



# EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 38, No. 1

Carol Shields, Editor

October 1997

For Reference

RENTALS: OCT 2 1997  
Not to be taken from this room

## CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD Print**

### OCTOBER

- 4 Saturday, 9 a.m. - Noon**  
Audubon Young Naturalist Program
- 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.  
**Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**  
**ASE General Meeting**  
**"Fall Migration" Dr. Wayne Hoffman, Audubon Research, Florida Keys.**  
Details opposite.
- 11 Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Spanish River Park, Boca Raton.**  
Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd. just west of A1A. Leader - R. Buchholz.
- 18 Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**  
**John D. MacArthur Beach State Park**  
Meet at Phil Foster parking lot, north side of Blue Heron bridge to carpool.  
Leader - M. Greenberg
- 12-18 National Wildlife Refuge Week**  
See article inside *Kite*.

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

ASE Field Trip Information  
585-7714/689-1019

## General Meeting...

### Fall Migration featuring Raptors

Dr. Wayne Hoffman  
Audubon Research, Florida Keys

What are those silhouettes high in the sky? As a profusion of birds head south — the hawks are among the most fascinating to watch.

Dr. Wayne Hoffman of Audubon Research in the Florida Keys will present a slide program to educate and entertain us about this annual event.

Wayne Hoffman received his Ph.D. in biology from the University of South Florida. Originally from Oregon, he has been in the Florida Keys since 1987 working for the NAS Research Center.



Join us Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m., along with our special guest, at the West Palm Beach Garden Club. Refreshments and good conversation help make the evening enjoyable.

—Claudine Laabs  
Program Chair

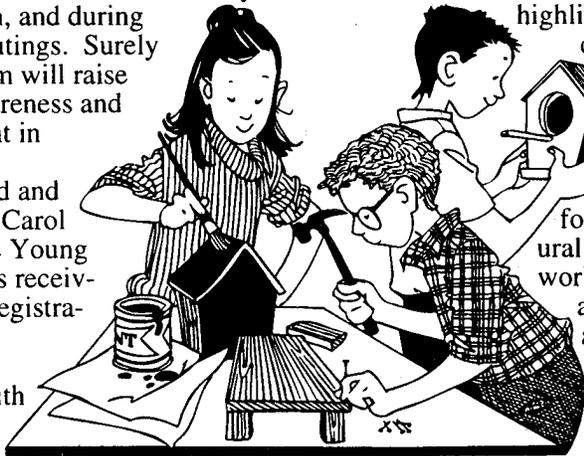
A "HAWK WATCH" is scheduled for October 11 at 7 A.M. on Boot Key off Marathon.

ASE's new brochure is enclosed. Ruth Trumpower will have extra's at the October 7th meeting if you could deliver some to your area's library, Chamber of Commerce or other places for public pick-up.

## From the President . . . by Susan Snyder

October opens with ASE's exciting, new Young Naturalist program for school-aged children. The program's purpose is twofold. First, ASE wants to interest children in the natural world around them; educating and raising awareness, not just of birds, but on the importance of ecosystems. Second, ASE hopes to attract young families to our club. It is a goal of ASE and NAS to break the stereotypes about birders. Many families bird in their backyard, at the beach, and during weekend outings. Surely this program will raise greater awareness and involvement in Audubon.

Initiated and planned by Carol Shields, the Young Naturalist is receiving heavy registration. Pat Althouse is assisting with planning



and implementation. Hands-on activities are being created by other volunteers.

ASE sponsors many other education programs. Some of you recently donated to purchase Audubon Adventure kits for schools. (*and a heartfelt thank-you for that gesture!*) Each teacher involved receives a resource handbook from NAS packed with learning activities for the year.

In the coming months I will highlight other ASE educational programs

such as the February Family Bird Walk at Loxahatchee. Children need a foundation in the natural systems of the world if they are to appreciate, protect and fit into it. ASE continues to be a part of this process.

## Everglades to Benefit from Land & Water Conservation Fund . . .

The House Appropriations Committee boost "regular" LWCF funding by 60%, to \$239 million in fiscal year 1998 which begins October 1. Nearly all the increase (\$76 million) goes to the National Park Service for land acquisition in the Florida Everglades.

