

EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 37, No. 12

Carol Shields, Editor

September 1997

CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD Print**

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**
ASE General Meeting - "Canoeing the Everglades" - See article opposite
- 6 **Saturday, 7:00 a.m.**
Duda Farms & Bird Migration
Meet at NW corner of Southern Blvd. & Military Trail to carpool. See article inside *Kite*; Leader - Gloria Hunter
- 27 **Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
ASE Field Trip—Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Ft. Lauderdale. Meet at entrance north side of Sunrise Blvd., just west of A1A. Bring lunch. Leader - Wally George

OCTOBER

- 4 **Saturday, 9 a.m. - Noon**
Audubon Young Naturalist Program
Details inside *Kite*
- 7 **Tuesday, 8 a.m.**
ASE Field Trip - Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd. just west of A1A

ASE Web Site
www.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)

General Meeting...

"Canoeing Through the Everglades"

Robert McClure - Writer, *Sun Sentinel*
Sean Dougherty - Photographer, *Sun Sentinel*

Ever wonder what it was like for the early explorers? Perhaps a recent expedition will offer some insight.

Two intrepid, Florida-born outdoorsmen, writer Robert McClure and photographer Sean Dougherty, both of the *Sun Sentinel*, will recount their adventures during a 10-day canoe trip from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay.

Robert McClure was last year's recipient of this Audubon chapter's Environmental Writing Award. He has been a writer for United Press International and a finalist of the Pulitzer Prize.

Come join us Tuesday, August 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the West Palm Beach Garden Club, opposite the WPB Science Museum in Dreher Park.

—Claudine Laabs
Program Chair

Audubon Young Naturalist Program...

The Audubon Society of the Everglades is hosting its first Young Naturalist program for our future birders and ornithologists.

Saturday, October 4 the West Palm Beach Garden Club will become a classroom for the young and inquisitive. Guest speakers, live animals, and interactive crafts, tables and contests will enlighten the young audience to the avian world.

This program is open to our members and children (children must be accompanied by an adult). **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** We invite those who are not members to join us on Saturday as well and perhaps sign up for Audubon membership while you are there.

To register or for more information on this event, check the insert in this *Kite* or call Carol Shields, chairperson, at 964-1522.

From the President . . . by Susan Snyder



Once every 20 years the Florida Constitution is reviewed by a Constitutional Revision Commission which can place amendments directly on the ballot for voter approval or rejection. This commission is very powerful. It's decision could alter the environmental gains we have made since the 1968 constitution was approved.

Public hearings have been held around the state. Cissie Durando alerted you to the August 22 meeting in West Palm Beach. Many of us were away, but it's not too late to make your voice heard. Support ASE and FAS for the future of our public lands and resources. Write to the people listed below by September 10. Let them know your position on the following issues. Call me (627-7829) if you need the complete list of commission members.

Chairman Dexter Douglass
CRV Room B-11 Old Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32999

RETAIN —

Article II. Section 7 (a) "It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise."

Article II. Section 7(b) Everglades polluters shall be primarily responsible for cost of that pollution. *Article X.* Created the Everglades Trust Fund.

Article IV. Section 6 created the Florida Cabinet System. The Cabinet has supported the role of the state as land trustee for environmental protection.



Clay Henderson
1331 Palmetto Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
(407) 538-5700

Senate Pres. Toni Jennings
1032 Wilfred Drive
Orlando, FL 32803

ADD —

Proposed amendments include:

- Declaration of an environmental bill of rights emphasizing the right of the people to have their publicly owned lands managed to protect and conserve the resources for all people.

- Dedication of public lands to keep public property purchased for conservation protected in perpetuity for conservation purpose only.

- Dedicated funding source to replace Preservation 2000 initiative which sunsets in 2013.

ALSO —

Other hot issues include the net ban, unification of Game and Fish with Marine Fisheries, and *Article X. Section 6* the eminent domain and just compensation provision which opponents want to expand to include compensation for regulations which cause a reduction in value to property. Call Susan, 627-7829 or Cissie 965-2420.

Chief Justice Gerald Kogan
500 S. Duval St.
Tallahassee, FL 32999

Conservation Report . . . by Cissie Durando

As documentation for our chapter's standing in the Lennar challenge, I brought up from the depths a June '83 issue of our newsletter, *Everglade Kite*. Past president Leah Schad's lead sentence was, "Environmental issues of an immediate nature include Everglades National Park, Loxahatchee Refuge, Ocean Ridge, and MacArthur Park." Proof positive that the more things change, the more they stay the same!

