



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 31, No. 6

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

APRIL 1991

ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES TALK ON SANDHILL CRANES.

Stephen Nesbitt comes to us from the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission's Wildlife Research Laboratory in Gainesville to present our April 2nd program on "Florida Sandhill Cranes." Nesbitt will discuss what as been learned about the basic biology of the sandhill crane and how that knowledge is being applied to the possible re-introduction of whooping cranes to Florida.

His presentation will include information about range, habitat requirements, reproductive biology, pair formation strategy and seasonal movements of the cranes.

Born in Washington, D.C. and educated in Texas and Oklahoma, Nesbitt has worked for the G&FWF Commission since 1971. In addition to sandhill cranes, his work has included studies of bald eagles, brown pelicans and red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center. Or, hopefully, join us at 6 p.m. for a covered dish supper and pre-meeting social our. The Hospitality Committee will provide an anchor dish of chicken, so bring a covered dish or dessert to go along with that.

The annual meeting will include

election of the nominees and approval of the budget (see page 2), as well as awards and surprises.

(Rhonda Wilson)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 5:30 P.M. - Evening Fly-in, A.R.M. Loxahatchee Nat. Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Boardwalk.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 8:00 A.M. - Hugh Taylor Birch Park, Fort Lauderdale (off Ala at Sunrise Blvd). Meet at entrance. Wally George, leader.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30 - 7:30 A.M. - Hypoluxo Island. Park at marina on southwest side Lantana Bridge. Gloria Hunter, leader.

(Woody Bracey)

DUPUIS RESERVE FIELD TRIP

Everyone needs to get away from the hubbub of modern civilization once in a while. That's exactly what 30 enthusiastic Audubon members enjoyed doing on March 2nd.

We met at the Dupuis Wildlife and Environmental Reserve, about 40 miles west of W.P.B., and anxiously looked forward to a "back to nature" hike across some of South Florida's natural and scenic terrain. This beautiful tract of land, now owned by the State and SFWMD, encompasses over 21,000

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PROPOSED NOMINATIONS AND BUDGET

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, Article VII - Nominating Committee, and Article VI, Section 3 - Finance Committee, the following items have been accepted by the Board of Directors for submission to the membership for its consideration at the Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 2, 1991.

1991-1992 PROPOSED OFFICER

President-elect Elwood Bracey

PROPOSED DIRECTORS

Directors are elected for three-year terms, with rotation occurring throughout the three years. The following, if elected, will serve until April 1994:

Phyllis Cafarelli
Jeannie Girard
Nancy Hewitt
Rhonda Wilson
Esther Zaretsky

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all those who have accepted nomination to the Board. Nominations may be made from the floor if prior consent of nominee is obtained.

Nominating Committee: Chuck Potter, Cecil Kilmer.

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CONSERVATION REPORT

Thanks for all the "YES" votes (2 to 1) on the environmentally sensitive land bond issue referendum!

At the Regional Planning Council on March 15th, we helped persuade the Council to vote against adding 360 superfluous acres of industrial zoning to Jupiter's already sufficient acreage. Also a vote went against a 327-acre development in environmentally sensitive land by Royal Palm Beach.

We responded with an opposing letter to the Corps of Engineers regarding the lake bottom fill for a marina complex south of the Lake Worth Bridge (copies to DER, DNR, ERM and Town of Palm Beach. I attended a Palm Beach Council meeting where that body also voted again to oppose this plan which we have fought since 1969.

Don't forget to plant a tree or two, and remember to send a contribution to help our chapter's Bird-athon (P.O.BOX 6762, W.P.B. 33405).

I am encouraged by the new WMD Board members and wish us well!

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10th, 7:30 p.m., home of Ruth Trumpower, Lake Worth.
(Chuck Potter)

1991-1992 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME

Interest on Savings	\$ 3,000
Interest/Conservation Fund	4,200
Dues	3,500
Sales	500
Grants	13,500
50/50 Club	350
Endowment Fund	2,000
Miscellaneous Contributions	500
Retained Excess Revenue	<u>1,210</u>

<u>TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME</u>	<u>\$28,760</u>
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EXPENSES

Bird Census	\$ 100	
Everglades Kite	5,300	
Exhibits	400	
Field Trips	50	
Hospitality	300	
Membership	300	
Nature Trail	50	
Publicity	200	
Sanctuaries	<u>150</u>	
		6,850

Education:		
Programs	1,300	
Youth Camp Scholarships,		
Education Workshops, Mem-		
berships for Schools, etc.,		
Student Education, Awards	<u>10,000</u>	11,300

Conservation:		
Conservation Committee	1,000	
Bonnie Findlay (Bambi Sanc.)	300	
Lox. Natural History Assoc.	50	
FAS Birds of Prey Center	250	
Treasure Coast Wildlife Hosp.	300	
Florida Audubon Society	500	
Legal	<u>1,000</u>	
		3,400

Donations:		
W.P.B. Garden Club	810	810

Supplementary Services:		
Convention, Travel	1,500	
President	500	
Secretary	200	
Treasurer	100	
Audit/Review	2,000	
Property Maintenance	100	
Insurance	500	
Stationery & Supplies	350	
Audubon Telephone	800	
Storage	250	
Fees	<u>100</u>	
		<u>6,400</u>

<u>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$28,760</u>
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Finance Committee: Seymour Miller,
Ruth Trumpower, Chuck Potter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Some reflections from your president for the last newsletter of our year:

1. We were instrumental in pushing for new possibilities for Palm Beach County. We worked through reluctant County Commissioners to get the sensitive land purchases proposal on the ballot and then promoted it tirelessly to the public and press for support. A lovely closing for the year.

