our government to harvest fur seals while they are on the beach in the summer breeding season. To preserve the species, harvesting is limited to some "bachelors" and an international agreement protects the seals from being slaughtered at sea during the rest of the year. It seemed, at the end of summer, that every foot of beach was occupied - with beachmasters and other males, females and playful pups. We also came across a herd of reindeer, a species introduced some time ago. Frisky Arctic foxes peered at us around a corner or bounded away. The sea cliffs sheltered thousands of birds - fulmars, pelagic and red-faced cormorants, wandering tattlers, murres, auklets, puffins. Others of interest were the red phalarope, yellow-billed and Arctic loons, Baird and other sandpipers, Lapland longspur and snow bunting. And there were only friends such as the ruddy turnstone. On St. Paul we saw 35 species. All bird species seen on the trip totaled 131; many, of course, were seen at several locations.

A volume could be written on the flowers which deck Alaska's summer landscape. Fireweed, a lavender spike up to four feet high, is everywhere. The Arctic poppy is a delicate yellow, and low-growing Parnassus grass lifts its cheerful face of five white petals. Cul-

tivated flowers in the city seem unusually brilliant. All these riches are worthwhile saving. I hope we can continue to save a significant portion. (Venila Van Voorthuyser)

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT GIVEN AND SOUGHT

There has been a marked increase in the upgrading of their membership category by many members in our local chapter. Surely this is a clear indication that the importance of the Audubon cause on the national and local levels is being recognized by our membership.

Remember that your annual membership dues are apportioned among the national, state and local Audubon offices. Your continued support is essential so that we can accomplish all we have set out to do at all levels. An increase in your category, from individual to family, from family to sustaining, from supporting to contributing, will help us offset the ever-increasing cost of our activities.

If these same increasing costs have caused you to consider not renewing your Audubon membership, do reconsider. Your support is increasingly important as the areas of environmental protection needing our attention expand. Discuss the cost of your membership dues with your family and find alternative places for savings. And remember, your dues are tax deductible. (G. Hunter, Membership)

#### GRAND GERMANY

When one can combine birding with a Grand Tour of Germany, it is a thrill. I was traveling with a group whose main interest was not birding, but I was able to identify 41 birds, of which 21 will be placed on my life list.

It was exciting to see the chaffinch feeding on a sidewalk in Heidelberg, to sight a greenfinch at the Castle Guttenberg, to identify fieldfares feeding in the meadows near Ettal, to spot a spotted flycatcher in Oberammergau, and, finally, after hearing it sing "I'm up here," to locate and identify a black cap.

Other thrills were seeing Canada and white-fronted geese in a park near Richard Wagner's Museum in Bayreuth, the great and the willow tits in Rothenburg, kestrels flying around cathedral ruins in Dresden, a collared dove alight on the dining terrace of Hotel Eisenheet. Also seen were jackdaws, siskins, marsh tit, marsh harrier, turtle dove and red kite.

Our visit to Castle Guttenberg was both interesting and enlightening. There was a demonstration showing how sea eagles were raised and trained so they could be exported to countries where the sea eagles were becoming extinct.

On this trip I again discovered a person could, by being alert, spot and identify birds in many varied and unfamiliar habitats. (Elaine Nichterlein)

## CONSERVATION NEWS

**JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK** - The Governor and Cabinet accepted the Hearing Officer's recommendation to deny the Martin County request to use 1.8 acres of state park land to build a connector road between Country Club Road in Tequesta and County Line Road. However, we understand Attorney General Jim Smith has left the door open for Martin County to present additional "documentation and a lessor request for right-of-way." If this is done, the matter may be considered at a later date. It seems the "dragon" is not dead, only napping.

**BLOSSOM ESTATE** - The Palm Beach Town Council denied a request from developer Michael Burrows to reinstate former Lot 7 (the one with all the mangroves) into the plat to develop the Blossom Estate. We recently learned that this particular lot is designated Conservation/Preservation in the town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

**TOSOHATCHEE STATE PRESERVE** - The Governor and Cabinet may decide on December 2nd if the Tosohatchee should be open to hunting this year. Just in case the Tosohatchee is on the agenda for that date, we need to get letters or mailograms out immediately. Florida Audubon Society does not support hunting in the Tosohatchee at this time. A resolution passed at the FAS meeting in September cited "viewing wildlife in its natural habitat; insufficient time since public acquisition for natural population control to take place, and grazing rights leases" as reasons for not opening the Tosohatchee. This tract, purchased with EEL money, was created as a preserve, not a wildlife management area. There are more than 381,000 acres open to hunting within a 50-mile radius of the Tosohatchee. Some areas should be left alone - this is one of them.

**URGENT** - Letters to Palm Beach County Commissioners, all five of them, urging them to stand firm in support of the recently adopted Land Use Plan. There is strong support from developers to digress from the plan and request rezoning in areas where there are no public services. We need time to test the new plan. It's better than any we've had to date and it's much too soon to change it. PLEASE WRITE.