The budget agreement that Congress and President Clinton struck in May included an extra \$700 million for priority land acquisitions.

The extra funding is far from assured, however. The House Appropriations Committee rejected the extra \$700 million. Argument was that the money should instead be used to whittle away the \$10 billion in maintenance backlog at the land agencies.

The administration wants the extra money to buy the Headwaters redwood grove in California (\$250 million) and the New World Mine site in Montana near Yellowstone (\$64 million). The remaining \$385 million would be used to acquire "national priority land acquisitions and exchanges" to be identified by the Interior Department.

*"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension."*

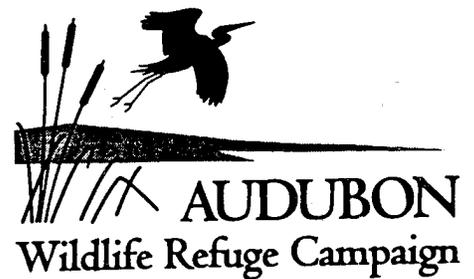
— Oliver Wendell Holmes

## Outdoors Woman Clinic Held . . .

Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission is holding a clinic for women only October 17-19 in J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area.

The clinic offers women the opportunity for hands-on instruction in 18 outdoor activities including bird watching, reading the woods, canoeing, archery and much more.

For more information call FGFWFC at 640-6100. Pre-registration is required.



## Audubon Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week

This year, National Audubon Society chapters will be teaming up with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 12-18, 1997. Refuge week was established in 1995 as a countdown event to the Refuge System's centennial in 2003.

Today, the National Wildlife Refuge System includes more than 500 refuges, encompassing more than 92 million acres in all 50 states. Our national wildlife refuges are vital to sustaining and enhancing migratory bird populations and stand as the last line of defense against extinction, providing critical a habitat for hundreds of threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species. Refuges also provide compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for nearly 30 million people who visit each year, pumping billions of dollars into local economies.

Support and visit our own Palm Beach County refuge — Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Boynton — right in our own 'backyard'.

## NWR Improvement Act

Last month the Senate voted on S 1059, The National Wildlife Improvement Act of 1997. The bill is an improvement over existing law and includes: a succinct mission statement that makes wildlife conservation the top priority on refuges; a requirement that each refuge develop comprehensive management plans; a secondary use prioritization that places wildlife-oriented uses (wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, environmental education) ahead of other uses (jet skiing, grazing and oil drilling)

The Senate version also requires the Secretary of Interior to monitor wildlife populations in refuges. The bill should pass by an overwhelming majority and will likely be signed by President Clinton during National Wildlife Week.

## An Urgent Plea . . .

by Ruth Trumpower

We are absolutely must have more volunteers to share the work of continuing ASE's thirty year commitment to helping maintain the Custard Apple Trail in John Prince Park.

Thanks to the efforts of our Society, area Garden Clubs and concerned individuals, the Country Commissioners were persuaded to classify that area as a natural area. Then this first-in-the-county nature trail was created by Audubon volunteers and the Parks and Recreation Department. Past trail volunteers have proudly passed along the opportunity to volunteer for this important ASE project.

BUT NOW - where are the willing hand to carry on our commitment to habitat preservation and environmental education? Without volunteers, this project may have to close down — and in light of ASE's long history of providing this community service, *that would be a shame.*

There are good reason's for this pleas, which I won't go into here, but I will be happy to explain the urgency

I possibly arrange alternative work ways or limited schedules. Please call me at 585-3968 any evening.

## Soon to be — Endangered Species . . . by Carol Shields



The Nature Conservancy's annual assessment of the nation's plants and animals shows that two-thirds of its 20,439 species appear to be in good shape. The bad news is the other one-third are in danger.

In light of the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act this month (October 18) it might be of interest to know that the one-third consists mostly of freshwater ecosystem inhabitants. Mussels, crayfish, fishes and amphibians, in that order, are *the most vulnerable* in the assessment of all species.

Freshwater habitats are being destroyed not only from encroachment but from the deadly chemical pollution that befalls our waters. And it is no surprise that this decrease will constitute a decrease of water/wading birds, and so forth, and so forth . . .

