



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

For Reference
MAIN SEP 2 9 1998
Not to be taken from this room

Volume 39, No. 1

Carol Shields, Editor

October 1998

CALENDAR

ASE Activities in **BOLD** Print

OCTOBER

- 3 **Saturday 7:30 am.**
Spanish River Park, Boca Raton.
Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd.,
just west of A1A. Leader - Ray Buchholz.
- 6 **Tuesday, 7:30 pm.**
ASE General Meeting "Wild Asia"
Bill Hutchins gives a colorful presentation
on Southeast Asia.
- 13 **Tuesday, 8:00 am.**
John Prince Park. Meet opposite camp-
ground entrance.
- 17 **Saturday, 7:30 am.**
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.
To carpool, meet at Phil Foster Park parking
lot- eastern end of Blue Heron Bridge .
Leader-Marvin Greenberg.
- 11-17 National Wildlife Refuge Week
- 17 **Saturday**
Public workshop on Ag Reserve area master
plan. Clayton Hutcheson Ctr; Military Trail
WPB. For more info call 561-682-6792.
- 15-18 **Thursday - Sunday**
"Buteos on the Beach, A Tribute to Migrating
Hawks." Seminars, excursions, birding;
Hollywood Culture Center. For information
call 954-923-4000
- 22-24 **Thursday - Sunday**
"Renewing Florida's Communities"
1998 Florida Trails & Greenways Conference
in Miami. For information call 850-942-2379
- 24-31 World Population Awareness Week

ASE Field Trip Information
585-7714 / 689-1019

General Meeting . . .

"Wild Asia"

by Bill Hutchins, Naturalist & Journalist

Armed with a degree in journalism and an insatiable curiosity, Bill Hutchins travels to places in the tropics several times a year — most recently the Philippines and China. He says, "At the cost of the 20th century, southeast Asian wildlife and wild places are at a crossroads. Population pressures, economic development and social traditions have combined to place the conservation of the region's biodiversity at a critical point."

Bill Hutchins has been an instructor at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center for 18 years.

Please join us to learn about the rapid changes in this heavily populated part of the world — October 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Club Building in Dreher Park.

*Claudine Laabs,
Program Chair*



Bill Hutchins in the jungles of Northern Vietnam near the Chinese border while he was out with a mammologist searching for a rare monkey.

From the President . . . *by Susan Snyder*

October promises to be a busy month for ASE and its members. Activities range from politics to field trips to education. Please get involved!

Election day, November 3, offers us an opportunity to continue Florida's quest to conserve and protect our lands, waters, fish, and wildlife for future generations.

Look closely at the revisions 1, 5, and 10. Take time to study the environmental positions of gubernatorial, cabinet and legislative candidates.

Check out the October field trips listed in the *Kite*. You may notice this October issue begins a new volume year for the *Kite*. This is fitting as ASE activities get into full swing this month.

Please consider supporting Audubon Adventures classrooms in Palm Beach County by sending a \$35.00 donation to fund one class. As an educator, I can tell you the program consisting of a Teacher's Guide, class sets of theme newspapers and a video, is very professionally done. It offers great information and activities for teachers to easily share with students.

Finally, October 11-17 is National Wildlife Refuge Week. Without the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge South Florida would really be dry. Wildlife would be scarce and a great place for birding and nature study would not exist. Visit the Refuge. Volunteer at the Refuge. Support the Refuge!

Coalition for South Florida Refuges . . .

A coalition comprised of the National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Conservation Foundation, and World Wildlife Fund is developing a land acquisition strategy for national wildlife refuges in the South Florida ecosystem. The single, multi-year package will target state and federal funding sources to

acquire ecologically sensitive lands in the Ding Darling NWR, Florida Panther NWR, Ten Thousand Islands NWR, and the four refuges in the Florida Keys: Crocodile Lake, National Key Deer, Great White Heron and Key West.



World Population Awareness Week . . .

As we celebrate World Population Awareness Week, October 24-31, the decline in songbird populations becomes more obvious each year. There are many reasons for the disappearance of these birds. We should pay attention to these trends because what is good for birds is good for people, too. The underlying cause for almost all the circumstances leading to the loss of birds is the rapid growth of the human family.

