



# EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 37, No. 10

Carol Shields, Editor

July 1997

## CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

### JULY

- 1 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**  
**ASE General Meeting**  
**David Hitzig - LIVE ANIMALS.**
- 2 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**  
"Voices in the Night: Owls & Frogs"  
Loxahatchee Preserve Nature Ctr.
- 5 23rd Annual Butterfly Count**  
contact Kathy Malone 798-5099
- 30 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**  
"Lending a Hand: Wetlands  
Restoration." Loxahatchee Preserve  
Nature Ctr. For information call  
627-8831.

ASE Web Site  
[flinet.com/~audubon](http://flinet.com/~audubon)

ASE Field Trip Information  
585-7714 / 689-1019

Trail Maintenance - Volunteer Anytime  
585-3968 or 965-2909 for details

Florida Statewide Rare Bird Alert Report  
1-561-340-0079  
(updated every Friday)

## Palm Beach County Butterfly Count . . .

A county wide census of Palm Beach County's butterfly's will be done Saturday, July 5. There will be a number of registration sites throughout the county for the event which begins at 9 a.m.

Butterfly counts can be taken anywhere, including your back yard. Beginners are more than welcome.

## General Meeting. . .

### Rare and Endangered Florida Wildlife

David Hitzig, Executive Director  
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

David's fame precedes him when we talk about his live animal presentations at the Audubon meetings. His informative talks alongside his living examples have always made a great evening and July 1 will be no exception.

David's talk on Florida wildlife includes a Florida Panther, Bald Eagle and Crocodile as a few of his discussion topics. Kids are especially entranced by his presentation of wildlife.

David is Executive Director of The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter. The sanctuary is a non-profit educational based, wildlife care facility, dedicated to bringing wildlife and people together to develop community awareness of the value and diversity of Florida's natural resources. Join us Tuesday, July 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the West Palm Beach Garden Club, opposite the WPB Science Museum in Dreher Park.



—Claudine Laabs  
Program Chair

For Reference  
CENTRAL JUN 30 1997

Not to be taken from this room

## From the President . . .

by Susan Snyder

Summertime for the ASE board includes vacations and program planning for next year. As we take time to evaluate what we have accomplished and what we would like to accomplish, we realize we are only 20 people representing 1600 members. You are the organization. We need your ideas, comments, criticisms, and compliments if we are to do what's best job for ASE.

Please take time to fill in the survey in this issue or write to me. Let us know how we can strengthen ASE, improve our activities and draw in new members. If you have a gripe, let us know too! We will share the survey results in an upcoming issue.

Bring your children to the summer programs. July will feature David Hitzig and some of his wild animals he will bring from the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. In August, Willie Johns, a Seminole historian, will discuss Seminoles in Florida.

Watch in the *Everglade Kit* for the flyer on The Young Naturalist Program, especially for members' children, Saturday, October 4 at the Garden Club.

Have a great summer!

## Beginning Bird Watching . . .

Birds are generally elusive and difficult to get close to. If you are a beginner birder here are some real good tips to help you in identifying birds.

- 1) *The birds silhouette* — its size and tail shape; the shape of its bill
- 2) *The plumage and color* — wing patterns such as stripes, patches or solid color areas are helpful indicators
- 3) *Its behavior* — Does it swim? Does it wade? How does it fly? Undulates? Glide?
- 4) *Its habitat preference* — Is it a loner or does it flock together with others of its kind?
- 5) *Its voice* — Is it a shrill or a twinkling sound?

*Peterson's First Guides — Birds*, is a simplified field guide perfect for the amateur birder. These helpful tips and more can be found in its pages.

## Events to Watch For . .

### Audubon & the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Exhibition Gallery will hold an exhibit of John Audubon's magnificent works of art.

The exhibit opened May 21 and will be on display for one year. The show includes Audubon volumes and a variety of objects and specimens.

"Audubon's works reflect the inextricable meeting of art and science in pursuit of capturing the natural world," explains John Flicker, Audubon Society President.

