

CENTRAL JUN 26 1985

EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 25, No. 10

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JULY 1985



HABITAT FEATURED IN ENVIRONMENTAL FILM

"New Partners," an environmental movie in color, will be presented by Barry Dobeza of the Florida Power & Light Company at ASE's July 2nd meeting.

The film features nature walks in FP&L's large reservation around a power plant and emphasizes the compatibility of protecting wildlife and producing electricity. Developed by the company's Environmental Department, this 16 mm film won the prestigious Golden Eagle Award presented by the Council of International Non-Theatrical Events.

Mr. Dobeza, who has been with FP&L for ten years, is Customer Service supervisor and is also active in the company's Community Information Program.

Do join us on Tuesday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Park, for an enjoyable viewing of interesting wildlife and native habitat.

ATTENTION AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

We have had a good response, but there is still room for local non-professional nature photographers to share a spot on ASE's August program on Tuesday, August 6th.

If you would like to show five of your best slides at this program, please drop a card with your name and phone number to Program Chairman Donna Deitz, Henthorne Drive, Apt. B-7, Palm Springs 33460

The first fifteen persons to write me will be the "stars" for the evening. We would prefer slides that do not include people unless it's an Audubon expedition.
(Donna Deitz)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thus far June has been a busy month. Remember when summers used to be quiet? Not so any longer, the pace continues hectic.

We began the month learning of the untimely death of John Harris, who, with his wife, Pam Brown, and wolf, Nahani (Hans), were here in April. Many of you met John's family at our annual meeting. John died of a heart attack on May 24. To help take care of unfinished matters, namely the appeals cases regarding the killing of Slick and two other wolves, a non-profit memorial fund has been established in John's name. Anyone wishing to contribute may send a check payable to the John Harris Memorial Fund, Box 103, Old Town, Florida 33680.

The weekend of the 7th found me

in the Orlando area for a Florida Audubon meeting. If you think we have water problems, think again and be thankful. FAS President Bernie Yokel has to prime the pump at FAS headquarters every morning because the water table is so low. A friend must put in a larger size pump to get water out of their well, and another must drive a new well because the old one dried up. It was 101 degrees there on the 9th. One consolation - the humidity wasn't as high as ours.

Two things accomplished at the FAS meeting are proposed amendments to the bylaws limiting the terms of directors and of the chairman.

Palm Beach County's Water Management Advisory Board met most of the day on June 10th. Officials from Broward and Dade Counties briefed the board on the "trials and tribulations" of wording a wellfield protection ordinance. We have a challenge, but in the long run, the county and its residents will benefit.

By the time this newsletter is published, the NAS 1985 Convention will be history. The Adirondacks will be a welcome sight for a while and a long trip through New England will follow for me. An Atlantic Puffin is at the top of this writer's list of birds to be added.

To date one person has volunteered to help compile a history of the Audubon Society of the Everglades. We would really like to put something together this year. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this project.

A number of people signed up at the last meeting for the telephone tree. This is a network of individuals willing to be called upon to write letters, send telegrams, or otherwise contact our legislators about issues needing their action. Each person will be assigned two or three others to call. The most intense use of such a group would, naturally, be during the legislative session, although it will be useful in lobbying the County Commissioners as well. If you are willing to be a part of this team, please call Chuck Potter, 586-4221, and let him know.

As announced at the June meeting, the field trip to the Resource Recovery Management Facility site will happen - but not until September 7th or 14th. After talking to Tom Keith at the Solid Waste Authority, we decided it was just too hot to go this time of year. Anyone else interested in going, who didn't sign up before, may let me know before September 1.

How did you like the judge's decision about Ilmer Booker and the panther? If you didn't approve, lots of letters should be sent to State Attorney David Bludworth (County Court house, W.P.B. 33401) to let him know what we think, not only about the plea bargain, but also the unnecessary and uncalled-for comments of the prosecutor. Does Bludworth come up for re-election next year?

Tropical Audubon Society has a new checklist of "Birds of South Florida" for anyone wishing to purchase same. Write it directly at 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami 33413.

We have a new and interesting director of

the National Park Service - William Mott. He may propose limiting visitors to one week per month in Yosemite National Park (because it needs preserving). He says the Southern California desert belongs to the people, not bureaucracy (Bureau of Land Management). He wants the Park Service to manage the Redwood National Park; to eliminate excess wildlife which is diseased and starving. He thinks grizzlies, wolves, eagles, mountain lions and other predators BELONG in our national parks. (They should not be removed to protect tourists and ranchers.) He is concerned about proposed drilling for geothermal power next to two national parks. He is different! He gives us hope.

