

CENTRAL DEC 30 1985



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JANUARY 1986

NATURALIST KEN MORRISON PRESENTS JANUARY PROGRAM

After 40 years as a naturalist, Ken Morrison has at last compiled his personal observations and philosophy on wildlife and the environment into "Mountain Lake Almanac, Around the Year With a Naturalist." We are fortunate to have him at the January 7 meeting for a talk/slide presentation.

All who have known Mr. Morrison say that we are in for a treat and a delightful program. He was named director of the famed Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Bok Singing Tower at Lake Wales in 1956. A former president of FAS, he is now president emeritus and received an FAS Award of Merit in 1964.

Come meet Ken Morrison and his wife, Helen, at our meeting on Tuesday, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park. Mr. Morrison has graciously agreed to autograph copies of his book for those who wish to purchase a copy. (Donna Deitz)

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, we will meet at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Marsh Trail parking lot, at 7:30 a.m. Brian Hope will be our leader. The Refuge is off U.S. 441, two miles south of SR. 804 (Boynton

Road). If you have never been on one of our field trips, this would be a good first-time experience. I will be there at 7 a.m. with the Audubon scope set up for all you early birds who want to get a jump start on the new year. Our wintering birds should be there to greet us.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, we will meet at the observation tower of the Savannas Recreation Area at 5:30 p.m. This city park is south of Ft. Pierce. Turn east off U.S. 1 and go 1.2 miles on SR. 712 (Midway Road). You will be treated to the Tornado Phenomena! This spectacle will be staged by our wintering tree swallows. Helen and Bill Dowling will be our leaders.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, we will meet at MacArthur State Park, 7:30 a.m. Hank McCall will be our leader.

Next Weekend Bus Trip

The February 22-23 overnight bus trip to Everglades National Park has four seats still open. If you want to join us, call Dorothy Brindle at 586-6796 (4-9 p.m., Mon-Fri).

If you already have reservations, send in your \$60 check now. Add \$6 if you want to go on the Saturday Sunset Cruise. And we hope you will join us for Saturday's banquet dinner at \$12 per person. Please include your phone number and address and state whether you want the A dinner (fish with rice) or the B dinner

(roast beef with potatoes). Make check out to Audubon Society of the Everglades and mail to Ruth S. Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth, FL 33460. Al and Barbara Liberman will be our leaders. (Sylvia Guadagnoli)

DORIS MAGER'S SCHOOL APPEARANCES SCHEDULED

The Education Committee has announced the following schedule for Doris Mager's January visit to area schools. Known as Florida's Eagle Lady, she brings with her the live eagles, hawks and owls she cares for under the auspices of her organization, Save Our American Raptors (S.O.A.R.). If anyone would like to attend a particular school presentation, please contact the principal of that school.

January 6 - Highland Elementary (2 sessions) 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Forest Hill High, 10:30-11:15 a.m. January 7 - Palm Beach Public, 8:30-9:15 a.m., Palm Beach Day School, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

January 8 - Melaluca, 8:15-9:00 a.m.; Green-acres (2 sessions), 9:20-10 and 10:45-11:30 a.m.; Lantana Elementary, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

January 9 - J.C. Mitchell (Boca), 8:15-9 a.m.; S.D. Spady (Delray), 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Hagen Road (Boynton) (2 sessions), 12:15-1:45 p.m.

January 10 - Meadow Park (2 sessions), 8:15-9:45 a.m.; West Riviera, 1-1:45 p.m.; North Palm Beach Private, 2:15-3:00 p.m.

Education Committee Thanks

Our thanks to Lois Marcello for helping to collect and distribute Audubon and other magazines to the Audubon Adventure Clubs. She has kindly offered to act as "liason" between the committee and the clubs' leaders.

Students in these clubs love Audubon, Ranger Rick, National Geographic, National Geographic World and similar magazines. Contact Lois at 439-7866 if you have contributions.