2. We have new members, guests and long-time supporters attending our meetings. I'm sure those who haven't unjected themselves into more active roles may feel overwhelmed or not know how to proceed. Please come to our annual April get-together at 6 p.m. before the usual excellent program and annual meeting business. We can become better acquainted and answer, in an informal way, all those questions that come to mind. If some of us have seemed preoccupied at times, bring us back to you.

3. The annual Florida legislative session has cranked up. Locally Ray Liberti is a key representative, as he is on the House Appropriations and the Community Affairs Committees. Senator Eleanor Weinstock serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Urge them to support full funding for "Preservation 2000." Also of prime importance - we wish to support shielding growth management rules and upholding concurrency, regardless of the size of the political government involved.

The new Board of SFWMD has hedged on setting icy and taking definite stands on some major issues involving eminent domain in water conservation areas and funding for the S.W.I.M. program. Contact our county legislators and urge support of HB 2157 for a storm water utility district and an agricultural funding source for cleaning and controlling water flowing into the Everglades.

The Non-game Program of the G&FWF Commission is in deep trouble. There must be a serious commitment to funding. Urge our legislators to increase the allotment on vehicle title fees.

Support HB 431 and SB 1028 for speed limits on boaters on the Intracoastal. Let's get serious about manatee and boater protection.

I look forward to seeing you at our supper and meeting on April 2nd. (Cissie Durando)

DUPUIS RESERVE (continued)

acres and includes many miles of well-marked hiking trails provided by the Florida Trail Association. The bright orange blazes upon trees kept us all on track and eased our minds as to the possibility of becoming lost in such a vast area. Everyone caught on quickly to the pattern of changing direction at the sight of each double blaze and continued along the trail through the pine woods viewing red-bellied and gray woodpeckers and a pair of yellow-shafted flickers setting up housekeeping in a dead tree.

The musical trill of pine warblers, alerting us to the coming of spring, rang out through the trees, and we finally located several of them in a large pine. Eastern phoebes, loggerhead

shrikes, rufous-sided towhees, eastern meadow-larks, gray catbirds, ground doves, northern mockingbirds, and a few American kestrels also kept us company, along with the hard-to-miss blue jays and our bright, cherry northern cardinals which are so often taken for granted. Yellow-rumped warblers seemed everywhere, flitting from pine to pine and then to the oaks where they could hide easily among small leaves and forage for insects.

The pine/palmetto flatwoods soon gave way to open grass land dotted with scattered hardwoods, cabbage palms, broadleaf marshes and wetland areas where a few woodstorks, great egrets and ibis were observed. The morning was cool and breezy, and the landscape peaceful and picturesque. It was a great place to search for red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks and maybe catch a glimpse of a bald eagle or two. We kept looking up, but it seemed as though our familiar turkey vultures were the sole entertainers of the sky that morning.

Identifying interesting native plants, strange insects, and delicate wildflowers kept everyone quite busy, along with trying to locate new birds and wildlife. With so many of us parading down the trail, whatever else was out there obviously heard us coming a long way off and beat a hasty retreat.

As the morning progressed, we began to split up into smaller groups, each exploring at their own pace. The aim was to cover the first loop of 4.3 miles, but some members headed back before the half-way point. Maybe we should hold the wild hogs responsible for that maneuver, as they have a somewhat nasty habit of modifying the surface of the land to a rather uneven level by their excessive "rootings." You had to step carefully in the thick grasses in places. Last year 240 of the hogs were removed from the reserve during the hunting season. However, we thoroughly enjoyed the outing and had plenty of fresh air, sunshine, and a taste of the "real Florida."

As the last of our group trudged back to home base about 11:30 a.m., we arrived just in time to spot an adult bald eagle cruising overhead. Sorry for those of you who missed the sighting, and right in the parking area, no less.

Although land in Dupuis appears natural, weathered fence posts, a few old buildings and a sun-bleached cattle bone or two were telltale signs that the property once functioned as a ranch. It was called the White Belt Ranch and belonged to the Dupuis Family who ran an extensive dairy operation. In its heyday, the ranch supported over 4000 cattle, sheep and goats, along with 35 acres of citrus, mangos and... you name it. Some of the wetlands at that time were cleared and drained for grazing, but there are future plans to restore those areas to their former native ecosystems. Seventeen hundred acres were control-burned last year so that wildflowers and native grasses could again return to their natural state.

As fast as our native wilderness is being destroyed around us, it is encouraging to know that large areas such as Dupuis Reserve continue to exist and will be maintained for our enjoyment as well as for the continued survival
(continued page 4)

RETURNING NORTH/LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER...let us know so you can keep up with our activities. Our newsletter does not get forwarded. Complete the form and either bring it with you to the April 2 meeting or mail it our Membership Chair: 341 Walton Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

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NAME _____
from: _____ Phone: (407) _____
ADDRESS _____ APT _____
CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____
to: as of _____
ADDRESS _____ APT _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
P.S. Returning south on or about: _____
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DUPUIS RESERVE (continued)

of wildlife such as the endangered bald eagle.

For information on hiking/camping at Dupuis, call the SFWMD office at 686-8800, for the area is closed to hikers on various days during the hunting season. Don't forget to take along a snack and something to drink.
(Katie Gersher)

KITE STRINGS

Pine Jog will hold a workshop on "Marketing Environmental Education" on April 12, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The workshop will offer a business-like perspective on promoting environmental education. Call 686-6600 for details. Cost - \$25.

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For Sale: Swift Telemaster Zoom Spotting Scope (15x60, Model 841) \$50.00. Cecil Kilmer, 433-9086.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES

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