

CENTRAL JUN 2 1983  
**EVERGLADE KITE**

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES**

VOLUME 23, No. 9

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JUNE 1983

**SLIDE SHOW FEATURES  
EXOTIC FISH RESEARCH**

Research on non-native fish which can be harmful or helpful in Florida will be the topic of ASE's next meeting on June 7th.

Paul Shafland, project leader of the non-native fish project located at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, will show slides about the work. The project is owned and operated by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Mr. Shafland has been leader of the project group for seven years and active in its research on exotic fish that are either established here or have the potential to become established.

The public is welcome to join us on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. (Charles Dennis)

**INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS**

Beginning on June 4, the Wildlife Interpretive Center at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Weekday hours will remain the same, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The Center offers both residents

and tourists an interesting, informative experience through its 15 exhibits and the eight-minute slide programs shown daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., or upon special request.

Also announced was the closing of the Refuge to airboating on May 16th due to low water levels. It will remain closed to airboating until water levels improve. The Everglades Canoe Trail is also closed for the same reason. To check concerning re-opening, call the Refuge at (305) 734-8303.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

"Summertime - and the livin' is easy." Oh, how we wish it were so.

Environmental issues of an immediate nature include Everglades National Park, Loxahatchee Refuge, Ocean Ridge, and MacArthur Park. (see Conservation News) In addition, summertime finds ASE preparing a new brochure, making plans for the Wildlife Film Series, lining up field trips for the fall, etc., etc.

The week of August 28th will find me, accompanied by Martha Wade, at the National Audubon Society's Biennial Convention in Estes Park, Colorado. Many fine field trips are planned prior to and after the scheduled meetings. The convention

theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally," will be ably handled by a host of eloquent speakers, including Colorado Governor Richard Lamm, Roger Tory Peterson, Senator Robert Stafford of Vermont, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works; Representative John Breaux of Louisiana, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries & Wildlife Conservation, and Florida's own Nathaniel P. Reed.

Inasmuch as I have never been to Colorado, I am looking forward to seeing the Rocky Mountains and surrounding terrain, as well as learning new ways to accomplish our goals. Anyone interested in attending the convention or wanting additional information should refer to the February AUDUBON ACTION or write direct to National Audubon.

June has been designated as Florida Rivers Month. The South Florida Water Management District and the State Park Service are sponsoring "Discovery Days on the Loxahatchee River" from June 19th through the 25th.

The kick-off event will be a Wild Food Feast at Jonathan Dickinson State Park picnic area at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 19th. A menu of wild hog, grouper, seafood chowder and 'other delights' will be offered. An environmental song sing-a-long will follow. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$4.00 for children 12 and under. We will have tickets available at our June 7th meeting. Make check payable to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park Interpretive Association.

Florida Audubon will probably send down the manatee exhibit for the events. Anyone wishing to help 'man' the exhibit should contact Ruth Trumpower, 585-3968. And many thanks to Ruth for 'carrying on' during my absence. (Leah Schad)

#### OKEEHEELEE FIELD TRIP

The last field trip of the season was at Okecheelee County Park and was led by Field Trip Chairman John Street. Twenty birders climbed the desert-like shellrock hills and carefully searched the ground for Least Tern nesting sites. About five nests were found camouflaged among the shells and sand, each nest with two or three eggs in it. Many terns flew overhead swooping and crying at us, and we observed several terns hovering over the lake before diving to catch minnows. A killdeer was spotted and John led us to its nest while the bird moved to one side displating a 'broken' wing. When a nighthawk was seen on the ground, the group fanned out to find that nest but was unsuccessful.

While walking the dunes, John explained the history of the park and the work underway to prepare the dunes for the planting of trees and grass. (During the nesting season, the hills are off-limits to the public to protect the eggs.) Next year's trip to Okecheelee will be expanded to include sections of the park now being completed. John also gave mini-lectures on fossilized shells, coral, and wood found in the sand.