The Kirklane Audubon Adventure Club has "adopted" two manatees. We are eagerly awaiting our newsletter which will tell us the whereabouts of our two "pets." (Sylvia Dinnam and Dale Neuenschwander)

NAS COALITION BENEFIT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

The Southeastern Coalition of National Audubon Chapters, of which ASE is a part, is sponsoring a benefit drawing to help fund the activities of the National Audubon Society office in Miami. Alice Wainwright has headed this office of the Society for nearly 20 years when it was established upon request of Charlie Callison, who was Vice-President for Chapter Relations at the time, to represent National Audubon in major conservation issues arising in South Florida. Policies are formed in cooperation with the six Southeast Florida chapters and the office works with the Florida Audubon Society and the six chapters to further conservation objectives in the state and nation.

Most of you are aware that funding was suspended by the New York office due to severe budget cuts. However, the work done by this

office is far too valuable, not only to National but to Florida Audubon as well, and it was decided to raise the money to carry on.

A donation of \$10.00 is suggested. Each ticketholder will be eligible to win one of excellent prizes which have been donated for the occasion. They include a 3-day, 2-night vacation in an oceanfront villa at Cheeca Lodge on Islamorada; a 3-day, 2-night vacation at Harbour Ridge in Stuart; a deluxe canoe trip for two donated by John Judy of Florida Adventures, Plantation; a framed, limited edition print donated by noted artist Edna Hibel; a microwave oven valued at over \$500, and a handsome porcelain Blue Jay by artist Moussalli, donated by Douglas Lorie, Inc., 334 Worth Ave., P.B.

The drawing, open to the public, will take place at Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami, on Friday, February 14, 1986, at a Valentine Reception scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Winners need not be present to win.

Anyone wishing to help us make this event a big success may get tickets to buy AND to sell from Chuck Potter. A special gift will be presented to the individual raising the most money.

FAIR BOOTHSITTERS NEEDED

Volunteer Boothsitters are needed to staff ASE's exhibit at the South Florida Fair from Thursday, Jan. 23, through Sunday, February 2. Remember, this is a good way to see the Fair for free and help your chapter as well. Call me at 842-2364, or sign up at our January 7th meeting. (Susan Korzenewski)

FREE ENTERPRISE SAVES A SPECIES

It is a fact that today it is possible to see literally millions of Cape cormorants and bank cormorants on the rocky shores and salt flats of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund in South West Africa. Every one of these birds produces a profit for the Dietrich family.

During World War I and the 1920's, the wildlife authorities decided that the cormorants ate too many fish, thus wasting the resources of the sea. Massive efforts were made to eradicate them; the attack was made on their nesting grounds. Through the decades, with the aid of mongooses, this goal was almost achieved.

During the thirties, a farmer named Dietrich needed some fertilizer. He built a small platform 100 yards off shore so some surviving cormorants would nest there undisturbed. The authorities by then had forgotten their fear of the "Cormorant Peril." After the nesting season, Dietrich took his boat out to the platform, cleaned off the guano and used it for fertilizer. Having an excess, he sold it and used the proceeds to enlarge the platform.

Year by year, crazy old man Dietrich enlarged his platforms. The cormorant population expanded in direct proportion to the number square feet of safe nesting surface.

Today there are many of these nesting platforms, some extending a quarter of a mile out to sea. A typical one has an area of five

acres. The guano is harvested by large ships, the port has huge facilities, and the town enjoys a prosperous payroll. After the harvest each year, the platforms are carefully repaired and many square feet added. The cormorant population is increasing by the mathematical power of the square.

This story is true, but what will be the ultimate result? If this drive to reproduce on the part of the cormorants and the urge for profit on the part of man proceeds unchecked, will we soon be up to our belly buttons in cormorants? (Hank McCall)

CONSERVATION REPORT

The season mandates announcing a few good things that have happened lately. The 1985 Farm Bill will encourage conversion of highly erodible land to be planted to grass and trees. There will be no program benefits to plow up highly erodible lands. By 1990 all such lands will have to be in a soil conservation plan. Wetlands will be discouraged from being put into crop production. Let us hope we will not be flooded by "hardship cases" and "Variances." The current tax code allows capital gains on sales of converted wetlands. The cost involved is also deductible. The next time you chat with either of our senators, Hawkins or Chiles, you might expand on the foolishness of this - environmentally and economically.

