

RECEIVED SEP 27 1987

Palm Beach County Library System  
West Palm Beach, Florida

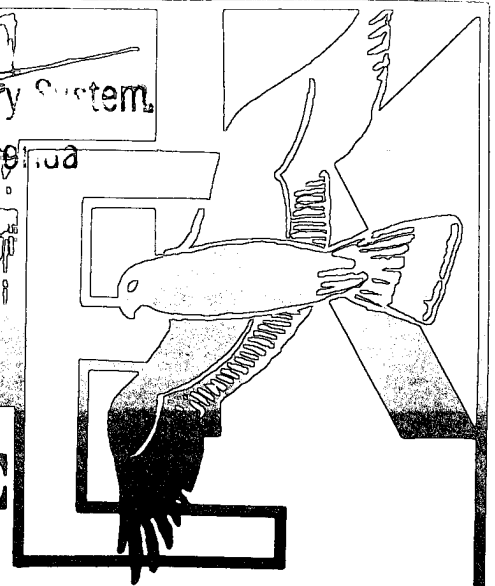
# EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 23, No. 1

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

OCTOBER 1982



## WILD ANIMAL PETS

Dr. John D. Parrott, D.V.M., will be our speaker at the October 5th meeting of the Society.

Dr. Parrott, whose specialty is the care of both native and exotic wild animals, will discuss "Misconceptions About Wild Animal Pets." This is a timely topic because of the upsurge in wild animal pets and the problems they cause.

Because of his lifetime interest in wildlife, Dr. Parrott pursued the subject through schooling at the University of Florida and at veterinary school at Auburn, where he graduated in 1974. He has practiced in South Florida since that time.

The public is welcome, so join us and bring a friend on Tuesday, October

5, 7:30 p.m., at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center. (Charles Dennis)

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 - Lignum Vitae  
Key trip - details and reservation form were in September KITE.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 - Fall Bird Count. Counters please contact their leaders. Interested new participants may call Gloria Hunter, 585-7714, for assignments. Compilation at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria's, 1716 13th Ave. North, Lake Worth.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 8 a.m.- Mounts Agricultural Learning Center Arboretum, 531 N. Military Trail, W.P.B. Gene Joyner, leader.  
(John Street)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The ASE 1982-83 Program is enclosed in this issue. Extra copies will be available for distribution at the October 5 meeting. Volunteers to take them to libraries, Chambers of Commerce, etc., are needed; please contact me at the meeting if you can help.

The Florida Ornithological Society's fall meeting will be held October 22-24. Meeting headquarters are at the Holiday Inn, 4951 S. Washington Ave. (U.S. 1), Titusville, phone (305) 269-2121. Rates are \$25 double (up to four people), single \$20. Camping available at Space Center Campground, U.S. 1, Bellwood, (305) 269-0947. There will be a pelagic boat trip on Sunday, October 24, at 7 a.m., \$18 per person. Send check to Miss Cape Canaveral,  
(continued page 3)

## ALASKA BIRDING - PART II

An Electra flew us back to Anchorage and next day we departed in two vans for McKinley-Denali Park. A few miles out of town there was a traffic jam caused by a moose and calf grazing on the freeway. At a rest stop we forgot the purpose because a flock of Bohemian waxwings landed in the trees around us. At mile marker 197 a hawk owl waited for us. After serving tea and crumpets, she proudly took us to her chick.

We checked into the hotel on the late side and early next day took the long ride by shuttle bus into the park. Since the road is rough and the ride is long, you begin to hate yourself for those extra cups of breakfast coffee. Just off the road passengers can see mountain goats, Dall sheep, caribou, moose, black bears, and grizzly bears. Unusual birds were golden eagles, wheatears, northern shrike, arctic warblers, and a female gyrfalcon.

She sat on a nest made of a hole in the cliff about fifty yards from a pinnacle we climbed. For some five minutes she gave us a display of aerial acrobatics that included stoops, wingovers, immelmans, and loops. And this is a big bird! No wonder a young white female fetches \$1,000,000 in Arabia.

Our next adventure was an ocean voyage aboard a large car ferry. We embarked from Homer about 10:00 p.m. and arrived early next morning in Kodiak. Thick fog and misty rain restricted our birding to a search for hot coffee and doughnuts. Departing for Seward, we had the entire day crossing the Alaskan Gulf well out of sight of land. A rolling swell and clear weather enabled us to see for twelve hours of action. A constant parade of pelagic birds...short-tailed shearwaters, Cassin's auklet, ancient murrelets, fork-tailed petrels, and jaegers...kept us moving back and forth on the bridge deck. Three types of whales - minke, humpback and killer - came close alongside just to show off. (to be continued in November KITE) (Hank McCall)

### FOUR WILDLIFE FILMS AT ROSARIAN ACADEMY

The Wildlife Film Series for 1983 offers to take you on four magnificent trips around the United States and Canada. Each trip leaves promptly at 8:00 p.m. from the beautiful Rosarian Academy Auditorium, 807 N. Flagler Drive, W.P.B.