Redwinged blackbirds and meadowlarks were also spotted, but a recently-arrived pair of Peking ducks could not be found. Not too long

ago, a large family of muscovy ducks was donated to the park in the dark of night and we observed a woman bringing large bags of food to feed them.

We thank John for the warmth of his welcome to Okecheelee, and for his humorous and patient answers to all questions -- and, especially, for another fine season of exciting field trips. (Peggy Teahan)

#### LIBRARY NOTES

The Audubon Collection at the P.B. County Library on Summit Blvd. continues to grow. As of the end of April, we had 578 ornithological books available for public use. A number of these are for reference use only, but many may be checked out for home or field use. Currently we have on order over 20 of the best records and cassettes of bird songs. These may be used in the library or checked out for home use.

If you are planning a summer vacation that includes any birding opportunities, you should check with the library before you go. No matter what state or what country you plan to visit, chances are we have a book that will help you locate and identify indigenous species.

Our library success has cost money. From the original grant of \$10,000, we now have less than \$300 remaining. ASE has started a supplementary fund so this valuable community enterprise may continue to expand. We would greatly appreciate any donations that will help us reach our goal of making this one of the finest ornithological libraries in the country. (Tom McElroy, Chairman Library Committee)

#### CONSERVATION NEWS

"Water, water everywhere..." Are we relegating our future to live out "nor any drop to drink?" Recent news items ominously suggest that. Technologies have advanced, but have been compartmentalized into narrow fields and insulated from one another to such a degree that the various advancements have produced results which will in time degrade our habitat. This habitat is fashionably being denied its role as the ultimate nurturer in the scheme of things. Unfortunately a part of this land is the source of speculation.

On May 14th, representatives of the Southeast Coalition of Audubon Chapters, plus other environmentalist leaders including Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and the press were called together in Miami for an emergency meeting. Jeanne Bellamy, SFWMD Board member, presented the District-approved, seven-point emergency plan to band-aid the existence of Everglades National Park for one more year. Incredibly, the Army Corps of Engineers has rubbed-stamped only one point. Ostensibly they have cited pressure from agricultural interests and other inhabitants of East Everglades, and the possibility of an E.I.S. The latter could put any action on hold for such a long time that it would be too late for the habitat to remain as we know it. Animal and bird species might be stressed beyond the point of being able to re-establish themselves. We have been

told this in reports by park biologists and the Superintendent for several years. They have compiled their statistics through drought and floods.

The Corps and even the Wall Street Journal investors?) have supported a most simplistic attitude by saying people and property must be protected. Some of those people were never issued permits. Some must have realized there had to be a reason for 1 unit per 40 acres zoning. Surely it was known that East Everglades was flood plain and watershed area. I cannot believe professional people have not bumped up against the thought that if the Great Sponge is completely dried out, we will have to go for the Great Bathtubs alternative. There simply will not be enough water to pressure the wells and aquifers to supply the people here, to say nothing of those that will flock in on 'newly-found' real estate. The thought of giant holding ponds in E.N.P. and our Conservation Areas is sad to contemplate.

We must push now to support the seven-point emergency program to save E.N.P. Do write Chairman James J. Howard, Subcommittee on Water Resources, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Room B376, Washington, D.C. 20515. Urge him to urge the Corps to cooperate in saving the park. I will have the names of other members of the subcommittee at the June meeting. Copies to all would be great. If our own Senators and Representatives are pressured by mail and phone, it would help. This, after all, is the only subtropical national park in the world.

At the last SFWMD Board meeting, a lovely plan to salvage the Holey Land and Rotenberger tract was aired. I emphasize - that is all it is, a plan. If it gets off the ground, the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission will regulate and manage wildlife. I hope they will be pressured to take a conservative attitude to motorized vehicles in the preserve. This whole plan could 'go down the drain' (sorry) if at some future date, for the public good, it is deemed necessary to use it for a water holding tank. The present private owners in a checker-board pattern will have been conveniently bought out.

