



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

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Ruth Trumpower, Editor

JUNE 1992

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER TO BE FEATURED IN JUNE

Richard Roberts, Florida Park Service biologist, will present a program, "Overview of Loxahatchee National Wild & Scenic River," at the June 2nd monthly meeting.

Mr. Roberts, who is on the staff of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, is an active field biologist, with about 90 percent of his workday spent in the field. He coordinates the ongoing controlled burning in the park, investigates fish kills and checks for exotic plants. One project which he is doing now is the banding of the park's endangered scrub population.

Join us and bring a friend to ASE's June meeting on the 2nd at 7:30 p.m. in the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center, Dreher Trail North. (Jeannie Girard)

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

This year August will be different! This August's program will become our First Annual Members' Multi-Media Nature Show.

Slides. Start sorting your slides. Pick out your ten favorites and get ready to show them at the traditional Members' Slide Show. Before and after that we will have a Multi-Media Nature Show.

Photographs. Pick out your ten best and mount them on a page, board, etc. and share them with us. Many of our members only take photographs and have expressed a desire to share them.

Paintings, sculptures, collages, posters, needle point, painted tee shirts, birdhouses, etc. Whatever your creative talent it - share it with us. Call me at 965-1390 and tell me how you will display your work. The only criteria - the work must be original, done by an ASE member, and be about nature. (Jeannie Girard)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The news media has had a field day with the impending split of the Save the Manatee organization from Florida Audubon. Despite reports, this is not a struggle for money, nor is it a hostile takeover, but does represent Florida Audubon's firm conviction that the manatee can best be assured a permanent role in Florida's natural future by continuing to work as a well-coordinated team in this delicate and difficult bio-political process.

Negotiations were coming along well, however a small group within the Save the Manatee Committee, led by Mr. Buffett, is determined to split up. Florida Audubon feels that the need to protect manatees from physical injury as well as protect their life-

giving habitat can best be achieved by a unified effort. To step away from this program and allow separation would be to put the manatee at further risk. At its March meeting, however, ASE's Board of Directors approved a motion that, if difficulties cannot be resolved, ASE would support releasing the manatee organization. Please be assured that your Society is fighting for the environment on many fronts, including this complicated issue.

Preservation 2000 is still alive, but in jeopardy because of severe budget cuts. Kindly write your legislators to give strong support to this already-approved conservation initiative which includes projects in Palm Beach County such as Yamato Scrub, Jupiter Ridge, Rotenberger Tract, Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, Loxahatchee Slough Corridor, and Pal Mar. Nearby Glades County has the Fish Eating Creek project which has been fought by the Lykes brothers.

The Endangered Species Act is up for re-authorization in 1992 and 1993. National Audubon and others in the environmental community are currently mobilizing to fend off an expected attack to dilute the act. Criticism of this act generally revolves around economic issues such as job loss and land use restrictions which hurt the economy, i.e. prevent mining and drilling of oil. Randy Snodgrass, NAS Director of Wildlife Policy, is coordinating Audubon's ESA Campaign. If you would like to be involved in the campaign to strengthen the Endangered Species Act, send your name, address and phone number to Endangered Species Act, National Audubon Society, 666 Pennsylvania Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20003, telephone (202)547-9009. Also, let your Congressmen know of your support for the Endangered Species Act.

Representative Don Edwards (Cal.) introduced a strong wetlands bill, HR 4255, titled The Wetlands Reform Act of 1992. It strengthens wetland protection, establishes a sound scientific basis for wetlands delineation, and improves the 404 permit process. Ask your U.S. representative to please co-sponsor HR 4255.

Please write today to: The Honorable (full name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 21515.

We are very disappointed that the Endangered Species Committee voted to permit logging on 1,700 acres of ancient forests in Oregon which are inhabited by the endangered northern spotted owl.

Cissie Durando will be attending the NAS Convention in Washington, D.C. June 13-19. As president, I am too busy to go, but Cissie well deserves this opportunity to meet with other national leaders. The theme this year is "Act for Wildlife in 1992: Endangered Species Need You." The convention will be held at the American University Campus except for a day on Capitol Hill. We know we can count on Cissie to represent our chapter and speak out on important issues. We all wish her well in her adventure in our nation's capitol.
(Elwood D. Bracey)

FIELD TRIP NOTES

The Palm Beach Trail bird walk on May 2nd produced many more warblers than we have seen in years past. It was especially good in the early morning near the Flagler Museum. There we were treated to great looks at Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Black and White, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and the Ovenbird.

Several Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen during the morning, as were cooperative shore birds, including the Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Plover; Royal, Sandwich and Least Terns; as well as a flock of Black Skimmers flying high overhead. Exotics now established in the area were colorful additions. They included the Red-crowned, Yellow-headed and Orange-winged Parrots.