Ample parking is available on 8th Street, in the school parking lot, or across the street at Channel 5. Mr. William Brooks, general manager of Channel 5, has graciously offered its parking facilities for the nights of our journeys.

Remember, January 13 is the first tour, from PALM SPRINGS TO LAKE LOUISE; January 26 we go to WILD AND WONDERFUL ALASKA, February 17 it's up to SAGUARO COUNTRY, and on March 23 we will see WILD CANADA: COAST TO COAST.

Watch your mail for tickets. We kept them at the same low price of last year, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Individual single

performance tickets at the door will be \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students. (Edie Reiter)

## CONSERVATION REPORT

We won a battle (the Wilderness Protection Bill), but not the war! The House vote to ban leasing in areas being studied for wilderness designation extends only until January, when Congress must formulate a policy. More than 1,000 applications covering three million acres are under the proverbial sword. Pressure, especially to our senators, must not stop!

It's weeks later and Representative Mica's office has been flooded with inquiries as to why he voted against pesticide control. The best an aide could come up with was some garbled message that he thought he was helping the farmers; that it would have no effect on Florida, as California is the only state with more restrictive laws than the federal law; that he's surprised at the interest it generated, and that he will take another look at what he voted for!

We have another item for Mica: do call about HR 3252; the Coastal Barrier Resources Act must be supported. Not only the "good earth," but the taxpayers can come out ahead if it passes, as opposed to its failure benefiting only developers and construction firms. Another Florida representative to contact is Earl D. Hutto, House of Representatives, Washington 21515. A member of the Barrier Islands Committee, he also will be influenced by the number of people who reach him. Urge that no more islands be deleted from the maps.

Although the Senate Environment Committee approved a strong bill to reauthorize the Clean Air Act, we haven't won the entire war here either. The Senate has yet to pass it, and the House is still stalling. In short, there are still those not convinced that Acid Rain and Toxic Air Pollutants must be controlled. A good summary and analysis by the National Clean Air Coalition (which includes NAS) was available for study at ASE's September meeting. I will be happy to share it with anyone.

There are several ways to negate arduously built up environmental protection agencies. One way is simply cutting the budget. In the long letter and/or conversation you are going to have with Representative Mica, let him know the EPA budget should not be slashed.

Another way is to abandon a safeguard completely. There is real danger, through pressure by the Reagan administration, that approximately 85% of the Corps control in wetlands, by overviewing and permitting, could be taken away. The Corps holds this jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Loss of control would mean nation-wide permits that would allow unregulated development in vast acreages. The Corps jurisdiction would be effectively limited to "navigable waters" only. There go the marshes: fresh or salt water; bogs, wet meadows, prairies and bottomland hardwood swamps. I spoke to Col. Vachon of the Corps about this recently. He suggested we contact our senators and representatives and strongly urge them to support the Corps' present power to protect wetlands. (Cissy Durando)

## PINE JOG COURSES BEGIN

For a copy of the Fall 1982 Pine Jog Programs offering more details on the following courses, call Pine Jog at 686-6600.

The Art of Nature Photography - Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28. Limit 20, cost \$17.

Wilderness Camping - Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m., Oct. 13 & 20, \$8.

Ecology Field Trip Series - Tuesdays, 9-11:30 a.m., Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23. Limit 20, \$15.

Sketching From Nature - Mondays & Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m., Nov. 8, 10, 15, 17. Limit 20, supplies furnished, \$25.

Uninvited Guests (foreign plants, animals) - Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Dec. 1 & 8, \$6.

Introduction to Bird Study - Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30-11:30 a.m. Limit 20, \$7.

Call Pine Jog if interested in either of these two trips - Yucatan around Thanksgiving and the Bahamas in January.

## WESTERN APPROACH TO THE BAY OF FUNDY

As members also of the Maine Audubon Society, we participated during August in a pelagic trip to the western approach to the Bay of Fundy off the coast of Maine. This area is noted for the concentration and diversity of breeding seabirds, spectacular numbers of migrating gulls, northern phalaropes and shorebirds, and its diversity of summering whales.

Before embarking on our voyage, we visited the Lubec spruce woods for boreal species. Among the birds we sighted were four secretive spruce grouse, a gray jay, a winter wren, sharp-shinned hawks and northern ravens.

On our first day at sea we were greeted with most spectacular and thrilling sights. Huge whales leaped from the water to breathe and then splashed into the sea. Of particular interest was seeing a minke whale caught in a herring trap in the bay. In its pursuit of herring for food, the whale had inadvertently entered the trap designed to catch herring for the fishermen. Curious people were watching the entrapped whale as he emerged periodically above water at close range. The fishermen were trying to release the whale by opening the net and making its escape possible.

