



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumppower, Editor

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EAGLES AND OTHER RAPTORS FEATURED

Florida's Eagle Lady, Doris Mager, needs little or no introduction to most of you. ASE sponsors Doris in Palm Beach County schools - fall and spring - with overwhelming response. For the first time in many years, her fall visit coincides with our December 5th general meeting, for which she will be the guest speaker.

In February of this year, Doris helped found S.O.A.R. Inc. (Save Our American Raptors), a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating the public about eagles and other birds of prey. She now travels throughout the eastern United States and has just recently returned from speaking engagements in the Carolinas, Kentucky, Indiana and Georgia.

Raptors currently in her program include a Golden Eagle, two Southern Bald Eagles (one mature and one immature), a Burrowing Owl, a Great Horned Owl, a Red-tailed Kite and a Peregrine Falcon. All or some of these birds will accompany her to West Palm Beach.

Please join us on Tuesday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center (across from the Science Museum).

We will celebrate the holidays if some of our good cooks will bring

samples of their favorite Christmas cooky recipe. Please call Hospitality Chairman Sylvia Dunnam about this, 683-3014 in evening. Also the Sales Table will offer a number of items for your gift list and is open both before and after the meeting.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 - All team members are reminded to call their group leaders for meeting time and place to start your count. The compilation will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Howard Johnson's on A1A at Lake Worth Bridge.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The 1983 Florida Audubon Society's annual convention, held in Everglades National Park, is history. Audubon Society of the Everglades is part of that history. When awards were presented, we took our share.

Conservation Chairman Rosa "Cissy" Durando was given a "Certificate of Recognition" in acknowledgement of the excellent work she does in behalf of conservation and

the environment. Being honored by the State Society is something to be proud of and Cissy has certainly earned this honor. We're proud of you!

Eleven of us were present to hear ASE named "Outstanding Chapter of the Year." This award could only be possible due to the dedication of the people of this organization. Our chapter has a terrific team made up of individuals who do their jobs with enthusiasm, sincerity, and lots of love. ASE, you may take a bow and pat yourself on the back for a moment, but we must continue our efforts - keeping a constant vigil on those who would destroy our environment, trying to educate them and striving to make our community a better place in which we may live in harmony with nature.

We placed fourth in the stamp contest. Congratulations to Manatee Audubon Society for winning again this year. With the membership we have, we should win this one easily, so let's get busy right now for 1984. Urge your friends and business associates to save those commemorative stamps (no Christmas ones please) and issues over 40¢. We need them.

Florida Audubon also presents two perpetual Birdathon plaques each year - to the person raising the most money and the person identifying the most species. This year your president brought home both awards. The "most funds" award is now retired, since it was won by the same person for three successive years. The "species" plaque will be returned for next year's winner.

On the more serious side, the Governor gave an excellent talk on his "Save the Everglades" program. A panel discussion on the implementation of the "7-Point Plan to Restore the Everglades" was very well received. Participants included representatives from Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, and the Department of Environmental Regulation. Saturday evening's wrap-up found our grand lady of conservation, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in rare form. She had us in side-splitting laughter as she related some very early stories about the plume hunters, but brought us back quickly to the seriousness of the task ahead of us with the restoration plan. Art Marshall, who was named "Conservationist of the Year," closed the evening with a number of ponderables. All in all, it was a mind-stretching weekend.

For those of you who have bad memories of the food served in the park, take note; a new concessionaire is operating the restaurant facilities and we can tell you the food was excellent. We wouldn't recommend a picnic unless you are immune to mosquitos, but the restaurant food is very well prepared and well served.

As promised, the 1984 Calamity Calendar will be available at the December 6th meeting. At \$5.00 each they are a bargain, make excellent Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers, plus help the Florida Conservation Foundation (which needs lots of financial support).

The first "Big Game" hunt at Loxahatchee

Refuge is done. (Somehow, "Big Game" conjures up elephant - lions - tigers ... not white-tail deer.) We took a lot of verbal abuse from individuals and Tim Tucker of the Palm Beach POST. We still think we were right in the actions and stands we took and plan to be right in there next year. For the record, no one came down from Maitland (FAS Headquarters) to take part in the anti-hunt demonstration and no one officially represented our chapter. If individual members did participate, it was that person's prerogative to do so ... the same as it is up to an individual to hunt or not to hunt. We would hope that Mr. Tucker might try to confirm his facts in the future. We would also like to add that Ed Till of Radio Station WPBR did an excellent job of moderating on his talk show about the hunt after the decision was made to lift the ban. Mr. Till presented the facts well, was non-emotional and non-controversial - not always an easy thing to do.

