



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

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PROGRAM TO FEATURE WATER CONSERVATION

J. Nolan Reed, Jr., president of Seacoast Utilities, Inc., will be the guest speaker at ASE's November 1st meeting at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park.

Mr. Reed is also president of the Seacoast Gas Company and F.M. Water Company, and general manager of the Belvedere Nursery, all of which are associated with the PGA National development at Palm Beach Gardens. He received a special conservation award from ASE in 1982 for his work in the recycling and reuse of waste water. His slide program will feature this water conservation program.

A native of Georgia, Mr. Reed received his Engineering Degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1955 and a Professional Management Degree from Nova University in 1982. During his career, he has served as director and corporate officer of more than 30 Florida corporations, most of them dealing with water and sewage treatment plants and systems, and gas and drainage systems.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL HELP STILL NEEDED

Our traveling Audubon Exhibit still has staffing vacancies for its appearance at the Heritage Festival

from November 9 thru 13. Held at the South Florida Fairgrounds, Festival hours are from 5 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Please call me (842-2364) if you can spare several hours manning our booth. It will feature "Save The Manatee" and Audubon information, plus T-shirt sales and registration for a free Audubon membership. Please help.

(Susan Korzenewski)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 8:00 A.M. - Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Meet at entrance parking lot (entrance fee 50¢ per person). A Park Ranger will be the leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7:30 A.M. - Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Marsh Trail parking lot. Gloria Hunter, leader.

BIRDATHON 1984

I was actually hoping to relax a little BUT the very likeable and personable Rev. Thomas Pincelli of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Harlingen, Texas, who is president of the Frontera Audubon Society and grand prize winner of the 1983 Birdathon, issued a friendly challenge for next spring when I met him at

the NAS Biennial Convention. Not wanting to be a sorry sport, I accepted.

So, it's Tom vs Leah, Frontera Audubon vs ASE, Texas vs Florida. Tom says he plans to raise \$10,000 himself! His local paper, VALLEY MORNING STAR, ran his picture on the front of its magazine section, with an inside story on birding and the Birdathon. If we could generate that kind of publicity from THE POST, it would be fantastic.

In any event, my/our work is cut out for us, so let's start making plans now. We must have more participants, both counters and sponsors, to be competitive in this challenge. And many thanks to Dale Neuenschwander for again accepting the job of Birdathon coordinator.

P.S. Our share of the 1983 Birdathon receipts came to \$2,189.52. (Leah Schad)

FALL BIRD COUNT FINDS 118 SPECIES

Despite the fact that most of our observers were out of town, the 25th West Palm Beach fall count on October 8th turned up some interesting birds. Our best bird was our first fall count sighting of an eared grebe at Okechee County Park by Kilmer, the Palmers, Silverman and Muller.

A Nashville warbler and a late Louisiana water thrush were only our second fall count sightings. Other good birds were hairy woodpecker; prothonotary, blackburnian and bay-breasted warblers; blue and rose-breasted grosbeaks, and summer and scarlet tanager.

Although we missed sanderling, least sandpiper and American coot, we still tallied a total of 118 species. (Howard Langridge)

PINE JOG SCHEDULE

"Nature of South Florida" Field Trips - Tuesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22; 9-11:30 a.m. Guided exploration of coastal hammock, sand scrub, cypress swamp, pine forest, with first trip at Pine Jog. Limit 20, fee \$15. Call 686-6600 immediately if interested.

"Uninvited Guests" - Wednesdays, November 30 and December 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. South Florida is a haven for foreign plants and animals, some of which will be on display. Instructor Bill Hutchins will share fascinating stories of these newcomers and how their lifestyle affects native communities. Fee \$7.

"Pine Jog Jaunts" - Second Saturday each month starting November, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tours of Pine Jog's natural communities. Free but pre-registration required; call 686-6600.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

According to reports in the press and other information, our unorganized attempt to thwart the Loxahatchee Refuge deer hunt was a big success. Statistically speaking, it has been estimated that 40 to 45 percent of the names drawn were non-hunters. It would also seem to us that, with only 966 valid applications for

the hunt, interest was not as high for stalking the Refuge as had been indicated. The entire charade is a costly farce at the expense of the taxpayers.

