

EVERGLADE KITE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES
VOLUME 21, No. 5 Ruth Trumppower, Editor FEBRUARY 1981

**NAT REED TO SPEAK ABOUT
FLORIDA'S WATER SUPPLY**

Our area's well-known environmentalist, Nathaniel P. Reed, will be the guest speaker at the February 3rd meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades. His topic will be "Water, Florida's Life Blood."

Since the early 1960's, Mr. Reed has been concerned with water control and pollution problems and, in 1969, was appointed as the first chairman of Florida's Department of Air and Water Pollution. His personal role as an interactor between state and federal authorities was a vital factor in two nationally significant reversals of environmental deterioration.

In 1971 Mr. Reed was appointed by the President as Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In his exercise of directing and supervising the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, he had broad decision-making duties both within these areas and wherever outside factors threatened to diminish the quality of the environs or of the wildlife in his care.

Resigning from his post in 1977, Mr. Reed returned to his home in Hobe Sound and has since served on several Florida committees. He is Vice Chairman of the Nature Conser-

vancy; a member of the National Audubon Board, Florida Audubon and many other organizations. In 1979 he was appointed to the board of the South Florida Water Management District.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear someone who is so conversant with Florida's water problems. Join us on Tuesday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Trail North.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7:30 A.M.,
Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, meet at Marsh Trail parking lot.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 8:00 A.M.,
Jack Island State Park, meet at parking lot, bring lunch. Howard Langridge, leader. Directions: Take Fla. Turnpike to Ft. Pierce exit, go east to U.S. 1, turn north and go all the way thru town to the street to the north bridge (look for A1A North signs), go east to A1A, then north on A1A for about 1 mile to park entrance on left - approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes driving time.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, all-day bus trip to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary - see article on Page 2 for details.

Next Wildlife Film notice on Page 2

FLIGHT PATTERNS

Each afternoon from 4:30 to dark an aerial theatre presents a spectacular flying show that can be seen from Southern Blvd. at the causeway connecting West Palm Beach and Palm Beach. Performers range from the commercial jets departing P.B.I. Airport to thousands of turkey vultures soaring to the south.

These vultures are masters of the art of flight. They glide in tight circles, hundreds in a flock, with no collisions or near misses. It's an unforgettable sight to look south from the east bridge and see the huge flocks making patterns in the sky. Our Christmas Count had 4,500 at the Lantana garbage dump. So living is easy, they eat quickly and then spend the rest of the day soaring. What a sporty life!

While the vultures fly with grace and control, hundreds of fish crows flap hard in loose, noisy flocks. There is no pattern, just noise and a random vigor that commands attention. They swarm into the little island to the north for the night.

Cattle egrets, white against the darkening sky and water, begin to appear in flights of 4 to 20. They are strong fliers, but they work for their progress. Their flocks are tightly bunched, but without order or pattern.

The most graceful formations are formed by the white ibis approaching their roosts on the north island. They flap and sail, but in V-type formations that are ever changing.

This daily show continues until early April. All that is needed to enjoy it is just you and your binoculars. (Hank McCall)

CORKSCREW SWAMP BUS TRIP

In the 1930s there were more than 75,000 Wood Storks in Florida. This year an estimate of only 13,000 will return to the nesting rookeries around the state, and next year they may be considered an endangered

species. We will have the opportunity to visit one of these rookeries at the National Audubon Society Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary southeast of Fort Myers on Saturday, March 7. The swamp is a fascinating place filled with a large variety of plant and animal life. A mile-long boardwalk provides a close-up look at much of this wildlife and, if we are lucky, the Wood Storks will be nesting.

This all-day bus trip will leave Pine Jog Center, 6301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, at 6:30 A.M. SHARP and return by 6 P.M. Bring food and drink, wear comfortable shoes, and be prepared for any weather. And don't forget your binoculars, bird books and cameras. Bus tickets (which include entrance fee to the Sanctuary) will cost \$15.00 and will be on sale only at the February 3rd Audubon meeting. After that date, if there are seats remaining, you may send your check (payable to Ann Ayers) to Pine Jog at the above address. There will be no refunds after March 2. (Ann Ayers)

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FLIM

February 19, Thursday - Karl Maslowski

"A NATURALIST AFIELD-PART II"

Chronicles a year as seen through the eyes of naturalists - an annual parade of such events as the jousting of bull elk in fall and the denning of gray foxes in spring. Opens with a trip to Yellowstone and Teton National Parks - moves to Ohio where, between the crannies of civilization, wildlife abounds in often surprising ways.

