

EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 25, No. 11

Ruth Trumppower, Editor

AUGUST 1985

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL SHARE LIMELIGHT

Our local nature photographers will have an opportunity to shine at ASE's monthly meeting on August 6th.

Program Chairman Donna Deitz has arranged to have each of fifteen amateur photographers present five of their best slides for your enjoyment.

Do join us on Tuesday, August 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. All camera buffs, as well as your friends, are cordially invited.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP SET FOR AUGUST 31

There will be a special field trip on Saturday, August 31st, to view the great numbers of migrating shore birds, as well as the wading birds, ducks, etc., that gather in late summer on the flooded fields at A. Duda & Sons, Belle Glade.

We will meet at the northwest corner of Military Trail and Southern Blvd. at 6:30 a.m. Car pooling is obligatory. Dress for heat and sun.

There are few insects, little walking. Bring a scope if you have one. Leaders will be Brian Hope, Sylvia Guadagnoli and Gloria Hunter.

The Duda Farms Are not open to

the public, but if you are interested in going any weekend from now through early October, call Brian Hope (1-498-3608) or Gloria Hunter (585-7714). If either of them is going out that weekend, you are welcome to join them.

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Reminder: Florida Ornithological Society Meeting, Orlando, September 13-15. Field trips will include Wekiva Springs and Zellwood. For more information, call Gloria Hunter, 585-7714. (G. Hunter)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Getting back to reality is difficult when one has been away three weeks. In addition to attending the NAS Convention, I decided to see New England. The countryside is beautiful this time of year. Traveling on "back roads" instead of super highways afforded scenes of small villages nestled in the valleys surrounded by lush green foliage, of mountain streams and rivers running parallel with the road, and plenty of crisp, cool air.

Puffins were not to be seen this trip, as a northeaster prevented the boat from leaving the dock on the appointed day. However, 20 species of birds and numerous critters were added to my life lists. Acadia National Park is a beautiful and

unusual park. The Parker National Wildlife Refuge (Plum Island) is home to countless species due to its diversity. Blue Lake Mountain Museum taught me about the early history of the Adirondacks and the Peabody Museum in Salem sparked a new interest in the tall ships. But enough of this and down to business.

A special thanks to Chuck Potter for taking care of the July meeting - which I understand was very well attended. That's proof that ASE is definitely a year-round society!

Publications about the manatee and sea turtles were donated to us by Florida Power and Light Company. If you missed them at the July meeting, we will have them in August.

The next issue of THE FLORIDA NATURALIST will carry all the details of the FAS Annual Meeting at Wekiva Springs State Park November 8, 9 and 10. Hope ASE members will turn out for the workshops and meeting. Wekiva is beautiful in the fall. Congratulations to Rita Lee, coordinator of the FAS Canoe-A-Thon. This year's event netted the Society over \$11,000.

The Florida Conservation Foundation is seeking sponsors for a book to be titled "A Guide to Natural Florida." A tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more will insure the donor's name on the "Friends" page in the book. Make check payable to and mail to Florida Conservation Foundation, 1203 Orange Ave., Winter Park 32789. Be sure to state purpose on check.

A recent study by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service indicates that the wetland losses in the Southeast account for eight of the nine million acres lost nationwide from the 1950s to the 1970s. Pogo was right!

Snail kite sightings are still very important to report (especially any in Conservation Area 3). Biologist Jean Takakawa says that the birds will be dispersing now that we are getting more rain. Please continue to transmit sighting information to her at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Rt.1, Box 278, Boynton Beach 33437 (305/732-3684).

Remember the Mar-Palm after-the-fact permit application to the Corps of Engineers which we protested to that body, as well as to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council? District Engineer Col. Charles Myers denied the request to fill in the sensitive wetland area. It's been so long since an after-the-fact application has been denied that I can't remember if it has ever happened. We will now blow the dust off and resurrect an "old campaign" against such procedures. We think the time has come to try again and Col. Myers, our guest speaker in December, may be our man.

Tom Lewis, former No.2 man with DOT (not the U.S. Representative), was selected to head the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as Dr. John DeGrove returns to his position as director of the FAU/Flu Joint Center for Environmental & Urban Problems. We wish Mr. Lewis the best in his new position and hope John recognizes his old neighborhood.

ATTENTION CAMPERS - We hope to have a free brochure for you by the next meeting or so. Titled "Minimum Impact Camping," it lists 14 techniques for the new wilderness ethic.

Paul Sykes, long-time ASE member now living and working out of Athens, GA (he's a biologist with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) has sent us two copies of his publication, "The Range of the Snail Kite and It's History in Florida," published by the Florida State Museum. They will be available through our Ornithological Collection at the Summit Blvd. library. We appreciate having these references and Paul sending them to us.

