



EVERGLADE KITE

For Reference
CENTRAL JUL 27 1996
Not to be taken from this room

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 36, No. 11

Carol Shields, Editor

August 1996

CALENDAR

ASE ACTIVITIES

Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

AUGUST

6 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
**ASE General Meeting -Florida's
Venomous Snakes** w/Bruce Dangerfield
See details opposite

21 Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
ASE Board Meeting; Ruth Trumpower's
home 585-3968

24 Saturday 7:00am
Duda Farms - ASE Field Trip
Exceptional bird-watching in flooded
fields; meet at NW corner of Southern
& Military; details inside Kite.

Other Local Activities

AUGUST

- Views and Encounters With Wildlife"
Paintings by Jerilyn Brown, Photography
by Rick Reddig and Sculpture by Paul
Cummings; Okecheelee Nature Center
through September 4.

26 "The Butterflies of Arizona". Slide
presentation at the NABA general
meeting at SFWM in B-1 Auditorium.
For details call 736-2643

FLORIDA'S VENOMOUS SNAKES

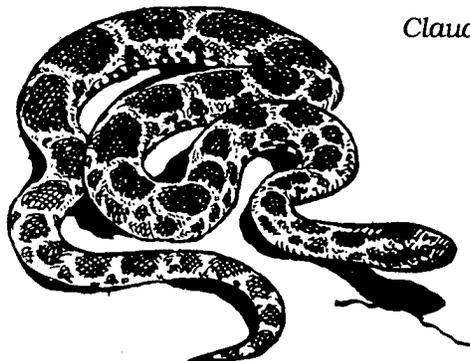
Bruce Dangerfield, who is the founder of the
Treasure Coast Herpetological Society is our guest
speaker on August 6th.

His family moved to Vero Beach in 1953 when
he was 10 years old. The very first day he caught a
snake. He has been interested in Florida reptiles
every since.

Dangerfield is a volunteer instructor for the
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's
Hunter's Education Program. He believes snakes
have a place in nature and that they should not be
killed. His program features Florida's poisonous
snakes - LIVE!

Join us Tuesday, August 6th at 7:30 pm in the
WPB Garden Club building opposite the Science
Museum on Dreher Trail. Refreshments will be
served. Guests and children are welcomed.

Claudine Laabs, Programs



NATURE TRAIL CLEAN-UP AT YOUR LEISURE

For those of you who wish to volunteer for clean-up on the Custard Apple Nature Trail in John Prince Park but the ASE 'Clean-Up' twice a year just doesn't fit your schedule, we have the win-win solution.

Barbara or Ruth will meet with you at the trail in John Prince Park at a time *convenient to you*. She will guide you as to what needs to be maintained. Then you can, at your leisure, visit the trail, explore it, and clean up a little along the way. There has been increasing visibility of wildlife showing up along our trail, particularly at the pond. Come out, enjoy the fresh air and do some good for nature and your club.

Barbara Liberman can be reached at 965-2909; Ruth Trumpower 585-3968.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK 

While everyone else is vacationing or relaxing through the summer time, Audubon chapters all over the nation are busy completing the annual National Audubon Chapter Certification Report for charter renewal. At this time, we review the year's activities and begin planning for next years.

I would like you to know a little more about Audubon Society of the Everglades - your chapter! Many of you participate in one segment of our organization, but we have a wide range of activities in our ASE. Do you think you know all the ASE does? I will share these things with you in this columns and upcoming ones.

Our Audubon Chapter is superlative in every way, surpassing the minimum certification requirements in outstanding fashion.

- ASE holds 12 monthly general meetings and 12 monthly board meetings a year. The NAS requirement is 6 general and 5 board meetings.
- ASE conducts over 210 field trips a year all planned by Ray Buchholz.
- ASE publishes 12 newsletters a year thanks to the dedication of Carol Shields, Kite Editor. Six are required by NAS.
- The local chapter is required to work on one major conservation or environmental project a year. Rosa Durando, Conservation Chair and her helpers tackle environmental issues at the rate of at least ONE A DAY!
- Education is a priority of ASE. Led by Pat Althouse, we have over 40 Audubon Adventures clubs functioning in Palm Beach County schools. Only 5 are required by NAS.

Educational efforts will be discussed more in future columns. In the meantime, if you believe children are our future, please check the flyer in this Kite issue to find out how you can sponsor an Audubon Adventures Club.

These are but a few ways that ASE leads the way in being a strong, involved, and active local chapter. Join us at the meetings or call 627-7829 to learn more about birds, the environment and be a part of our conservation efforts!