The Superfund reorganization package is moving right along. The provisions of the better version seem to be going through. Among the points provided for are: (1) \$10 billion dollars over the next five years for cleanups, (2) require 600 cleanup spots in the next five years, (3) list 1600 sites by 1988, (4) create a national community-right-to-know program that covers acute and chronic hazards, (5) citizens have a right to sue EPA to clean up local waste sites that pose human health threats. Some time in January, a committee must iron out differences between the House version and the Senate version. A thank you is in order for Dan Mica, and encouragement to Senators Hawkins and Chiles to see the light and support the House version.

I get the feeling the reform so badly needed to protect lands still submerged as sovereign lands of the state is floundering. Big money is involved and real estate, phosphate and agricultural interests are working very hard to keep the status quo. The Marketable Record Title Act was indeed made to order for special interests and not the people of the state. Cou County Commissioners, on December 10th, neatly sidestepped the issue by passing a resolution not to pass a resolution on this subject. It will therefore be up to us to pressure our state legislators, most especially Harry Johnson, to do the right thing.

Next Conservation Meeting - Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Dr., Lake Worth. (Cissy Durando)

KITE STRINGS

Did you receive a copy of the "Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 1984-85 Update." Most interesting to learn of happenings and the work being done there. But help is needed to main-

tain and expand these preservation efforts. Mail contributions to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Route 6, Box 1875-A, Naples, FL 33964. Comments are also welcome and, if you didn't receive the newsletter, ask for one.

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Pine Jog offerings - call 686-6600 for the program brochure/registration form if interested: Florida Bird Studies - Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6; field trips to be announced; weekend trip Feb. 7-9 to Merritt Island, Cocoa Beach, Sebastian; course fee, \$35 per person.

Vagabond Van Nature Study Tours with Ann and Phil Weinrich (582-2235 evenings): Jan. 10-12 - Everglades National Park, fee \$160; April 18-20 - Archbold Research Station, fee \$140.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors, there was discussion about the possibility of co-sponsoring a wildlife film series on Public TV (Channel 42). Although not unanimous, it was voted to investigate the matter further, with the thought of inclusion in the 1986-87 fiscal year budget not to exceed \$4,000. Some feel it is time for this Society to reach out more into the community; others feel the money should be spent in more direct membership efforts.

Since that meeting, an offer has been made that we might not want to refuse. We may have sole sponsorship of the same program, "Wild America," for \$2,000. However, in order to do so, we must have the vote of the membership to change the present budget. The Board has voted affirmatively to put the question to you for a final decision on January 7th.

For those interested in the DDT issue, you might want to read the update on Dicofol on page 124 of the January issue of AUDUBON Magazine. (Leah Schad)

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Jupiter: James Lee

Lake Park: Theodore Bremekamp, Sean Hayes, John S. Miller, II

Lake Worth: Robert D. Handley, Nancy E. Koerber, R. A. McLinton

Loxahatchee: Susan D. Petzold

Palm Beach: Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Davidson, Mrs. T. E. O'Donnell

Palm Beach Gardens: Ms. Linda T. Bogg, S. Holstberg

Riviera Beach: Ray Brown, Pearl Murry Weinman

Royal Palm Beach: Robert E. Archer

Tequesta: Bertha W. Beytes, Charles V. Reydel, David Sweet

West Palm Beach: Lory Armstrong, Drs. Feldman, Lazzara, Ceravolo; Gerald A. Howe, Susan M. Koegel, Alex Rabinowitz, Mary J. Ralph, Cynthia Sabourin, Jimmy Socash, J. Sorenson, Ruth Straus, Linda Warn

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Ken and Helen Morrison in a sketch from the Calamity Calender. His book, "Mountain Lake Almanac," published by Pineapple Press, Inc, will be available at the January 7th meeting. It is \$14.95 for hardbound or \$8.95 for paperbound. And he will autograph it for you then and there.

WELCOME (continued)

Out-of-State: Mrs. Walter H. Bowers,
Jr., Rochester Hills, Mich,;
Richard S.T. Hunter, Houston, Tx.

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* The ASE Board of Directors wishes
* the membership a happy, healthy,
* successful and environmentally
* safe New Year.
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AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES

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