Last month we told you about John Harris's untimely death. We have learned that Claire, the extremely shy female wolf, died in June. Claire traveled with Nahani, but did not make public appearances. (Leah Schad)

SUMMER BIRD NOTES

South Florida continues to make national birding hot lines with regularity. This April that marvelously cooperative Bahama Mockingbird stayed in Cynthia and Ray Plockelman's yard in West Palm Beach long enough for all local birders and a great number of out-of-state listers to visit it. In early June, Sandy Sprunt discovered a shiny cowbird (first US. record) on lower Matecumbe Key - another cooperatibe bird, visiting regularly at a backyard feeder. Indeed, at last report, the cowbird is still there. It is exciting to be close enough to the Bahamas and West Indies that the chance of spotting a vagrant is always before us. Keep your binoculars handy. Don't hesitate to report any bird you suspect is not one of our local species.

Although the summer months are the slow time in birding activities here, there are a few places you can see quantities of birds. Join the almost weekly visits to Duda Farms (see Field Trips, p.1) or, if you have yet to visit Peacock Pond (so named by us because Cynthia Peacock first called this impoundment to ASE's attention), consider an early morning or late evening stroll there. There is a very large concentration of the endangered Everglade kite. You can watch them pull apple snails from their shells. There are well over 30 kites and a good number of wood duck, green-backed heron, anhinga, least bittern, little blue heron, etc. You'll hear white-eyed vireo, Carolina wren and yellow-billed cuckoo in the surrounding growth. I sighted six otter on a recent walk there. The impoundment, in Wellington, is much like the nature trail at the Loxahatchee Refuge, but the access road is unpaved and rough. Finding it is complicated enough that I suggest you call one of ASE's active birders for personal directions.

The early summer nesting activities at Duda Farms were in full swing when Howard Langridge and I visited there in early June. Black-necked stilt nests were right along the road edges in some areas, with the parent birds producing a deafening outcry as they performed all the distraction activities in their repertory. We saw eggs, downy, long-legged nestlings and frizzle-headed adolescents. The fluffy young of moor hens, purple gallinule, king rai and killdeer were scurrying about, with parents trying to herd them to safety. Large rafts of fulvous whistling ducklings were seen swimming across the flooded fields, tightly wedged between their escorting parents.

NAS CONVENTION REPORT

The highlight of that particularly delightful morning at Duda was the discovery of a black skimmer sitting on two eggs along a roadside. Although they nest on many of Florida's beaches, there are no nesting records for the county, and skimmers, aside from the Stalton area, California, are not known to nest away from the beaches. Excitement, indeed! The flock of 45 skimmers seen that morning has increased to more than 80 over the ensuing weeks, and several more nests have been found. Black skimmers nesting 40 miles inland!

(Gloria Hunter)

BOOTH SITTERS NEEDED

for the Blue Grass Jamboree and Handicraft Show - Friday, Aug. 30, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m. to midnight; Sunday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call Susan Korzenewski, 842-2364, or sign up at the August 6th meeting.

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board of Directors has appointed Muriel Huxtable and Tom McElroy to fill the unexpired terms of Gloria Hunter and Jane Hart, whose resignations were accepted with much regret.

Over the years, Gloria has given the membership records an abundance of tender loving care, and this at a time when National Audubon changed computer companies, which caused more problems than was thought possible. Gloria will be turning the records over to Muriel Huxtable, who has been assisting her. Muriel has been employed in a business where attention to details was a must. We are confident she will do a superb job.

In the meantime, Gloria will continue to serve on the Library Committee and will be involved with Palm Beach County's portion of Florida's Breeding Bird Census.

Jane Hart will continue to help us look for new funding sources for our Ornithological Collection, but has resigned because of commitments which prevent her attendance at board meetings. She will come back to us when other duties are finished. Tom McElroy will serve out her term. We welcome Tom back to the board. His years of experience as an employee and member of Audubon are invaluable. (L. Schad)

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP DEADLINE

If there are any of you who have not brought in the commemorative and foreign stamps and postcards you have been saving for the Madalyn Baldwin Birds of Prey Sanctuary at FAS headquarters in Maitland, please bring them to the August or September meetings, or mail or bring them to me this month. As you recall, we won the annual prize for the most stamps contributed by any chapter last year. I should think there is a good chance of another win this year - we certainly have more stamps. Both the number of stamps and the number of those contributing stamps have increased.

Thank all of you for your continuing efforts. Gloria Hunter, 1716 13th Ave. North, Lake Worth 33460.

During the National Audubon Society's 1985 Convention at Silver Bay, N.Y., we had four jam-packed days of talks and workshops.

