



# EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JUNE 1989

## SOUTH FLORIDA GEOLOGY IS JUNE PROGRAM TOPIC

Featured at ASE's June 6th meeting will be Steve Bass, instructor in environmental education at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

His presentation, "The Geology of South Florida," is an outgrowth of his interest in geology as a hobby. Geology in Florida, where one has to drill to reach the marine fossils from which we get the most information, is a fairly new, unexplored field, even by professional geologists.

A professional naturalist for 20 years, Bass holds a master's degree in biology. He worked as a planner and naturalist for the National Audubon Society for seven years. Since coming to Florida in 1975, he has worked in each of the Palm Beach County School Board's environmental centers.

Bring your friends to the 7:30 p.m. meeting on Tuesday, June 6th, at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park and enjoy an exciting adventure into the geological past of South Florida. (Rhonda Wilson)

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Please note the coupon on the bottom of page 3 concerning our annual membership participation meeting.

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## MEMBERS ENJOY LAST BUS TRIP OF SEASON

On April 1st, 30 ASE participants joined the Fairchild Gardens bus trip under tour trip director Roy Snyder. The weather was lovely - sunny, cool and dry - just right to enjoy the Gardens with Ms. Alla Deniville, the guide provided by them.

We saw many native and exotic palms in the Palm Glade Area. Ms. Deniville could rattle off statistics about these plants and also demonstrated the various types of vegetable matter with samples. During a tour of the Rare Plant House, it was amazing to see the flora inside.

After lunch in the Matheson Hammock picnic area, we formed into subgroups, with Bill Van Meter leading the photographers, Sylvia Guadagnoli the birders, and Hal Wiedemann the plant group. All rejoined for the tram trip, then spent the remaining time in the gift/book shop or viewing the winning photographs in the Gardens' annual contest. It was a very nice trip with which to end the bus trip season. (Bill Van Meter)

## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Some more recent additions to the Audubon Ornithological Collection at the Palm Beach County Public Library on Summit Blvd. are as follows:

THE NATURE OF BIRDS by Adrian Forsyth - A598.251FOR. A beautifully illustrated book that will lure you beyond bird identification to the exciting observations of bird behavior and why they behave the way they do. These very readable essays cannot fail to make any foray into the natural world more meaningful. Read it!

HAWKS IN FLIGHT by Pete Dunne and others - A598.91097DUN. Having trouble identifying diurnal raptors hundreds of yards away against the sky? This field guide gives you techniques of identification other guides do not cover. If you're a hawk watcher, you may want to add this to your library.

BIRDS & BIRDING ON THE MISSISSIPPI COAST by J. Toups and J. Jackson - A598.29762TOU. You'll want to study this if a journey includes this area.

HELPING & COMMUNAL BREEDING IN BIRDS by Jerram Brown - A598.251. An overview of the extensive literature on communally breeding birds.

ONE MAN'S OWL by Brend Heinrich - A598.97HEI. This is far more than a journal of the raising of a great horned owl nestling. An excellent chronicle.

A FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF MEXICO by E.P. Edwards - A598.2972EDW. A second edition of an old favorite, with many additional species.

A FIELD GUIDE TO SEABIRDS OF THE WORLD by Peter Harrison - A598.4HAR. Again, a guide you may want in your library. Much easier to carry than his comprehensive SEABIRDS, but with an added feature of 764 color photos. Come look it over!

THE COMPLETE BIRDER by Jack Connor - A598.07234CON. A delightful, informative book for the more experienced birder, as well as a must for the beginner. (Gloria Hunter)

#### SEABIRD RESCUE NEWS

Sloan Campbell, founder of Seabird Rescue League of Florida Inc., reports that its boat was repaired and has been

patrolling the waters for injured seabirds and wildlife. On April 20th the League assisted Bambi Wildlife Sanctuary with the release of 20 pelicans and 13 seagulls nursed back to health at the Sanctuary. ASE member Tom Keenan helped them by carrying cages to the water's edge at Jupiter.

When he spoke at ASE's February meeting, Mr. Campbell was hopeful that the Seabird Rescue League would receive a state grant, but it was refused. He would like to hear from anyone with ideas for fundraising, 407/965-7432.

He thanks those who have supported Seabird Rescue with tax-deductible contributions which have kept the League operational and says additional funding is urgently needed. Please send checks to Seabird Rescue League, 345 Martin Avenue, Greenacres 33463.

#### BIRDING IN AUSTRALIA

Birding "down under" is very exciting. The widespread parrot family has members which take your breath away, like the crimson rosella or the hooded parrot or the blue bonnet. Matching the parrots for beauty is the mostly-blue fairy wren family, small birds with erect tails. The sound of a whip cracking tells you that the whipbird with his prominent crest is about. There are a number of fantails, flycatchers which fan their tails, possibly to startle insects into flight. The most commonly seen is an appealing Willie wagtail, a very active bird.

The shorefront at Cairns is host to many birds and we had great looks at the Australian pelican, some dotterels (plovers), whimbrels, turnstones, and the "cute" little orange-legged Terek sandpiper. From Cairns we went out to Great Barrier Reef and saw the sky darkened by sooty terns and common noddies above their nests.