Good news from the Francis Beidler Forest (Four Hole Swamp). They have recently completed another successful year due to increase in contributions, of which ASE was a part (and have been for many years, beginning with the construction of a boardwalk through the swamp). The nesting songbirds census was higher than anywhere in the eastern United States. A new wildflower display has been installed at the interpretive center and a re-assessment of the education program for school children has added to their success. Local public awareness was greatly increased when Southern Bell used a color photo of the boardwalk on the cover of all South Carolina phone directories. For those of you traveling north, the swamp is located at Harleyville, S.C., near Charleston.

On November 17th there will be a Citizens' Hearing on the Clean Air Act. The meeting, scheduled for the Jacksonville area, is sponsored by Floridians for Clean Air, a coalition organized by the American Lung Association of Florida. Audubon is part of that coalition. You will soon be receiving a brochure about the Clean Air Act and what you can do to help. Please be sure to read it and act on it.

Cissy Durando, Ruth Trumpower, Peggy Teahan and I attended the NAS Southeastern Coalition meeting on October 29th. We will also be at Everglades National Park for the FAS Annual Convention on November 4-6, and at Palm Beach Gardens on November 18-20 for the annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy meeting has been changed to the PGA Holiday Inn and not in Jupiter, as previously announced. Governor Bob Graham will be the featured speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. The Governor will also be part of the Friday evening program at the FAS convention. At this writing, we don't know if someone will take James Watt's place on that same program.

We were pleased to learn last week that the engineers for Michael Burrows had withdrawn the developer's application to DER and the Army Corps to build four very large boat docks at the Blossom property on South Ocean Blvd. in Palm Beach. Plans had included a dock for Lot 7, which the Town of Palm Beach removed from the plat because it was too environmentally sensitive to build on!

We have received from NAS a copy of its five-year plan which is designed to further the Audubon Cause with five specific missions, including: 1. Conserve native plants and animals and their habitats, 2. Further the wise use of land and water, 3. Promote rational strategy for energy development and use, 4. Protect life from pollution, radiation, and toxic substances, and 5. See resolutions for global problems involving the interaction of populations, resources, the environment and substantial development. The plan, which will be re-evaluated every two years, will hopefully make the most efficient use of the resources available to the Society.

Word has been received from NAS regarding

the appointment of Richard Martyr as Senior Vice President for Programs & Chapter Relations. He replaces Rupert Cutler, whom many of you met last April.

FAS has some very interesting field trips scheduled for this fall and spring. They include Everglades National Park during the convention, Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge on Jan. 11, Costa Rica Jan. 19-27, Amelia Island near Jacksonville Feb. 10-12, Peace River Feb. 18-19, Kenya and the Seychelles Feb. 10-28, Cedar Key and Seahorse Key March 10, Ecuador and Galapagos Islands May 8-22, and Dry Tortugas April 27-29, May 1-3 and May 5-7. See me if you would like a brochure.

Calamity Calendars for 1984 are now available for \$5.00 each. Anyone wishing a copy may make their check payable to Florida Conservation Foundation and give it to me at our November 1 meeting. I will bring them back for pickup at the December meeting or whenever.

A recent article reported that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has placed the Key Largo cotton mouse and the Key Largo wood rat on the Federal Endangered Species list, a move, according to Mike Bentzien of the Service, that may slow development on this northernmost of the Keys. Maybe we have our own "snail darter!" (Leah Schad)

MYSTERY OF ANTING

Have you ever seen a bird pick up an ant, rush it, dab it on his wing feathers, all the while going into ecstasy?

In all of my happy years of birding I have never seen this action. Some larger birds, such as crows and jays, use a passive system. They sit or sprawl on an ant hill and let the ants swarm on their spread feathers.

Their time engaged in anting can vary from a few minutes to over an hour. The birds become oblivious to their environment and watchers, so great is their pleasure.

H. Roy Ivor, a Canadian, reports that twenty species in his aviary anted. They included robins, bluejays, crows, catbirds, wood thrush, hermit thrush, veery, cedar waywing, northern orioles, cardinals, and buntings. Alexander Skutch wrote of anting birds tumbling and flipping into backward somersaults; so intense is their ecstasy that they appear intoxicated.

