

# EVERGLADE KITE

CENTRUM JUN 28 1983

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 23, No. 10

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JULY 1983

## DR. MARSH TO SPEAK ON EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM

Dr. Alex Marsh of Florida Atlantic University will present a slide show on "Everglades Ecology and the Plumbing of South Florida" at the July 5th meeting of the Audubon Society of the Everglades.

Dr. Marsh, who has been Professor of Ecology at FAU since 1970, brings us a very timely topic. If we can better understand the necessities and the conflicts between drainage systems and the South Florida environment, perhaps we can do more towards the preservation of the Everglades National Park.

We hope you will join us and bring a friend on Tuesday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m. ASE's monthly meetings are held at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. The short business meeting and the program are followed by refreshments and a chance to visit the Sales Table for gifts, books, and other items of Audubon interest. (Charles Dennis)

## REFUGE RE-OPENED TO AIRBOATS AND CANOES

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was re-opened to airboating on June 10th after a closure of four weeks. Over seven inches of rain since May 16 has brought the C-40

Canal water level up from 12.92 ft. MSL to 15.64 ft. MSL. Airboating is allowed when levels are 15 ft. or above and airboaters are reminded that they need a refuge permit.

The seven-mile Everglades Canoe Trail has also been re-opened. Call 734-8303 or stop by the Wildlife Interpretive Center to obtain current information on water levels.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A recent event of interest to most of you is that our good friend Doris Mager has now formed her own company, S. O. A. R., Inc. (Save Our American Raptors). She will still continue to give lectures and programs as before. However, she hopes to travel more extensively throughout the U.S., as well as train others to carry on this important educational work when she decides to retire. (For some reason, that's difficult to imagine.)

The Florida Ornithological Society has announced its fall and spring conference dates. Fall: Oct. 14-16 at Turtle Inn, Jacksonville Beach; local chairman is Dr. Robert W. Loftin (904-641-5461) 8039 Hillsdale Rd., Jacksonville 32217. Spring: April 20-22, 1984, at St. Petersburg; local chairman is David Goodwin (813-345-3114). 2475 64th St. North, St. Petersburg 33710.

At the June meeting we announced the toll-free telephone number for the Dept. of Environmental Regulation to report violations of numerous environmental laws. Since detailed information was outlined in the current issue of the FLORIDA NATURALIST, we suggest you refer to this publication rather than duplicate everything here.

Florida Audubon Society is planning a special birding weekend on October 7-9 on Islamorada in the Keys. Dr. Herb Kale and FAS President Peter Mott will lead the trip. Cost is \$275 per person, double occupancy, or \$325 single. For additional information, contact Renee Priest at FAS Headquarters, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751, (305) 647-2615. (Leah Schad)

#### KITE STRINGS

According to the AUDUBON LEADER, there are some striking pictures of the California condor and peregrine falcon recovery program in the June issue of LIFE magazine. Education Chairman Helen Gilmore could use these and similar articles for area summer school programs. Also usable are your left-over sheets of nature and wildlife stamps. Bring any contributions to our monthly meeting and we'll see that Helen gets them.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Pine Jog. A field trip is held during the following weekend and usually relates to the meeting subject. Interested persons are welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CONSERVATION REPORT

At the time of this writing, our legislature is still battling it out on the Water Quality bill, HB. 1129. The House and Senate seem incapable of getting together on how to fund this. We have contacted Senator Johnston, emphasizing the importance

of this water package and its proper funding. All successes will pale if, in the future, our ground water supply shows contamination and there has been no financial responsibility established to remedy the situation.

Good environmental bills that were passed include: (1) Eminent Domain for Environmental Land Acquisition, which gives DNR authority to acquire a list of properties around the state. Unfortunately Big Talbot Island was deleted.

(2) Further drilling (after Getty) in our bays and estuaries will be denied. (3) A Marine Fisheries Commission has been created. The Governor will not appoint anyone previously associated with past marine fisheries management within DNR as executive director. This should allay the fears of sport fishermen who fear the past alleged domination of DNR by commercial interests.

(4) One of the largest increases in DER funding has been set up with the 50¢ increase in vehicle license plates, which will go to local air quality programs or a DER Air Quality Trust Fund if no programs are as yet set up. (5) The Environmental Land Management Study Committee (E.L.M.S.) scored a victory with the passage of a package to increase the effectiveness of Area of Critical Concern regulations. The failure of the county involved and the current incapacities of the state were responsible for this passage.

(6) A Panther Advisory Council has been established to report to the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission because of the possibility that this agency has not done enough to prevent the demise of the panther in Big Cypress, where the only known breeding population exists in the state.