**GOOD NEWS** - John Harris, the timberwolf man, was found not guilty of the charge of "failing to prevent the public from attack by a wild animal." Mr. Harris has filed a "notice of intent to sue" with the Ontario County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Department.

**INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS** - A temporary restraining order, issued in August against West Pasco developer Vincent A. Conrad and three Florida corporations, Gulfport Homes Inc., CNC Enterprises Inc., and Conrad Utilities Inc., has been extended. A civil complaint filed last July alleges that Conrad violated Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and Sections 301 and 404 of the Clean Water Act without a Department of the Army permit. In a civil case, the government is seeking penalties of \$10,000 per day of violation and total restoration, including the removal of three condominium buildings. Because he was observed continuing illegal operations after written and verbal requests

from the Corps, the developer was charged with criminal violations of the same statutes. Conrad has pled not guilty. In the criminal case, the government is seeking fines up to \$25,000 per day of violation and one year's imprisonment. (This is the same developer whose construction activities came within 110 feet of an active Bald Eagle nest and canal dredging within 15 feet of another nest.)

**THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS** of interest to many of our members concerned with airport expansion will take place on Thursday, December 4 - 9:30 a.m., County Commission Chambers, Bolt, Beranek and Newman will present the findings of their Development of Regional Impact study to the County Commissioners in a workshop session; 12 noon to 4 p.m., P.B. Jr. College Auditorium, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) will present to the public its belief that increased air traffic will not increase the noise. Anyone wishing to speak should call Mr. Gordon Bingham in Miami at 526-2535. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., P.B. Jr. College Auditorium, the CAB will meet the public again. Residents Against Airport Expansion will make its presentation at this meeting. (Leah Schad)

## WILDLIFE FILMS BEGIN IN JANUARY

"What Have You Done With My Country," Frank Heimans' outcry against the despoilation of Australia's wilderness and wildlife, is the first film in the 1981 series. It will be shown on January 14 at 8 p.m. in the John I. Leonard H.S. Auditorium. Buy your tickets now for the season. Call Larry at 582-8275 for tickets or information. (Pat Orris)

## OBSERVATIONS IN CENTURY VILLAGE

Besides the usual egrets, ibis and herons feeding in Century Village Lake, each day at noon an osprey can be seen circling overhead seeking a fish for lunch. At dusk a great horned owl arrives regularly, perching himself on top of a selected TV antenna, overlooking the area for food. Occasionally he will give a hoot, making it easier for the human species to locate him.

On November 17th a kettle of about 75 turkey vultures was seen soaring in the air, creating new aerial ballet dances. Most surprising of all was the sighting of a gray fox at night on November 15th. The gray fox is our only fox with a black streak down the middle of its tail and is smaller and less crafty than its red cousin. By being alert, you can observe nature in the most unexpected places, even in Century Village. (Saul Rimberg)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

ASE's annual Christmas Bird Count is set for Saturday, December 20. The compilation dinner will be held at 6:30 that evening at the Pizza Inn, 830 S. Military Trail (just north of the Summit Blvd. intersection). Any questions? Call H.P. Langridge, 582-7519, or G. Hunter, 585-7714.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Having just returned from our 7-day Yucatan trip, I feel as if I have been out of the country for months, so there isn't much to report. The 21 of us covered over a thousand miles, visited 7 Mayan ruins, several cenotes, and caves and grottos which were absolutely spectacular. We saw 57 species of birds and Tom McElroy will give a detailed report on these in next month's KITE. We hope to be able to do a short slide presentation for you in January.

I would like to thank those who have taken the time to fill out and return our questionnaire. We will be getting in touch with those of you who wish to become more involved in Audubon activities. We will also be considering the many suggestions made for programs and projects.  
(Walter Gworek)

KITE STRINGS

WHITE IBIS SIGHTING - This spring near Georgetown, S.C., 260 juvenile white ibis were marked with black numbers on orange wing tags. To help provide information about their post-fledging dispersal, please report sightings - date, location and tag number (if distinguishable) to Peter

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P. O. BOX 6762  
West Palm Beach, FL. 33405

Frederick, c/o Zoology Dept., Wilson Hall 046-A, U. of N.C., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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ACCLIMATIZATION WORKSHOP - sponsored by Pine Jog at Girl Scout Camp Welaka in Jupiter from 7 p.m., Dec. 12 to 1 p.m. Dec. 14. Cost is \$50 and includes cabins (bring linens) and meals. Pre-registration required, call Pine Jog, 686-6600.

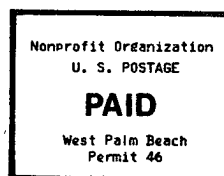
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DRY TORTUGAS TOUR - May 8-11, with leaders Victor Emanuel and David Wolf. Cost is \$350 in double occupancy. Contact Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, P.O. Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765 or phone (512) 447-1727.

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PINE JOG - Birding course starts January 21, will be held Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. All-day bus trips to Everglades National Park are scheduled for Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. Call 686-6600 for information and reservations. Pine Jog also plans another Open House on January 11. The public is invited to enjoy the guided walk and learn more about its programs and educational methods.

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