



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 37, No. 5

Carol Shields, Editor

February 1997

CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

FEBRUARY

- 4 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**
BURKETT NEELY—"The Northern Everglades" Details opposite
- 11 **Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**
Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach Details inside KITE.
- 15 **Saturday 7:30 a.m.**
Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Trail; Leader will be Hal Wiedemann
- 22 **Saturday 7:30 a.m.**
Hungryland Slough. J.W. Corbett Area Chuck Weber will be the leader; details inside KITE

MARCH

- 4 **Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**
Loxahatchee NWR. Meet at Marsh Trail
- 8 **Saturday, 6:00 a.m.**
Everglades National Park Bus Trip Day bus trip to Flamingo. Leaders will be Howard Langridge and Hal Wiedemann; Reservation form on back of KITE

ASE Web Site
finet.com/~audubon

ASE Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

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

General Meeting...

BURKETT NEELY, Jr.
Manager, Loxahatchee NWR



Burkett Neely has been the manager of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge since 1981. Prior to earning his degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi, he worked for an oil exploration company in the Rocky Mountains and Alaska where he developed an appreciation for

wildlife. Immediately after receiving his degree in 1965, he went to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Neely is well-known as an out-spoken defender of the Everglades and especially the Loxahatchee Refuge which has been heavily impacted by agriculture. He will give us a slide program about this last remnant of the northern Everglades located here in Palm Beach County.

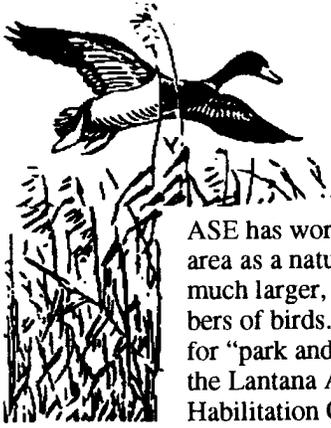
Come join us on our continuing celebration of the Everglades 50th Anniversary. We will be meeting at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Tuesday, 7:30 p.m, February 4. Refreshments and good company are always served.

-Claudine Laabs
Program Chair



For Reference
CENTRAL JAN 28 1997
Not to be taken from this room

From the President . . . by Susan Snyder



Right in the heart of suburban Palm Beach County lies a beautiful marsh partially surrounded by native vegetation. On the paths which wind around the area you can see bird and animal life. This area is the Custard Apple Trail, located at John Prince Park and maintained by ASE. If you've never taken time to see it, you must!

ASE has worked since the late 1960's to preserve this small area as a natural state. It is all that is left of what was once a much larger, more pristine wetland which attracted great numbers of birds. This land, deeded to Palm Beach County in 1939 for "park and forest purposes only", has been developed into the Lantana Airport, Palm Beach Community College, the Habilitation Center, a golf concession, etc. not to mention the dredging of Lake Osborne that almost killed the marsh.

ASE volunteers have worked tirelessly to hold onto the tiny area remaining and to return it to a natural state. Exotics are being removed and native plants are being reintroduced. This is being accomplished with the assistance of the Palm Beach Parks and Recreation Department and many able volunteers. They deserve special thanks for their support.

The Nature Trail Co-chairs, Barbara Liberman and Ruth Trumpower have done an outstanding job.

Together, they have written a history of the trail, made a scrapbook, recruited volunteers, and maintained the trail.

Guided walks are held every Saturday January through March at 9 a.m. Volunteers Bruce Offord and Mary Johnson assist Barbara and Ruth in leading these walks.

Many volunteers assisted at the January Trail maintenance work party. These included Interact Clubs, Palm Beach College workshop students and many environment conscience individuals who want to make a difference in our community.

Regular trail maintenance is held on Thursday morning. If Ruth can do it with 2 artificial hips, so can you!

Call Ruth at 585-3968 or Barbara at 965-2909 to volunteer!

Home Page . . .

Turn on your computer. Log onto the Internet. Enter -

www.flinet.com/~audubon

and view the home page of Audubon Society of the Everglades. After many months of planning ASE is finally on the net! We are one of the first chapters in Florida to reach this accomplishment.

Most of this has been made possible due to the efforts of Mike Stone. His computer expertise, persistence, and enthusiasm for birds has made the difference. board members Jack Freese and Ray Buchholz have also helped to get this project on-line.

Currently, Mike has designed the page to include:

- officers and directors
 - field trip schedules
 - meeting dates and programs
 - a brief history of ASE
- Future plans include adding

pages on:

- conservation issues of concern
- legislators phone numbers and addressed
- PBC birding locations
- KITE Newsletter
- links to related home pages
- Counter for 'hits' on the site

The best part will be the feedback box which you can e-mail us messages. ASE has over 1600 members. We want to hear from you. When the e-mail is operational, let us know what you are thinking.

Events to Watch For . . .

**Wakodahatchee Wetlands
February 11**

Our Tuesday Walk this month will introduce the recently opened Wakodahatchee Wetlands, a constructed wetlands at the county water treatment facility west of Delray. We will observe a variety of wading and water-birds from over a mile of newly built boardwalks.

Directions: From the intersection of Woolbright and Jog Roads, proceed south on Jog 2.5 miles. Drive on past the gates of the water treatment plant on the east side, turning in on the crushed rock road just beyond it. Clearly-marked Wakodahatchee Wetlands.

