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Palm Beach, Florida
West Palm Beach, Florida



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 22, No. 5 Ruth Trumpower, Editor FEBRUARY 1982

ENERGY: PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES

"Our Energy Dilemma" will be the topic of ASE's monthly meeting on February 2nd. Hy Ruchlis will be our guest speaker. He will discuss the institutional barriers to developing new forms of energy and propose some practical approaches to solving these problems.

Mr. Ruchlis holds an M.A. in Physics from Columbia University. He was Adjutant Professor of Science Education at Fairleigh-Dickinson University, Director of Education Technology at Harcourt Brace & World and general manager at Science Material Center, a subsidiary of Allis Chalmers.

He has authored numerous books and scientific material, including "Clear Thinking," "Discovering Scientific Method," "Wonder of Light" and a series of "Classroom Laboratories" for grades 1 through 6.

We welcome Mr. Ruchlis to our podium and hope you and your friends will join us at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2. (Leah Schad)

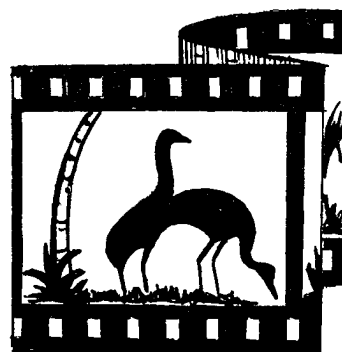
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; meet at 7:30 a.m. at Marsh Trail parking

lot. Leader - Howard Langridge.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge; meet at Refuge Headquarters (U.S. 1 just north of Jonathan Dickinson State Park). Leader - Janice Miranda.

Please note on your Field Trip Schedule - May 1st will be the date for our Spring Bird Count.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

February 11 - Burdette White
"Southern Sea Otter Country"

February 25 - Stephen Kress
"Bird Islands of North Atlantic"

TIME: 7:30 p.m. All on Thursdays

WHERE: Kirkland Elementary & Community School Auditorium,
Palm Springs

CONTACT: Larry Horning, 582-8275

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A reader looking at the 1981 Christmas Count of birds might wonder if we conducted only a cursory species count because many common species on our list are represented by only one individual. And surprisingly, only two robins and two goldfinches are included in the 141 total of species seen by our 45 observers.

Low numbers weren't the only feature of this year's count. We did have several exciting finds: 35 black scoters (only our 2nd count sighting) by Hunter, Canning, Hassee and Black; 2 dark phase short-tailed hawks (3rd count sighting) by Hope, George and Hendrickson; an adult bald eagle (2nd sighting) by Sykes and Ayers, and a peregrine falcon (2nd sighting) diving on a kestrel, by the Dowlings and Brooks.

Another 3rd count sighting was a solitary sandpiper by Eaton, Wilson, Dunn and Brindle; two more 2nd sightings - prothonotary warbler by the Eaton group and Brewer's blackbird by Alvarez, Hope and Langridge, and a 4th count sighting of a red-eyed vireo by Liberman.

Despite the cold weather and strong winds, Trotsky and Matthews tallied the high screech owl count with 12. On the coast, the Hunter group saw 88 great blue herons. The total number of birds counted was 24,554.

Saves (species seen by only one group) included common loon and gannets by Hunter party, indigo bunting by Trotsky and Matthews, Bonaparte's gull by McCall, Kilmer and Mueller, scrub jays by Parmalee, Korzenewski, Sandella and Barnett, broad-winged hawk by Clifford party, and various ducks by Sykes and Ayers.

Count Adventures-Past & Present

Most parties on our Christmas Bird Counts work throughout the day with few eventful distractions - or even minor ones such as someone forgetting binoculars, being investigated by the police, or stepping up to one's waist in mud. However, some bizarre happenings have occurred during the West Palm Beach CBCs. Once, several years ago, a well known local lady of shapely proportions stood briefly on an ant hill and had to strip to her own music of "ouches" and "ows." The two amused male observers didn't dare applaud, but the event sounded humorous to sympathetic listeners later.

On another CBC, Phil Weinrich was teasing a cottonmouth into its huffing and puffing display for his brother. Momentarily distracted, Phil lost visual contact with the angry snake. While trying to relocate it, Phil felt a sharp pain in his hand. He was struck. He knew he was struck. The culprit proved, however, to be only a wasp.

While getting out of bed long before dawn for this year's CBC, Ray Flockelman pulled a muscle in his back, which hampered his bipedal locomotion all day. Next, he awakened everyone in his household with screams as he spilled ice water all over himself while loading his cooler. Then, in the cold early morning, a nail punctured a tire and the cold tools gave Ray's hands a frosty thrill. At noon Ray discovered that someone had siphoned gas from his vehicle.