It seems that in almost every organization newsletter we read there is a Wish List of items needed by the group. ASE is no exception! It has occurred to us that if you - our members and friends - don't know what we need, want, or wish for, how can we hope to acquire an office (rent free) or building which can be used for housing all our files, papers, etc; the funds to pay utilities if such a place became available, and a couple of filing cabinets in good condition.

Of course, if we had a permanent place from which to operate, we'd need an electric typewriter, desk, chairs, conference table and copy machine. Then we could really fantasize and wish for an age or two or three or four to underwrite the salary of an executive director and secretary. We might as well wish Big as to wish Little!

Have a Happy Holiday Season. (Leah Schad)

CONSERVATION GROUP SETS PUBLIC MEETING

The Palm Beach County Chapter, Florida League of Conservation Voters, will hold a general meeting on Saturday, December 10, in the auditorium at the Wildlife Interpretive Center, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The public is welcome.

Included on the agenda will be discussion of questions to ask candidates seeking endorsement by the environmental community. More information will be available at ASE's December 6th meeting at the CLEAN-UP '84 table. Please come on the 10th to add your input - and bring a friend! (Dale Neuenschwander)

HERITAGE FESTIVAL WINNERS

Winners of the Heritage Festival drawings are as follows: Jr. Audubon Membership - Gretchen Stump, Audubon Calendar - Michael Donnelly, and Manatee Poster - Beowulf Riggins.

Many thanks to the following Festival booth helpers - Ruth Trumpower, Leah Schad, Sarah Schenck, Rosaling Rubenfeld, Don and Belle Jankowitz, and Alan Parmalee of Royal

Palm Audubon. ASE's traveling exhibit is now at the West Palm Beach Public Library on Clematis Street.

CONSERVATION REPORT

The South Florida Fair is coming up in the January and your volunteered help is again requested. Please call me, 842-2364, for a time slot. Thanks! (Susan Korzenewski)

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR FILM SERIES TICKETS?

If not, please contact Ticket Chairman Edie Reiter at 686-5143 (evenings), as it will soon be time to again go traveling with ASE as we start our trips through the Wildlife Film Series for 1984.

The series will begin on January 19th with "Yosemite and the High Sierras," led by Bob Roney. On February 2nd, Grant Foster takes us to "Summer in Kiwi Land." Then we go from "Reefs to Rockies" with Charles Hotchkiss on February 16th, before coming home to Florida on March 1st with Richard Kern and a visit to the "Hidden Worlds of the Big Cypress."

All films will be presented at Rosarian Academy Auditorium, 807 N. Flagler Drive, W.P.B., at 8 p.m. Season tickets are \$12.50 adult, \$6.00 student (age 5-21). Single tickets are available at each show for \$3.50 adult and \$2.00 student. Edie will have a table at each ASE meeting to receive payment and validate tickets, or you may do so at the film show.

LOXAHATCHEE REFUGE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS

On November 20th, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service began a variety of interpretive programs for visitors to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Guided walks include: Cypress Swamp Boardwalk - meet at Wildlife Interpretive Center, Sundays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 2 p.m.; Marsh Nature Trail - meet at trail parking lot at 8 a.m., Saturdays, Nov. 20 thru April 22, Thursdays, Jan. and Feb. only; Evening Walks - meet at the Center, Sundays at 5 p.m. on Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. on March 11 and April 8.

Reservations are required for the monthly canoe trip; call 734-8303 for further details. The Thursday Evening Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Center, starts December 1st with "Life History of the Anhinga." Future programs in this monthly series will be announced.

KITE STRINGS

ASE's yearly Program/Field Trip Schedule was enclosed in the October KITE. If you missed it, copies are available at meetings or in most of the area's libraries and Chambers of Commerce.

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Bambi Wildlife Sanctuary is sponsoring an Arts, Crafts and Environmental Groups Show at the Jupiter Mall, 201 North U.S. Hwy. 1, from Thursday, December 1, through Sunday, the 4th.

