

**AUDIENCE TO PARTICIPATE
IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION**

Saul Rimberg, an ASE member since 1972, will show his bird slides at the February 1st meeting of the Society.

The audience will be challenged to see how many species of birds they can identify from his slides. Such audience participation should be fun.

A regular contributor of articles to the KITE about birding and field trips, Saul became well acquainted with area habitats while working for three years on the Custard Apple Nature Trail under the direction of Louise Van Acker. He is also a member of the New York Linnaean Society and the Maine Audubon Society.

The public is welcome, so join us and bring a friend on Tuesday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Park.
(Charles Dennis)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:30 a.m. --
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, meet at Marsh Trail parking lot. Marge Eaton, leader. This trip is in addition to those listed on ASE's printed program schedule.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 8:00 a.m. --
Seacoast Utilities Sewage Treatment

Plant, PGA Blvd., about ¼ mile west of turnpike.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 -- Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, leave from Pine Jog at 6:30 a.m., limit 39 persons. We are repeating this very popular day-long bus trip to the Sanctuary southeast of Fort Myers. Ann Ayers will be your guide to this huge last remaining forest of ancient cypress trees. A walk on a mile-long boardwalk will take you close to the wildlife. From alligators to birds, from ferns to airplants -- you will see it all! The wood storks may be nesting! Bring food and beverage, all-weather clothing, and reserve your seat now by sending your check for \$17.00 (payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades) to Ann at 6301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL. 33406.

**AUDUBON MINI-MUSEUM
TO VISIT LOCAL MALL**

The Audubon Ark, a traveling mini-museum devoted to informing Americans about our endangered birds and animals, will arrive in West Palm Beach on Wednesday, February 2. The Ark will be moored at Cross Country Mall through Sunday, February 6. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Piloting the Ark are environmental educators Tom Troy, Edward McCain and

Michael Starker. They will be up with the birds Wednesday morning to set up, with help from ASE members, an extensive exhibit that pictures and describes the plight of imperiled wildlife. The exhibit and exhibitors will also explain how concerned citizens can help save threatened and endangered species from extinction.

The Audubon Ark is an educational program of the National Audubon Society, made possible through a grant from the Celanese Corporation. In addition to scheduling the Ark's local visit, Education Chairman Helen Gilmore has also arranged speaking engagements for Ark personnel at seven area elementary schools during its five-day stay. (Peggy Teahan)

1982 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Forty-seven observers divided into fourteen parties for the December 18th West Palm Beach Christmas Count and tallied a good total of 145 species, not including the four species of Amazon parrots found in the area.

Although the Least Flycatcher is listed as a rare winter resident in southern parts, there have been several local sightings in recent years. So, not too surprisingly, counters Brian Hope, Wally George and Ted Hendrickson reported four Least Flycatchers by call, and Langridge one, to total five. Not only were these birds our first Christmas Count sighting, but the number, we confidently smirked, would surely be high in the U.S. this year. However, the two dastardly turncoats - Hope and Langridge - identified six calling Least Flycatchers the following morning on the Fort Lauderdale count to puncture our hopes for the highest count for this species this year.

We finally added the Sandwich Tern to our count list, thanks to Leah Schad, Peggy Teahan and Sylvia Dunnam. Unusual raptors were well represented: 2 Snail Kites and 2 Bald Eagles at Loxahatchee Refuge, seen by Paul Sykes and Ann Ayers; a Cooper's Hawk by Hope, an adult Broad-winged Hawk by Libermans and Lescault, a Swainson's Hawk by Hank McCall and Terry Palmer, 3 Merlin and a Peregrine stooping on a Cattle Egret by McCalls, Kilmer and Palmer.

Forty-five Black Scoters by Gloria Hunter and Marge Plymire, 157 Cedar Waxwings in many flocks, a Pine Siskin with a flock of Goldfinches by Bolte and Langridge, and a Song Sparrow by Libermans and Lescault indicated that winter was hesitatingly on its way.

In the field by 3 a.m., Tadziu Trotsky and William Matthews won the Screech Owl crown again with 22. Good saves were Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Gannet (Hunter); Am. Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Am. Bittern (Ayers, Sykes); Barred Owl (Bolte); Horned Owl, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers and Sedge Wren (Matthews, Trotsky); Greater Yellowlegs (Clifford party), Scrub Jay (Sandella) and Vesper Sparrow (Libermans). (H. P. Langridge, Compiler)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Last month we told you that our Wildlife Ticket Chairman, Larry Horning, was critically ill. We were saddened to learn that Larry did

not survive his illness and died several days before Christmas. For the past two and a half years, Larry handled our ticket sales for the Film Series and did an outstanding job. He was always cheerful, with a joke and kind words. We will miss his good humor and extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

