



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

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PHIL WEINRICH TELLS OF BIRDING MISADVENTURES

Having given three serious birding programs at previous ASE meetings, Phil Weinrich will alter the agenda this time with "Misadventures in the Dry Tortugas; or What Won't a Birdwatcher Endure To See a New Species."

Weinrich would say little about the program except, "At last the sordid details can be revealed." Secretive forces, however, suggest that we can expect a yarn about the seamy side of bird watching - a yarn that involves Weinrich, his wife Anne, Gloria Hunter and H.T. Langridge.

Bring a friend to the September 3rd meeting to hear a delightful tale from this long-time Palm Beach County birdwatcher, teacher and spinner of yarns.

Anne Weinrich will follow Phil's talk with a mini-program on attracting birds to your back yard. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Dreher Trail North. (Rhonda Wilson)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 7:00 a.m. -
Barley Barber Swamp. Meet at entrance to Florida Power & Light Co., State Rd. 710 west of Indian-
own, bring lunch. Call 744-2915

and leave message for reservation.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 8:00 a.m. -
Jack Island/Diamond Point State
Parks, ALA North, Fort Pierce. Meet
at entrance to Jack Island, bring
lunch.

YOUNG SCIENTIST ASSISTED

The Audubon Society of the Everglades is proud to report that, through the efforts of Dr. Sam Pollock, the Jaqua Foundation has contributed \$1,000 to the Future Scientists of Florida to be used for the education of Paul Constant, one of ASE's first place winners for an environmental project at this year's Science Fair.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Help is needed from all members and friends to preserve wetlands and a gopher tortoise colony at the Lantana Airport. Write or call your County Commissioners to ask that they insist that a proposed aircraft maintenance business not be constructed on wetlands at the south edge of John Prince Park, nor on tortoise habitat.

Help is also needed to protect wetlands throughout the nation. Legislation introduced in Congress would change the definition of wetlands by lengthening the amount of time the land would have to be flooded or saturated;

temporarily dry areas would not be protected, although usually wet, and development of low quality land would be permitted without a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. Also proposed is legislation preventing the Environmental Protection Agency or the Fish & Wildlife Service from challenging the Corps' decisions.

Please write or call your senators and representatives (Page 24 in phone directory) and urge them to support the bill introduced by Rep. Lindsay Thomas, D-Ga. His bill would continue the present definitions of wetlands and would protect EPA's power to veto permits for environmentally sensitive lands. (Chuck Potter)

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CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
and BOARD MEMBERS - please mark your calendars.

The Conservation meeting and the Board meeting will both be held on Thursday, September 19th. Conservation will convene at 7:00 p.m. and the Board at 7:30 p.m. - at Ruth's house as usual.

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BIRDING IN GUATEMALA

After a day in Belize, we crossed into Guatemala, duly warned not to respond if guerillas stopped the bus, but to leave all discussion to our leaders. A somewhat unsettling beginning! We did, however, proceed without incident to Tikal, the marvelous Mayan city restored by the University of Pennsylvania and the Guatemalan government. The six great temples, monuments and plazas are beautiful to behold.

Ocellated turkeys stalk the grounds. They have blue heads with orange-red knots and "warts," and their plumage resembles intricate weavings of blue, red, green, black, white and bronze. Walking in Tikal means navigating on limestone paths made slimy by mold formed in the very humid atmosphere. The birds, however, were wonderful.

There were parrots galore: brown-hooded, white-crowned, white-fronted, red-lored, and mealy. Some of these we saw spectacularly from the top of Temple IV, which we climbed using a series of ladders.

Other highlights included four species of trogons, the breath-taking blue-crowned mot-mot, five species of kingfishers, two puffbirds. Then there were the toucans: keel-billed, collared aracari, emerald toucanet; the "adorable" barred antshrike - black and white male, rusty female; the dot-winged antwren; many flycatchers, including the great kiskadee; manakin, some snapping on the lek, and on and on. One of my favorites was the gray-throated chat, a gorgeous bird with a gray head and upper parts and a red breast.

We looked long and hard for the great curassow, but had to admit defeat, a defeat made more bitter when a young, non-birding couple came up to us and asked, "What was that big bird with the black curly crest and the yellow knob on top of the bill?"

We were in Tikal almost five days and left with a feel for the great beauty of the rain forest. We then moved on to Guatemala City, a busy metropolis of two million people, modern and sophisticated, a great contrast to the rest of the country. On to a cloud forest, which is always found in higher altitudes, is cooler and is surrounded by mist. As we climbed up in the Biotopo Reserve, seeking birds along the shadowy paths, the view became ethereal in the mist-laden atmosphere.