Currently —

Everglades National Park: if you keep up with the news at all, you know the stress — challenges in the courts and meetings, delays, costs, true science or not, constitutional amendments, effects on 'my little world is most important', etc., etc.

Despite Dexter Lehtinen's 10-year old victory in the courts, the rubber has not hit the road yet. It will be, by conservative guess, another 10 years before we might see some real works operational through the Corps and South Florida Water Management District.

Loxahatchee Refuge: After surviving, but not totally able to recover from our last 2 droughts in '81 and '89, the Refuge worked, through the Corps and Wildlife Service, a minimum level of 14' control elevation. At present, the

Refuge is being challenged by the Lake Worth Drainage District; joined by Broward County, (surprise! surprise!), 2 ill-informed Congress people and a host of lobbyists. Our County Commissioners are going to be asked to join with the group that is challenging the Refuge. That vote will be on August 19.

These are the same commissioners that voted to send a letter to President Clinton criticizing Carol Browner and EPA's Clean Air Act. Their reasoning was that they were not sure the "cost benefit ratio" is worth the constraints on particulate matter, CO₂ or anything else that causes greenhouse effect, asthma in children or emphysema in the older folks. I will not be surprised if the sustainability of the purpose of the Refuge will be ignored. Most votes of the last couple of years have favored rampant development.

Ocean Ridge: At one time we successfully stopped a beach-dredging project to the south of the Boynton Beach Inlet because technically it did not meet a public use requirement to merit getting all those millions of public money. A reef and the bottom-life there would smother by the sand in placed on the beach.

The political pressure began. The

county bought a small piece of land west of A1A, put in some public parking, and *voila* - dredging will begin.

MacArthur Park: There was a condensed article by the grandson in *The Post* on Sunday, August 10. It accurately debunked the legend that his grandpa was an environmentalist or that he deserved that recognition by a bronze bust and plaque at the entrance. It did not mention our chapter was involved in a long battle to preserve that area from uniting 2 strings of high rises on either side that totally obliterate the beach from public view or access to "our" land at the mean high water mark. It did not mention our taxes bought into the preservation idea to the tune of over \$11 1/2 million. It did not mention that even after the purchase, we (ASE) fought bitterly to prevent the Foundation Land Co. (MacArthur) from turning it into something that would have looked more like a Disney design than what stands there today.

Moral of all this? Only fighting the good fight saves anything. And that saving only gives us the right to fight another day to protect the same thing.

**Call your commissioners!
Call your Congress people!**



Audubon Society
of the Everglades
presents

Audubon Young Naturalist Program

For Children

(must be accompanied by an adult)

**Saturday
October 4th
9 a.m. to Noon**

West Palm Beach Garden Club Center
(Across from the Science Museum in Dreher Park)

Programs by:

David Hitzig, Director, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

Stacey Johnson, Curator, Palm Beach Zoo

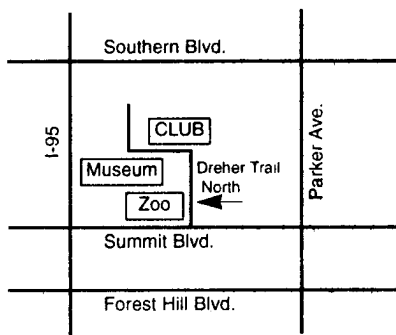
Featuring Live Birds

Hands-on Activities & Contests

PROGRAM IS FREE

However . . . PRE-REGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! !

Call 964-1522 by October 1



The Lure Of The List . . . by Noel Pettingell

Bird watchers keep track of the species they see or hear by numerous categories ranging from worldwide lifetime observations to birds identified within a single year, day, hour (112!) or minute (22!). Many birders keep lifelists by country, state and/or county as well as listing all the species seen or heard in or from their yards.

Bird listing can also be a competitive sport when various state teams match their skills and endurance on Big Days or Birdathons along predetermined routes which yield a maximum variety of species within a 24-hour period.

Probably the largest organized cooperative bird-watching activity in the work is the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. This count is conducted annually by teams of observers within 15-mile diameter circles during a single preselected day in late December and early January. Results of the species and individuals recorded by participants in North and South America, Bermuda, Hawaii and other Pacific islands are published by the N.A.S. in a special edition of *Field Notes*.