SHOW TIME: 8:00 P.A.

PLACE: JOHN I. LEONARD AUDITORIUM
TICKETS/INFORMATION:
LARRY AT 582-8275

KITE STRINGS

TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY - Annual Nature Photo Contest, deadline March 31, mail to the Society, P. O. Box 11586, Tampa 33680. Only amateur (continued P. 3)

photographers can enter, photographs (prints only) must be 8x10 or larger, entry fee of \$3 per, or 4 for \$10, must accompany mounted or matted entry, must have name, address and phone of photographer on back, must depict nature: birds, trees, insects, snakes, landscapes, etc., and will become the property of TAS. Six prizes in each division (color and black & white) to be determined by entry fees received. Contact Ye Ed, 585-3968, or write TAS for info.

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BROWARD COUNTY AUDUBON - Needs slides of birds for beginner's identification course, will duplicate and return same if requested. Almost all local or migrating birds needed; contact Ye Ed for list, or write Harry Roberts, 2741 Taft Street, Hollywood, Fl. 33020.

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SCIENCE FAIR - Volunteers needed to serve as judges for ASE's awards at fair to be held March 12-14. Contact Junior Audubon Chairman Jack McLaughlin, 684-0663, to volunteer.

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NATURE TRAIL WORKSHOP - A special workshop will be held Saturday, February 14, from 9 to 11 A.M. at the Custard Apple Trail's native plant section. Friends of the Trail work on it every Thursday morning and need help badly, but people with jobs can't participate. Come to the Saturday workshop to learn about trail maintenance and then you will know how to help out whenever you have a spare hour or so on the weekends (or anytime, if you're lucky enough to be retired). It's fun, the air is fresh, and you'll enjoy nature in action around you.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT DETAILS

Nothing new or strange, but what a lovely list the 58 Christmas Bird Count volunteers piled up during the 1980 count. And, according to our American Birds Compiler Howard Langridge, it was remarkable that we recorded 8 out of the 9 species seen only during the 1979 count period.

He reports that the best bird seen was a Black-necked Stilt at the sewage pond off Pinehurst Drive, observed by David Silverman with his 20x scope for 3 minutes. A Tennessee Warbler, only our third count sighting, was seen feeding at the Forest Hill Blvd. golf course by Tadziu Trotsky and William Matthews.

Although some expected species were not found, Howard reports sightings of a long list of birds not normally expected every year: Mallard by Sykes and Ayers, Willet by Hunter party, Short-billed Dowitcher by Thorn, Common Tern by Schad, Red-headed Woodpecker and Lark Sparrow by Libermans, Hairy Woodpecker by Plymire and Craft; Western Kingbird by Cliffords, Thomas, Hartranft, Audrieth, Hoke, Marietta, Cummings and Boerner; Black-throated Green Warbler by Ray Plockelman and McElroy, Hermit Thrush by Cynthia Plockelman party; Vesper and Field Sparrows by Dowlings, Olsen and Brooks; Wilson's Warbler by Brian Hope, Rusty Blackbird by Eaton party.

Matthews and Trotsky started counting at midnight and came up with 45 Screech Owls and 2 Barred Owls, a sterling performance. Joseph Sandella made a special effort to see every

Scrub Jay in our area and came close with 12.

Reporting on some of the species fluctuations, Howard notes that the count of 26 Loggerhead Shrikes is way down, since we recorded 259 in 1967 and have averaged over 100 each year from 1961 to 1970. With a 22-year average of 5 Forster's Terns a year, the 1980 count of 36 is a good number for us, 21 of them sighted by the McCall party.

All in all, Howard concludes that our tally of 154 species was a respectable number for this area, but it took 155 party hours in the field (including 17 hours before dawn after owls) to reach this total.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Wildlife Film Series started on January 14 with "What Have You Done With My Country." Those present had the opportunity to get a glimpse of Australia and how it is changing as it grows. The film certainly brought home the fact that even a rugged country like Australia can easily succumb to man's handiwork.

