

EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 24, No. 6

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

APRIL 1984

Actually Volume 24, No. 7

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for reservations for the Annual Dinner is Noon, Wednesday, April 4. We hope most of you have just put off making reservations until the last minute, BUT we need to know NOW if you plan to attend.

As most of you already know, Dale and Linda Crider, noted environmental song stylists, will be our guest speakers. The Criders are well known throughout the state for their ability

to deliver the conservation message in words and music. If you can not make dinner, plan to arrive about eight o'clock for the meeting and program. During the business meeting we will be voting on the new Bylaws and officers and directors, as well as the Budget for 1984-85. We'll also have a couple of surprises.

The Board of Directors voted to send the following annual contributions: Friends of the Everglades - \$200, Science Museum & Planetarium -

*Deadline -
Noon,
Wednesday,
April 4*

ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1984, 6:30 P.M.

SHERATON INN
1901 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

- Guest Speakers -

DALE and LINDA CRIDER
Composers and Singers of
Florida Environmental Songs

----- Cash Bar 5:45-6:30 P.M. ----- Dinner \$16.00 per person -----

Please reserve _____ Breast of Capon Dinners at \$16.00 per person.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to: Leah Schad and mail to her at
1628 Boardman Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33407

\$200, Florida Audubon Society - \$500, The Nature Conservancy (Florida Chapter) - \$100, Tall Timbers Research Center - \$100, Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center - \$300, and the Florida Conservation Foundation - \$200.

Congratulations to our Science Fair winners (listed elsewhere) and many thanks to Al Liberman, Phyllis Markuson, and Helen Gilmore for judging the awards.

The Florida Ornithological Society Spring Meeting will be April 27-29 at the Best Western Skyway Inn, St. Petersburg (813-866-8855). Anyone interested in attending may call direct for reservations and mention FOS to get the group rate. David Goodwin (813-345-3114) is the meeting chairman. Call him for further details and information.

The Board of Directors of the Florida Audubon Society will meet in Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday, May 5th. If any of you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Most of you already know the happy ending to Doris Mager's week-long search for Coacoochee. We were sure, however, that a considerable amount of doubt crept into most people's minds over the "escape." Coacoochee had been tethered to his perch as usual. When the dogs frightened him, he was startled and, with amazing strength, snapped the slide ring which had been welded. The falconers knot was still in the rope when the bird was retrieved. (Leah Schad)

SPRING BIRD COUNT

The Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday, April 21, and participants are asked to contact their team leaders for details. If anyone who has not counted before would like to do so, contact Howard Langridge, 582-7519, for assignment to a team.

Compilation will be held at the home of Al and Barbara Liberman, 4422 Anna Lane, W.P.B. at 7:30 p.m. that same evening.

NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON

ASE's annual Birdathon may be done in conjunction with our Spring Count on April 21st, or any 24-hour period around that date. Individual birders are urged to solicit pledges based on the number of species seen during their count period. Pledge list forms will be available at the Annual Meeting, or may be obtained by calling Birdathon Chairman Dale Neuenschwander, 734-5748.

If you do not have a counting friend to support, why not pledge 10 or 25 cents or more per species to President Leah Schad. She will need all the help she can get to raise the challenged \$10,000 in pledges which she and Father Tom Pincelli of Frontera Audubon, Texas, are each striving to reach or exceed. They may have more birds in Texas, but no one will work harder than Leah to count birds and collect sponsors.

To sponsor her (and ASE's) efforts, please fill in the following and mail to Dale, 52 Harbour Drive North, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435.

* * * * *
* I will support this year's National Audubon *
* Birdathon by pledging \$ _____ for each *
* species counted by Leah for ASE's Birdathon.*
* Name _____ *
* Address _____ *
* Phone _____ *
* * * * *

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ASE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Both old and new officers and directors are urged to mark their calendars for a special workshop meeting of the ASE Board on Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Since this is held to facilitate administration changeovers, outgoing members should plan to pass along any files or information to incoming members.

The regular April Board meeting has been postponed to Wednesday, April 25th. Individual notices will be sent out on each of these important meetings.