The trip was led by Cecil Kilmer, assisted by Paul Donahue and Theresa Wood. Paul found a Yellow-crowned Night Heron deep in a seagrape tree right beside the trail. We also saw Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Double-crested Cormorant, Brown Pelican and

White Ibis. Chimney Swifts could be heard and seen high overhead. All total, we had 44 species for the morning, which isn't bad considering theifest was in full swing right across the lake.

The warblers were out in great numbers during the week of 5/4-10, when trips were made to Hypoluxo Island, Dreher Park and Spanish River Park. The Connecticut warbler made its appearance at alternate spots during the latter part of the week. In total, 15 species of warblers were seen, along with other migrants, including Bobolink, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, and a female Painted Bunting. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were fairly common, and a last Belted Kingfisher was making his way north.

It was encouraging to see warblers coming in such numbers as have not been seen in at least five years. Many species are conspicuously absent, however, such as tanagers and flycatchers, which are having trouble because of destruction of habitat in their wintering grounds in the neotropics. Still, this spring was brighter than recent ones because of the many good sightings of migrants. (Elwood D. Bracey)

CONSERVATION REPORT

This column is materializing hard on the heels of a FAS Board meeting over a long weekend. As chapter representative, I think the membership should be aware of what gets drawn and quartered.

The Conservation Committee supported conceptually a presentation by the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter, for a coalition of like-minded groups to support Project for an Energy Efficient Florida. There will be a new standing committee on energy policy consisting of research and education not only for the public, but also the Public Service Commission and legislators. This is such an important topic, and there is such a lack of content enlightened decision making, it is a long-overdue move. I invite any membership inquiries and participation.

We voted to add FAS as intervenor

in another county plan (that makes two) challenging an unwise county land use decision. This involves a commercial designation in the protected Wekiva River basin.

Lots of discussion on the black bear hunting issue. Not so long ago we sent cards to stop the hunting and add the bear to the protected species list. The staff of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission came to the same recommendation. The Governor-appointed commission members voted three to one to support hunting. I like to think the "one" might in some part be due to the passionate plea, in person, that Jeannie Girard and I made to Clinton Hedgepeth, appointed by Governor Chiles for the South Florida area. But then, of course, the Governor also appointed another who not only supported the hunt, but shot a bear!

FAS is supporting a proposal to reorganize the G&FWF Commission short of an outright movement to abolish it. This may come up in the June special legislative session. It would need a constitutional amendment, a two-thirds vote by legislators to get it on the November ballot. We should actively support a change in appointments to require that four of the seven members have a degree in ecology or biology or related fields; their paramount charge would be the protection and recovery of populations of species which have become threatened or endangered. This is a proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution. Senator Bud Gardner has agreed to introduce a bill to be enacted in the meantime that would require a very large fee to hunt bear, otter and bobcat. It would stop, or be extremely discouraging to take these species. Would you believe \$25,000!

Fees would support the Non-Game Trust Fund. This would amend Section 372.57, Florida Statutes. Let's get behind this proposal with a real grass roots support movement! Call or write Governor Chiles and your legislators. These proposals are logical, statesmanlike, and would cost the taxpayer nothing. Call me if you need clarification.

The "thorn" still continues to be the disagreement with the Save the Manatee Board. We knew it would come up for discussion for the umpteenth time by Sunday. But what I was not prepared for was a picket line and TV crews at 8:30 a.m. going into FAS headquarters. This business has been fracturing the FAS Board for over a year. There is no consensus. Many chapter representatives felt that it was futile and expensive to fight a group because it would end up showing all was not sweetness and light amongst environmentalists themselves, never mind developers and the marine industries.

A majority of the FAS Board voted to retain the logo and the funds collected by the STMC even though a lawsuit was going to follow. That has been done. Now the issue that came up for discussion was, "how do we handle the press?" I supported a motion to keep it "positive and ethical." I also commented on wording of a public letter Bernie Yokel would put in the Florida Naturalist. What will happen is for the future to show. The Executive Board (officers) will be the spokesperson, but comments should reflect the broader policy decision made by the full Board, in my opinion.

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If you do not have extra dollars rattling around, maybe you have articles, or know someone who does, sorely needed by the Birds of Prey Center. I have a complete list of such things as old aquariums, bird cages, canned corn and peas, doors, filing cabinets, gloves, heating pads, kitty litter trays, towels, tweezers, ETC.

FAS sent an at-random survey. If you have been lucky enough to get one, do answer it! If you do not wish to answer all the questions, that's OK.

Next Conservation Meeting -
Wednesday, June 10th, 7:30 p.m.,
location to be announced. Feel
important - do come! (Cissie Durando)

IT IS TIME

Yes, it is very much time to try to find another member who would be interested in serving the Audubon cause by being editor of the KITE. My term on the Board ends in 1993 and I would like to pass this job on to someone else. I've been editor since May 1976 and that's too long.

Call me, 585-3968 (after June 16)
for information about the KITE
process. (Ruth Trumpower)

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MOVING? Let our Membership Chairman know!!