Paul Sykes has been a member of ASE for many years. Paul is a wildlife biologist and has been with the Delray Field Station of the Patuxent (Maryland) Wildlife Research Center under the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. During his tenure he was assigned to the Endangered Wildlife Research Program, which included the Bald Eagle, Dusky Seaside Sparrow and Everglade (Snail) Kite in its studies. The Delray Field Station is being closed and we, unfortunately, are losing Paul to the island of Hawaii where he will join a team doing research on Hawaiian Endangered Forest Birds. Not only are we losing an expert in his field, we are losing the Number 1 birder in the country. Paul has 746 species on his North American Life List. And if that isn't enough, he is Number 2 with his Florida Life List of 405 species. It is rather 'iffy' at this writing whether Paul will be at the February meeting for a proper send-off, so we will bid you adieu - adios - farewell right now. The best of everything in your new assignment.

It is hard to believe, but our annual meeting will be here before we know it. April 5th is just around the corner. In accordance with the bylaws, committees have been appointed as follows: NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Martha Wade as chairman, Hank McCall and Andrea Thomas. FINANCE COMMITTEE: Al Liberman as chairman, Peggy Teahan, Don Braender and Gloria Hunter. Suggestions for officers and/or board member may be made to Martha, 588-7425.

The Conservation Committee usually recommends an individual to the Board of Directors to be the recipient of our Conservation Award. If anyone has a suggestion, please submit the name and a brief outline why the person should be so honored and send it to Cissy Durando, Conservation Chairman, 10308 Heritage Farms Rd., Lake Worth 33463. We hope you will all save April 5th and plan to be at the annual meeting. Our speaker will be Rupert Cutler, Senior Vice President in Charge of Chapter Relations for National Audubon (our prize from the 1982 Birdathon).

The Ocean Ridge Beach Renourishment Project was not given its proper burial at the County Commission meeting on January 18th as expected. Now we have to wait two more weeks! Incidentally, we netted another \$84.00 to help offset the consultant's fee.

We were very pleased that two of our new members, Stella Rossi and Kathy Stambaugh, were able to attend a Leadership Development Conference at Rock Eagle 4-H Center near Eatonton, GA. National Audubon was one of the sponsoring groups and we felt honored to be able to take part.

Brochures for the National Audubon Society's camps, workshops and field seminar will be available at the next meeting. If you know anyone interested in any of these programs, please take them a brochure. Sounds like a great way to spend the summer.

At the Board of Directors meeting we pledged \$200 toward the production of a television documentary on the conservation ethic in Florida. Focus will center on Marjorie Carr from North Florida, who co-lead the fight against the Cross Florida Barge Canal, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas from South Florida, who has been the champion of the Everglades for decades. We will receive credit in the film for our contribution, as well as receiving a print of the show which will be used by our Education Chairman for showing to local schools. We also voted to send FAS \$150 toward Charles Lee's lobbying expenses for 1983.

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"In honor of all the contributions that the Audubon Societies of Florida have made to protect and conserve the unique wildlife resources of this great state," Governor Graham has declared February as AUDUBON WILDLIFE MONTH.
(Leah Schad)

FILM SERIES A SUCCESS!

After two fine presentations, the 1983 Audubon Wildlife Film Series has two more great films to show.

On Thursday, February 17, Arthur C. Twomey presents "Saguaro Country" and on Wednesday, March 23, "Wild Canada, Coast and Coast," narrated by John Wilson, will conclude this year's gala series.

If you do not have a season ticket, you can still join the crowd at the Rosarian Academy Auditorium, 807 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. Single tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students. The shows begin at 8 p.m.

"Saguaro Country" is a lively tour of a very special environment. Belying the popular myth that the desert is dusty and deserted, Arthur Twomey presents a look at the varied flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert. During the course of a year more than 500 species of plants send out new shoots - from tiny desert wildflowers that spend most of their lives as seeds, to the giant saguaro cactus. Wildlife activity includes the macabre dance of the desert iguana, and hummingbirds pollinating flowers against a background of brilliant desert blossoms.
(Edia Reiter)

THE UNCONTAMINATED OWL

There is an enchanted spot of land in the Kissimmee prairie, touched not by human hand. The plain stretches as far as eye can see, broken only by hammocks of live oak and sabal palm pushing up from flats of saw palmetto, switch grass, and gallberry. Twelve miles from the nearest road, our son-in-law, Bert Gibson, has a hunting camp.

We arrived late afternoon in time to watch the sun slide under the rim of the prairie. After we set up camp I said, "Terry and Anne, let's see if Otus lives here!"

