



EVERGLADES NAT'L. PARK
SUPERINTENDENT TO SPEAK

Robert Chandler, superintendent of Everglades National Park, will be the guest speaker at our July 2nd meeting. His talk will focus on the challenges presented by this national park, listed as one of the nation's ten most endangered parks by the Wilderness Society.

Just a few of the problems Chandler faces are the quality of the water in the park and the fate of Florida Bay, a vast nursery and productive fishery that is losing its grass beds. Urban development threatens the park's eastern and western borders, and the oil industry seeks drilling rights on the northern border.

Chandler began his 30-year career with the National Park Service in 1958 as a supervisory horticulturist for the National Capitol Parks. He has been assistant superintendent of Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington, director of National Park Service's Chicago Field Office, superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis and the first superintendent of Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area near Los Angeles.

He became superintendent of Olympia National Park in 1983 and came to Everglades National Park in 1990.

It will be a special treat to have Mr. Chandler with us. Please bring a friend and join us at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Dreher Trail North.

(Rhonda Wilson)

COLOR ME REDDISH

Would you turn up your eyebrows in doubt if I told you we saw over 100 reddish egrets in one day? Our annual trip to the Merritt Island Refuge at Titusville coincided with a convention of reddish egrets.

Driving out the beach road in early morning we noticed great activity by a large flock of white ibis, great egrets, wood storks, and snowies. In among them were dark birds prancing about; 23 reddish egrets. On the outskirts of the big flock were more dark birds dancing off to their own music.

As we worked back to make the Black Pond circuit trip, we saw more reddish egrets in all the shallow salt water ponds. We saw 8, 10 or 15 birds at every stop. What a contrast in fishing techniques were demonstrated here.

The tall stately great blue heron, the motionless little blue, the patient snowy, and the crouching Louisiana have stealth and surprise on their side. But along comes a runner,

a prancer, a dancer, jerking across the water, spreading his wings to canopy, and jabbing at the water to come up with a fish. How does he run so fast and not splash? How does he feint to the right and stab to the left?

Even when he stops, he cocks his head left side down and looks so awkward he should starve. But he thrives, and he looks so beautiful with his blue-gray plumage blending into the subtle rose of his neck. When I come back again, I want to be a reddish egret and have fun juking and jiving across the flats.

(Hank McCall)

CONSERVATION REPORT

Mr. Beverly Wheat of Jupiter Inlet Colony, a long-time outdoorsman and friend of Audubon, passed away this May. His widow, Jane, had been asked to have friends contribute to the Audubon Society of the Everglades in lieu of sending flowers.

We are very grateful for the response to this request and again thank the following families for their donation to our chapter: Kelley, Plummer, Bennett, H. Smith, McAdoo, Robinson, Davis, Truslow, and Suppes.

Mr. Whest was active in outdoor events most of his life and was a member of the Adirondack Outdoors Club. Sadly, New York's Adirondack Park is facing increasing development pressures, and National Audubon is launching a program to recruit "Adirondack Advocates." These volunteers will mount a public awareness campaign throughout the state. Interested people outside New York may also sign up. Contact David Miller, National Audubon Society, Northeast Regional Office, 1789 Western Ave., Albany, New York 12203.

Letters to your senators and representatives are needed as the ancient forests debate in Congress intensifies. Audubon and the Ancient Forest Alliance support the key concepts of the Ancient Forest Protection Act, H.R. 842.

Postcards urging protection

of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were prepared by Jeannie Girard, a member of the Conservation Committee, and passed out at ASE's June meeting for members' signature. She then mailed them to Representative Harry Johnson. At its June meeting, the Conservation Committee approved a second round of cards to be sent to Senator Graham. If you have not written your legislators through the postcard campaign or individually, please take a few minutes to pen a note to one or more of our Congressmen.

Next Conservation Meeting:
Wednesday, July 10th, 7:30 p.m., at
the home of Ruth Trumpower.
(Chuck Potter)

BIRDING IN COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a small country with more than 830 species of birds. The country has many climatic variations between its shores on the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. A central chain of mountains, which includes several active volcanoes, runs the length of the country from northwest to southeast. Sixty percent of the population lives in the central area of the country, and twenty percent of the land is protected in preserves. There are many diverse avian habitats.

Noisy parrots - scarlet macaws, orange-chinned, orange-fronted, brown-hooded, etc., flew overhead often. The variety of hummingbirds was staggering. My group saw 30 species hovering, feeding, fighting off intruders - all beautiful, iridescent, gorget-flashing. The tanagers were breathtaking in their colors and patterns. One very common one was the scarlet-rumped tanager, a velvety-black bird with a large area of brilliant scarlet.