Also, committee chairmen are asked to compile a brief summary of committee activities during the past year and turn them in to the KITE Editor. After publication, they will be filed with the secretary's records.

100 BIRD SPECIES IN LUXURY

From time to time, on our own, we try to see 100 species of birds in a single day. I find it exciting and it really compresses the hours.

This year we decided to do it from Titusville and to start at civilized noon instead of the barbaric 5:00 A.M.

Promptly at twelve we were seated in the elegant Riverside Inn by a window overlooking the river and mudflats. We ordered she-crab soup, steamed mussels, and a chilled bottle of Chablis. While savoring our wine and soup we spotted eleven species, including brown and white pelicans, four types of gulls, and two shore birds. Within an hour we consumed the delicious meal and wine and had run our score up to 29.

After a nap we started out for the refuge, picking up a starling, a house sparrow, and rock dove as we drove through Titusville. We worked the causeway and parked by the railroad to proceed by foot on a five-mile loop around the flats. There were thousands of beautiful pintail ducks and various shore birds. To fill unusual species, we saw a mature bald eagle at close range, three reddish egrets, and hooded mergansers. By sunset we had a list of 70, so we went in search of owls, finding the screech, but not the barred.

Next morning we were up at 7 A.M., feeling gloriously certain of an easy 30 more birds. It was ecstasy to think how Gloria and Howard would stew with envy at our new method. After breakfast we crossed U.S. #1 to enter a splendid mature cypress forest. It swarmed with yellow rumps, woodpeckers and gnatcatchers. We watched every little critter and followed every chirp trying to get variety, spending a busy

two hours to raise the list to 86.

Panic pecked at my cool. There were only 90 minutes left. We drove to the Space Center and picked up some goodies on the causeway, including a great black-backed gull and a scrub jay. We stopped by a U.S. Government No Trespassing sign to enter a little woods that yielded a red-eyed vireo, a cat bird, and a sapsucker. An armed guard suggested we move on to other parts, so off we went to Port Canaveral.

It was now 11:30 and we added a marbled godwit, a semi-palmated plover, a dunlin, and a piping plover for 99. At that point the clock stopped, bringing tears of anguish. Our missed list included such easy birds as meadowlark, thrasher, Carolina wren, and black and white warbler.

What lesson did we learn? That birding is serious business, requires great skill, and has no tolerance for goof-offs. But, if we had only been lucky on the missed list!
(Hank McCall)

SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

ASE again offered prizes for the best environmentally concerned exhibits at the annual March Science Fair for regional high and junior high school students.

First place awards of \$25 cash and an Audubon membership went to Dirk Smits of Boca Raton High School for his exhibit on "Tropical Relationships Among Coral Reef Fishes," and to Leah Strickland of Logger's Run Middle School for her "Ecosystem" exhibit.

Winners of the second place awards of \$15 cash and a membership were John Milner of Fort Pierce Central High School for "Testing Organic Substances (Acid Rain)" and Mary Lou Watterson of Palm Beach Public School for "The Effects of Drainage on the Everglades."

IN MEMORIUM

We were very sorry to lose our fellow birder, fellow conservationist and good friend when Lois E. (Lee) Wilson passed away on March 11th. Lee had been active in Audubon for a number of years and held several positions. We extend our sympathy to her family and our thanks to those who have contributed to the Nature Trail in her name.

KITE STRINGS

In case anyone needs to know "Who's What In Florida Government" or who is on what state legislative committee, Ye Ed. has a brochure on each and will be happy to supply information upon request.

* * * * *

Native and other plants will be available at a fund-raising plant sale for the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center, 531 N. Military Trail, W.P.B., on April 7 and 8. It's a good opportunity to pick up some easy-care native plants for landscaping.

* * * * *

And if you aren't sure about "Native Plants for Landscaping," Pine Jog will offer a course on that subject on Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, 9 and 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with a field trip on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m.-noon. Pre-registration required, enrollment limited, fee is \$15.

* * * * *

Don't miss "Roger Tory Peterson's Birds" at the Science Museum. This exhibit of 36 original prints of North American birds from his field guides will run through April 8th. Our Education Chairman Helen Gilmore says it is a beautiful exhibit.