To unify the day, he spilled Coca Cola on his binoculars and tape deck. So, before anything else occurred, Ray, instead of attending the compilation, returned to his bed to rest his back and his frazzled emotions. A simple day in the field occasionally can lead to bizarre adventures. (Howard Langridge)

NEW AT THE SALES TABLE

Planning a vacation trip this summer? How about packing the "Guide to National Wildlife Refuges." This detailed guide covers all refuges from Maine to Florida to California to Washington State. The Sales Table cordially invites your inspection of the copy on hand. A great item for your car's glove compartment! (Nancy Harrington)

CLOSE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

At the mid-way point of the current Chapter Incentive Campaign for new members, the local response has been very encouraging. Of the 74 chapters in the Southeast Region, ASE is now third in new members generated by chapters. Only Charleston, with 29 new members in the last three months, and Miami, with 30, are ahead of ASE with 22. Just a few more members enrolled by the end of March and our chapter could win!

Remember, the first prize in each region is either an all-expense-paid visit to the Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina (4 days), or a week's attendance at the NAS Camp in Connecticut. If ASE should win, the prize will be awarded by a drawing from the names of all members during the period, their donors, or those who secured the membership.

Surely we can enroll 15 or so new members by March 31! The membership fees, tax-deductible, are used in defending our environment - a good, lasting, and increasingly urgent cause. Send in new applications for friends and relatives as gifts for all occasions. Don't wait!

Do not forget - to get credit for chapter-generated members, paid applications must be sent to me (1716 13th Ave. North, L.W. 33460) before March 31st. We do not get credit for memberships sent directly to National Audubon.

Similar prizes are given to the chapter with the largest renewal rate for current members. Renew your membership promptly. Send these renewal payments directly to National, using their renewal forms.

Increased membership in the Audubon Society of the Everglades will result in a better and stronger chapter. Do your part. Direct any questions to Gloria Hunter, Membership Chairman, 585-7714. (G. Hunter)

NATURE TRAIL WALKS UNDERWAY

Guided nature walks take place every Saturday at 3 p.m. on the Custard Apple Tree Meet at bulletin board near the Campground Office in John Prince Park. Come and enjoy fresh air and nature's richness with us. (Hella Wayman)

FUN FOR THE EAGLE

A mature bald eagle gave our group a demonstration of avian political power. Late afternoon, the day before the Coca Christmas Count, the Libermans, Cecil Kilmer and we were standing on a dike near Titusville looking down-sun across miles of open marsh.

There were thousands of ducks and coots dabbling, dibbling, and just goofing about during this most pleasant time of day. Al Liberman glanced up from his telescope and saw a mass of yellow feet overhead. The yellow was attached to a splendid regal bald eagle.

As he sailed out over the water at about 30 feet of altitude, the ducks started to scramble. Thousands and thousands of ducks flushed out in front of His Majesty. All across the marsh ducks quacked, "Look out! Here comes the boss." We watched the eagle go east as far as our glasses could see, and new clouds of ducks led his path all the time.

Fifteen minutes later, after all the web-footed friends settled down, an eagle came out of the south flying north over the same swamp, causing the same pandemonium.

I ask you, dear member, was this a different eagle, or was it His Royal Highness of before who was enjoying his political muscle?
(Hank McCall)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Alice Stearns for her very generous contribution of \$2000 to the ASE Ornithological Library. This money will certainly be beneficial in helping us to add to the library collection. This year we also hope to have a Board member serve as Library Committee Chairman so that we can move forward not only with growth of the collection, but perhaps add other activities as part of the library's function.

Andrea Thomas has elected to be coordinator and contact person for the Endangered Species Act. If you are interested in the ESA or would like more information, please contact Andrea at home at 586-5262.

Enclosed in your KITE (Palm Beach County members only) this month is a membership envelope for the Science Museum & Planetarium. As you probably know, the Museum had a cutback in their funds by the County. I hope you will consider the importance of the Science Museum to our community and consider joining.

Under its new director, Dr. Ed Sobey, there are an increased number of courses, activities, and exhibits available for both children and adults. Membership includes a subscription to FOCUS, the Museum's newsletter; early registration and discount for courses, admission to lectures and special exhibits, exclusive previews, etc. Your support would certainly be appreciated.
(Walter Gworek)

CONSERVATION REPORT

Unbelievable but true, as far short as I might think the Governor pulled up in forcefully advocating environmentally conservative measures in his State of the State speech opening the Florida legislature, there were those who thought he was biting off more than he could chew. He did compliment the passage of the Save Our Rivers bill and hoped Saving Our Coasts would meet with as favorable legislation. I came away a wee bit optimistic and made a point of letting him know before I left Tallahassee. I think supportive letters for his Saving Our Coasts recommendation are in order. His chilly reception by the legislators reinforced this opinion.

