

CENTRAL SEP 17 1986



# EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumppower, Editor

JUNE 1986

## EAST COAST SEA TURTLES FEATURED

Dr. Llewellyn Ehrhart will be the featured speaker at the June 3rd ASE monthly meeting. Dr. Ehrhart, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Central Florida, will talk about "The Natural History of Florida's East Coast Sea Turtles."

Professor Ehrhart did his undergraduate work at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania and earned his PhD. in Zoology at Cornell University. He was selected by NASA in 1973 to do an ecological base line study at the Space Center. Upon completion of this project, he moved his research to Sebastian Inlet area, where he now concentrates his efforts on juvenile and sub-adult loggerhead and green sea turtles. Very little is known about this period in the life of these endangered species and he is hopeful his ongoing work will change that. This program is jointly funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Florida's Department of Natural Resources.

One of the major outgrowths of his work is an ordinance adopted by Brevard County which prohibits excessive beach front lighting during the sea turtle nesting season.

Bring your friends and neighbors and join us at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3rd. (Leah Schad)

## YOUR RIGHTS ARE BEING THREATENED

THIS TIME THROUGH PEACOCKS. Recently a Palm Beach County Judge decided that someone could come on our (or your) property, throw about tranquilizer seed pellets and collect unconscious (or dead) birds, peacocks this time, and then transport them to some distant place. Brentwood Nursery and property across the road in Delray Beach is the target property of this decree.

This is the first time in the State of Florida that a judgment of this kind has been made. The defendants are appealing to a higher court and your Board of Directors has decided that we should help turn around this terrible precedent-setting decree.

If you can see the implications of this court case on all property, habitat, wildlife, and, yes, even small children, please rally to send whatever donation possible to Attorney Esther A Zaretsky, 1655 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., W.P.B. 33401.

TWO OF OUR TOP BIRDERS HAVE DETERMINED, BY ACTUAL COUNT A SHORT TIME AGO, THAT TEN DIFFERENT BIRD SPECIES, besides peacocks, ARE ON THIS PROPERTY. THEY OPINE THAT THE CONTAMINATED SEED PELLETS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THEM...Let's all get busy! (Chuck Potter, President)

## BIRDATHON '86

On April 26th, Barbara and Al Liberman and Leah Schad went to Fort DeSoto Park in Pinellas County to begin the 24-hour species identification marathon. Their official time began at noon and ended accordingly on the 27th.

One hundred thirty-eight species were identified and, when all monies are accounted for, almost \$9,000 will be in hand. This money is shared equally by ASE, Florida Audubon and the NAS office in Tallahassee.

If for some reason you didn't make a pledge (because Leah didn't call you due to time constraint and other commitments), you can still take part in the event by making a tax deductible contribution to her at 1628 Boardman, W.P.B. 33407. All checks should be made payable to Audubon Society of the Everglades. We hope a number of you will take part so the grand total does reach the \$9,000 mark.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Education Committee will be selecting four students from the 15 Audubon Adventure Clubs to be recipients of summer scholarships to attend the Corbett Wildlife Area Youth Camp and the Pine Jog Environmental Sciences Center camps.

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### Annual Report, 1985-86 Highlights

April: Science Fair Awards (Sr. & Jr. High) presented at ASE annual meeting, as were the John James Audubon Art Contest Awards. Sponsored timber wolf visit to several schools.

May: Scholarships awarded to two students for the Corbett Youth Camp.

Sept.: Scholarship recipients present reports at monthly meeting. 15 Audubon Adventure Clubs established.

Oct.: Jill Jarboe presentation to Adventure Club leaders. Sponsored "Coastweek '85" sand sculpture contest with awards.

Jan.: Arranged Doris Mager's visits

to 13 area schools.

Feb.: Arranged ASE sponsorship of teachers to "Project Wild."

March: Judging of 1986 Science Fair exhibits showing subjects of environmental interest. (Sylvia Dunnam and Dale Neuenschwander)

## NEW BIRDING SPOT

An easily accessible birding spot for north county birders has been reported by Leslie and Lonnie Calmes. One short visit two weeks ago produced several snail kites, many limpkins - some with young, some still on nests - anhingas, moor hens, a pied-billed grebe; green-backed, tri-colored and little blue herons, great egrets, several pairs of wood ducks and the usual summer land birds.

Drive west on PGA Blvd. past the trunpike entrance 2½ miles to a bridge crossing the C-18 canal. Park in area north of PGA and walk south along east side of canal on an old roadway, firm and clear. A couple hundred feet will take you within close viewing of the marsh, but continue south as far as you wish. Evenings would be pleasant because the sun would be at your back.