To support this possibility, there are the discussions (and another Corps study) to use SR. 7 (441) as a split-county drainage boundary. Everything on the east side would drain east via the renovated Palm Beach Canal (C-51). West of SR.7, drainage would flow through a major backpumping station to be created at 20-Mile Bend and go south through the Conservation Areas. The purpose: to open up 36 sections of land for development because investors have chosen to speculate there.

Maybe by that time University Expressway (U.S. 75?), paralleling the Loxahatchee Refuge Dike, will be more than just on the drawing board. The proposed new 1000 acre county park, west of SR. 7 around the southern rim of the dike, has incorporated it into its planned access road system. Pressure our Legislative delegation, especially Ray Liberti and Frank Messersmith, any way you can concerning the drainage/water supply problems in our county and how the whole system stands to be affected.

Ocean Ridge Beach Renourishment grinds

painfully on. The unbelievable course of events over the past six months has taken us full circle again to expensive beach dredging. Don't wait until that budget comes out in July. Tell Commissioners Bailey, Koehler and Spillias now how great they are at spending our money when pressured by special interest groups.

Now the Great Loxahatchee Refuge Hunt caper haunts us again. One does not need to take off shoes to count to less than 10! Imagine the price tag each deer will carry! One hundred forty pounds is a fair-sized animal, dressing out with a 30% weight loss. The initial, unbudgeted cost of the hunt to be possibly \$55,000 gives us a per pound estimated cost of \$550. Talk about Entitlement Programs! Let's flood Governor Graham with letters saying this is our wildlife on our Florida property and the Department of the Interior should back off on this one.

The latest plan for MacArthur State Park will go to the Cabinet possibly towards the end of June. The plan is much improved from the original, solely because of pressure applied. Still in order is comment underscoring our feelings against a tram in any phase of development (it has been dropped in phase one) and that there should not be parking in the tropical hammock.

As of this writing, there are a few undecided bills in Tallahassee that need support: a Barrier Island bill; HB23 and SB 298, which would stop any further drilling (now that Getty has won its case) in bays and estuaries, and HB 1129, which provides funding from a tax on chemicals for the Water Quality Assurance Act. A 'lead shot' bill should be totally opposed.

I am going to repeat the pleas for the Alaska National Parks. Do write our Senators opposing S. 49, which would slice 12 million acres from full national park protection. Over 90% of Alaska is already open to hunting and this bill is beneficial to only a small group of commercial guides and trophy hunters, spearheaded by the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, whose past efforts have included attempts to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Write your Representatives too; the House bill is H.R. 1493. These bills are an attack on the initial balance reached in the Alaska Lands Act and on the integrity of the national parks. We certainly oppose cutting so much as a single acre from any national park.

(Cissy Durando)

#### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Boynton Beach: Angela & Paul Juliano

Juno Beach: Mrs. Charles H. Stewart

Jupiter: Madeline Biemuller, Arthur S. Buchanan, Betty G. Whitmore & Family

Lake Park: Annie Laurie

Lake Worth: Donald Freeman, Marjorie Hall, Charles C. Hoover Jr., George & Doris Irwin, Mary Poyry, Lillian Smiley, Karen Joy Suter

North Palm Beach: Robert R. Atherton

Palm Beach: Dr. Richard Sellwood

Palm Springs: Mr. & Mrs. David Thatcher

Royal Palm Beach: John & Paula Flynn  
& Family

West Palm Beach: Jeanette Cameron,  
Muriel Dury, Mrs. Hannah A. Hecht,  
Richard Reddig, Timothy D.  
Schroeder

WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK???

In explaining the following,  
President Leah says, "Our good  
friend, Ken Maddison, organized FLAP  
some time ago. Many of you know Ken  
and his wife, Helen, who headed the  
committee to save Tiger Creek for  
The Nature Conservancy."

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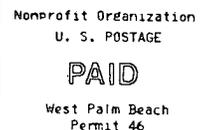
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