



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 24, No. 10

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

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Actually Volume 24, No. 11

OVER AND UNDER
AND IN BETWEEN

In keeping with National Audubon Society's 1983 Biannual Convention theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally," our program on August 7th will attempt to bring this idea into focus.

From Rusty Schweickart's Apollo 17 mission, "Reflections," to Captain Burke's "Odessey Under the Sea," we return to "Wild America: Who Needs It?"

"Reflections" gives us the astronaut's view of man's interdependence. "Odessey Under the Sea" shows the teeming life and color on the ocean floor. "Wild America" illustrates the city resident's often unrecognized dependence on the land, stressing the interdependence of city and countryside. This timely program comes on the heels of a dust cloud which traveled from the Sahara Desert to our area. The world is indeed small.

Captain Waring Burke, USNR, and his lovely wife Jean have returned from an "Odessey Under the Sea," during which they captured many sensational underwater and reef community photographs. Their synchronized audio/slide presentation is wonder to behold.

Do join us on Tuesday, August 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park.

HAVE YOU VISITED -

the Audubon Collection in the Audio-Visual Room of the Palm Beach County Public Library-Summit Blvd. Branch recently? The shelves are filling rapidly with volumes on ornithology, field guides, where-to-bird guides for areas throughout the world. It's time for you to check our shelves for summer reading or bird guides for your vacation spot.

Some recent additions to the Audubon Collection are: "A Guide to Birds of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands" by Herbert Raffaele, A598.297295Raf; "Birds of Oman" by M. Gallagher & M. Woodcock, A598.29535Gal; "Nature Through Tropical Windows" by Alexander Skutch. Skutch has lived in a tropical forest for 40 years and recounts his observations of birds seen from a cabin in a Costa Rican valley. A598.29222Sku.

"Once a River" by Amadea Rea. Bird life and habitat changes on the Middle Rea, Ariz. A598.2526Rea; "Vulture Biology and Management" edited by Wilbur & Jackson. The best and most recent research on vultures from the First International Symposium on Vultures. Here you may find the answers to your questions about the vultures circling in our skies during the winter months. A598.91Vul.

"Eastern Birds of Prey" by Neal

Clark. A guide to the private lives of eastern raptors. A598.91Cla. "The Grouse of the World" by Paul A. Johnsgard, A598.616Joh, and "Perspectives in Ornithology" Brush & Clark, eds. A series of essays and commentaries by leading authorities about especially active areas of research on the biology of birds. A598Per (Gloria Hunter)

ATTENTION BOOTHSEITERS

On Labor Day weekend - September 1 and 2 - there is going to be a Bluegrass Jamboree and Handicrafts Show at the South Florida Fairgrounds -- and our Audubon Exhibit is going to be there.

We need helpers to pass out brochures and answer questions on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Usually four-hour shifts work best.

Remember - this is a good way to see the sights free, as we get passes. If you can help, please call me at 842-2364.
(Susan Korzenewski)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Two resignations of note: Peter Mott, who has been president of Florida Audubon Society since July 1980, has submitted his resignation effective September 1. Peter and his wife Lenore will be moving to New York where he will begin teaching Biology at Fieldston School in Riverdale. We wish Peter every success.

The second resignation, effective June 30, 1985, is that of Russell W. Peterson, president of National Audubon Society. Dr. Peterson has decided that the time is right for him to begin his next career devoted to writing and speaking. Certainly Audubon has made great progress under his leadership and we wish him all the best.

We also wish the boards of both FAS and NAS success in their search for new presidents.

SAVE THE DATES - October 19-21, which is the weekend scheduled for the FAS Annual Convention in Key West. More details as soon as we have them.
(Leah Schad)

IN MEMORIAM

For those of her many friends and admirers who may not have heard the sad news, we are very sorry to report that our dear Audubon friend and co-worker, Alice Stearns, died on June 28th in Texas.

Alice was one of the founders of our Audubon chapter in 1966 and was a moving force in ASE until she moved to Texas two years ago to be closer to her family. She served on our Board of Directors for many years, was instrumental in establishing the Nature Trail in John Prince Park and, over the years, helped many children and adults arrive at a better understanding and knowledge of the natural world.

As President Leah said before our farewell

party for Alice, "She leaves a legacy of love and devotion to the natural environment of which we all are a part."