An eastern kingbird was seen there in late May. If anyone sees a pair of them, one carrying food, etc., or any indications of the nesting of other species, please call Howard Langridge, Breeding Bird Coordinator, 582-7519. Thanks to the Calmes for calling this spot to ASE's attention. (G. Hunter)

## KITE STRINGS

In case you didn't see it - an article in the May 6th MIAMI HERALD reported that Lester Short, chairman of the Dept. of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, led an expedition in Cuba, sighting at least one male and possibly two female ivory-billed woodpeckers. This thought-to-be-extinct bird was observed at least eight times within 2½ miles of Ojita de Agua. Short's

observations in April confirmed a previous sighting by Cuban biologists.

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Members take note - August will feature a members' slide program, so starting sorting to find your best shots. Details in July KITE.

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If you are in the Tallahassee area on June 20, you might want to come by the Capitol steps and see Doris Mager ride her bike into town. Her trip will end at Neptune Beach on June 25.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Breeding Bird Atlas is going well. If you see birds, particularly the more unusual ones, that you know are nesting, but do not know which observer is covering your area, you may report your sightings to Howard Langridge, Coordinator, 582-7519.

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### CONSERVATION REPORT

It is generally acknowledged that the State Supreme Court decision on MRTA was a welcome event for those politicians who "saw the light" and would have jeopardized some of their special interest support by acting according to their consciences.

Let's try to avert weakening of the 1984 Henderson Wetlands Act. Contact at least one representative and senator and send a copy to Rep. Carol Hanson, who is on the House Natural Resources Committee.

I feel it is most unfortunate that control of beach front lighting to prevent the deaths of thousands of hatching sea turtles is tacked to HB. 1133 and SB.432, which set up a state plan for beach renourishment programs. Our chapter has taken a stand against off-shore beach dredging because we feel, as do DER and our local Health Dept., that the resulting turbidity would stress our reefs. We certainly would support modifying the terrible lighting practices such as one can observe along the Tequesta beach. Maybe this could be addressed in a county ordinance such as the Brevard County

ordinance. Beach dredging in the spring is not conducive to turtle nesting. Neither is the material dredged up and neither is the ever-expanding beachfront development that results, with sand bagging or rock revetments on the seaward side of dunes.

At a CARL hearing on May 21st, I made a pitch for the Holey Land/Rotenberger Tract as the preferred item on the list for Palm Beach County. That area would be managed by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission (G&FWFC) for wetlands habitat and recreation (hunting). I supported North Key Largo and any other Keys purchases as being top priority because they are not only in an area of Critical State Concern, but probably under the most developmental pressure and time is of the essence.

I supported East Everglades purchases as most vital for the health and continuity of Everglades National Park. I urged a realistic approach to this problem, as we will never get cooperation from the Corps. Its protective attitude toward residents and agriculture will finally do in the sheet flow. I urged that this be placed higher on the list and offset my plea by magnanimously offering to the Committee to downgrade White Belt and Moss ranches, both disturbed areas adjacent to the Corbett Area and not in imminent danger of development.

Let's face it - the ranches would only allow a few more folks to have enlarged happy hunting grounds and I doubt the ability of G&FWFC to restore and manage them for wetland or non-game species.

And speaking of non-game species, in the last Legislative Bulletin we are informed that a House appropriations bill would divert a half million dollars from tag fees and contributions to go to the Game Management Trust Fund as opposed to the Non-game Advisory Committee. What would you say to such monies being used for research and management of game animals? Do write the Governor and complain long and bitterly about this proposal. The \$1 we each contributed was not intended to bail out

diminished revenues of the G&FWFC's Game Management Trust Fund. I wonder wht Tim Tucker of THE POST does not report losses from declines in hunting license revenues. Inform your legislators that it almost fits the definition of theft to divert these funds from the committee for which they were intended.

Copies of your letter listing your choices for CARL purchases should be sent to Dr. Elton J. Gissendanner, Dept. of Natural Resources, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee 32303; Tom Lewis, Dept. of Community Affairs, 2511 Executive Center Circle East, and Col. Robert M. Brantley, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee 32301. At the meeting, the CARL Committee affirmed the importance of public pressure.

When you contact our legislative delegation, include your support for SB.850 and 1179. This package would provide CARL funds for purchases in Areas of Critical State Concern now. We would also like to see SB. 463 passed. This nails down reclamation after mining. It would insure re-vegetation and provide for fines and bonding for transgressors.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY  
of the EVERGLADES**

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An important local issue reared its head unexpectedly on May 14th at Jupiter. At this late date, SFWMD has impressed on Senator William Myers and Representative James Hill that it needs a local bill to have the authority of eminent domain in order to obtain soe smaller parcels of land in the Northwest Fork area of the Loxahatchee River corridor. Hill will vote against it. Do make a quick call to at least one legislator to support this bill. We have come too far on this project not to succeed.

Alice Wainwright, Coordinator for the Southeastern Florida NAS Office, is recovering from a very bad fall at this time. It would cheer her up to hear from us. Send it to her at 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami 33143.

Next Conservation Meeting - the second Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Ruth Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth. If you would like to join the committee or just sit in on a meeting, you are always welcome. (Cissy Durando)

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