



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 32, No. 8

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

MAY 1992

BLOWING ROCKS PRESERVE
AND NATURE CONSERVANCY
FEATURED AT MAY MEETING

Jennifer Ashrooke, program coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's Blowing Rocks Preserve, will present a program on this interesting Preserve at ASE's May 5th meeting.

Jennifer is in charge of running the educational programs at the Preserve, as well as managing their corps of volunteers. Originally from Massachusetts, where she was a Nature Conservancy volunteer, Jennifer moved to Florida three years ago as an employee of the organization. She will tell us about the work of the Conservancy and about the Preserve.

A short mini-program preceding the main speaker will present information on The Palm Beach County Urban Form Study, an on-going study of the future overall direction of the county.

Join us and bring a friend to the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center on Tuesday, May 5th, at 7:30 p.m.
(Jeannie Girard)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 2 - Palm Beach Lake Trail.
Meet at Poinciana Chapel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Cecil Kilmer, leader.

TUESDAY, MAY 5 - Dreher Park North.

Meet at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Gloria Hunter, leader.
(Elwood D. Bracey)

ADVENTURES CLUB HELPED WITH BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Audubon Adventures Club at Palm Beach Public School, in cooperation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, has started a butterfly garden. The combined efforts, under the direction of Mrs. Evelyn Dowling, have produced a ground swell of plant donations and interest in butterflies.

The students have watched and learned as the caterpillars changed into their chrysalises and then wonderfully changed into butterflies a couple of weeks later.

In addition, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has generously donated four scholarships to the Garden Club Camp at Wekiva Springs for the children.

This cooperative effort is greatly appreciated.
(Nancy Hewitt)

THANKS TO HOSPITALITY

At its April meeting, ASE's Board of Directors recognized and heartily applauded Hospitality Chairman Susan Snyder and others for the excellent

covered dish supper before the annual meeting.

And Susan would like to thank everyone who helped to make our annual meeting supper such a success. All the pot luck dishes were delicious! A special thank you to Stella Rossi for baking that beautiful cake and making the fruit centerpiece. Many thanks also to Marie Lang, Roy Snyder, Jack Porter and Nancy Hewitt who assisted with setting up, serving and cleaning up.

1992-93 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS

Because ASE's yearly brochure listing board members, field trips and programs is not sent out until October, members of the Board of Directors are listed below in case you need to reach any of them during the summer interval.

President - Dr. Elwood D. Bracey, 659-2266 (o)
(also Field Trips)

President Elect - Jeff Ornstein, 622-7701

Vice President - Chuck Potter, 586-4221

(also Publicity)

Secretary - Joan Hourican, 684-5604

Treasurer - Seymour Miller, 686-3570

Conservation - Cissie Durando, 965-2420

Co-Chair - Doris Henriquez, 582-5900

Education - Pat Althouse, 793-8299

Co-chair - Nancy Hewitt, 588-8657

Everglade Kite - Ruth Trumpower, 585-3968

Exhibits - Susan Korzenewski, 842-2364

Grants/Legislation - Esther Zaretsky, 689-6689

Hospitality - Susan Snyder, 968-0721

Membership - Phyllis A. Cafarelli, 832-1272

Programs - Jeannie Girard, 965-1390

Sales - Stella Rossi, 732-4786

Sanctuaries - Carole Fields, 586-5431

At Large - Ruth Samuels, 659-2266 (o)

At Large - Bob Wershoven, 734-6453

Library is a non-board committee and Gloria Hunter, 585-7714, continues as chairman.

We need another director. Now's the time to volunteer as an At Large and have three years to learn the ropes. (R. Trumpower)

REPORTS OF SCRUB JAY SIGHTINGS REQUESTED

Dr. Grace Iverson and Jack Gardner continue to monitor Florida scrub jay numbers and locations in Palm Beach County. Jack is banding the jays, thus avoiding duplication and indicating size of territories. It may also allow sex and age determination, as well as how far "helpers at the nest" (a unique feature of only the Florida subspecies) go when they finally find a mate and establish their own territories. To accomplish the above, Grace and Jack need all the help possible, as follows:

1. Location, date of sightings of unbanded jays; if known, nearest location where Required landowner permission might be obtained for banding; e.g. jays coming to your own or neighbors yard to be fed, nearest park or other land with suitable dwarf oak habitat where jays are seen.

