



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 37, No. 2

Carol Shields, Editor

November 1996

CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

OCTOBER

29-30 Tuesday & Wednesday
Conference on Sustainable Agriculture
Clayton Hutcheson Bldg.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Saturday, 8:30 a.m.**
ASE Field Trip Jonathan Dickinson State
Park; Meet at park entrance; bring lunch.
Phil and Ann Weinrich are the leaders
- 5 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**
ASE General Meeting; Guest Speaker,
Bill Hutchins, Travels in Vietnam and
Thailand
- 12 Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**
ASE Field Trip - John Prince Park;
Meet opposite campground
- 15-16 Friday and Saturday**
Floridians for a Sustainable Population
Conference at Rollins College, Winter Park,
FL. Details inside Kite.
- 30 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
ASE Field Trip - Belle Glade Campground.
Meet at campground entrance or at NW
corner of Four Points at 7:00 a.m. to
carpool; bring lunch. Chuck Weber leads.

ASE Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

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

General Meeting

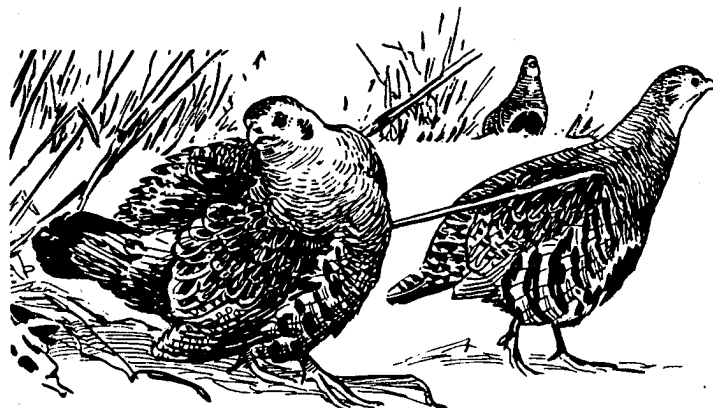
BILL HUTCHINS,
Pine Jog Instructor
& Mini Program on Maine Audubon Camp

Bill Hutchins has been an instructor at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center for sixteen years. He has a degree from the University of Florida in Environmental Journalism. A strong interest in tropical forests developed after a trip in Hawaii and Bill has traveled around the world following the equator. When he is not traveling, Bill is teaching and writing.

Bill Hutchins program is about his 1995 travels throughout Vietnam from the northern mountains near the Chinese border to the Mekong Delta. Afterward he went to Thailand's Andaman Sea to explore the off-shore limestone mountains and the hidden lagoons and caves (hongs) where they get the nests for Bird's Nest soup.

Helen Beers will also present a slide program on Audubon's Nature Camp in Maine. Audubon Society of the Everglades was glad to have sponsored Ms. Beers for the workshop.

Join us November 5, Tuesday night, 7:30 pm (*after you vote*) at the West Palm Beach Garden Club, opposite the Science Museum in Dreher Park. There are refreshments and then there is always Stella's smiling face at our Society's gift table.



From the President . . . by Susan Snyder

October has been a busy and important month for our Audubon chapter. Four major events were sponsored by ASE.

First was a collaborative clean up of Bingham Island, the Audubon Sanctuary located on the Southern Blvd. causeway to Palm Beach. This land is designated a bird sanctuary so it is critical that styrofoam, fishing line and hooks, etc. be cleared away. Tires, lumber, cans, and bottles were also collected. Bob Galbraith of PBC Environmental Resource Management (ERM) coordinated the event. Participating groups included Palm Beach Atlantic College Workshop students, Rotary Club, ASE members and ERM. Jim Robinson, Sanctuary chair, found the 'bird' of the day - a large plastic owl!

Then, at the October board meeting it was decided to ask for an administrative hearing to challenge the drainage permit before the South Florida Water Management District. This permit is needed prior to the development of the land known as the Capella property south of Yamato

Road and east of the L40 canal. Cissy Durando filed that objection on behalf of herself and ASE. This action has not been taken lightly. There are many political forces weighing in against this action. The objection questions whether: a) this project will "cause unacceptable seepage of water from the adjacent Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge"; b) "The loss of wetland associated with this project has been properly mitigated"; and c) "The district has adequately considered cumulative and secondary impacts associated with the project as required by rules of the district."

Next, ASE held the removal of exotic plants, October 26, at the Custard Apple Nature Trail at John Prince Park. Thanks go to all the volunteers and groups who assisted. ASE coordinator were Barbara Liberman and Ruth Trumpower. The Palm Beach County Parks Department has been very supportive of the efforts to replant this trail with natives.

