

Palm Beach County Library System

West Palm Beach, Florida



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 23, No. 2

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

NOVEMBER 1982

BIOLOGIST TO SPEAK ABOUT EVERGLADES DEER

There has been much said on TV and in the newspapers in reference to Everglades deer and their problems in Conservation Area 3, Broward County.

At ASE's November 2nd meeting you can hear the facts. Our speaker will be John West, who was the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish biologist at the time of this latest 'Glades crisis.

Mr. West has recently changed position with the Commission, to the Wildlife Inspection Section of the Law Enforcement Division. Before this he had been the 'Glades biologist since graduating from the University of South Florida a few years ago.

We hope you and your friends will join us for this interesting meeting, which will include a special occasion, on Tuesday, November 2, 7:30 p.m., at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. (Charles Dennis)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 8 A.M. - Mounts Agricultural Learning Center Arboretum, 531 N. Military Trail. Gene Joyner, Urban Horticulturist for Palm Beach County, leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 8 A.M. - Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Meet at

entrance parking lot; entrance fee is 50¢ per person. Gloria Hunter, leader.

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A BIT OF NOSTALGIA

A number of Alice Stearns' friends thought it would be fun to get together before she leaves. We are therefore having dinner at A BIT OF NOSTALGIA (rather fitting) in Lantana on Tuesday, November 9th, at 6:14 p.m.

You have a choice of a complete London Broil or Baked Chicken dinner for \$9.00, including tax and gratuity. Because of the time frame in which we are working, we ask you to call your reservation in immediately to Ruth Trumpower, 585-3968. We must hear from you by Friday, November 5, and only the first 40 people to call can be seated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a shock to return from vacation and learn of the tragic and untimely death of Alex Vuillemin and his wife, Helene, who were both killed while taking an evening walk in Lake Worth. Alex had been elected to our Board of Directors last spring to serve as chairman of the Nature Trail. He will be missed very much by the board and his co-workers.

The Florida Audubon Society Convention on Barrier Islands was very interesting and informative. Speakers included Dinesh Sharma, Frank Lund, Debbie Athos, Norm Whittmore, John Brooks and Governor Robert Graham. All of the speakers will be further identified by Pat Orris at the November 2nd meeting when she will give you a brief report on the conference. A book, COASTAL AFFAIRS (\$4.00), which Sharma helped produce, will be available for you to look at and place orders in the event you would like a copy.

National Audubon Society sent one of our chapter's Birdathon prizes to the FAS convention for presentation. It will be on display at our November meeting, as well as the perpetual plaque given by Florida Audubon for most funds raised by an individual in Florida in the Birdathon.

News from the Florida Conservation Foundation is that the Florida Solar Coalition's fifth annual conference is November 19 and 20 at Rollins College in Winter Park. Brochures will be at our meeting, or you may write the Environmental Information Center, 935 Orange Avenue, Winter Park 32789. Also copies of the 1983 Calamity Calendar will be available for \$5.00 each at the November meeting. Advance publicity says, "Henry Swanson, who predicted the Winter Park Sink Hole, has eight new predictions that will affect every man, woman, child and armadillo." If you missed this fascinating calendar last year, be sure to see it now. You'll want several copies for yourself and friends.

Many of our members attended the public hearing regarding deer hunting in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Peggy Teahan presented our statement (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) in opposition to the proposed plan. We were also in attendance at the public hearing on the proposed airport location in the south county area (near the Refuge).

Those of you in attendance at our monthly meeting in October voted to take whatever steps necessary to stop the Briny Breezes/Ocean Ridge Beach Renourishment Project. Florida Audubon Society has now voted to join us, as well as Audubon Society of Southwest Florida. We expect support from Royal Palm Audubon after its board meeting and we will present the issue on the agenda of the Southeast Coalition of Audubon Chapters in November.

A publication which may be of interest to many of you is titled "Marine Salvage in the United States," published by the National Academy of Science, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, attention Charles Bookman. If you hurry, you may be able to get a copy free.

Dinesh Sharma has co-authored two books - "Citizens Guide to Living with Florida Barrier Islands and Beaches," Gulf Coast (available in December) and Atlantic Coast (available in February).

It seems certain now that FAS will take 'possession' of the five remaining Dusky Seaside Sparrows (all males) in January. Dr. Herb Kale, FAS Vice President for Ornithology, will be the principal investigator in the

project of cross-breeding with the Scott's Seaside Sparrow, form a gene pool, and eventually get something close to the original species. During the first year, the birds will remain at the Santa Fe Zoo near Gainesville, then be moved to the Bird Island at Disney World. Disney is funding the program.