There were good sightings of gorgeous motmots, perhaps the most beautiful being the turquoise-browed Motmots have two long central tail feathers which are completely vaned when they first grow out, but become racket-tipped by the loss of some loosely-attached barbs above the

terminal discs, leaving a length of
naked shaft. (to be continued)

(Rita Rosenberg)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is again time for event-review
and more important, time to stir the
conscience and resolve to make-a-
difference.

Most demanding of immediate atten-
tion, call or write your Congressmen.
We support H.R.251, filed by Represent-
ative Bennett (FL) which strengthens
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. It
regulates discharges into waters of
the U.S., including wetlands. We
strongly oppose H.R.1330, sponsored
by Hayes (LA). And we all know what
a failure Louisiana has been in
wetland protection. The latter bill
would take away EPA's overview of the
Corps' action. The Corps would re-
define what a wetland is, doubling the
required flooding time among other
things. The rationale for this is to
be able to let developers proceed and
-till comply with "no net loss," by
imply omitting wetlands by definition
(as opposed to function). We must
act quickly and do all in our power
to be heard. Also dial Western Union,
1-800-325-6000, Hotline #9404. For
\$6 charged to your phone, a pre-re-
corded telegram will be sent to Presi-
dent Bush and Committee Chairs Senator
Baucus and Representative Roe. The
message is "I am opposed to proposed
changes in wetlands deliniation manual
resulting in destruction of our nation's
wetlands. Please keep your promise to
protect."

Some of you attending our regular
June meeting sensed that there was some
controversy in the handling of funds
intended for the Nongame Wildlife Sec-
tion of the Game & Fresh Water Fish
Commission. They have just conducted
a public comment meeting, in Talla-
hassee, of course, but written comments
are in order. Write to Brian Millsap,
Supervisor, Nongame Wildlife, 620 S.
Meridian St., Tallahassee 32399; express
your views, hopefully that funds are
not diverted when nongame species are in
such jeopardy, in need for research
for data, and habitat protection. And
remember that map: no critical habitat

designations between Jacksonville and
Miami on the eastern seaboard! What
about we who host the panther, snail
kite, red-cockaded woodpecker, wood
stork, and innumerable plant species.

Locally, please call at least
one County Commissioner: Chairman
Marcus and/or your own district com-
missioner; ask them to support a good
archeological ordinance that really
will protect historical and pre-his-
torical sites. There will be a work-
shop on this prior to public hearings.

The great Transfer of Development
Rights (TDR) battle has begun. That
is a process where wetland owners,
including the sites named in our bond
referendum to be bought by the county,
would allow the owner to sell his units
to a developer situated on land more
suited to development. Please call or
write in support of this. Some of us
feel that if an area such as the pro-
posed new Town of Wellington is per-
mitted with thousands of units over
what was designated in our Compre-
hensive Plan, the developer should at
least have to purchase units from our
"A" sites so that the property
bought with public funds would be
considerably less without the
development rights.

On June 15th I represented our
chapter at an Everglades Coalition
meeting. The groundwork is being
laid out for the 7th annual coalition
workshop in January 1992. On July 1st,
there will be a SWFMD workshop on
Lake Okeechobee and the federal law-
suit and the latest proposal.

A new subcommittee is forming to
formulate a "linked open-space" plan
for the county. There will be some
rivalry between those promulgating
recreation vs. wildlife, in all pro-
bability. Any folks who are interested
in sitting in, do get in touch!
Cuclists have already expressed a
desire to be on the Committee.

A couple of us have had an "en-
vironmental tour" of five county
schoole; offered the whole gamut from
praise to criticism and suggestions
in between.

I joined a small group, including

a representative from National Audubon Society, on June 3rd to discuss the possibilities of the restoration of "Beer Can Island," west of the Boynton Inlet (South Lake Worth Inlet District). It is privately owned, and we would help with the plan that includes exoctic removal and beach protection and, hopefilly, the nesting of least terns. There are night herons nesting there now, and a reddish egret that frequents.

We got a needed warm-fuzzy feeling to hear that Greenacres renamed a little green space "Burrowing Owl Park." It used to nuture four or five dens, but currently is do to one brave little family completely surrounded by all sorts of activity. Some of our members were helpful in accomplishing this renaming.

(Cissie Duramdo)

**AUDUBON SOCIETY
of the EVERGLADES**

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