Under strong consideration at state and federal levels is some more returning to the "good old days" wherein we again dump nuclear wastes into the sea if EPA regulations are eased. Also the possibility that our own legislators go back to allowing primary-treated effluent to be dumped off the coast from Dade through Palm Beach County. The latter move is an expedient to allow quicker and more development along the Gold Coast. I think a bill to save our coasts (if passed) would contraindicate allowing this to happen.

At our last conservation meeting, we decided not to take a stand for or against Site #6 being utilized for a County Resource Recovery recycling operation. Every day brings forth a new plan or a new study, with new objectors. Obviously the whole situation is clouded by political maneuvering and catch phrases.

There will be a very important meeting on February 12 at the South Florida Water Management District, Gun Club Road, at 9:30 a.m. They will be analysing steps to be taken in the event of continued dry weather. Although the plan is 40 pages and quite comprehensive, not once did I see mentioned a respite in the granting of building permits. I suggest attending this meeting, as the results will greatly affect the future of our area.

All concerned Audubon members should read and save the last page of their January AUDUBON SOUTH newsletter. It gives you some excellent advice on how to communicate with your legislators in the most effective manner. It also explains the difference between, and gives the costs of, mailgrams, public opinion telegrams and regular telegrams.

To receive up-to-the-minute information on bills in the State Legislature, you may call a toll-free number, 1-800-342-1827. This Wide Area Telephone Service line is connected with the Legislative Information Division, which records House and Senate floor activity on a computer as it occurs.

At our next Conservation Committee meeting (Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Parks & Recreation Bldg., John Prince Park), Susan Korzenewski will brief us on the first meeting of the Conservation Congress '82 held at Belle Glade recently.
Cissy Durando)

KITE STRINGS

A press release from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge advises that the Cypresshead Boardwalk there has now re-opened. The new Wildlife Interpretive Center near the boardwalk entrance is scheduled to open later this year. The canoe trail, a seven-mile waterway thru the Everglades, is now open, but dropping water levels will soon make it impassable. A trail guide booklet is available for canoeists. Contact the Refuge, 732-3684, for further information.

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Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center now has its Spring Programs brochure; call 686-6600 if interested. Some of the courses include BIRD BEHAVIOR, Wednesdays, Feb. 17 & 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturdays, Feb. 20 & 27 (field trips), 7:30-9:30 a.m.; BIRDING FIELD TRIPS, Sundays, March 7 & 14, or Saturdays, April 10 & 17, 7:30-10:30 a.m.; ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP SERIES, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m., March 31, April 7, 14, 21. Trips include SWAMPTROTTER AND SHUTTERBUG TRIP, Sunday, Feb. 28, 6 a.m.-7 p.m., and SHARK BIKE TRIP (Shark Valley, bring bike), Sunday, Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There is a fee for each and most are size-limited or require pre-registration.

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The Institute of Desert Ecology, sponsored by Tucson Audubon Society, will be held April 30 - May 3. For brochure, write the Society, 30-A North Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716.

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Audubon's 1982 Birdathon is set for April 24-25, but we may hold ours during Spring Count on May 1. More information in the next issue of the KITE.

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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Atlantis: Philip F. Donley

Boynton Beach: Mary Davies

Juno Isles: Mrs. C. A. deFranco

Jupiter: Kevin Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. T. Leporowski

Lake Worth: George Cheron, Sara Creech-Smith,
Micki George, Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Grimsley
Nell B. Oliver, Russell G. Robinson, Ruth
H. Smiley, Frances Wunder

Lantana: Jeff Bowers

North Palm Beach: Ed Campbell

Palm Beach: Alice Crawford-Meyers, D. Curshaw,
Janet Dinee, Shirley M. Fischer, Elizabeth
Griffis, Jason Hastings, Adam Lynn, Mrs. J.
C. Siebrecht

Palm Beach Gardens: William J. Bright, Thomas
E. Taulbee

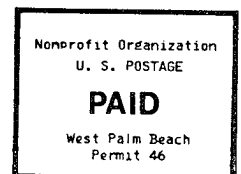
Palm Springs: Margaret Mauss

Riviera Beach: Mr. & Mrs. Alan Homans

Royal Palm Beach: Bernice & Jessie Jacobs

Tequesta: Marion Porel

West Palm Beach: Malvienne Acker, Townsend
Anschutz, Ms. Rose A. Beals, Mr. & Mrs.
Ellis M. Danison, Dave Ellrich, Albert &
Edith Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip J. Linn,
R. W. Logsdon, Paul Murdock, Rita Marie
Perini, William Sloane, Santo & Doris
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