Ann Ayers has agreed to be our representative to the Loxahatchee Natural Historical Association. She is also on its Board of Directors.

You will all be interested to know that our accountant, Dale Blocher, has finished his audit of our financial affairs and finds us to be in good shape. We also now have a final determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that we are a 501(c)3 organization, (charitable, non-profit).

The previously announced public hearing regarding the Kissimmee River Restoration Program scheduled for November 9 at SFWMD has been cancelled. All other announced meetings, with the exception of October 29 (in Tallahassee) have also been cancelled. We will keep you informed. (Leah Schad)

SFWMD CLARIFICATION

The following letter to Conservation Chairman Cissy Durando is published in full for your edification:

"We read with interest your account of the Water Management District's budget hearing in which the issue of deer islands was raised. I believe you caught the flavor of the lengthy discussions very accurately.

"The last sentence of the article in the "Everglade Kite" left a funny taste, however. It noted that Jeanne Bellamy was the only member of the Board to say that she was in favor of no further intrusion in the Water Conservation Areas. That statement is true as far as it goes, but I think it is appropriate to let your Audubon readers know that the entire Board has taken that position time and again with reference to deer islands, agricultural development, rock mining, jetport construction or any other activity which would possibly threaten the integrity of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas. Chairman Bob Clark and Vice Chairman Bob Padrick have served on the Board for more than a decade, and have consistently followed a policy of no intrusion into the protected Everglades.

"If you have an opportunity to clarify this point with your members we would appreciate it. We look forward to your continued understanding of the complexity of the task of water management in South Florida and to the ongoing cooperation of the Audubon and other environmental organizations in the important work of protecting South Florida's precious water resource. Sincerely, Sheila A. Middaugh, Director, Public Information"

FALL BIRD COUNT

The West Palm Beach Fall Bird Count on October 16th fell on a fortuitous day. It was probably, locally, the best migration day of

this fall period. We tallied 140 species, ten more than our previous 20-year high.

New species for our fall count were BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Sykes, Hope), NASHVILLE WARBLER (Langridge), and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (Eaton, Wilson). The following species were listed for only the second time: Fulvous Whistling Duck (Shad, Teahan and Sykes), White-winged Dove and Chimney Swift (Eaton, Wilson, Munroes), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2 parties), Black-throated Green Warbler (2 parties), and Bay-breasted Warbler (2 parties).

The all-time high of the following species were: Cattle Egret 3297 (previous high, 1524), Catbird 255 (248), Parula Warbler 41 (16), and Indigo Bunting 59 (14). We found no American Coot, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole, or Semi-palmated, Western, Solitary or Pectoral Sandpiper.

No Scrub Jay, only one Smooth-billed Ani, one Spotted Oriole, and three Loggerhead Shrike emphasized the steady decline of these species in our area. Twenty-one observers, with 54 party hours in the field, found the surprising number of 23 species of warblers.

(H. P. Langridge)

ALICE STEARNS

In 1966, a group of citizens saw the need for a local Audubon chapter. One of them was Alice Stearns.

Since that time, Alice has been a moving force in Audubon Society of the Everglades, having served on its Board of Directors for many years, primarily as chairman of the Nature Trail which she helped establish in John Prince Park, and more recently as Member-at-Large.

Alice is moving to Texas soon to be closer to her family. She leaves a legacy of love and devotion to the natural environment of which we are all a part. Over the years she has helped many children and adults arrive at a better understanding and knowledge of their natural world.

We hope everyone will join us on Tuesday, November 2nd, to wish Alice well as she embarks on another adventure in her interesting life. We will miss her very much, but what wonderful memories we will have. God bless you, Alice.

(Leah Schad)

FILM SERIES HAPPENINGS

The 1983 Audubon Wildlife Film Series tickets went into the mail the second week in October and, with our chapter membership almost 1200, this was no easy job.

The original letter accompanying the tickets was written by Leah Schad. Larry Horning helped with the return envelope addressing.

Then the great "Stuffing Party" took place on October 12, with workers Pat Orris, the Bardy sisters - Bev and Barb, Hal Wiedemann, Joe and Helen Patton, Edie Reiter and son Lou, who took charge. Ruth Trumpower, with the help of Avant Press, did the final stint of bundling them for the Post Office.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN..... Dust off that check book, fill out the request form, stuff that little envelope, and send it back to Larry Horning. You, too, can be part of this dynamic Wildlife Film Series committee. Don't miss out!