Forest fragmentation and farming techniques lead to loss of habitat for birds and other wildlife. These losses stem from increased use by humans to build homes, to grow food, to recreate.

The need for food, jobs, public services and infrastructure far outweigh the potential environmental consequences.

To address the underlying cause of this destruction — rapid population growth — the U.S. should work to ensure that people at home and abroad have the family planning services available to do so.

At home and in our communities we need to become more aware of the impact of the choices we make — where we live, what we eat and the other resources we consume. When we take these steps to stabilize our global population we will ensure the survival of humans and wildlife.

Duda Farms Field Trip

by Hank McCall

—September 5, 1998

What a splendid morning we had. Led by Brian Hope and arranged by Gloria Hunter, this trip carried us to thousands of birds.

We had just arrived when over 1,000 blue wing teal flushed and flew in tight formation around us with their wings flashing blue in the bright morning sun.

The most thrilling sight was driving down a narrow dike and seeing some 200 roseate spoonbills flush and swirl among the cars. It was a wild dance of pink and red!

As we drove by some grassy flats we began to see flocks of woodstorks. The old timers of Florida called them "ironheads or preacher birds". It was impressive to see over 2,000 of them.

For those who like rarities, Brian spotted Buff-breasted sandpipers, Wilson's phalaropes, and Upland sandpipers.

Even the finish was exciting. We found a large flock of night herons among a thick stand of trees. While watching these, a pair of barn owls was spotted.

Thank you, Brian, for an unforgettable morning.



VOTE!

Amendments 1, 5, & 10 will be on November's ballot. These conservation amendments are critical issues to the preservation of our local environment.

Call the PBC Supervisor of Elections at 561-355-2650 to receive a copy of the amendments.

If you have Internet access the address — www.dos.state.fl.us/fgils/index.html will get you to the wording to download and additional information on the proposed amendments.

National Wildlife Refuge Week - October 11-17



Today the National Wildlife Refuge System includes 509 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 habitat for hundreds of threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species.

Not surprisingly, National Wildlife Refuge Week takes place in October, during fall migration, when millions of birds travel south where they will depend on the protection and habitat of wildlife refuges along their route.

Expanding human populations and urban sprawl have contributed to the loss of open spaces and wetlands in the United States.

The National Wildlife Refuge System provides the critical habitat birds need for migrating and breeding. More than 700 species of birds,

including endangered species rely on habitats such as wetlands in our wildlife refuges.

Refuges also provide compatible outdoor recreational opportunities for nearly 30 million people who visit each year, pumping billions of dollars into local economies. Such activities include wildlife observation, photography, hiking, camping, and environmental educational.

Check out our local NWR for their events to celebrate the week—

Arthur Marshall NWR Events

October 11 - Small Wonders Walk. 9am at Marsh Trail. Learn about dragonflies, butterflies and small insects of the refuge.

October 13 - Morning Bird Walk 8am at Marsh Trail.

October 13 - Teddy Bears for Refuges, 10 am. Children bring your teddy bear for storytime and activities. Learn the importance of Theodore Roosevelt and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

October 14 - Refuge System and Loxahatchee Historical Slide Show.

10 am. Visitor Center auditorium. An interesting look at the historical highlights of the refuge system.

October 15 - Butterfly Gardening with Florida Native Plants. 9am. Join in festivities at 10am for the ribbon cutting of the official opening of the Butterfly Garden at the Loxahatchee NWR.

October 15 - Bird Walk at 4 pm.

October 17 - Morning Bird Walk 8am. at Marsh Trail.

Call Loxahatchee NWF at 561-546-6141 for more information.

Hobe Sound NWR Events

October 11 - Hawk Watch. Meet at Refuge beach entrance at end of North Beach Road at 7:30am.

October 14 - Historical slide show on refuge system and Hobe Sound NWR. at 7:30pm at Refuge Headquarters Bldg.

October 17 - Morning Nature Walk - 9am. at Headquarters Scrub Trail entrance. Reservation only.

Call Hobe Sound NWR at 561-546-2067 for further information.

Conservation Report . . . by Cissie Durando

A month of mixed signals.

The county has never really committed to the full restoration of the Everglades, from the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay. They have not supported resolutions to that effect to our Regional Planning Council, their legislative delegation, or as a policy vision statement to Congress.