Sacred ibis stroll in the parks of Sydney. The logo on the buttons of the docents in the Australian Museum is the pilotbird, a rarely-seen scrubwren. Sulphur-crested cockatoos are common. Seen also are the

spectacular red-tailed black cockatoos; the little corella, a small white cockatoo with a touch of pink, and the galah, a pink and gray cockatoo.

Magpies are ever present and so is the magpie-lark, known locally as the "peewee" because of one of its sounds. Seen constantly are the common myna and the red-billed, red-eye-ringed and red-legged silver gull. The kingfishers are gorgeous, and we did see that famous large member of the family, the laughing kookaburra.

Occasionally we saw the cranes, the Brolga and the Sarus cranes. We were delighted with the beauty of the finches, firetails and pardalotes, and also with some of the doves. One comic pigeon was the topknot pigeon, and a prominent topknot he did have. One night we saw the Boobook and barking owls in the light of our torches and, yes, we saw the beautiful lyrebird.

There were also the unusual animals of Australia: the wombat, something like a big groundhog; the echidna, a porcupine-like; kangaroos and wallabies, crocodiles, the emu, the duck-billed platypus, but alas, no cassowary. The enormous frilled lizard was seen near a sign which said, "Be careful of forest fires. We like our lizards frilled, not grilled."

On the last day we drove to Wilson's Promontory and went to the penguin parade on Phillips Island. Little (their name) penguins emerged

from the ocean and marched up the beach in lines, disappearing into burrows under the viewing platforms. Wonderful sight and a great climax.

(Rita Rosenberg)

#### CONSERVATION NEWS

The most promising idea amongst the county's environmentally concerned citizens seems to be ready to take off. We are going to try to convince our County Commissioners to have a special election for a 1989 bond issue this fall to buy environmentally sensitive lands that have been identified and meet criteria. Our neighboring counties to the north and south have done this, and 12 other counties have addressed the problem of disappearing native habitat. Local public commitment opens the way for other cooperative methods such as land banking, grants, etc. In one year, 1988, we lost 10% of our remaining identified native ecosystems; we will probably lose more than that by the end of 1989. A truly mature county must make a decision to do its own long-range planning. Being at the mercy of a few uncaring developers, the School Board or public agencies that, by their defined parameters, are not able to be as protective as we would like, should end. Please make a decision to call at least two County Commissioners - Chairman Carol Elmquist, 355-220(3) - and the commissioner of your district if you do not live in District 3. Substitute a 1, 2, 4 or 5 for the final

### Application for Showing Member's Slides at August Meeting

A maximum of 10 slides are permitted per member. Members will do their own commentary. Please fill out the lines below and mail to Rhonda Wilson, 3791 Dale Road, W. Palm Beach FL 33406.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Topic slides cover \_\_\_\_\_

\*A list showing your place on the program will be posted in the lobby on the night of the meeting.

digit according to your district.

Legislative action is needed immediately through three of our local public servants, Ray Liberti and Lois Frankel in the House and Don Childers in the Senate. They are all on the Finance and Tax Committee. Urge them to pass the Manatee License Tag, a voluntary donation to further manatee protection. Also, this was to be the year for the saltwater fishing license to pass. There is a tremendous need for research and additional marine patrol officers. It should not be considered a burden, but a privilege for fishermen, tourist or resident, to help support their pleasure. Sen. Childers is especially troublesome on this one as he mouths misleading platitudes. Do call or wire 904/488-1234 and ask for each office.

After agonizing through the May 11th SFWMD Board meeting, I would recommend writing the Governor, The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399, decrying the action the Board might resort to because of a totally unrelated matter (the law suit on Lake Okeechobee). It might hold up on a previously voted on land acquisition with CARL funds involving Big Cypress and thus jeopardize a major Federal land acquisition program that would benefit Everglades National Park. The Governor has the power to influence the Board and certainly should do so to support his previously stated environmental policies.

June 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the Science Museum, the Sierra Club is sponsoring an interesting, prize-winning slide program on Alaska. The photographer will make the presentation, along with a native American. It is open to the public and free.

Next Conservation Meeting - Wednesday,

**AUDUBON SOCIETY  
of the EVERGLADES**

P. O. BOX 6762  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33405  
(407) 588-6908

June 13th, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Ruth  
Trumpower, 165 Auburn Drive, Lake Worth.  
(Cissie Durando)

ORNITHOLOGICAL FUND DONORS

A contribution to the Ornithological Fund for the Audubon Collection at the Palm Beach County Public Library on Summit Blvd. has been made by Gertrude Gordon in memory of Wilber Drasin. Another contribution was received this past month from Minerva G. Cordes. Our thanks to these donors whose help will permit the addition of more volumes to our excellent Ornithological Collection.

NATURE TRAIL BENEFITS  
FROM BOY SCOUTS HELP

Louise Morgan reports that 15 Boy Scouts, along with two of their leaders, from Troop 202 in Lake Worth worked on the marsh trail in John Prince Park on May 20th.

This is the second group of Scouts from Troop 202 who have helped on the nature trail and they cleared out the overgrown vegetation as a project towards merit badges.

To top it off, Louise reports that a pileated woodpecker flew to the top of a dead tree near the marsh trail and watched all the activity below.

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