

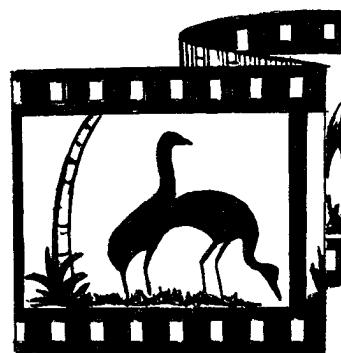
DOUBLE FEATURE

Manatees and wetlands will be featured at the Society's January 5th monthly meeting.

The film, "Silent Sirens: Manatees In Peril," narrated by Leonard Nimoy, hailed by all who have seen it as an excellent account of what is happening to this endangered species. Almost 10% of the remaining North American population of manatees winter in Palm Beach County, primarily at the outfall of the FP&L Riviera Beach plant. We all need to be made more aware of the manatees so that we can inform and educate others.

Our second film is titled "America's Wetlands" and is narrated by E.G. Marshall. We will see desert marshes in New Mexico, prairie pot-holes in North Dakota, Atchafalaya River Swamp in Louisiana, grassland marshes in Central California, and more. The film is edited to give a national perspective of wetlands, their natural benefits to man and wildlife, and the potential impacts of their loss.

Be sure to be with us for these two interesting films at 7:30 p.m. on January 5th in the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center. Bring your friends. Remain seated for the short business meeting and then enjoy our hospitality time. (Leah Schad)



A U D U B O N W I L D L I F E F I L M S

- January 14 - Tom Sterling
"Footloose In Newfoundland"
- February 11 - Burdette White
"Southern Sea Otter Country"
- February 25 - Stephen Kress
"Bird Islands of North Atlantic"
- March 11 - Walter Berlet
"American Heartland - The Great River Story"

TIME: 7:30 p.m. All on Thursdays
WHERE: Kirkland Elementary & Community School Auditorium,
Palm Springs

SEASON TICKETS: \$10.00

CONTACT: Larry Horning, 582-8275
or
Jan Terhune, 622-7829

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 - Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Marsh Trail parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Phil Weinrich will lead us in observation of ducks and other wintering wildfowl. Bring binoculars.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 - Manatee Trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club parking lot. Car pool from there to wherever the manatees are located that day.
(John Street)

A "BON VOYAGE" BY CANOE

At the immediate present, close at hand, there is an exotic canoe trip through a primeval cypress forest. Even though it lasts only six hours, this little journey takes you into a Florida of 500 years ago.

The first hours are spent drifting down a magic little stream of cool tea-colored water that twists and turns in tight little loops and curls. You drift by cypress boles that are six feet thick and stretch to 100 foot tall trees. Thousands and thousands of cypress knees stand and stare. Blink your eyes and they turn into goblins and ents and pipe organs and ghostly ghouls.

We are so acclimated to going somewhere and making progress that the flow of this stream brings on a touch of madness. It has obstacles of logs, branches, loops and shoots, and you are always returning to where you have just begun. It's almost like the game Uncle Wiggly.

We saw pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, great egret, osprey, black vultures, turkey vultures, and wood ibis. Because of the danger of tipping, we suggest you do not take your binoculars.

The trip covers eight miles of the south fork of the Loxahatchee. I would call it strenuous. Bring your lunch and drinks. The operators, Eric and Sally Bailey, charge \$12 for the canoe and \$4 to drive your car to the termination spot.

This is absolutely the finest one-day canoe jaunt of my life. Give yourself an unforgettable experience and call the Baileys at Jupiter, 746-7053, CANOE OUTFITTERS OF FLORIDA.
(Hank McCall)

NATURE TRAIL WALKS

Guided walks along the Custard Apple Trail in John Prince Park will be resumed in January and continue through April.

Meet at the bulletin board near the Camp-ground Office at 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Come see the knees of the cypress and the dahoon hollies full of berries.
(Hella Wayman)

CONSERVATION NEWS

A most fitting opening would be to wish you all a hearty Seasons Greetings. Also fitting

at this time of good cheer would be not to dwell on cutbacks, dangers facing the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the weakening of EPA, and Mr. Watt. I will just briefly urge you again to get word to Senators Chiles and Hawkins and Congressman Mica to have a thought for the future.