They said, "Otus who?"

"Otus Asio; he's a little owl from an old Italian family."

On the second cycle of my screech owl tape

we heard an answer very close. On the next cycle there was Otus, perched on a palmetto branch not three feet from my hand in full view of the firelight. He was the size and shape of a coconut, small and round, dignified in his reddish coat. He sat so still, but searched us with his big yellow eyes.

For over two hours, all through supper, he joined us but never moved. Though he listened to our conversation with attentive mien, all he said was "coooooooooo," mixed with a little gargle.

Since this was New Year's Eve, we wished him good luck and a full tummy for 1983.

Ring out the old
Ring in the new
The owl will sing
"To-wit to-woo."

(Hank McCall)

CONSERVATION REPORT

A sigh of relief for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River! Our Governor and Cabinet have finally declared it part of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Hopefully, all those applications for shoreline alterations will stop short of the 7½ mile designated stretch. Judging from individual permit requests to the Corps, it is the only way to protect the river.

Upcoming issues of local importance, in which the Governor and his agencies will have a strong role to play, are: 1. Future management of a sewage ocean outfall system, 2. Manatee protection by designating areas and requesting enforcement therein of speed zones, 3. Doing all in their power to hold up the proposed move of the Coast Guard Station from Peanut Island to the mainland at 59th Street, which is just south of the well-known gathering place for manatees at FPL's Riviera Beach power plant. When you write to the Governor about any of these problems, don't forget to thank him for the Wild & Scenic River designation.

At a county workshop on January 20, our County Commissioners recognized the gravity of a retreat to conditions that prevailed over 10 years ago in the ocean outfall system. The Health Department will assist in drafting a resolution declaring they do not wish quality compromised for expediency (for less expensive developing), which will be sent to our wayward opportunistic city governments. Ten years hence there will not only be many more people "flushing," but more people on more beaches indulging in bathing and diving. Keep in mind that the current drift is from the south to the north. The heaviest contributors to the system will come from as far away as the Miami/Dade Sewer Authority - and Palm Beach County lies closest to the Gulfstream. Conditions that result in a "boil" (solid materials surfacing on the beach) cannot be predicted at this time. We know little of the survival capabilities of bacteria and virus, or the amounts of heavy metals and other pollutants that would be present if secondary treatment were downgraded to primary. City residents would do well to let their respective managers know their feelings on this matter.

MANATEE PROTECTION RESOLUTION

Residents of Boynton Beach have the additional need to protect the last mangroves in their city. The Boynton Redevelopment Commission met on January 19th. Frank Messersmith was an invited guest and can be contacted about this. The commission supported a new 2nd Ave. bridge to be built some time in the future. But a more ominous treat to the lush 20 acres of mangroves is by owners who want to sell to developers now. It seems obvious, if and when the bridge is built, that an approach bordered by native greenery is aesthetically more pleasing and much safer than buildings and congestion along the bridge approach. The City of Boynton Beach should be reminded that it is historically fishing oriented, and about the important role a good healthy mangrove area plays in perpetuating that sport.

By the time you read this, there will have been another public meeting of the West Palm Beach City Commission and the Wilshire Corporation concerning rezoning and development of the land adjoining the north end of Dreher Park. So many times concerned citizens don't attend the various public meetings and workshops because they don't know when they are scheduled. If I had the names of members in different towns, I could notify you so that you could attend. Do call me (965-2420) or mail a card with your name and phone number. I promise - no arm twisting and a call only when it concerns your area.

We also invite all interested persons to attend any of our Conservation Committee meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., usually at the home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth. (Cissy Durando)

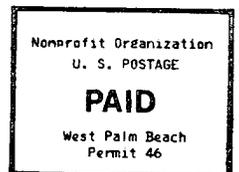
EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. BOX 6762
WEST PALM BEACH, FL. 33405
(305) 844-4992

A resolution urging protection of the manatee was adopted by ASE's general membership at the January 4th meeting and forwarded to Florida's Department of Natural Resources.

The resolution notes that more manatees are being lost than are being produced, that the grassbeds throughout the entire Loxahatchee River system are the primary food source for the manatee population in Palm Beach County, that two manatees have been killed near Palm Point in the river's South Fork, and that the consensus of all interested parties indicates protection of the manatee is necessary.

The Society strongly urges DNR to:

1. Establish a SLOW SPEED navigation corridor for the entire Loxahatchee River system.
2. Establish an IDLE SPEED zone outside of designated corridors.
3. Appropriate funds to post areas of designation.
4. Enforce the law without prejudice.
5. Seek assistance from other agencies, if necessary, to ensure the enforcement of the law.



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