(Edie Reiter)

TRAVELING DISPLAY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

ASE will have a display at the Heritage Festival at the South Florida Fairgrounds on the following dates:

Friday, November 5 - 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, November 6 - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, November 7 - Noon to 10 p.m.

If you can help man this exhibit for a few hours, please contact me at 842-2364.

(Susan Korzenewski)

SING A SONG FOR WILDLIFE

More than 700 children from four local schools enjoyed the toe-tapping, live, blue-grass style music of Dale and Linda Crider at Allamanda Elementary School on Wednesday, October 20.

Conserving Florida's water and protecting endangered species were the topics of the Criders' original songs. Dale is an Endangered Species Information Specialist with the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. His wife, Dr. Linda Crider, heads up the Anhinga Roost Music Company.

The performance was arranged by ASE's Education chairman and co-sponsored by Audubon Society of the Everglades and Allamanda School. Classes from Jerry Thomas Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary and Grove Park Elementary also participated. Several songbooks and records were left with the schools to be shared in their media centers. (Helen Gilmore)

* * * * *

Doris Mager, Florida's "Eagle Lady," again visited Palm Beach County elementary schools to talk about the endangered Bald Eagle and show students the eagles in her care.

From October 25th through the 29th, Doris appeared at two schools per day through arrangements made by ASE's Education Chairman Helen Gilmore. Publicity Chairman Peggy Teahan arranged for interviews with Doris at several local radio and TV stations during the week.

A CALL FOR COOKIES

Do you have a favorite Christmas Cookie recipe? How about baking up a batch for the December 7th ASE meeting?

Hospitality Chairman Sylvia Dunnam would be interested in hearing from you if you can share some with us. Please call her at 683-3014 after 5 p.m. on weekdays.

THE ARK IS COMING

ALASKA BIRDING - PART III

Nome is a grand old gold mining town, and several days could be spent there looking at historic buildings and antique machinery. But our group members were consecrated birders, so we were soon riding in two rented vans (\$900 for three days). Three miles out of town we spotted a spectacled eider in a little bay. This really excited the leaders, and within minutes a bar-tailed godwit landed to watch them go berserk. Twenty miles down the beach we stopped to inspect some old abandoned steam engines and an emperor goose waddled out to demand our credentials. We also saw Eurasian widgeons and Aleutian terns, and both white and yellow wagtails. Next day we climbed a mountain in the rain and were rewarded by seeing rock ptarmigan and hoary redpolls.

Barrow is five degrees above the Arctic Circle (latitude 71) and it, too, has an Ocean Blvd. Only when we stood on it and looked to sea there was no water to be seen, only ice. This was on June 29 and that night, seeking a black guillemot on a three-hour beach walk lasting after midnight, we discovered that our faces were sunburned by the midnight sun.

Our birding took us out on the tundra via Gas Line Road. The terrain is flat, brown and wet. Snowy owls stood on little knobs and looked like white concrete bench marks. There were many nesting long-tailed jaeger. One bold brave Eastern kingbird had wandered up into these strange parts.

A search of a little bay near a Navy base gave us the crowning glory of the trip, a Stellar's eider and a yellow-billed loon. This enabled us to check off all four varieties of eiders and loons for one trip.

Alaska offers you an unforgettable trip on par with Africa or Australia. It is almost totally scenic or wildlife oriented. We urge you to put enough quarters in your piggy bank to make this trip soon. (Hank McCall)

STATEMENT ON PROPOSED DEER HUNTING IN LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

To: James W. Pulliam, Jr., Regional Director
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades, with more than 1,100 members in Palm Beach County, wishes to again go on record in opposition to opening the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge to deer hunting. To allow deer hunting will set a precedent which is not in keeping with the refuge policy as established on June 8, 1951, under the basic authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929. The proposed hunt area is simply not suitable habitat for deer hunting and has been closed for public use since 1963.

At the public meeting on May 26, 1982, the opening remark made by your own personnel was: "There is no biological reason for this hunt." Then what is the reason? Has the department succumbed to pressures from special interest groups, or is this significant of the even greater cancer that is growing in Washington under the present administration? Perhaps a little of both.