National Audubon Society is now especially concerned for the ESA and has requested that a wildlife coordinator be named for each chapter. This person will be receiving information from a contact in Washington and then advise us. I hope there is one amongst you with the time and the inclination to carry out this program for us locally.

The Florida Conservation Reports will start coming in next month when the legislature reconvenes. Many conservation proposals will be under consideration and will need our active attention.

Locally there are a few items that bear watching. Possibly some amongst you may even be inspired to catch some of our local legislators while they are home for the holidays. For example, I had a long talk with Frank Messersmith, a back-pumping booster, and it is his opinion that such a law will be passed. He is also working on several other aspects of future water concern. A plus for Frank is that he is against any more wetland development in the county.

A repeat plea for keeping the Girl Scout area of Jonathan Dickinson State Park intact. Letters to Governor Graham and the Cabinet are necessary.

The proposed dredging of two miles to replenish the beach along Ocean Ridge has been getting a lot of space lately. We have come out against this, as it will cause reef destruction. Also, the beach in question does not have sufficient public access to warrant the use of public funds and, at worst, it will be washed back out to sea. Set aside February 8th and 9th for public hearings on this at the West Palm Beach City Hall.

The Corps of Engineers aired a detailed study authorized by them by Environmental Consultants on water and water-related problems in the C-18 Basin and Loxahatchee Slough area. The fact that they evaluated 32 alternatives is enough to tell us nothing will be done in the immediate future. And building permits will continue to be granted by commissioners having jurisdiction in this area.

At the next meeting there will be petitions to sign to deny hunting in the Payne's Prairie Preserve.

Again I remind you to come to our January 13th Conservation Meeting at the Parks & Recreation Bldg., John Prince Park, at 7:30 p.m. At that time one of the topics on the agenda will be presented by Hy Ruchlis, who will summarize his considered opposition to the Solid Waste Authority's selection of Site 6.

(Cissy Durando)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

While we draw to the close of another year, chapter activities seem to go right on.

First, for those who signed up for the Citizen Mobilization Campaign (CMC) and others interested in becoming more active in environmental issues, National Audubon will be holding a two-day workshop in Tampa on January 29-30. It will be a CMC/Leadership Training Workshop, with speakers from throughout NAS and Florida. Write to us for information and registration.

Last month I wrote about the need to look ahead at projects which are going to have long-range effects on the quality of Florida's environment. A small, but good, example is a proposed office/condominium complex on a 29 acre tract between Dreher Park and Southern Blvd. While the chapter is not taking an official position, West Palm Beach Audubon members should take a hard look at this proposal and question how this project will affect them. There is another meeting scheduled for January on the project. Call David Wedge, 588-0664, after 3 p.m., for further information.

The Science Museum is proposing to put together a major exhibit entitled "Water - A Precious Resource" in late September 1982. There is no need to tell you that water is the critical factor in Florida's future. This project has tremendous educational value. If you are interested in contributing funds, or possibly assistance with the construction of this project, please call Museum Director Dr. Ed Tobey at 832-1348.

As many of you know, we have an excellent but small ornithological library at the County Library on Summit Blvd. The Library Committee, headed by Tom McElroy, has been working to add to the collection. We have hopes of building the collection to substantial size and recognition. Tom, because of other personal commitments, will resign as chairman as of January 1. I would like to ask anyone who is interested in chairing this Library Committee to call me at 964-3209. The position would also become a Board position in 1982. An ornithological background is not a necessity.

One last item involving the Endangered Species Act. We have received a letter from Dr. Peter Fritchard, V.P. for Science and Research, FAS, asking that we write the President and our Florida congressional delegation urging them to keep the act intact with all its essential provisions, including critical habitat, and not to give way to special interests that want plants, invertebrates, and other "non-traditional" endangered species to be excluded. Call me, 964-3208, for information or write Dr. Fritchard, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751, for the ESA Bulletin.

Let me close by wishing everyone a safe, prosperous and happy New Year. (Walt Gworek)

ALL ABOUT OUR WATER

Pine Jog will hold a series of lectures on Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., \$5 for the series (continued page 4)

RARE BIRD LOOKOUT URGED

One doesn't have to be a Paul Sykes to find rare species that bring scores of observers from around the state to see "your" bird. For example, Moria Maurice of Ft. Pierce saw a small gull on Friday 23 October 1981. On Monday morning she called the Dowlings, who confirmed the SABINE'S GULL, only the fifth sighting for the state. Scores of observers rushed to see Maurice's bird and feel indebted to this woman for finding a very difficult bird for their life and state lists.