On Sunday, June 30, on PBS, "The Eagle Returns" will be aired at 10:30 p.m. FAS and Doris Mager are both contributors to this fine film which tells about releasing our national symbol back into the wild. (Leah Schad)

BIRDING IN ARIZONA

One of the best "hot" spots for birdwatching is southeastern Arizona, literally and figuratively speaking. Spectacular mountain ranges rise above the surrounding deserts and grasslands. The giant Saguaro cactus is found in no other desert in the world. The hollowed out cavities of this cactus are the nesting areas for the American kestrel, elf owl, screech owl, Mexican crested flycatcher, purple martin, and white-winged dove.

Our party consisted of 20 avid birders. We used two sturdy vans during our 10-day trip, to take us through rutted dirt roads, deserts, canyons and mountains. A leader in each van guided us. One day we experienced the loss of a tire from the wheel of our van while we were climbing a 8,000 ft. mountain. The tire was replaced with a good spare and fortunately nobody was hurt.

The canyons of southeastern Arizona have certain wildlife and plant life in common, but their altitude, moisture and position in relation to the sun make each canyon unique in its bird population. The cottonwood trees in the Verde Valley harbor a spectacular number of nesting birds. A wide variety of birds is also found along Oak Creek Canyon, including the painted redstart, western tanager and black-headed grosbeak.

Much of Arizona is dry. However, at a sewage settling pond in Coronado we saw a great variety of shore birds and water birds. It was here that we spotted our first Golden Eagle.

At Sierra Vista in the Huachuca Mountains there is a Nature Conservancy Reserve, The Mile Hi, in Ramsey Canyon. There we were thrilled to view seven different hummingbirds: broad-billed, blue-throated, magnificent, black-chinned, Anna's, Costa's and calliope. We were impressed with the dazzling iridescence and sheer energy of these tiny birds.

As we approached the Chiricahua Mountains, we spotted scaled quail and Bendire's thrasher. We climbed these mountains via the Cave Creek Canyon, where we were informed of the presence of a trogon, a most beautiful Mexican species

which is now nesting in Arizona. We immediately began a search for the trogon and finally succeeded in locating it. It was a highlight of our trip.

At night we went "owling." Our leader lured the owls by excellent imitations of owl calls. After a period of communication between owl and man, our leader knew exactly the location of the owl in the dark and suddenly would flash his searchlight upon the surprised owl. This is how we managed to see the spotted, whiskered screech, great-horned and flamulated owls.

The Nature Conservancy Sanctuary in Sonita Creek is a favorite birding area. Here we saw black-bellied whistling ducks, zone-tailed and gray hawks, rose-throated becard, thick-billed and tropical kingbirds and northern beardless tyrannulet, among many others.

Among the rare and uncommon birds we saw were the varied bunting, the red crossbill, hepatic tanager, striped-headed tanager, buff-breasted flycatcher and thick-billed kingbird.

We also spotted a Strickland's woodpecker sitting in her nest. Another unusual sighting was a barn owl who made her nest in a well, 20 ft. below the surface. We were fortunate to see the following hawks: Mississippi kite, Cooper's, northern goshawk, black, Harris', Swainson's and zone-tailed hawks.

The trip to Arizona gave us the opportunity to learn about the numerous variety of birds that inhabit the canyons, mountains and deserts, as compared to our native Florida birds. The trip netted us close to 200 species of birds. (Saul Rimberg)

CONSERVATION REPORT

A tally is in order on the outcome of the legislative session. Some battles we obviously lost and, although it appears we won some, happy results could still elude us because of the enforcers lack of timely knowledge, litigation, canny lawyers on the "other side," or "Grandfather" got there first.

With the help of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the House and Representative Pajcic, the land acquisition fund was given a great boost and the Save Our Rivers program has been definitely extended. The five Water Management Districts are provided some dollars for land acquisition and management.

Eminent Domain Authority for endangered lands was extended and acquisition procedures have been simplified. The boundaries of the Big Cypress have been extended for continued land acquisition.

As for the Growth Management State Plan, only time will tell. Many beautiful, happily bague policies are presented as goals: the safeguarding of surface and ground water, natural systems, coastal areas, endangered species and habitat and the Everglades System.

The Growth Management Act is another story. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is given a lot of power, but how will it be used? To have "standing," a citizen must still be a "substantially affected party."

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the capability for limiting building in coastal areas, but what will it permit under a "re-building" request? Construction will be required to withstand the 100-year storm. Sellers will be required to locate the coastal construction control line on any property totally or partially seaward of the line. No state funds to build bridges to islands previously not accessible by bridges. Local governments can use the Tourist Development Tax for beach maintenance and erosion control, and that could be a boomerang!