(7) A Beach & Dune Protection bill. DNR will look at broader environmental effects of building on the beach/dune system when asked to issue construction permits. (8) DER will have tough new standards for deep (aquifer) injection of effluent. The controversial plant in Orlando will have to undergo two years of

tests before effluent may be injected.

A few items that still demand attention: Marjorie Carr is still reading for letters to end the Cross Florida Barge Canal boondoggle. Senator Paula Hawkins, 1329 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, has still not made up her mind to support de-authorization or not. At this point, EVEN the Corps no longer supports the work and expenditure of building the canal.

East Everglades does not need an increase in allowable density. Just when a constructive move to salvage Everglades National Park is offered by SFWMD, the Corps is an obstructionist because it fears flooding residents that are either unpermitted or exceeding a 1 unit/40 acre density. Just imagine if the Dade County Metro Commission authorizes an increase at a scheduled July 5 meeting. Immediately write Mayor Stephen Clark, and Commissioners Jorge Valdez, Barbara Carey, Clara Oesterle, Barry D. Schreiber, Ruth Shack, Harvey Ruvin, James Bedford Jr. and Beverly Phillips Board of County Commissioners, 73 W. Flagler, Miami 33130 and protest any density increase. The East Everglades people knew it was flood plain when they settled there. The flow over this area is absolutely critical to the well-being of Everglades National Park.

Concerning the Loxahatchee Refuge, the latest count by helicopter, over a two-day period June 13-14, turned up between 16 and 19 deer, including both sexes and all ages. The mathematical formula used to project sample counts extends this to 342 to 620 animals. Rules for the hunt were unobtrusively published in the May 27 FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE WEEKLY by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. When questioned, they professed ignorance of the publication notice, which included a request for public comment or for a hearing on June 30 at Cypress Gardens.

A call to Charles Lee of FAS made are we filed an objection to the rules in time. Anyone able to make the trip? Do call me. It might prove exciting, plus helpful to further

challenge the decree sent down from the Dept. of the Interior.

When Mr. Watt was in town recently, he said his "Resource Managers" recommended the hunt. We have been unable to learn who bears that title. And this hunt was recommended against by those in the Fish & Wildlife Service who studied it and the area.

There's still time for a public opinion mailgram to Governor Bob Graham (20 words, \$4.25, call 800-257-2241). Oppose the hunt - no biological justification and it's a threat to the habitat and to endangered plants and animals in the refuge.

Nationally it behooves us to continue our correspondence to our senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and representatives (House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and ask them to abandon the Garrison Diversion Project. The appropriation this year would be \$22.3 million. It stands to destroy or damage a dozen national wildlife refuges, destroy 60,000 acres of wetlands and 43,000 acres of native prairie and rangeland, and turn 142 miles of streams into irrigation canals. It would further alienate Canada by polluting waters of the Hudson Bay watershed and threatening fisheries.

Join us at our next Conservation Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 13, at Ruth Trumpower's House.  
(Cissy Durando)

#### BAHAMA BIRDING

Grand Bahama Island is so close to Florida that it is a surprise to find so many different species of birds there.

Hummingbirds abound. The green Cuban emerald is sociable and aggressive. Sometimes six or more can be seen working one flowering black mangrove. The males have deeply forked dark tails and they swarm over the flowers.

In contrast, the Bahama woodstar acts as a loner. He is only three inches long, but he is a feisty little beastie. He hovers in front of single blossoms to suck in nectar and pollen. They will also fly in a swarm of midges and eat them one by one like a fruit picker. They don't tolerate competition from emeralds or bananaquits, but are quite tame with man.

The bananaquit also allows close approach and will come out for squeaks and whistles. Since they can't hover, they swarm over the flowers like acrobats, going into amazing postures to get at the nectar. Play is important, because they are always breaking off food gathering to play tag and chasing games.

The thick-billed vireo is common in these low shrubs, too. He is a sociable, groupy bird, forming pairs of pairs. They readily come to hand with vigorous pishing and squeaking. In June they were rather

scruffy looking, but their yellow spectacles were easily seen.

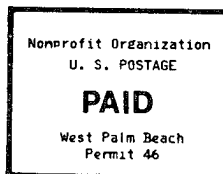
Among the open spots of the mangroves there appears to be a robin working the ground shadows. On close look it is a re-legged thrush with big red eyes. He is slate gray and is exceedingly handsome with his black throat, bright red legs, and eye ring.

That swallow you see is not a tree, but a Bahama swallow. Look at his long forked tail. These are aerial dare devils. Not only do they work the open water, but they zoom down curving jungle paths at amazing speed. There is nothing more startling than having one go through your legs while looking up at a vireo.

All this variety is so close at hand and so easy to reach that you must go and take a look.

(Hank McCall)

EVERGLADE KITE  
P. O. BOX 6762  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL. 33405  
(305) 844-4992



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