Another example of an unheralded birder finding a rare species for Florida was Billy Matthews, son of William Matthews. Billy found a strange-looking "murrelet" late in the day at the Lake Worth Pier on 20 November 1976. It turned out to be a THICK-BILLED MURRE, a first sighting for Florida. Only four local birders scrambled to the pier to see the bird that evening near dark. This event did not have the same joyous ending. Fifty observers from all over the state swarmed to the pier the next morning before dawn to find no murre.

Cecil Kilmer identified on Hypoluxo Island on 23 October 1977 a VARIED THRUSH, another first sighting for Florida. Scores of observers again sped madly to see Cecil's bird. She was voted woman of the year by state observers and to this day is known as the "Varied Thrush Lady." So become famous -- find a rarity that makes the crowd flock to your find. (H.P. Langridge)

LOXAHATCHEE FIELD TRIP

Neither cold nor wind stopped a group of 60 hardy birdwatchers on December 5th from gathering early in the morning at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in quest of avian visitors. Ann Ayers was our informative guide.

The canals were refilled with water after having been drained and large flocks of ducks were attracted to the waterways. While walking we were surprised to see hundred of ducks suddenly zoom into the air. A low-hovering marsh hawk had disturbed their tranquility. Our eyes feasted upon whistling ducks, blue-winged and green-winged teal and mottled ducks. In their midst were long-billed common snipe and a solitary female pintail.

Besides the usual variety of herons, egrets and ibis, we saw a kestral, yellowlegs, killdeer, and a purple gallinule. Our attention was also drawn by Ann Ayers to tracks in the earth made by a bobcat and by an alligator crossing from one pond to another.

(Saul Rimberg)

WORKSHOPS OF INTEREST

The Broward County Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Dept. of Parks & Recreation, will sponsor a seminar on "Saving Oiled Seabirds" on Saturday, January 9, from 9 a.m. to Noon. It will be held at Secret Woods Nature Center, 2701 W. State Rd. 84, Ft. Lauderdale (½ mile west of I-95). Registration fee - (continued page 4)

\$2.00 per person. Write or phone Joe Pundai, 2107 N.E. 21 St., Ft. Lauderdale 33305, 563-0910 (evenings).

A Manatee Awareness Workshop (part of a statewide program funded by FP&L) will be held Saturday, January 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Riviera Beach. To register, write Debbie Fritz, Manatee Awareness Workshops, P. O. Box 955, Hobe Sound 33455. Although mainly for teachers, all interested persons are invited. Registration is limited, so enroll early; confirmation and directions will be sent if accepted.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Jensen Beach: Paul Lescault

Jupiter: Sylvia Guadagnoli

Lake Worth: Donna J. Deitz, Lou & Stell Kendall, Miss Kathy Smith

North Palm Beach: Mrs. Margarita Esposito, Mr. & Mrs. John P. Gardner, Jr. & Family

Palm Beach: Irene Mendoza

Palm Beach Gardens: Dr. & Mrs. Clyde Rosin

Riviera Beach: Donna F. Ackerman, Rozelle Ichilian Family

Tequesta: Harriet B. Hortman

West Palm Beach: Alex & Esther Babiskin, Judith Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Raphael M. Finger, Charles J. Kelley, Lee McKinney, Ralph & Dora Newman, Rosalind Rubinfeld, Julia & Norman Seiden, Robert & Ethel Solow, Edward V. Wilson

Out-of-State: Mr. & Mrs. George F. Nealie & Family, Jonesboro, GA.

NAS TOURS CALENDAR

Now available - the National Audubon Society Tours calendar with information on more than 20 exciting tours scheduled in 1982. Write to National Audubon Society Tours, 40 Hungerford St., Hartford, CT. 06106 for your free copy.

WATER (cont'd.)

or \$2 per lecture. Feb. 23 - ROCKS & RAIN, March 2 - WATER & LIFE, March 9 - WATER MANAGEMENT, and March 16 - TOMORROW'S FORCAST. Contact Pine Jog, 686-6600, for information on this and other spring events.

EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. BOX 6762
WEST PALM BEACH, FL. 33405

PALM BEACH CO. LIBRARY SYSTEM
3650 SUMMIT BLVD.
W. PALM BEACH, FL. 33406