### Wildlife To Touch

Paul Cummings sculptures of wildlife will be on exhibit at the Okeechobee Nature Center from June 14 through September 10. His sculptures are designed in wood and stone and he invites viewers to use their hands as well as their eyes to enjoy his leaping frogs, preening swans, standing crane and other creatures.

### Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance expects 1,000 people + to attend 90 workshops at its 10th National Land Trust Rally to be held September 27-30, 1997 in Savannah, Georgia. Call 202/638-4725 for more information.

## Conservation Report . . . by Cissie Durando

Our legal challenge to the permits as presented and approved by the staff of the South Florida Water Management District involving the development of Lennar Homes is alive and well. The development in question is framed on the west by our old friend the Fox property; on the north the West Palm Beach Water Catchment Area; on the east, another controversial development; and on the south, Okeechobee Blvd. What? You thought it was all part of the Water Catchment Area? So did I for a long time. It was annexed by West Palm Beach, and by a conservative estimate, there may be 4,000 people living in the area between Okeechobee and a very important wetland that furnishes drinking water to the coast.

Utilities in the area have written memos and publicly stated they have a problem with environmental restoration, namely the Everglades Forever Act, and the Army Corps' Re-study Program that could make it all work. They have advised their local govern-

ments, municipalities and the county to that effect. The local governments shamelessly decrease water storage but realize they will have a water shortage.

I don't believe the Governor's Commission on the Sustainable South Florida and the concept of Eastward Ho! has been given more than token recognition. Certainly not implementation.

Now we have the latest assaults on the integrity of the Agriculture Reserve area. The Comprehensive Plan change supported by the County Commissioners was a traffic failure (congestion) 1 mile east of State Road 7 on Clint Moore Road. Development there does not exist; it relieves no one; it is prosperous agriculture that is not in need of redevelopment.

At Land Use Advisory Board, Friday the 13th, there were 2 more applications by property owners to remove themselves from the Ag. Reserve. It will not take long!

There may be enough outcry on this at the state level (Dept. of Commu-

nity Affairs) to at least slow the wheels down. Representative Barry Silver, an attorney in another life, has joined the fray as will possibly 100 Friends of Florida.

These changes will come back to the county for public hearing. Voices should be raised to your commissioners. If Karen Marcus, District 1, represents you, thank her for her stand.

It was vaguely compensating to be reading about FPL's suit against the Fajal waste-to-energy burn plants in the Everglades Agriculture Area, and their subsequent announcement of filing for debt protection.

We were pretty lonesome in protesting this unsound proposal and the county's tax free industrial bonds to them. And again, I was the only protester just a few weeks ago as they amended their plan to burn old tire.

I'm sure something will play out to salvage them, but fleeting pleasure in their problems cannot be denied. Stand up and support your future and that of your children's.

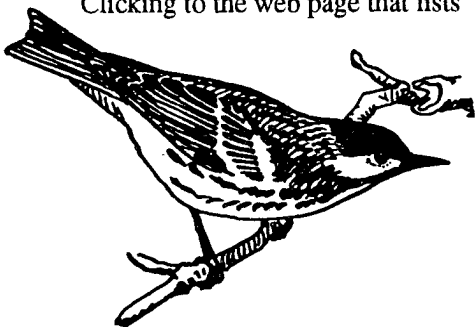
## NAS WatchList . . .

The National Audubon Society has a special web page that is of critical importance to us birders.

WatchList is part of NAS's Partner's in Flights. It's strength lies in its approach to protecting North America's bird populations. The health of birds is inextricably intertwined with the health of our environment, and the WatchList helps guide us.

WatchList will annually document birds in decline or in danger. These are not necessarily rare birds, but those experiencing declines.