— Susan Snyder, President



MANGROVES FOR SIMS CREEK

In late fall, crews will begin ripping out melaluca and other exotics bordering Sims Creek in Jupiter, replacing them with red mangroves.

The 1.5 acres just west of Jupiter Inlet will provide a nursery for snook and other fish in the Loxahatchee River. The wetland pond area will have a 125 ft. diameter and 4 feet depth in the center. The pond will connect with the creek by a 300 foot channel 25 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep.

Sims Creek is a small tributary to the SW fork of the river. There already exists is a 2.5 acre mangrove area to the north to which this will increase the habitat area for wildlife and marine life.

**EXCEPTIONAL BIRD-WATCHING
DUDA'S FLOODED FIELDS**

Gloria Hunter will be leading a Shorebird Fi Trip to the Duda Farms in Belle Glade Saturday, August 24.

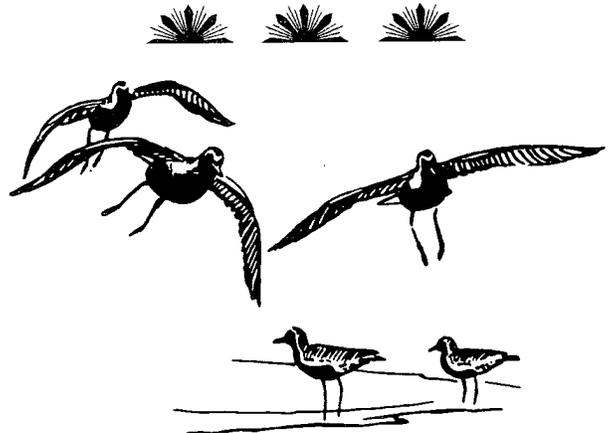
This is an excellent opportunity to view migrating shorebirds plus many other interesting species. Brush up on your shorebirds and bring your scope if you have one.

Although the weather may be hot, the spectacle of the 1,000's of birds that are attracted to the flooded agricultural fields at this time of the year is well worth any minor inconvenience.

As we will be traveling through private property, carpooling is mandatory. Be prepared for hot weather, with no shade. Bring hat, sunscreen and cold drinks.

Meet at 7 am at the NW corner of 4 Points (Southern & Military) If you have any questions call Gloria at 585-7714.

Ray Buchholz, Field Trip Chair



Issue of the Month

**Contact your
Congressman and voice
your opposition to
HR3692 Wetlands
Mitigation Bill.
A bill that will result
in net loss of wetlands.**

**Call
email
fax
write
— TODAY!**

CONSERVATION REPORT

I don't know how many of us thought the tide had turned 3-4 & 5 years ago; and that we were really re-tuned to living in an environmentally conservative way.

The frenzy created by Jim Watt in years past seemed to accomplish some good turnarounds, politically and legally, through public pressure. We really do need some of that spirit today. The "other side; wise use" characters never went away. Just underground for awhile. Sad to say, today's approach is more subtle and successful.

A note, an E-mail, fax, call whatever, at this time to your Congress people: HR3692, a wetland mitigation bill will ultimately result in net losses of wetlands. We will especially regret that in South Florida as the wetlands are the ultimate control of water supply, water quality, and flood control. All this and our magnificent array of wildlife is simply too good to flush for the sake of corporation's short-term profit margins.

One doesn't need a litany of data, just some sincere emotion: you are a citizen of Florida and want to see some good natural resource protection. Our National Wildlife Refuges, must be protected; kill any "takings" legislation; adequately fund human population studies and family planning; support an agriculture Wetland Reserve Program; a good Endangered Species Act; oppose a national forest logging act. All this needs help besides still pushing for adequate funding for the Everglades re-study by

Corps, and land purchases both in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the buffer area on the east side of Water Conservation Area I (WCA) (Loxahatchee Refuge), WCA II, and III. The latter is not needed only for water supply to the Park and Florida Bay, but also potentially for urban water supply for 2-3 million people by the year 2020.

At the local level we are looking for good people willing to become "vocally indignant." If you do not like to appear in public, calls to county, city, and Tallahassee politics will do. So call Senator Tom Rossin, and emphasize we do not want the Fox property - held up in dispute since Gov. Bob Graham days and recently bought with money from a \$100 million Bond issue - to be impacted with a high speed road traversing the entire length. It obviously would destroy wetlands that are a common connection with the WPB water catchment area, and an endless execution chamber for critters. There will be public hearings on this. The battle is heating up. If you wish to join in, do call me.