October 28 and 29th, is the conference on "Sustainable Agriculture in Palm Beach County and

South Florida", cosponsored by Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service and Audubon Society of the Everglades. "Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Agriculture in Palm Beach County", "Farm as a Habitat for Wildlife", and "The Value of a Sustainable Agriculture in Dollars and Sense" are some of the sessions to be presented. Conference moderator will be Leah Schad.

Finally, ASE held three birding trips, published a newsletter, offered a live Internet demonstration of the NAS Home Page and learned from Pat Dailey about plants that attract wildlife.

As you can see, ASE supporters are active in many environmental aspects of community affairs. We work collaboratively with other groups. And we do it all with volunteers! Could we count on you for additional support for one of our projects? Coming up soon are the Holiday Auction, Pot Luck Supper and the South Florida Fair. Call 627-7829 to discuss these possibilities.

Events to Watch For . . .

Conference on Sustainable Agriculture

"Sustainable Agriculture in Palm Beach County and South Florida", sponsored by the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service and ASE is taking place at the Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Service Center, 559 N Military Trail, on October 29 & 30.

Contact Gordon Williamson, Executive Director, FSP, phone 904/677-2007; e-mail FSP358585@aol.com.

Florida's Population Growth

Finding solutions to Florida's explosive population growth will be the topic at "Forging Florida's Future", November 15-16 at Rollins College in Winter Park.

Florida is one of the fastest growing areas in the world with a growth rate that exceeds those of India, China and Japan, according to symposium organizers.

Speakers at the conference include Peter Kostmayer, Executive Director of Zero Population Growth, Maggy Hurchalla, Clay Henderson, Attorney

Thomas Reese, and others. The event is co-sponsored by FSP, Rollins College, National Audubon Society's Population and Human Resources Department, Sierra Club's Population Program, and Florida Council of Churches. For more information contact Gordon Williamson, Executive Director, FSP, phone 904/677-2007; e-mail FSP358585@aol.com.

Holiday Auction

The Holiday Auction is coming together for December 3. This is the last opportunity for members to donate to the auction if you so desire.

We hope you will join us for dinner and a most entertaining evening, gift shopping for the Holidays.

For further information or to donate new or interesting items, please contact Carol Shields at 964-1522.

Casserole Buffet

ASE's December Holiday dinner will feature a Casserole Buffet. Bring a casserole (meat or vegetable) ASE

will provide salad, bread, desert and beverages.

Dinner will begin promptly at 6 p.m. \$3.00 donation if you do not bring a casserole.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Hospitality chair, Tomi Freese at 585-4358.

Basic Birding Course

What bird is that?

How do you tell a sparrow from a mockingbird? What kind of binoculars or other equipment do you need? These and many other questions about birding will be answered in a course entitled "Basic Birding", to be given at Okeeteelee Nature Center (Forest Hill Blvd. & Florida Turnpike) on Wednesday evenings, November 6 and November 13 from 7-9 pm. Field trips are scheduled for Saturday, November 9 and November 16 from 8 to 11 a.m. Barbara and Al Liberman will be instructors. For further information call the Okeeteelee Nature Center at 233-1400 or the Libermans at 965-2909.

National Audubon Society News

MCI Nature Network

The National Audubon Society is part of a special partnership with MCI and the Nature Conservancy known as the MCI Nature Network. Through the Nature Network, MCI has donated nearly \$400,000 to National Audubon Society over the past 3 years. This donation helps to support many of Audubon's national initiatives that impact our local community.

The Nature Network is a partnership designed to benefit both the National Audubon Society's and the Nature Conservancy's efforts to protect our natural heritage. It is a corporate affinity program that gives businesses across the country an easy way to support the preservation and protection of our natural resources through their telecommunications service. When a corporation enrolls in the Nature Network, MCI donated 2 to 5 percent of the company's net long distance usage to either or both the National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. Today, more than 5,000 companies are enrolled in this program.

If you own or work at a company that you think would be interested in information about joining The Nature Network, the National Audubon Society would like to hear from you.

For more information please write or fax:

Barbara Hamlin, Director of
Foundation and Corporate Relations;
National Audubon Society, 700
Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, NY
10003, fax 212/353-0321,

An Earthly Donation

National Audubon Society was the recipient recently of Bird Island (formerly known as Beer Can Island) from Manalapan resident, William Ziff, Jr. who donated the island to NAS.

The 8 acre island is being redesigned with a lagoon. Exotics have been removed and replaced with native fauna and flora.