Clicking to the web page that lists



Southeast birds show the following:

*Swallow-tailed Kite* — Prior to the 1900's this species bred in the marshes and river drainages of the Mississippi Valley and as far north as Minnesota. Today, the Swallow-tailed Kite is restricted mainly to the coast of Florida, with disjunct pockets scattered from South Carolina to Texas. Reason for habitat decline are agricultural development, logging, and indiscriminate shooting.

*Swainson's Warbler* — Known to most birder's by its enigmatic song, it is one of North America's most secretive bird species. Habitat destruction throughout the southeastern United States threatens the future of this bird. Additionally alarming is the fact these warbler's get confused by bright lights and will collide with tall buildings and towers during migration.

For more information on WatchList check out their website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/>. You can also call the WatchList Program Coordinator at 1-888-283-8266.

## Bird Puzzler . . .

Rich Feldman

Here is a treat for your mind.

Listed below are riddles to a bird. Guess which bird species it is. For example—What a short cowboy wears — *Longspur*.

Answers will appear in the next *Everglade Kite* issue.

1. A British jet
2. Jingles
3. Married to Jesus  
(with all due respect)
4. An outfielder
5. Not sure of the words
6. A victim of Exxon Valdez
7. A Scotsman on the beach
8. A happy dog
9. A feathered feline
10. A backpacker

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES MEMBER SURVEY

Help ASE develop its 1998 Calendar of Events. We want to continually improve our programs for our members. Please take time to fill out the survey below and return it to ASE, Box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

I participate in these ASE activities:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly meetings             | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird field trips                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bird Count         | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation letter writing or calls               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Audubon Adventures    | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of ornithological collection at Summit Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteered for other events | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at ASE So. Fla. Fair Booth               |

I would like ASE to add more:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family activities       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird classes          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field trips             | <input type="checkbox"/> Birding mini-programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography field trips |  |

In the area of conservation I would like to have:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training on issues       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample letters printed in Kite          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More emphasis on birding | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional conservation columns in KITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional issues     |  |

The thing(s) I like best about ASE is \_\_\_\_\_

The thing(s) I would like to change about ASE is \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for field trips, speakers, program topics, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## WWW — Sites of Interest . . .

The Internet is an incredibly rich storehouse of information. There are seemingly endless amounts of addresses to get any kind of information you desire.

To help guide you we offer addresses which we have read about in publications, or have accessed ourselves.

If you have a search engine such as *Yahoo* type in <http://www.yahoo.com/SocietyandCulture/EnvironmentandNature/> (no spaces between words). This will get you a 'gazillion' addresses to explore of an environmental nature. Here are a few others we've come across—

### Project WILD

<http://www.state.fl.us/gfc/gfchome.html>

Project WILD is an educational outreach developed through the Florida Nongame Wildlife Program. Workshops are held statewide for educators and students.

### Villanova Center for Info, Law & Policy

<http://www.law.vil.edu/fedagency/fedwebloc.html>

This is one of the most comprehensive sites with access to many federal agencies that are of use to businesses.

## For Our Readers . . .

In light of our presentation at the General meeting this month here is a book worth checking into:

*Eagles Plume* (Scribner, 1996) by Bruce E. Bean, is a majestic chronicle of the bald eagle in North America. The book includes many interesting eagle experts including Charles Broley.

Broley was an amateur ornithologist at age 59 and did some of the earliest banding of eagles in Florida. He also correctly prophesied that DDT was causing massive reproductive failure in eagles. Florida is home to more nesting pairs of eagles than any state in the lower 48 and is a dominant feature in *Eagles Plume*.

## Bird Banding Reports . . .

The National Biological Survey, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service now has a number for anyone identifying or recovering a bird band. The toll free number is 1-800-327-BAND. These numbers can be called from anywhere in the U.S., Canada and most of the Caribbean.

**The Audubon Society of the Everglades** General Meetings are held the **first Tuesday** of every month, **7:30 pm.**, at the **West Palm Beach Garden Club Center** - Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach. (opposite the Science Museum) The public is welcome.

Deadline for Articles in August Issue is July 15.

### Audubon Society of the Everglades

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