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After a daybreak vigil on that final Saturday of the Loxahatchee Refuge hunt, I must ease my frustration with one final plea to ask all you concerned folks to call the offices of Representatives Dan Mica (732-4000) and Tom Lewis (627-6192) and express dismay at the course of events. Protect the gross misuse of federal funds which occurred in staging this restricted fiasco with public funds, and the climax of foolishness in sending down two Washington attorneys for two hearings, only a week apart, in front of a federal judge who already had a crowded court calendar. What's done cannot be undone - but ask them to spare us a third year of expenses for another battle on a controversial Refuge use.

Speaking of history repeating itself, we are informed our erstwhile refuge guardian, James Watt, will once again work for brewer Joseph Coors at the Heritage Foundation. We feel he is back in his appropriate niche.

Our Boynton members should alert themselves to the movement to develop a town center around the mangroves. These are technically protected by local and state ordinances, but powerful political pressure will be exerted to all but eliminate them. We are only too familiar with what a "variance" can accomplish, and this site is one of the last such aquatic nurseries in the area. As might be expected, Boynton is one of the cities requesting an ocean outfall system, with sewage treatment downgraded to modified primary as opposed to the present secondary treatment requirements.

At our last Conservation Committee meeting we passed a resolution to financially support the posting of speed limit signs necessary in order to prosecute those abusing boating privileges in certain designated waters that are home to the dwindling manatee. Endorsement by ASE's Board of Directors awaits final-cost quotes from DNR. Some of us feel one sign would be better than none; two better than one. A start must be made by someone somewhere. It took a long time to get a proper ordinance on the book; now to be done in by a lack of funds to warn boaters is sad indeed. In the meantime, one more young manatee was cut up so badly last week that it died.

We seem to be getting conflicting signals from Tallahassee. On the one hand, the latest DER newsletter eloquently calls the wetlands "Florida's soul." It cites inconsistencies in state laws, inadequate state laws, and the loss of federal protection through the regulatory program established under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. a primary problem under this latter point allows the Corps to issue nationwide permits before state certification is received. Also there are proposed changes which would reduce the Corps' jurisdiction to navigable waters.

Contact our state legislators - any or all; the necessity of formulating a State Wetlands Policy is a must in the upcoming sessions. Vicki Tschinkel, Secretary of DER, has stated the case clearly, but she and our nurturing, necessary wetlands will need all the support possible.

Now, on the other hand, to some, growth

management means having all wetlands fall within the jurisdiction of a drainage district. We have been more than a thousand acres of wetlands fall under the control of such districts by legislative decree last year. At least one of these areas is being challenged as not-permittable by DER because, as sparsely developed as it currently is, the drainage waters still do not meet Class III standards. Also the drainage districts involved can't tell you quite what they will do with all this water!

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Dr., Lake Worth. (Cissy Durando)

BIRDING IN BOLIVIA

From the pampas of Santa Cruz to the altiplano of Oruru, Bolivia offers habitat as varied as lowland swamps, rain forests, deserts, alkali lakes above the timberline, and grasslands at 15,500 feet. Within a few hours it is possible to bird acres of flooded forest and then high desert that has had no rain for three years.

Travel is uncomfortable and dangerous, dusty and fatiguing. Rooms and meals ranged from luxurious to huts and granola bars. But the birding was magnificent. The leaders, Rose Ann Rowlett and Ted Parker, were downright

wizards in their vast knowledge of tropical birds. It was sheer magic to watch them call a rare white-throated ant pitta out of the bush.

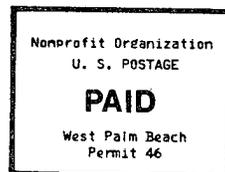
The pace was frenetic, with 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. reveille, picnic breakfasts and lunches, and pushing to nightfall. It was like 25 Christmas Counts in a row.

The first bird seen was an English house sparrow. Yes, they have colonies in Santa Cruz. The first super bird was a red-legged Seriema, a long, tall prairie bird that forages the grassland. Parrots and parakeets flashed by constantly. For sheer color and verve, the toco toucan took the first day prize.

Once while picnicking in the rain on a twisting mountain road we enjoyed the spectacular sight of a golden-headed quetzal. He let all have a good view. While watching him, a flock of tanagers came through; we saw green-throated, blue-necked, saffron-crowned, faun-breasted, blue-capped, blue-winged mountain, rust and yellow tanagers, and a montaine foliage gleaner. There was constant activity by a large variety of hummingbirds, but the outstanding bird was a booted raquet tail.

We await the official trip list, but it will easily exceed 600 species. (Hank McCall)

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