Gov. Chiles Commission on the Sustainable South Florida is reaching its zenith. There is a commitment from President Clinton and Babbitt, D.O.I., to heed their recommendations in Everglades System Restoration. They have been meeting monthly for almost 2 years, and are heading towards final drafts of a very inclusive document addressing all facets of quality of life living in South Florida. This should be of profound interest to all residents, but, sad to say it isn't. To date, agriculture and the regulated community are the most vocal. It is open to public comment.

— Cissie Durando, Conservation Chair

MIGRATION HABITS

Between 2-5 million birds migrate from rich feeding and breeding grounds in North America to warmer Central and South America before winter arrives. There are many kinds of migrating birds including warblers, hummingbirds and hawks. Most breeding bird species in North America (51%) spend half to two-thirds of their life cycle south of the continent. They spend their non-breeding period of their lives in the West Indies, Mexico, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Guatemala, Belize and Honduras as well as Central and South America.

These birds can travel thousands of miles in a few days. The Blackpoll warbler, which weighs about as much as a quarter, can fly as far as 2,000 miles in a little over 3 days! That's not bad since they often fly at night at a height of over 3 miles where it is very cold.

Scientists believe that some birds use the stars as their guides. Other birds use signs like the wind, sunset, coastlines, or other landmarks. It is also possible that birds can sense the earth's magnetic field; like having a built-in compass.

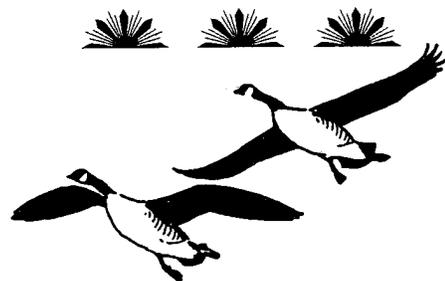
Birds encounter problems along the way such as bad weather, scarce food, and the destruction of habitat they depend on. In Central and South America, millions of acres of land can be burned in a *single day*. This is devastating to the wildlife.

Fall songbird migration peaks sometime in late September and early October. Thousands of migrants fly through Florida on their way south, presenting birders with an array of sound and color. Locations in South Florida where birding may be elevated to great heights by the diversity of migrants include: Matheson Hammock County Park, Dade County.; Ding Darling NWR, Sannibel Island.; Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Dade Co.; Collier Seminole State Park, Collier Co.; Watson Hammock-Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge. Monroe County.

Florida is unusual because our southerly locale allows many "snowbirds" to overwinter here before they migrate northward to breeding grounds. These birds include House wrens, Gray catbirds, Solitary and Yellow-throated vireos, Indigo painted buntings, blue grosbeaks, orchard orioles and many more.

The breeding range of many species reach their southern limits in the rich woodlands of north and central Florida. As with some of our snowbirds this provides a unique opportunity to monitor the species. Some of these include Mississippi Kite, Eastern wood peewee, Orchard oriole and Indigo buntings.

(For a wonderful Field Trip adventure into bird migration, join Gloria Hunter on August 24 to Duda Farms. See article in Kite.) ed.





AUDUBON MAGAZINE

At page 100 in some of the July-August issues of the **Audubon** there is an insert titled "Inside Audubon". These pages are similar to the "Eco Notes" which used to appear years ago.

This is a TEST!! However, you have no way of knowing it's a test because there is nothing in the magazine to inform the reader that if you have the insert it's a test or, if you don't have the insert you have missed something.

If your copy contains the insert, please write- Michael Robbins, Editor *Audubon Magazine*, 700 Broadway, NY, NY 10003. Let him know you would like "Inside Audubon" in all future issues. If it's not in your issue copy ask *Why?* Let them know you feel left out. Thanks.

Lea Shad, NAS Board Member



NETWORK NEWS

Here are some environmental addresses - FYI:

E-The Environmental Magazine

<http://www.emagazine.com>

Upcoming attractions on their website include *Ask E Online* and guides to grassroot groups.

EcoMall

<http://www.ecomail.com/ecomall/>

One-stop environmental shopping and good green information

EcoNet

<http://www.econet.apc.org/econet/>

Oldest environmental computer service; information, conferences and news groups.



"Charity is indivisible...If a man resents practical sympathy being bestowed on animals on the ground that all ought to be reserved for the species to which he himself happens to belong, he must have a mind the size of a pin's head"

— **C.W. Hume**, *The Status of Animals*



Deadline for Articles in September Issue is August 15.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES

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