2. Location, date of sightings of banded jays. Jays are banded with all necessary federal and state permits, using proven techniques harmless and minimizing stress. Normally each banded bird has one aluminium U.S. Fish & Wildlife numbered leg band, plus two plastic colored leg bands. Sometimes one or both colored bands are missing. If possible (probably need binoculars)

note and report order of colors of bands and whether on right or left leg.

3. Location, date and time you observe any of the following behaviors of a scrub jay with identifiable bands. These observations will allow sexing and/or distinction between breeders and helpers:

(a) If a jay is seen to feed another adult jay, a behavior of the male breeder to the female breeder. Fledglings, identified by gray rather than blue heads, may be fed by any adult.

(b) If a jay makes a clicking (sometimes referred to as hiccuping) sound - only done by females.

(c) If jay is seen incubating on a nest, done only by female breeder. You may not see the bands of incubating bird, but you may be able to identify which bird it is by elimination if band colors of other birds in area are observed. DO NOT APPROACH NEST TO DISTURB INCUBATING FEMALE.

Please report any of the above to Grace, 482-3092 (Boca Raton); Jack, 732-7110 (Boynton Beach), or Mary Jane, 747-3141 (Tequesta).
(Jack Gardner)

TELEPHONE TREE NEWS

The phone tree has grown again, therefore we have split it into two branches. You will be receiving your new list soon if you have volunteered to make a call to an official and then call your phone buddy with the message, or preferably - vice versa.

Thanks to all of you for your splendid cooperation. We are making a difference! To those of you who have not yet joined our phone tree, this is a great time to do so. Call me at 965-1390.
(Jeannie Girard)

HUMMINGBIRDS OF ITATIAIA

A massif, Serra de Mantiqueira, rises to 9000 feet a few miles from the Atlantic Ocean and five hours bus ride southwest of Rio de Janeiro. The area is so spectacular that it is a national park, but a civilized one. Swiss style chalets dot the slopes and the lovely Hotel Simon is the center.

Feeders for hummingbirds and tanagers are plentiful, but there are so many birds they suck the vases dry by 11 a.m. The tanagers learn to hover and dip the syrup from the feeders. Even a big red-rump cacique acted like a hummingbird and hovered while dipping into the artificial flower.

Early morning finds few tanagers or hummingbirds about because it is too cold. Before breakfast we concentrated on finding motmots, thrush, and woodpeckers.

By 9 o'clock the sun was breaking through the mist, and flocks of tanagers arrived at the bread and fruit feeders. We saw golden-chevrons tanagers, sayaca, hepatic, gilt-edged, brassy-breasted, burnished-buff, black-goggled ruby-crown, and diademed. They were all over the place, flitting and socializing while they gorged, and not the least bit shy.

The hummingbirds aggressively defended their

feeding territory, ganging up to beat off the tanagers, woodpeckers, and caciques. We saw Brazilian ruby, glittering-bellied emerald, violet-capped woodnymph, white-vented violet ear, hyacinth visorbearer, scaled-throated hermit, and black-eared fairy.

How the names are dreamed up and officially adopted must be a story of complexity and sharp trading.

In conclusion, our trip to southern Brazil was one of the best of a lifetime of journeys, ranking even with Africa and southeast Asia. Go soon before your time runs out. (Hank McCall)

CONSERVATION REPORT

In the event that some of you folks out there have not yet contacted any of your Florida legislators, and even if you have: the residents of Palm Beach County do want Preservation-2000 funded. Throw in a call or note to Governor Chiles. Public pressure is a two-way street, and I don't need to tell you what happens if there is a vacuum!

The last two months have seen producers in the Everglades Agricultural Area of Palm Beach County bus hundreds of west county people to Water Management Board meetings, equipped with unsubstantiated fear protestations and pink T-shirts with green lettering, "Sink with SWIM," run large ads in newspapers, pass out more "sky is falling" fliers, and mostly swamping the Governor and District Board members with dire predictions and facts such as, "birds don't vote!"

Please contact the Governor now urging him, greatness by saving the pitiful small remnants of our great Everglades system and all the rare species that are still hanging in there. Remind him that this is a world class park. As the saviour of the park, he could take a place in history next to John J. Audubon himself! Probably within ten years most of our sugar will come from Cuba anyway.

Somewhat along this line, call your County Commissioner and Karen Marcus, the Chair, and urge them not to permit the sugar interests to build two "trash to electricity" (co-generation) plants in the Everglades Agricultural Area. The county should not be backing industrial tax-free bonds for such an unworthy purpose. If a not-for-profit private company needs to invest in a worn out plant, so be it! As for the sugar industry needing another bail-out, that's wrong! And as for a 30-year contract to supply power, that's FPL's job in a more controlled environment. Lastly, as for producing sugar more cheaply in the future, we will never see that windfall and, as stated, most of it may come in from Cuba.