We extend our deepest sympathy to her family, and our thanks to the "Powers That Be" for the privilege of knowing and working with Alice. A letter from her daughter Edith says, "If anyone should so desire, she would have been pleased with contributions made to the Society in her memory." ASE thanks those who have already done so and will advise Alice's family of all such memorials.

CONSERVATION REPORT

We are moving right along, twenty-plus years ahead of schedule, with major assaults on the geography of our county. Time and space restrict enumerating all the little skirmishes permitted or denied during the Land Use Plan hearings, but I must say two major battles that will have permanent and profound impacts on the county are not over.

One is the possibility of a major road coming from Broward County's Sawgrass (that hurts, doesn't it?) Expressway, paralleling the Refuge dike and the Corbitt Area east boundary, crossing Bee Line Hwy. and heading for points north. Perhaps we could be given some input in naming it. My choice would be Apple Snail Alley. The developers that will come in to roost will take care of feeder roads and the possibilities for zoologic designations will become endless. Very fitting, because names will be all that will be left of the various species now found in that area.

The other major item is an extension of the Urban Service Area, now only east of the West Palm Beach Water Catchment Area, to the west of it, extending the area into undrained lands south of Northlake Blvd. (henceforth known as West Lake Blvd.) down to Okeechobee Blvd. This would open the possibility of immediately granting legitimacy to permit applications for thousands of units, 1/4 to an acre, over four sections of land that heretofore has been only a developer's paper dream.

Please contact County Commission Chairman Ken Spillias, or any of your favorite commissioners (other than Dorothy Wilkin) and express your concern about opening more land for drainage and development. Also, what a waste of taxpayers' money to pursue more studies for roads through our wetlands and Agricultural Reserve Areas.

The Coalition for Wilderness Islands, comprised of representatives of Royal Palm, ASE, FL. Native Plant Society's local chapter, Sierra Club and several garden clubs, has continued to actively pursue protection for the Koven Tract in Boca Raton. This is a splendid 200-plus acre example of scrub oak and sand pine containing all the precious wildlife found in such an area. Commissioner Wilkin made some points in an appeal with us at a Boca Raton City Council meeting.

It was to appear as a DRI at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's monthly meeting, but was postponed. An effective compromise for more than a seven-acre preservation area is hoped to be worked out.

Along this line, President Leah requested, on the County Commission agenda on Matters Before the Public, that the old, poorly written lot clearing ordinance be scrapped and a new one written with the help of Richard Oyroud, president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. Hopefully, the ordinance would protect our native plants on lots in suburbia for those of us fortunate enough to still have some native flora and fauna left. The proposal passed unanimously!

I have a ten-page Legislative Letter from Charles Lee of FAS that is a monumental piece of work; a wrap-up of the entire session's bills that passed and failed, the good and the bad, and some interpretations. I will have that to present to you at ASE's August 7th meeting.

On the national level, we are asked to contact Senators Hawkins and Chiles in support of HR 32.82, an improved Clean Water Bill. The Senate must vote on this shortly if the Clean Water Act is to be strengthened in '84. Oppose the Symms' amendment which would weaken controls on industrial toxics discharge. This is so important to us here and now!

I have been requested by Carlyle Blakeney, Audubon's Southeast Region vice president, and Jay Copeland, wildlife specialist, to immediately write Director (FWS?MBMO), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Ask them NOT to schedule a North Carolina swan hunt. (Can you believe it? Swan yet.) Letters must be in their hands by August 17. Reasons: not considered good eating, too easy a shot, an esthetically admired bird, not a problem population, and the hunt would jeopardize the Atlantic Flyway.

NOTICE: The next Conservation Committee meeting will be on the 3rd Wednesday, August 15th, instead of the usual 2nd Wednesday; as usual, 7:30 p.m. at Ruth Trumpower's home. (Board meeting has also been moved ahead to August 22nd. (Cissy Durando)

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Boca Raton: Ron and Margaret Keller,
Leah Strickland

Fort Pierce: Dick Smits

Jupiter: Elaine B. Deacy, Jean Jessup, Ms. G. Lee, Dr. Maurice E. Peters, I. Rhodes Robinson, Mrs. Mary T. Russell, James F. Schnelle Jr., Fred Sharpnack, Mrs. Cynthia M. Spies

Lake Park: Jim Fiedor, R. P. Lewis

Lake Worth: Andre Creveling, Tracy Deschenes, John Fechtig, J. Gibson, Mrs. Blanche Impastato, Alfred & Alice Israel, William W. Van Meter