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The Florida Native Plant Society will hold its 4th Annual Native Plant Conference at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, on May 4 through 6. For information, contact Sherry Cummings, 734-4416.

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CONSERVATION REPORT

Relying on the hope that your dedication is greater than your boredom in responding to issues that crop up again and again, I urge you to write to William Clark, Secretary of the Interior, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Ask him not to stage a hunt this year in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

The same reasons that applied last year apply again. That hunt was not only worthy of a "Golden Fleece Award," but there remains an inherent conflict between the Fish & Wildlife Service working to save endangered species and its promoting an activity detrimental to the welfare of endangered species (kite, wood stork, panther, etc.).

It is barely two months since a whooping crane was autopsied at a refuge in New Mexico. Death ensued after being shot, but that was only the coup de grace; it was already ill from having swallowed 200 lead shotgun pellets. This bird was a victim of regulated goose hunts on that refuge.

Add to this list a California condor, the victim of a coyote hunt, which puts that species, like our panther, at the magic number of 18. The NAS AUDUBON LEADER cites the dispersal of the whooping crane, due to shooting during permitted hunting seasons, as responsible for the species being in a most vulnerable position. Similarly, it is possible the documented dispersal of our snail kite or the wide-ranging activities of the panther looking for a square meal has put our protected species in vulnerable positions.

FAS President Peter Mott has been and is attempting to continue negotiations with Collier County about the Ford Motor Company test track proposed near Alligator Alley and the Big Cypress. The issue has gotten involved with Alligator Alley being combined with I-75 and an interchange at SR 29. The SFWMD has postponed permit hearings three times. It may come up at the next WMD Board meeting in April at Naples. How Collier County proposes "to hold the line" against pressures for increased

zoning and developments should be of interest to Palm Beach County.

These are the doubts we raised at the last WMD Board meeting if further "flood control" (backpumping C-51) was allowed west of SR 7 (US 441). Whereas Collier County's obligation is to safeguard known panther territory, Palm Beach County's responsibility is to not degrade the Loxahatchee Refuge or jeopardize the ability of the county to support extended communities that far west of our urban service areas.

Keep in touch with your County Commissioners. They voted to reconsider the backpumping issue in about a month. The WMD Board will also bring it back for reconsideration after it hears more from the Commissioners. You should know that this drainage plan will affect the area that includes the Fox property.

At the DNR meeting concerning the Loxahatchee River/Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, it seems those that commented were more concerned with the problems than the good points. Admittedly not much control exists over private holding within the preserve and on-site inspections and budgeting are vague. Handling of mangroves, re-establishment of vegetation, width and length of piers and 4-ft. depth design constraints were objected to. Faint praise was heard for the general objectives of the plan and the fact that, at long last, it was being addressed at all. DNR will return with a refined plan and the Governor and Cabinet will address the issue, considering comments in April or May.

If anyone needs arguments to bolster their

support for Clean Air or the urgency of an Acid Rain solution when contacting our representatives or senators, I have literature by the pounds. We must not allow industries that need to clean up to side track us. Those who talk of economic impacts as being burdensome are obviously not concerned with the disastrous impact on other industries, recreation, and the cost in future good health and wellbeing of those earthly inhabitants who are still here.

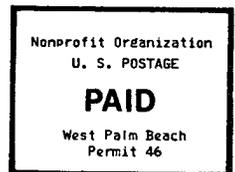
The moratorium on offshore leasing and drilling will be up in November. Drilling from the Panhandle to the Dry Tortugas will go forward if we do not get restrictions in place. Our own Paula Hawkins has been a leader in the past. The Florida Public Interest Research Group is sponsoring a state-wide conference in Tampa on April 7th. Anyone may attend; contact me for details.

A "bottle bill" has again been introduced in the state legislature. As early as March 1976, ASE was advocating such container legislation for aesthetic and costly-cleanup reasons. We have failed before, but hopefully we now have a greater number of activists who have had enough of the trash. Do contact your state legislators and urge passage of this bill.

NEXT CONSERVATION MEETING: Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth.

(Cissy Durando)

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