Threatened shorebirds, like the least tern are expected to use the island beach for nesting.

Public access will be limited. The island will be maintained by our Sanctuaries chairperson.

What is the "Restudy"?

Nearly 50 years ago, the federal and state government began designing one of the largest water management systems in the world, the Central and Southern Florida Project, better known as CS&F. This 1,800 mile canal and levee network provides essential water supply and flood protection for south Florida's growing urban and agricultural needs, but at great expense to the natural environment. The Everglades lost 50% of it's original wetlands as a result of South Florida's explosive growth spurred upon by the Project.

Today, a plan is being developed

that will make significant changes to the project. This effort known as the *Restudy*, will provide the first comprehensive update to the aging water management system in 50 years. Unlike half a century ago, a primary goal of the Restudy is to protect the environment - particularly the Everglades watershed.

Committee members want to hear from the citizens of South Florida. A series of public meetings will be held to learn how people feel about improving the C&SF Project. Call 800-250-4300 for more information.

Peregrine Falcons Return

The Peregrine Falcon is making its migratory comeback to Florida after a decline in the population.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission reports that although the species is still listed and endangered it has made a remarkable return during the last decade.

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird in flight, traveling more than 200 miles per hour as it plummets down to attack its prey.

In 1975 there were less than 300 pairs of nesting Peregrine falcons. The major culprit was DDT until it was banned. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state conservation areas began a breeding program that released young peregrines after being raised in captivity.

The Peregrine falcon will remain in Florida through March before beginning their spring migration back to northern nesting areas.

Issues To Act On . . .

Sensitive Land Use

It is so very important for you to contact your County Commissioner to vote your support for the 25% Set Aside Land Use. The issue is coming before the board November 26 and is in danger of being eliminated.

We have worked hard to set this land protection in place. The concept is critical in helping save the biodiversity of Florida's pristine lands. Wildlife corridors and natural habitat preservation are equally as important in substance.

You can fax your Commissioner at 407/355-3990. Please do not let this slip away. Tell them to hold onto the 25% Sensitive Land Set Aside.

Legislative Influence

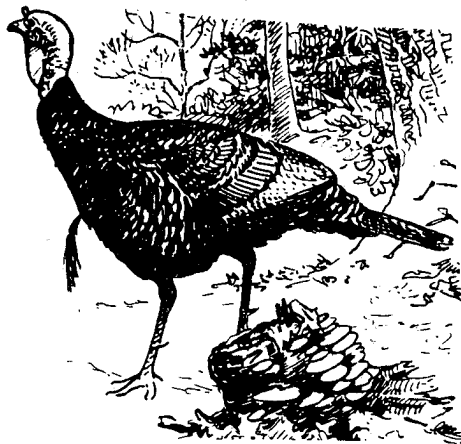
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The ASE Phone Tree is growing its branches again. We have contacts and connections and can use all the branches we can get.

All you have to do is to call one to two people from a list, names are provided for you. Inform them of vital issues to act on and phone to their contacts.

For more information on helping us grow branches, please call Jeannie Girard, 731-2931.

Happy Holidays





**AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES
REGISTRATION for SWAMPLAND TOUR - DECEMBER 7**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Make Checks payable to:
Audubon Society of the Everglades

and mail to:
*Harold Wiedemann
901 Lake Shore Drive #101
Lake Park, FL 33403-2847
(407) 844-4903*

\$16.00 cost covers the
Swampland Boat Tour

Birding Cross County

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival November 1-3 (Alaska)

Witness the largest congregation of Bald Eagles in the world! Nearly 4,000 Bald Eagles gather here along the Chilkat River each autumn to feed on late-run salmon. Also spotted are Parasitic Jaeger, Marbled Murrelet, Barrow's Goldeneye, Rock and Willow Ptarmigan and large mammals like moose, bear, otter and wolf.

Festival includes traditional dances, scenic overflights and lectures on eagle ecology. Contact Alaska Bald Eagle Festival 907/766-2202

Festival of the Cranes November 14-17 (New Mexico)

Witness the return of thousands of Sandhill Cranes, 40,000 Snow Geese, wild Whooping Cranes, eagles, ducks and hawks in Socorro, New Mexico. The festival includes guided tours, arts and crafts and expert lectures.

Contact the Socorro Chamber of Commerce at 505/835-0424.

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 December Issue is November 15.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
West Palm Beach, Florida
Permit 46

The Everglade Kite
is published
12 times a year.

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& Bird Identification**
585-7714
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