Lantana: Mary Burris

Palm Beach: Blanche Altemus, Albert Berne Jr., Gilbert Bloch, Francis Oyler, Ted Thaxter, John Winer

Palm Beach Gardens: Ken & Bernadine Clark,
Marnie M. King

Port St. Lucie: John Milner

Riviera Beach: Martin Gadd, Joanne S. Hathaway

West Palm Beach: Michael Beesch, Debbie Beller, Patricia Burns, Michael Catanzard, Dr. James M. Cooper, Lori Cortese, A. Dadrino, Donald W. Denoff, Douglas Furiato, Susan L. Garr, John A. Gentry, Jane C. Hart, Mrs. John W. Hornor Jr., Russell Hubbard, Mr. & Mrs. Somsak Kajeejit, F. Patric MacDuffee, Alfred & Moria Malefatto, Mrs. W.E. McMahon, Chris Mertle, Don Mertzluft, Melinda S. Miller, Sheryl Schmaltz, B. Sites, James Smith, Shirley Snyder, Elizabeth Weslow, Robert T. Whidden

Out-of-state: Alice L. Moss, Michigan

BIRDWATCHING IN ISRAEL

During the month of May my wife and I toured Israel. As birdwatchers, our curiosity led us to inquire about birding there.

Israel is located at the meeting point of three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. Its birds include representatives from all of them, as well as species typical to this region. Few regions in the world can boast of so great a variety in such a small geographic area.

Despite its small size, Israel has a wide variety of habitat. At the marshes, fish ponds and reservoirs there are water birds during the winter months. Numerous species, including many raptors whose last refuge lies among the steep cliffs, inhabit the seemingly barren desert. Many song birds can be observed in the typical Mediterranean scrub.

Israel is located along one of the principal migration routes of Eurasian birds. This region is almost the only land bridge between the Mediterranean and the desert and is used extensively by migrants on their way south to Africa in the autumn and back north to Europe in the spring. The Syria-Africa Rift Valley, a deep depression flanked by steep cliffs, runs the length of Israel and is a route used by many birds. Eilat is famous for the number of birds passing over or stopping for a rest during spring migrations.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) has been instrumental in developing the interest and popularity of birdwatching. Experienced guides for SPNI have led groups of birders and have produced many amateur ornithologists who report regularly from the field to the Israel Ornithological Center and the Israel Raptor Information Center. Every year new and exciting discoveries are made. Strict wildlife protection laws exist in Israel.

The SPNI is a non-profit, non-partisan, voluntary organization whose main objective is educating the public in Israel to be aware of, love and conserve its natural surroundings. It is affiliated with major international nature conservation organizations and is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the International Council for Bird Preservation. It also has close ties to similar organizations, such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

We contacted a friend, Walter Ferguson, an American-born artist, who had studied painting at Yale University. He is an ornithologist and has illustrated several books on Israel's birds. He is also a zoologist at Tel Aviv University. Through his efforts, we were permitted to visit the private research zoo of birds and animals which is affiliated with the University and known as the Canadian Center for Ecological Zoology. Here we saw a large variety of both caged and uncaged birds, as well as animals.

We visited the fish ponds of Ma'agan Mikhael, also a nature reserve which attracts water birds. There we sighted cattle egrets, little egrets, great white egrets, and spur-winged plovers that shared the carp fish ponds with black-winged stilts.

While traversing the Jordan Valley, we saw numerous bulbul, Palestine sunbird, graceful warbler, and white storks. The latter have spread to almost all parts of Israel and are now considered to be a resident species. In addition, we saw the hooded crow, carrion crow, hoopoe, swift, tristran grackle, collared dove, quail, and European goldfinch.

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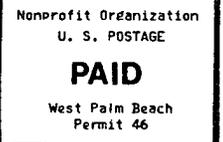
There is a Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem where the birds and animals mentioned in the Bible can be seen.
(Saul Rimberg)

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS

The Florida Native Plant Society has published "Wild Things, The Return of Native Plants" by Georgia Tasker, with artwork by Stephanie T. Moss. Both are on the staff of the Miami Herald, where the articles were first published over a period of several years.

About 50 species of trees, shrubs, ground cover, and palms native to South Florida are described and illustrated. Native plants are desirable for home landscaping because they require little maintenance and attract a variety of native and migrating birds.

"Wild Things" is available locally from the Palm Beach County Chapter, FNPS, which meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. the pavilion at the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center, 531 N. Military Trail, W.P.B. Or call Steve Farnsworth at 965-2657 for more information.



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