We heard Peter A.A. Berle, incoming president, talk about reaching out to blacks and Hispanics and about the grass roots being the backbone of the Society. We heard about Russ Peterson's accomplishments over the past six years and his plans for the future. Charles Collison, a former vice president and now director of Public Lands Institute, gave a brief history of the Audubon movement, chided the NAS staff for some ill-conceived actions, and reminded us all (without mincing words) about the grass roots upon which the life of the Society depends.

We were treated to a delightful "Fireside Chat" with Frosty Anderson, Vice President for Sanctuaries, interviewing John James Audubon (ably portrayed by John Borneman, Western Regional Representative). We were witness to 87 years-young Hazel Wolf, of Seattle Audubon, being presented with an outstanding conservation award for a litany of accomplishments.

Environmental folk singers Bill Oliver and Glen Waldock entertained us with songs about recycling, habitat preservation, the neighborhood shopping "maul," James Watt, Chief Justice William O. Douglas, and condominiums.

Dr. Anne LaBastille, author, ecologist, and Commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency, spoke about women in the environment and particularly her book, "Women and Wilderness," which features 15 outstanding women, including Dr. Nicole Duplaix, former director of Florida Defenders of the Environment and now with the South Florida Water Management District.

The Honorable Mario Cuomo, Governor of New York, gave an overview of the legislation protecting the Adirondack Wildlife Preserve and its historic "Forever Wild" clause. Ray Fadden, owner of the Six Nation Indian Museum, treated us to an evening of Indian lore of the Adirondacks. Thomas Beck, chairman of the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, discussed our mutual problems - acid rain in particular. The Paul Winter Consort gave a memorable concert.

Concurrent workshops were difficult to select and we tried to attend different sessions. Choices included wetlands, fund raising, legislative & legal priorities, hazardous waste & toxic substances, predator control, wading bird research, endangered species, political action, ecology and personal values, nuclear winter, farm bill, rain forest, habitats, membership, acid rain, publications & publicity, urban education, and many others - 39 in all.

NAS Board Member Helen Engle Martin closed the convention by recapping the week's events and encouraging us to go home with renewed spirit, energy and enthusiasm for our undying determination to "slay the dragon." But she cautioned us that, in our quest, we must socialize occasionally and have some fun too.

Exhibits from chapters and others ranged from making maple syrup to a live bald eagle.

We made new acquaintances and renewed old

ones, we hiked a trail or two and climbed a mountain. We laughed, we sang, we danced. We learned a lot and we shared thoughts and ideas with people from all over the United States. Thank you for allowing us to go.
(Chuck Potter and Leah Schad)

FAREWELL TO JEFFREY KAHN

Jeffrey Kahn, environmental writer for THE POST for the past several years, resigned his position on July 26th. Kahn will travel with his son, camping and visiting our national parks, before settling on the West Coast (of U.S., not Florida).

We wish him the very best in his future endeavors. He has been a caring person, a trait which came through in his writing. We shall miss him.

CONSERVATION REPORT

There has been an extension in the comment period on Occidental Chemicals' application for a permit to strip mine for phosphate in the Suwannee River Basin. This would impact almost 10,000 acres of swamp, wetlands and tributary creeks around the river. Letters urging denial of the permit should be sent immediately to Colonel Charles Myers, District Engineer, C.O.E., P. O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

Next Conservation Meeting - Wednesday, August 14th, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Trumpower's home, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth.
(Cissy Durando)

ZIP CODE CHANGES

Many members, especially those in the Zip Code areas of 33406 and 33463, have been as-

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signed new numbers during the past year. If you have a new Zip Code, please drop a post card with your correct address to Membership Chairman Muriel Huxtable, 2672 Floral Road, Lantana 33462.

It is our understanding that an automatic forwarding of third class mail (begun when the post office assigned residents to new codes) will expire just as automatically. We want to be sure you continue to receive your newsletter. And, of course, you have notified the National (or Florida) Society, haven't you?

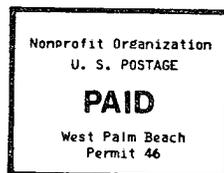
LIBRARY PROVIDES BIRDING INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS

Did you know that the Audubon Collection at the Palm Beach County Library on Summit Blvd. not only is the best ornithological collection in any Florida public library, but that it has an impressive and growing collection of recorded songs of birds of the U.S. and neotropics?

Be sure to investigate the many bird-finding guides for most areas of North America, the field guides for different areas of the world, and the recorded bird sounds before you set out on your vacation. (G. Hunter)

ANNUAL REPORT - PUBLICITY

Meeting notices for all regular meetings and the annual meeting, plus articles about special events, were sent out during the 1984-1985 year. I have personally contacted several reporters for special events and also whenever a new reporter has written to us. I spent \$117.76 during that fiscal year, all of it for postage, and attended seven out of the twelve board meetings. (Andrea Thomas)



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W. PALM BEACH, FL. 33406