In subsequent days we traveled west, first to Antigua, the former capital, a beautiful, ancient city almost destroyed in 1976 by an earthquake. Some landmark buildings have been restored, but there are still many desolate ruins. Our Spanish colonial hotel was built on an old estate and had several courtyards, one of which held cages of scarlet macaws, also seen flying freely in the wild, a beautiful sight. Antigua is the site of the oldest university in the new world.

During our journey we saw natives or all ages carrying heavy loads, often bundles of wood; vendors selling woven goods, especially huipils, woven squares with a hole in the middle for the head.

We viewed beautiful Lake Atitlan, host to the pied-billed grebe, but no longer to the flightless grebe, which is now considered extinct and for which the lake was once well known. One possible cause was the introduction of bass, which ate the chicks.

On to Chichicastenango and its famous open market, then to our last stop, Quetzaltenango. We saw birds of prey, woodpeckers, woodcreepers, hummingbirds, tanagers, finches and seedeaters. We counted more than 20 of "our" wintering warblers. There were some endemic species, including one beautiful warbler - the pink-headed, a red bird with a pink head. Lovely trip. (Rita Rosenberg)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our Washington lawmakers are home now just waiting to hear from you. Congress adjourned without voting to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for exploratory oil drilling. This will probably be revisited again after September 3rd. A Senate committee voted to recommend opening the area for this most destructive, inefficient land-use imaginable. We must counteract this by contacting Senators Connie Mack and Bob Graham.

A new bill in Congress has reared its ugly head - it mandates timber production as the first priority in public forests (hope they don't have Dupuis Reserve in Palm Beach County in mind). It reduces citizens' rights in court, and will gut the Endangered Species Act. Let's talk to Harry Johnston, or any other representative you might know, and ask them to co-sponsor the Ancient Forests Protection Act of 1991, H.R. 842.

As if all this isn't enough bad news in Washington, we are asked to join with The Everglades Coalition made up of most all the state and national conservation groups you ever

heard of) with as many voices as possible to support H.R. 251 and to oppose H.R. 1330. The Coalition has contacted Governor Chiles to ask him to stand tall, and also recommends contacting our legislators.

H.R. 251 hangs in there for no net loss of wetlands, strengthens Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act, which in turn overviews the Corps of Engineers and its inclination to ditch, dredge and drain. It would force mitigation where there are impacts, requires the Corps to pay attention to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Marine Fisheries Service, strengthens EPA oversight on decisions, forces cumulative impact studies and several other constructive requirements. Oppose H.R. 1330, which eliminates the 404 program, cancels EPA oversight, and redefines what is a wetland.

You can believe, if this is not stopped congressionally, we will feel the repercussions way down here in little old Palm Beach County! Local developers holding hands with some "flexible" staff people and city and county commissioners have held a County Wetlands Protection Ordinance hostage. It stands to be gutted (as they did to a Mining and Excavation Ordinance) or cancelled completely.

Closely connected to the outcome will be not only the future of the mid-western part of our county, the success of our Bond Issue to buy sensitive lands, the Loxahatchee Slough and entire river system, and where schools, including FAU, will be located, but also coastal wetlands, which have all but disappeared. It will keep estuaries, fishing, and the declining health of Lake Worth hanging by a very thin thread.

Contact your local (city or county) representatives to support a local wetland protection ordinance administered by the county's Department of Environmental Resource Management.

Two ASE Board co-members, Jeanne and Bob Wershoven, deserve our congratulations on publications of research on Juvenile Green Turtles!

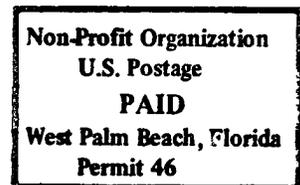
Taking a lead from FAS President Bernie Yokel, who now sends chapters a review on monthly meetings, our chapter representatives have attended and gone on record at an environmental leaders' meeting with Secretary of DER Carol Browner, the Regents' hearing on the location of FAU in sensitive land areas, a School Board meeting to re-affirm ASE's desire to comment on new school sites, SFWMD Board meetings to comment on water use policy, Dupuis contract hearing on use and management of resources,

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council meetings, the Board of County Commissioners regular meetings and sitting as the Local Planning Agency voting on our Comprehensive Plan changes.

Decisions at every painful bureaucratic level do have a ripple effect on the final outcome of the level of impact we tolerate on any surviving habitat in our county.
(Cissie Durando)

**AUDUBON SOCIETY
of the EVERGLADES**

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



Palm Beach Co. Library System
3650 Summit Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406