It appears that the Department of Energy (DOE) will take a closer look at the Aquahol project before it continues funding. We have not been formally contacted by the DOE, but understand through a local reporter who spoke with them that a public meeting is planned so that all charges can be brought out in the open. We spoke with Dr. Douglas Pratt from the University of Minnesota two weeks ago and found that he declined to work on the project after reviewing the proposal. Dr. Pratt has been doing work for over seven years with cattails as a potential energy source. New information continues to surface and the hearing should allow these and other facts to be brought out.

We are looking for an editor for the KITE and would appreciate hearing from you if you are interested. Please call Ruth Trumpower at 585-3968.

Finally, the Board voted that we continue the Wildlife Film Series again next year.
(Walt Gworek)

CONSERVATION REPORT

CURRIE PARK - We have been advised that the Arts Council has officially withdrawn its request for a theatre in the park. Meanwhile, plans are being formed for red mangrove restoration along the waterfront at the park.

SANCTUARY ISLANDS, LAKE WORTH - Florida Department of Environmental Regulation has denied the request of developer Michael Burrows to fill former Lot 7 in the Blossom Estate Development. To date we have not heard anything regarding the Corps permit applications.

FLORIDA KEYS - On October 6, 1980, Federal District Court Judge Edward B. Dons ordered Key West realtor Edward Knight to restore Cow Key, a mangrove island near Stock Island, to its natural condition by removing 2,000 linear feet of roadways at a cost of \$25,000. The judgement concludes litigation which began in July 1978.

LOOE KEY - In his final days of office, President Carter signed a bill designating

Looe Key as a National Marine Sanctuary. This success is the result of a long drawn-out effort by Keys Chapter President Captain Ed Davidson. Sanctuary designation now bans wire fish traps and provides protection for one of North America's most spectacular and vital coral reefs.

UPDATE-VINCENT CONRAD (See Dec. KITE) - West Pasco developer Vincent Conrad was found guilty of violating the Federal Clean Water Act by discharging pollutants into navigable waters of the United States without Dept. of the Army permit. U.S. District Judge Benjamin Krentzman of Tampa ordered Conrad to pay a \$2500 criminal fine to the U.S. Treasury and sentenced him to six month's probation. A civil case asking for additional penalties and restoration by Conrad of his Westport Subdivision is still pending in Federal District Court.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Boynton Beach: Mary R. Leiper, Iris Maezes

Greenacres City: Michael Lazorko

Hobe Sound: Chester R. Rindfuss

Juno: D. vonBlumberg

Jupiter: Joann Krump & Family,
Marilyn Lynch, Carole Meehan

Lake Park: Charles D. Dennis, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Walker

Lake Worth: Dr. John H. Biggs III,
Mrs. Kathryn Johnson, Miss Ethel E. Owen, Joseph T. Portman, Mr. & Mrs. T. Ringhiser

Lantana: Bianca Carterette, Ron Haines, James E. Scull

Loxahatchee: Philip Wenzofsky

North Palm Beach: Paula P. Criser, C.O. Hutchinson, Mrs. Ruth L. Johnston, Phillip Luchner, Steve Marinak, Mrs. John J. McHale

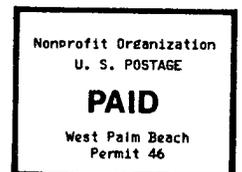
Palm Beach: Mrs. Philip Hulitar & Family

Palm Springs: Mrs. G. Quinn, Richard S. Williams

Riviera Beach: Mrs. D. B. Bane, E. Creamer

West Palm Beach: Arlie R. Amtower, Dr. & Mrs. C.L. Brumbach, R. M. Carey, Bruce Carnes, Joe Crumm, Mrs. V. K. Cushman, Florence Sherer Gilbert, Frank Grandel Jr., John E. Head, Julian Henry, Mrs. R. Hogarth, Jeffrey Kahn, Helen B. Kay, Jeanette King, Morris & Gertrude Kole, Meyer Levitan, Mordecai Levow Lynn Moore, Billie Norman, A. Nortc Eric Painter, M. Cheryl Burkhardt Penny, Gregg A. Pereboom, Robert D. Perrin, V.M. Schaffhauser, Mrs. R. Schubot, Frederick Shillin II, Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Snyder, Norman Swift & Family, John H. Tanning, Wilma S. Warsche, Lisa Newmark Wells

EVERGLADE KITE
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