The trickle down effect in the shape of \$\$ from the Federal Government is nothing short of disaster. We continue worshipping at the shrine of tourist development and irresponsible construction seaward of the coastal construction line. We continue to not only shore up at public expense the perceived threats to this construction, but continue to endorse more: Hugo, Andrew, and possibly Georges notwithstanding.

Politicians ask for, and get millions for, more beach dredging projects—

—More millions to try to improve Lake Worth Lagoon. But the \$\$ assign-

ments can only play at clean-up so long as the source of pollution is very much alive. They have committed insufficient funds to change that picture.

—Billions for roads that will only facilitate more construction that never was engineered to stop discharging so much water to tide, nor significantly clean up the chemicals in this storm water discharge.

We notice that there has recently been another reduction in the sugar import quota. Either there has been a tremendous increase in yields this season — many more acres are in production — or somebody is just plain raking in some big bucks. In the face of being deserted by politicians at all levels of government, that was a shameful move.

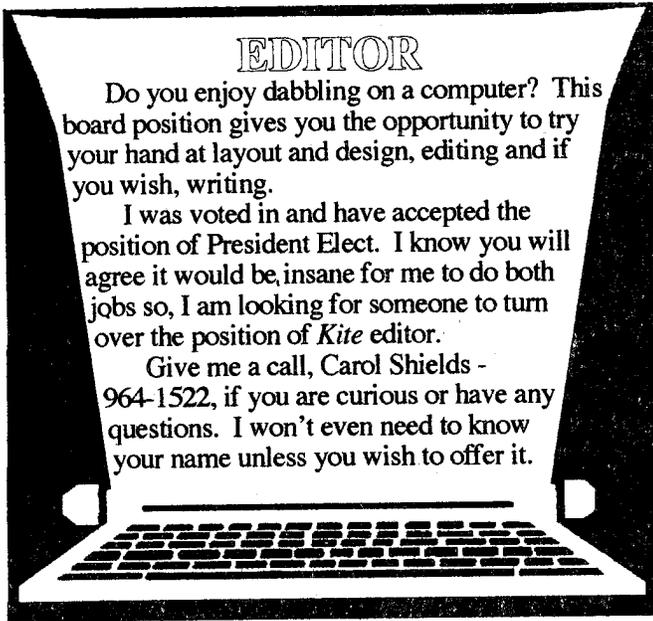
Are you calling, writing, e-mailing any of your politicians your feelings for the future of Florida?

You are aware of the debate of the

final disposition of the 20,000 acres of the Agricultural Reserve in our county, east of the Loxahatchee Refuge. This is not really about “allowing” only agriculture; it is about allowing thousands of more units of development in a contiguous area up against a dike. It’s about \$\$, “O.P.M.” as they say in the trade: Other People’s Money! Because of its fewer demands on infrastructure, agriculture is more compatible with the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

You will see in March, a public referendum on the ballot for possibly \$100 million. It may encompass \$ for buying Ag Reserve land *plus* recreation *plus* connections to parks or sensitive land or malls or *who-knows-what*. But — by the way — throw in some to buy up more scrub jay habitat, or mangroves, or wetlands.

Please contact county commissioners and say what you *don't mind* going into debt for.



EDITOR

Do you enjoy dabbling on a computer? This board position gives you the opportunity to try your hand at layout and design, editing and if you wish, writing.

I was voted in and have accepted the position of President Elect. I know you will agree it would be insane for me to do both jobs so, I am looking for someone to turn over the position of *Kite* editor.

Give me a call, Carol Shields - 964-1522, if you are curious or have any questions. I won't even need to know your name unless you wish to offer it.

ASE Field Trips for October . . .

The new brochure with this year's field trips and programs will be out in the November issue of the *Kite*.

In the meantime here are our trips for October so you can be sure not to miss a single one this season!

Saturday, October 3rd - 7:30 am. - Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd., just west of A1A. Leader-Ray Buchholz

Tuesday, October 13 - 8 am. - John Prince Park. Meet opposite campground entrance.

Saturday, October 17 - 7:30 am. - John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Meet at Phil Foster Park parking lot, north side of eastern end of Blue Heron Bridge to carpool. Leader - Marvin Greenberg.

**"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.
The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."** -- Winston Churchill

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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