Changes in the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process will permit more flexibility in asking for DRIs. Developers would be allowed by the DCA to proceed with portions of developments later "to be" approved through the DRI process. The review processes of DER and DNR were merged (streamlined), Standards for impact charges were established. The DCA can enforce through administrative proceedings. Developments designated as "Florida Quality Developments" can be exempted from a DRI by meeting standards set by DCA in combination with other agencies and governments. The bill will also allow DRI developments to apply to amend comprehensive plans at any time.

Possibly the greatest thing to pass was increased funding in the Appropriations Bill for: enforcement in DER, staff for DCA, staff to deal with DRI processes and to review Local Government Plans, staff to administer a new Area of Critical Concern (Apalachicola Bay) and staff for the Save Our Everglades program.

The Aquatic Preserve System was greatly expanded (by 72%), but painfully missing was a Florida Keys designation.

The legislature passed two measured supporting de-authorization of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. Do get in touch with Senator Paula Hawking and Representative Dan Mica and urge their support when it comes up in Washington. We have a foot in the door now!

A Lake Apopka Restoration Council was created and funding provided. Myakka River drew some respect for itself, but not quite enough for the desired protection. The Phosphate Research Institute will remain an independent study group and not be transferred to the U. of F. Engineering School.

Some DER legislation was passed clarifying its position on: previous legislation concerning disposal of waste on one's own property without regulation, closure of land fills, "back up" disposal areas on resource recovery sites, grant programs to local governments to support hazardous waste collection centers, etc.

In conjunction with the Marketable Record Title Act, for reasons known only to him, Senator Harry Johnston reversed his support. Admittedly there was a weighty lobby to scuttle MARTA (phosphate, real estate, agricultural interests), but we were very disappointed. A study committee has been created.

Local issues of interest: Col. Charles Myers III, of the Corps of Engineers, has ordered the restoration of 48 acres of wetlands in the south end of the residential development

known as Homeland, despite the fact that the company is in bankruptcy. Now comes Marathon Acres in the same locale doing the same dastardly deeds. This company likewise considered itself above the permitting process and, when ratted on to the proper agencies (Corps, DER, L.W. Drainage District, Health Dept., County Staff Attorney), it was given Violation/Stop Work orders by all. It has also been threatened with \$10,000 fines and "counsel action." I would like to see included in these orders to "restore historic flow" and to "restore historic vegetation."

Our Beaches & Shores Council heard its first case on June 10th. It involved a home in Seminole Landing. A pool put in where a dune had been became itself a has-been after the Thanksgiving storm. The owner wishes to put in a rock revetment on a pristine beach in this area just north of MacArthur State Park. Our County Commissioners will address this before the DNR does, as it has requested a county recommendation. Letters to Executive Director Elton J. Gissendanner, Dept. of Natural Resources, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee 32303, and to Governor Robert Graham and The Cabinet, The Capitol, Tallahassee 32301, are in order. This is an excellent beach and there is no danger of any homes "falling in." It would set a terrible precedent for an un-armored beach that has naturally occurring off-shore rock formations protecting it. The dune in front of the house should be restored and planted appropriately.

Next Conservation Meeting - Wednesday,
July 10, 7:30 p.m., Trumpower's, 165 Auburn
Drive, Lake Worth. (Cissy Durando)

EVERGLADE KITE
P. O. BOX 6762
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33405
(305) 844-4992

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

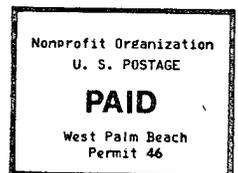
Two week-long scholarships to the summer Everglades Youth Camp held by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission at the Corbitt Wildlife Management Area were awarded this year to Kristopher Brunell of Kirklane Elementary 1 and Mike Olsen of Lake Park Elementary.

The Society for several years has made the camping experience available to a deserving student under our Bruce Bowman Scholarship Award created in memory of this Corbitt Area ranger. It is the first time that two such scholarships have been given and plans are to continue this if possible.

Education Co-chairmen Dale Neuenschwander and Sylvia Dunnam have announced that ten additional teachers will be sponsoring Audubon Adventure Clubs for the 1985-86 school year.

The teachers and their elementary schools are: Helen Gleicher, J.C. Mitchell; Nancy Hewitt and Teri Amedee, Palm Beach Public; Sharon Brannon, Lantana; Marcy Wolfe, West Riviera; Richard Ritch, Hagen Road; Barry Grace, S.D. Spady; Donna Marsden, Southboro; Susan Smith, Barton, and Richard Wagener, Palm Beach Day School.

We thank them for joining our efforts and those of the much appreciated five teachers who sponsored these clubs in their schools this past school year. (Dale and Susan)



PALM BEACH CO. LIBRARY SYSTEM
3650 SUMMIT BLVD.
W. PALM BEACH, FL. 33406