These results should send a strong message to those in Congress to uphold the Clean Water Act. It should also send a strong message to those of us at the grassroots level to call our Congressmen and let them know it's importance to us and our precious South Florida water. Comments from private citizens carry more weight that you may realize in voicing views to local politicians.

For a copy of "1997 Species Report Card: The State of U.S. Plants and Animals," call 703/841-5321 or contact the TNC Website (*listed below*).

## Florida's Businesses Love Billboards . . .

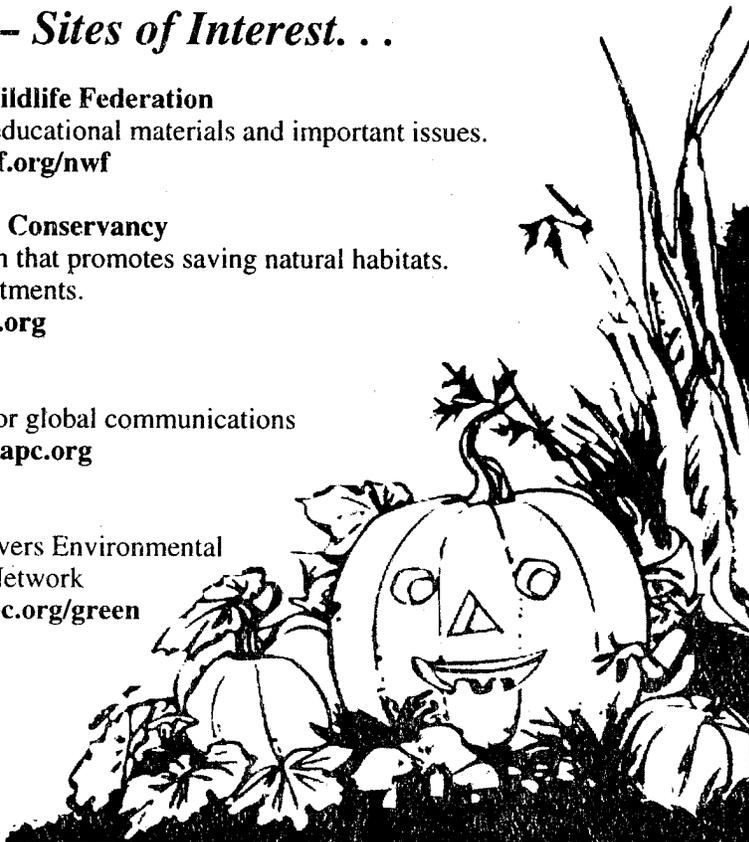
According to a report by Scenic America the Sunshine State leads the nation in billboard structures with 20,711 of them plastering the interstates and other federal highways.

James Jeffords (R-VT) has introduced legislation in the Senate to put some muscle behind the Highway Beautification Act (HBA). Vermont, Alaska, Hawaii, and Maine do not allow billboards on their roadways.

Last election cycle the \$1.8 billion billboard industry pumped \$500,000 into Congressional campaigns.

## WWW — Sites of Interest . . .

- **National Wildlife Federation**  
- programs, educational materials and important issues.  
[www.nwf.org/nwf](http://www.nwf.org/nwf)
- **The Nature Conservancy**  
- organization that promotes saving natural habitats.  
Many departments.  
[www.tnc.org](http://www.tnc.org)
- **Econet**  
- institute for global communications  
[www.igc.apc.org](http://www.igc.apc.org)
- **GREEN**  
- Global Rivers Environmental Education Network  
[www.igc.apc.org/green](http://www.igc.apc.org/green)



**HELP  
WANTED**

**Exhibit  
Chairperson**

**Sanctuaries  
Chairperson**

**Call Susan  
Snyder  
for more  
information  
at**

**627-7829**

**CUSTARD APPLE TRAIL  
MAINTENANCE  
STARTS THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 2**

**8:30 TO  
10:30 A.M.**

**Call —  
585-3968 or  
965-2909  
FOR  
DETAILS**



**CELEBRATE THE  
25TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
CLEAN WATER  
ACT!!!**

**OCTOBER 18**

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 November Issue is October 15.

**Audubon Society of the Everglades**  
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