Reports have been recorded of substitutes used when ants were short. Beetles, worms, lemon, flesh, coffee, beer, cigarette and cigar butts have been used with vim and vigor. One tame bird even dipped his ants into his friend's pipe before rubbing its primaries.

If you see me running and flipping on the beach while rubbing old cigar butts on my under wing feathers, don't stop me. I'm merely getting my kicks from anting.
(Hank McCall)

CONSERVATION REPORT

Even as our esteemed legislators meet in one part of Florida to discuss Growth Management, the repercussions of their bad judgement continue to be felt at home.

As we reap the whirlwind started a while ago in the East Everglades, Hendry County and Jupiter Farms, we set off down the same path in the backyard of our own county. As late as 1982, in an area west of U.S. 441 and north of the Loxahatchee Refuge, there was created a brand new drainage basin, S-9, although staffs of the agencies involved have yet to figure out how to accommodate old, thoughtless drainage decrees. I attended another two-day hearing, the Lake Worth Drainage District vs DER, concerning this area. Before this, the Corps was involved, also SFWMD. The players are different, but the act is the same.

Pressure from ill-advised buccolic adventurers, coupled with a change in agricultural practices that appear more efficient but do not allow for adverse weather conditions, result in great, localized political pressures.

Our elected officials, from Governor on down, espouse noble sentiments, but their plans are so poorly defined they cannot be implemented. Federal and state agencies seem to be more aware of their limitations than their powers. Our outfall canals from Hillsboro to Jupiter cannot carry their assigned loads now. Backpumping will be a major issue before the current dirty-water problems are solved. It appears we will have to have a trade-off; either flooded estuaries or flooded wildlife habitats, including Everglades National Park.

We must pressure Representative Ray Liberti and Senator Harry Johnston into firm decisions. We must demand that our County Commissioners be responsible to existing residents before they set up new communities. Why couldn't land deeds be marked "Subject to flooding?"

There is a fashionable philosophy that we should not lose local control: the counties feel that way towards their state, and the states feel that way towards the feds. But if local pressures prevent local solutions, the broader government must step in. Our senators should be encouraged to support an amendment to the Clean Water Act dealing with pollution from 'non-point' sources. This is especially important in the Florida environment.

I congratulate all you 'permitted' hunters! Legal action to stop the hunt should have been filed by the time this goes to press.

The Florida League of Conservation Voters is getting lots of publicity and copies of the CLEAN-UP '84 petitions are being widely distributed. ASE's Board has approved a resolution supporting this environmental rights amendment to the state constitution.

Reminder for November 18th at 2 p.m. at the Palm Beach County Public Library on Summit Blvd. We are jointly supporting a Hazardous Waste Program with the League of Women Voters. Terry Cole, DER attorney, is presenting the program. It should be interesting and informative (or else he will squirm a lot at our questions).

Next Conservation Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m., home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth. (Cissy Durando)

KITE STRINGS

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns. In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing tags and chicks with pink; in 1982, bright blue for adults, black for chicks; in 1983, red for adults and green for chicks. If you observe a tagged Common Tern, please report date, location, color of tag and (if possible) the number/letter combination to: Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

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The NAS Southeastern Regional Conference is scheduled for March 22-25, 1984, at Eufaula, Alabama on the Chattahoochee River. Watch for registration forms in January.

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IT'S COOL AGAIN,
LET'S GET TO WORK

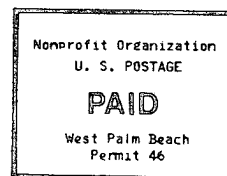
How about pulling out some ferns? or Spanish needles? or vines off the marsh boardwalk? Or picking up cans, bottles, paper and other litter along the paths? Sad to say, that job is always with us.

And right now our faithful helper Ed Mikat, who comes up from Boynton every day to do some work on the trail, needs a good bag holder while he loads it with pine needles to put on soggy paths.

The jobs aren't too hard, it's only once a week, and we go early (now 8 a.m.) before it gets hot - so how about joining us for an hour or so at the B entrance to the Nature Trail in John Prince Park on any Thursday morning. We'll supply gardening gloves or needed tools.

Call me if you have any questions about the trail. And don't forget - we take time to observe and enjoy the flora and fauna around us as we work. (Ruth Trumpower)

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