History has demonstrated over and over - the Board of County Commissioners are indeed recipients of bad advice, heavy lobbying and contributions, and make bad decisions with which we get stuck.

Remember the National Audubon Society Convention June 13-19 - a chance to get intimate with the Washington scene. Headquarters will be at the American University.

In closing this month's Conservation column,

I have a wish to formally thank the ASE Board of Directors members who served with me the last two years. Some have long records of service to the chapter (and praise be for that experienced help) and some were new faces that came with just a little trepidation, but with enthusiasm. We all did just fine and enjoyed the time spent (Cissie Durando)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

My first statement in this new position is a well deserved thank you to Cissie Durando. As president, she brought us to a greater awareness and acitivism on conservation issues, and will continue on this mission of hers as chairman of the Conservation Committee. I will defer to her expertise and dedication to continue to get results in our fight to save what we have left of native habitat here in south Florida. Chuck Potter, Stella Rossi and Jeannie Girard are our other environmental activists who deserve much credit. We can all help by writing and calling our local representatives on both state and federal issues, and our County Commissioners and city fathers on local issues.

It is my goal as president to expand our membership as well as increase the participation of those we already have. If my busy work schedule allows me to do this job, I know you all can help out more, and I intend to ask for your help.

One important item which needs immediate attention is to write your U.S. senators and representatives to strengthen the Endangered Species Act. Without it, the black-footed ferret, spotted owl, red wolf, California condor and the whooping crane would already be gone. Only a miracle and a lot of hard work preserving habitat can rescue our Florida panther, but we've got to give it a go. It's not just what's good for the animals, but what's good for people. Our planet has been degraded enough. It's hurting our quality of life more and more. We each must make it our responsibility to reverse this trend before it is too late.

The natural world has given me a lot of pleasure during my life, and it's time for me to give something back. I hope throughout my term as president I can accomplish this. With your help there is a chance we can save Florida for our children and their children.

(Elwood D. Bracey, M.D.)

FIELD TRIP NOTES.

This year has been very successful in the field, and Howard Langridge is largely responsible. He led us on a great trip to Merritt Island the weekend of February 21 and 22, where we saw 100 different species of birds. Notable were gannets and yeagers from the beach, clapper and sora rails in the marsh, and avocet, red knot, stilt sandpipers, marbled godwit, dunlin and both the long and short billed dowitchers on the mudflats. Many varieties of ducks were there in large numbers, and a pair of nesting bald eagles were seen shortly before heading home.

The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary bus trip on 3/28 was another Langridge-led success. The boardwalk afforded great views of many birds, frogs, butterflies and aquatic plants. This year was the wood storks' most successful

successful nesting in 20 years. The noise of the rookeries, with their many babies, could be heard from a long way off. The barn owl gave us a good look, as did three bright yellow male prothonotary warblers. A limpkin on its nest was an unusual sight, and a beautiful little blue heron in full breeding plumage right beneath the boardwalk gave photographers a great opportunity. The bus was full of active watchers along the road, who spotted caracara, sandhill cranes, and every heron except the reddish egret, which is found only in salt or brackish waters. N.A.S. owns the Sanctuary and we should make more use of it. Additional acreage has been added to it lately, so it should be even better.

We thank Howard and all the others who have made this a great birding year. We hope the migrants will cooperate with us in early May and that these travelers from the tropics to ports north will have a safe journey and pay us a stop here in Palm Beach County on the way. Remember - "clean lenses and fast focusing." Take the time to enjoy the out-of-doors during this beautiful spring weather when so much is stirring, particularly the birds.

(Elwood D. Bracey. M.D.)

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR....some of you are beginning to turn your thoughts to the North. Once again, if you wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please complete the form and either bring it with you to the May 5 meeting or mail it to our Membership Chair: 341 Walton Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33405.

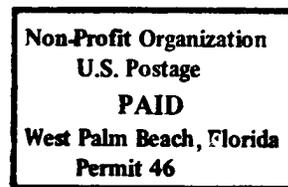
.....
NAME _____
Northern Address as of: _____

_____ APT _____
CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

P.S. Returning South on or about: _____

**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

MOVING? Let our Membership Chairman know!!