We will meet at the parking lot there at 8 a.m. Questions? Call Gloria Hunter at 585-7714

Project WILD Outdoor Workshop - February 21-23

The Everglades Youth Camp will, once again, host the Everglades Project WILD Workshop. By offering both introductory and advanced programs this is a great opportunity for all educators to get informed and involved. Overnight workshop fee is \$70.00. This program is sponsored by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and supported by the League of Environmental Educators in Florida, Inc. (LEEF)

For further information or to register contact Diane Bentrup, Project WILD Coordinator 904-488-4679

**Okeeheelee Nature Center
Hosts Natural Artist Joanna Thomas**

Bud, Bark, Twig is an exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings by Joanna Thomas now showing at the Nature Center, February 8 until April 30.

Thomas uses various materials to produce small, intimate works, often incorporating text to strengthen her images. She restricts her palette to umbers, ochres and black to elegantly capture the botanical forms.

The Gallery is open from 1-4:30 Tuesday thru Friday and Sunday; Saturdays from 8:30 to 4:30. For more information contact the Okeeheelee Nature Center at 561-233-1400.

Field Trips . . .

In addition to the Tuesday trip to Wakodahatchee Wetlands, upcoming in February are also outings to the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge and Hungryland Slough.

During one of our recent trips to Loxahatchee a white-tailed Kite was seen, not to mention good views of a number of other interesting species. So if you haven't been to the refuge lately, now is a good time to consider joining us for a walk through this excellent birding location.

On February 22, Chuck Weber will lead a trip at Hungryland Slough in the J.W Corbett Area. To reach the slough, travel west on Northlake Blvd. to Seminole-Pratt Whitney Road. Turn right (north) onto Seminole-Pratt and go 3 miles to Youth Camp entrance which will be on the left. Follow the signs for Hungryland Slough.

In other news, I was pleased to discover the other day that the *Florida Rare Bird Alert* is back up. The new phone number is (561) 340-0079. For those of you with internet access, they post a transcript of the tape on the web at:

<http://www.geocities.com/Rainforest/4560/FlaRBA.html>

This is a welcome development as it allows you to print the directions rather than trying to scribble notes while listening to the phone! As always, the Miami birding report remains at (305) 667-7337.

Ray Buchholz,
Field Trip Chair

Wakodahatchee Wetlands . . .

In the western part of Delray Beach is a new discovery for birders, photographers and nature lovers in general. The Wakodahatchee Wetlands.

These wetlands were created by the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department. The plan, known as The System 3 Wetlands Plan, is constructed west of El Claire Ranch Road in Southern Palm Beach County.

The park sits on the existing System 3 Treatment facility. Fifty six acres of percolation ponds were transformed into thriving wetland habitat. Habitat types that are designed into the wetlands include open water pond areas to attract waterfowl and diving birds. Emergent marsh areas are created for secretive bird species such as the moorhens, sparrows and rails and shallow shelves for herons and egrets. Islands of scrub and snags dot the wetlands and serve as a nesting and roosting site for birds.

Created within the park are boardwalks extending over a mile, hiking trails, information displays and even a decent parking lot.

Future plans call for the elimination of exotics. Existing pond berms will be planted with native plants using natural landscaping techniques to provide a buffer around the site.

Join us Tuesday, February 11 at 8a.m. for an ASE guided tour of the wetlands—and bring your camera and site! Details are found on Page 2 in this KITE issue.

South Florida Fair Volunteers— THANK YOU!

The ASE booth in the Conservation building received quite a few visitors this year at the fair. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer members, Our new look certainly had something to do with it. If you attended the fair you know what we mean.

The bird boxes drew many compliments. Alan Parmalee of Royal Palm Audubon hung every one of them! Susan Korzenewski designed the displays while Pat Althouse added the finishing touches of branches and moss. And those on booth duty surely made everyone feel welcome.

Thanks go to all of you.

—Susan Snyder

Christmas Birdcount Results . . .

There were 42 birders out on December 28 for the Audubon Annual Christmas Birdcount. All in all, they recorded 151 species (a Red-head duck was pinioned) including 4 exotic species to give us the highest species count since 1977.

Once cause for our success was the variety of duck species reported by different parties (even Ruddy ducks by the McCall party) despite few duck species at Loxahatchee NWR.

Another cause was several unusual species such as a Black-shouldered kite by the Hope party for our first-ever for this species. An immature male Orchard oriole was sighted by the Eaton party and was only our second sighting in 37 years, as were two Black-backed gulls by the Weber party.

We enjoyed not only excellent weather with very little wind, but also the help of several out-of-state observers including Bob Russell.

One Worm-eating warbler by Weber and Canning, one Field sparrow and one Lincoln's sparrow by the Hope party were very helpful finds to make this year our best ever on record.

—H.P. Langridge,
American Birds Compiler



AUDUBON SOCIETY of the EVERGLADES
REGISTRATION for Bus Trip to
Everglades National Park - March 8

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

Make Checks payable to:
Audubon Society of the Everglades

\$25.00 cost covers the
 Bus Fee

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

Volunteer Opportunities . . .

If you wish to volunteer, but aren't sure which to choose, here is a compiled list of current openings where ASE could use a good person like you. Contact any Board member for more information.

- Exhibits Chair

Someone who wants to express their artistic side and also take care of and set up exhibits when needed.

- Nature Trail

The Custard Apple Trail is continually in need of weed-pulling and exotic removal. Take a stroll and pick out a few bad weeds from our trail. Weekly maintenance on Thursdays from 8:30

to 10:30 or call to arrange a time convenient to you. 585-3968 or 965-2909.

- Board Member At-large

Elections are coming up in April and we have an open chair on the board for an At-large position. It's your opportunity for a voice in ASE voting,, an offer to assist in a program, head a project.

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 March Issue is February 15.

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 585-7714
 689-1019

MOVING?

Det our Membership Chairman know!!

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 3650 Summit Blvd.
 West Palm Beach, FL 33406



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