And then there are unconventional bird listing categories such as the following LifeList examples:

Birds identified on TV
(highest total is 2,026 species)

Birds identified in a single tree
(106 species)

Birds identified in dream.
(253 species)

Birds identified on wires
(253 species)



Summary of Notable All-Time Highest Bird-Listing Records

	<u>World</u>	<u>ABA Area*</u>	<u>State</u>
LIFELIST Species	8,040	836	Texas - 561
Area Species Total	9,700	906	Texas - 595
Annual List Species	3,631	720	Texas - 485

Big Day Team

World Record - 342 in Kenya, Africa
U.S. Record - 227 species - Texas

Christmas Bird Count

World Record - 354 species in Panama
U.S. Record - 227 species - Texas

* Am. Birding Assn. - North America North of Mexico

Detailed reports of LifeLists, annual lists and Big Days by State and Country are published by ABA annually and additional bird-listing records are to be found in

"The Pettingell Book of Birding Records 2nd Ed. / 1991

Available from ABA Sales 1-800-634-7736.

"If human beings were not so impressed
by size alone,
they would consider an ant more wonderful
than a rhinoceros."

— Edward O. Wilson

Duda Farms Field Trip . . . by Gloria Hunter

We will be visiting the migrating shorebirds and spectacular abundance of wading birds on the flooded fields of the Duda Farms, Belle Glade, on September 6.

This is private property, so car-pooling is mandatory. We will gather at Four Points (Northwest corner of Military Trail & Southern Blvd.) leaving promptly at 7 a.m.

Be prepared for very hot weather and much glare with sunscreen, straw hats, and cold drinks. Remember binoculars, scopes if you have one, and field guides.

There will be very little walking. Any questions? Call me at 585-7714.



National Audubon Productions On TV . . .

September 29 National Audubon Society kicks off their weekly birding series on the Animal Planet channel. *All Bird Radio* will take viewers to the greatest birding locations for the most spectacular birding adventures in the country.

All Bird Radio is a lively journey into the lifestyles, travels, habits and habitats of our feathered friends. This thirteen-part series is a guided tour across the U.S. Part education, part conservation awareness, and part discovery, its totally entertaining. The series will also be available in home video shortly after its cablecast release.

Animal Planet is the new "all animals, all the time" channel from the Discovery Networks, launched in 1996.

Manatees In Crystal River May Loose Habitat To Private Developer . . .

— National Audubon Society Alert

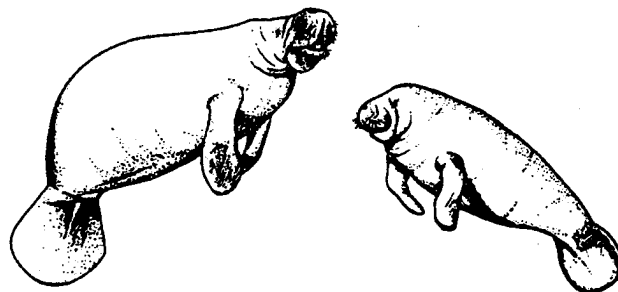
The Florida manatee is in danger in Crystal River, on Florida's west coast. A private developer has purchased the old Crystal River yacht club and wishes to develop it into a restaurant and marina. The developer also wishes to lease space to a casino ship that will run 4 trips daily up and down the river. This will *destroy* the manatee habitat and the sea grass that line the river.

Please do what you can to stop this development and e-mail everyone and anyone that you can think of to stop the permitting for the development. This is very important because this is the last natural area that the manatee has to live and be safe and happy. Several endangered species make their home here and the manatee is one of our most famous.

NAS is in the process of getting a lawyer to come in and sue the city council and the county council for issuing them a permit to open their business. This is getting really close to happening any day. The developers have decided to bring in a 120 foot ship and take out 250 passengers 4 times a day. And 2 more sites are being looked

at to take two more ships in the Kings Bay which is the headwaters of the river and the place that is a manatee sanctuary during the winter.

Please write newspapers, TV stations and Governor Chiles and tell people you know and work with that they have to help this get stopped **NOW**. Manatee season starts in October and the Crystal River area gets almost 500 in the winter. We now have 80 moms and babies here so all year they will be in danger if this traffic starts on the river.



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 October Issue is September 15.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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