Within 50 miles of the refuge there are some 750,000 acres used for deer hunting. That seems to us good and sufficient lands without the addition of the refuge. We see deer hunting as a direct conflict with the purposes for which the refuge was established. Furthermore, the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is listed in the Federal Register as critical habitat for the endangered Everglade Kite. Regardless of the adverse remarks in your environmental assessment, the kite will no doubt return to the refuge, especially since drought conditions no longer exist. The list of flora and fauna which are either endangered, threatened, of special concern, or under review by the State of Florida or the Federal Government, is lengthy and should be given some consideration. Because of its location, the refuge also provides the setting for scientific data which is valuable to biologists everywhere. Therefore, we request that an Environmental Impact Study be made before any changes in current refuge management practices are made.

We would also like to know why, since 60 to 70% of the mail generated by the public meeting on May 26th was opposed to opening the refuge to deer hunting, you are proceeding against the public's wishes. And last, but certainly not least, what is the cost benefit ratio for the 600 hunters who will be issued permits?

We would again remind you that Audubon has no policy on hunting. It is a matter of personal decision for the individual. This is definitely not a hunting issue as we see it, but one more assault on our natural environment by an inept Secretary of the Interior.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
Sincerely, Leah G. Schad, President

KITE STRINGS

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - A six-week course in nature photography is being sponsored by Palm Beach County's Dept. of Parks & Recreation beginning Saturday, November 6, 9 to 10 a.m., at the Lake Worth Community High School. Call Debbie Thatcher, 964-4420, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for information, reservations.
* * * * *

PINE JOG COURSES - If you missed it in the October KITE, an Ecology Field Trip Series and Sketching from Nature are scheduled at Pine Jog in November. Uninvited Guests and Introduction to Bird Study will be held in December. Another course, Coastal South Florida's Wilderness, will feature lectures on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m., and field trips Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 9-12 a.m. Fee \$30. Call Pine Jog, 686-6600, for information and reservations.
* * * * *

COLOR-MARKED WOOD STORKS - Wood stork nestlings again were sprayed with dyes this spring in Central Florida colonies. If sighted, please send date, location, color of bird, number of storks present, and your name and address to: Dr. James A. Rodgers, Wildlife Research Lab, 4005 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601.
* * * * *

EVERGLADE KITE - The annual kite survey, a cooperative venture of Florida's Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will begin in December and is held to determine if the birds have dispersed to other areas after the 1981 drought. Sightings

should be reported to Kite Alert, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 278, Boynton Beach 33437, or call (305) 732-3684.

* * * * *

TAGGED COMMON TERNS - The Canadian Wildlife Service requests sighting reports of color-tagged common terns. In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing tags and chicks with pink tags. In 1982 bright blue tags (with black lettering) were put on adult birds and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging. Report date, location, tag color and, if possible, the number/letter combination, to: Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION REPORT

With a little luck and some unbiased appraisal by a Wildlife Service officer, we may be able to put the threat of air boat traffic and an additional furbearing hunting recreation area in Palm Beach County to rest. I would hope that none of our Auduboners give credence to the "hunting vs anti-hunting" remarks.

This refuge management issue is not confined to Palm Beach County, but was instigated over a year ago in Washington. A dictum was sent down to ALL refuge managers throughout the states to diversify. Hunting was at the bottom of the list. For the record, trapping and retriever dog schools were also suggested. Energy exploration (oil, gas, coal) was priority. Farming (grazing, haying and crops) was another possibility. Believe it or not, the DOE financed a peat inventory for possible peat mining in the Loxahatchee Refuge. Praise be for small favors: the cattail issue was not resurrected. A more recent dictum came down from above chiding the various refuge managers for not being sufficiently productive in diversification.

All this indicates an urgent need to contact our senators and representative in Washington and pressure them to work towards keeping the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge as it is. (See ASE's statement, p. 4) (Senators' addresses in next column, Representative Dan Mica, 131 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington 20515). If a decision is made to have a hunt, there will probably be a coalition of organizations, including FAS and ASE, which will file legal objections.

On our other 'timely issues' front - Let us hope the Ocean Ridge Beach project follows the South County Airport project to oblivion. The County Commission workshop on the beach will be December 9th and is open to the public. In lieu of attending, call you favorite County Commissioner and pass along your thoughts on this matter.

An Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator will be conducting an international meeting on November 17th in Orlando. This will be a chance to discuss any and all EPA programs. Anyone who might possibly attend, please get in touch with me, 965-2420.

Kudos to Governor Bob Graham for completing the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary, which is a part of a national system author-

ized under the Coastal Management Act.