En route to the island we sighted red and northern phalaropes, razorbills, gannets, Wilson's petrel, common eider, parasitic jaeger, Bonaparte gulls, guillemot, and black-headed gulls. From the boat we saw harbor seals on a rocky island, and a gray seal and porpoises cavorting in the sea.

On the second day of our trip we headed for Machias Seal Island, which is a Canadian possession. Only 12 Americans and 13 Canadians are permitted to visit the island daily in order not to disturb the nesting birds. A landing is possible only when the sea is relatively calm.

As we approached Machias Seal Island we put on life preservers and transferred to a rubber pontoon which was rowed to shore. The island provides an excellent opportunity to study common puffins, razorbills, and arctic and common terns. Two blinds enabled us to watch and photograph the birds from just a few feet away.

After spending some time on the island, we returned to our boat and set sail for home. The sun setting in a flaming red and gold sky ended this most adventurous trip, which included an unforeseen incident to be reported in the next KITE. (Sally & Saul Rimberg)

## PRESIDENT'S DESK (cont'd.)

P. O. Box 962, Cape Canaveral, FL. 32920.

Word has been received that our good friend Doris Mager was recently named "Eagle Person of the Year" by the Eagle Valley Conservationists in upstate New York. This is the first time the honor has been given to a woman.

It was a pleasure to see our member Jeffery Kahn at the Florida Wildlife Federation banquet where he was named "1982 Communicator of the Year" by the Federation. Jeff is an environmental writer for THE POST and was cited for his "in-depth reporting which has brought attention to the Everglades system and the water dilemma of South Florida." (Leah Schad)

## WATER MANAGEMENT MEETING

I attended the South Florida Water Management meeting on September 9th and thought you might be interested in some of the proceedings.

Executive Director Jack Maloy made it clear the WMD is charged with a task that has built-in conflicts. He feels a credibility gap now with the public, a lack of understanding and in-depth coverage by the media, all of which has resulted in "light weights" getting together expounding simplistic causes and solutions that might remedy their special interests.

The WMD is charged to work in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers. This, the largest flood control district in the world, is charged with protecting the water quality of the 3rd largest park in the country, with supplying water to South Florida, and with giving flood protection to the same area. That makes the SFWMD the only multi-purpose agency in the system.

In an impassioned plea for understanding and an updated clarification of priorities, Maloy stated "We cannot go back!" He asked the WMD Board to put their judgement unequivocally on the line: what system(s) should he favor - 1. service to three million people, 2. Everglades National Park, 3. Lake Okeechobee, 4. the three conservation areas?

Superintendent Jack Morehead of the park followed with his plea, noting that there are now less than 10% of the colonial wading birds that were there in 1970. The osprey population has declined 60% since 1963. The brown pelican has declined 40% since 1972. Twice

the alligator was almost wiped out. Exotic plants are on the increase. Fish are on the decrease in Florida Bay and the estuaries.

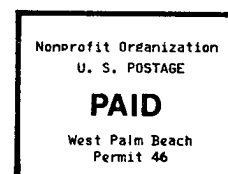
At this point Board member Nat Reed acknowledged the Board's failure in judgement since the major decisions made in 1970. Morehead believes some of the problems have been due to "flood dumpage." sometimes at the wrong time of the year. He would like assurances of no demands and or no surprises. He was most candid in asking the Board: "Can you give me natural schedules? How close can you come? Do you have a better idea?" He added that the park staff will shortly be publishing technical and management reports and hydrological studies for a schedule.

Colonel Vachon, representing Colonel Devereaux of the Corps, followed. He stated that "conservation areas" is a misnomer; they are in truth "reservoirs." He noted that Governor Graham has formed a Fish & Wildlife Conservation Committee, which includes the Corps, but neglected to say who else might be on the committee. The Corps has undertaken a Central and South Florida Water Supply Study. A draft will be available in June of '84 and it will be completed in October of '84. The Colonel also threw in an ambiguous tidbit: they were looking into the possibility of quicker removal of water from Conservation Area 3A.

The Florida Audubon Society, Audubon Society of the Everglades and Friends of the Everglades came down soundly against budgeting for the construction of deer islands in the conservation areas.

When questioned as to the mechanics of island construction, one of the proponents glibly stated "you could take a bulldozer and kind of push up an island." It was conceded that a dragline would be used to "build with muck" - \$300 per island for five islands. Proponents of the islands criticized the SFWMD and said what a humane gesture it would be to construct islands. (Obviously they fail to recognize the end result for the deer would still be the big bang.) Jeanne Bellamy was the only member of the Board to say that she was in favor of no further intrusion in the conservation areas. (Cissy Durando)

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



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