Even though developmental pressure caused the removal of a number of barrier island areas from the original bill's protection, the reduced version passed and will help save some of our coastal areas. In Florida approximately 110 miles of beach are included. Among them are Bird/Talbot Island, Lover's Key, Dog Island, and 9.75 miles of Hutchinson Island.

(Cissy Durando)

WESTERN APPROACH TO THE BAY OF FUNDY - PART II

En route to Michias Seal Island, we were sailing on the Bay of Fundy when suddenly the motor of our boat went dead. Our captain thought that dirt may have clogged the fuel line, but closer examination disclosed that the boat had run out of gas in the middle of the sea. Anchoring the boat, the captain warned us that it would now roll with the swell of the waves. In the small boat were 13 anxious passengers plus the captain and his wife. A nearby fishing boat offered to tow us to the town of Cutler, but the offer was declined because we had sailed from Lubec where our cars were parked. Besides, we had not yet arrived at our destination.

The captain radioed the Coast Guard about our predicament and asked them to bring gas to our boat. They cooperated and promised to bring enough for our trip. While waiting, the captain informed us that he had refueled the boat with 200 gallons of gas the previous evening. He said he was formerly a policeman and may have antagonized some people by arresting them. Siphoning off gas may have been somebody's way of getting revenge. He said he would no longer dock his boat alongside the edge of the marina because it was so easy to vandalize the boat there.

Just before the Coast Guard arrived, the captain set off an orange smoke flare which helped them locate our exact position. The 40 gallons of gas were transferred to our boat 5 gallons at a time and were enough to permit us to complete our eventful trip to Machias Seal Island and return. We spent 13 hours at sea that day, but arrived home safely and none the worse for this adventurous experience.

(Saul Rimberg)

PROTECT CLEAN AIR ACT

National Audubon Society has put out an urgent plea for letters to our Senators in support of the Stafford Clean Air Bill. The bill provides regulatory relief to industries and shifts appropriate responsibilities back to the states, but it maintains and strengthens the basic provisions of the current law.

Ask Senator Lawton Chiles (Room 437, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington 20510) and Senator Paula Hawkins (1327 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.) to oppose any weakening amendments to the Stafford bill, and to support amendments that would improve smelter regulations. As NAS President Russell Peterson says, "Only the volume of your response can defeat industry's money machine" and protect our health and our environment.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Boynton Beach: Todd and Mary Logan

Greenacres City: William and
Florence Poel

Juno Beach: Miss Jessie E. Tripp

Jupiter: Mrs. Mary Erickson, Jamie
N. Grosseck, Guy Hennery, Cindy
Hite, Mary Millar, Dr. Gary Oxman,
N. William Petersen, Mr. & Mrs.
S. E. Stevens, William C. Valentine,
Hamlin B. York III

Lake Worth: Kenneth A. Bailey and
Family, F. Blum, Rita J. Harter,
W. Lewandowski, Dean R. Ott and
Family, Mrs. Robert J. Polk, Mr.
& Mrs. Paul Rosenberg, Ulysses
Schutzer

Lantana: Ms. Jean Matthers, Eli Vance

North Palm Beach: Paula P. Criser,
Kenneth Kroehler, Donald D.
Lehnacker, Sidney A. Stubbs, H.C.
Wiedemann, Tracey Winen

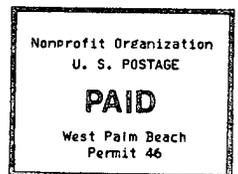
Palm Beach: Elaine Allenberg, Miss
Sarah T. Beatty, Donald L. Colvin,
Mrs. Mary Lou Harrison, Cathy L.
Hoffman, John C. Hulse, Phillip
L. Robert

Palm Beach Gardens: Phillip Demus,
Ms. Vicky L. Gray

Palm Springs: June R. Stoops

West Palm Beach: Lory Armstrong, Fay
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Christensen, K.R. Davis, E. Donner,
Mrs. Martine Dreyfoos, Robert
Foster, Lawrence Franklin, C. Goins,
Stuart M. Graham, Mrs. Patricia
Green, Betty Gregory, Mrs. Claude
Helms, Ms. Hilary Johnson, Thomas
R. Keith & Family, Cirnard Kobi,
Daniel & Sue Lapointe, Louis R.
McBane, Jim McDowell, Linda W.
McKune, Mrs. Lisa Mileur, Lena
Nehrlich, Caryl Neumann, Mr. & Mrs.
Douglas Pasley Jr., Robert D.
Perrin, Ms. Jean E. Rushworth, Ms.
J. Schields, D. L. Small, Lindo
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