



# EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
OF THE  
EVERGLADES

Volume 41, No. 1

OCTOBER 2000

## CALENDER

ASE Activities in **BOLD Print**

### OCTOBER

- 3 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**  
ASE General Meeting - "World Tour"  
presentation by Bill Hutchins - *see opposite*
- 7 **Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**  
ASE Field Trip - Turkey Creek  
Sanctuary, Palm Bay. *Details in Kite.*  
Leaders: Al & Barb Liberman.
- 10 **Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**  
ASE Field Trip  
Spanish River Park, Boca Raton  
Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd.  
just west of A1A. Leader: Dorothy Brindle
- 14 **Saturday - 7:30 a.m.**  
ASE Field Trip  
Spanish River Park, Boca Raton  
Meet as above - Leader: Chuck Weber
- 14 **Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - noon**  
ASE's 3rd Annual Young Naturalist Program.  
Audubon program with live animals for  
school-aged children held at the  
Okechee Nature Center, free of charge.  
Call 964-1522 or 433-4063 for reservations.
- 14-15 **Saturday & Sunday**  
Florida Keys Birding & Wildlife Festival  
Call Lori Haynes at 561-625-5122 for info.
- 21 **Saturday - 7:30 a.m.**  
Bird Walk - John D. MacArthur State Park  
Meet at Phil Foster parking lot, east end of  
Blue Heron Bridge to car pool.  
Leader: Marvin Greenburg
- 28 **Saturday - 8:00 a.m.**  
Bird Walk - Hugh Taylor Birch State Park,  
Fort Lauderdale. Meet at entrance north  
side of Sunrise Blvd., just west of A1A.  
Leader: Wally George

### NOVEMBER

- 11 **Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**  
ASE Field Trip  
Indian River Lagoon Cruise, Fort Pierce  
Carpooling. *Details inside Kite.*

## General Meeting...

### "The Tropics in 2000"

by Bill Hutchins

Bill Hutchins is our most intrepid traveler. In the past 12 months, he has been to tropical areas in Asia, the Americas and Africa. His slide program will include Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, Belize and, most recently, Gabon.

Bill Hutchins' training in journalism and skill in observing nature make him one of Florida's best naturalists and an exciting speaker. He has been an instructor at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center for 19 years and always has had an interest in animals - especially reptiles.

Please join us at 7:30 P.M. on October 3rd at the Garden Club Building in Dreher Park.

Mini Program: Belize by Richard Mouyroud.

Claudine Laabs  
Program Chair

See the back page for  
more on Belize and  
other ASE  
trips.



For Reference  
MAIN OCT 2 2000

Not to be taken from this room

## From The President

by Carol Shields

National Wildlife Refuge Week is October 8-14, 2000. Palm Beach County has one of the best national wildlife refuges in the nation. Certainly it is managed by the best manager in the system, Mark Musaus, who was voted National Wildlife Refuge Manager of the Year this year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

The refuge is jointly owned by the state and federal governments. In 1951 the then 143,238-acre refuge was established as an overlay of Water Conservation Area 1 (WCA-1) through an agreement between the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This land, referred to as the refuge "interior" is owned by the SFWMD but managed by the FWS. The FWS owns 2,550 acres to the east and west of the refuge interior, bring the total acreage to 147,392 acres. The 50 year lease came up for renewal this year. You might have read about it in the newspapers. There is debate on whether to renew the lease or take back the property for other management uses.

Our wildlife refuge is just that, a wildlife refuge. Animals, plants, birds and marine life can have a safe harbor at this, or any of the more than 520 refuges across the nation that are also often open to certain public uses when appropriate and compatible. To do anything less is an injustice to them. The Audubon Society is watching the matter closely. Soon studies will be underway; possibly some opportunities for public comment. This is not to be confused with the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that has just been completed after a two year planning process. The SFWMD wants to evaluate the value of the land. We hope you will support the refuge for what it was intended.

### Wildlife Refuge Week Events

The Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is holding many events for the NWR Week. Butterfly, reptile, and bird walks are planned. Claudine Laabs, our program chair, will be presenting her images. There is also a special program for kids entitled "Teddy Bears for Refuges" named after Teddy Roosevelt

who established the National Wildlife Refuge System almost 100 years ago. For more detailed information, call (561) 734-8303.

### ASE Sponsors a Chickee Hut at the Refuge

Last month the board voted to provide funds to construct a chickee hut on the grounds of the Loxahatchee NWR. This badly needed structure will give the refuge staff an opportunity to offer an outdoor classroom to groups visiting the refuge. Seminole Indians will construct the hut near the head of the Marsh Trail. The chickee hut will be built just in time for Everglades Day in February to host some of the events. Read the *Kite* for more news as the construction progresses.

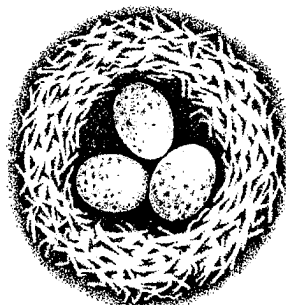
*Don't forget Saturday, February 10 is Everglades Day at the Loxahatchee NWR. We have just started planning. If you are interested in getting involved and becoming empowered with something you would enjoy handling, give me a call, 964-1522, or Serena Rinker at the number above.*



### Young Naturalist Program

There is still space for the "Young Naturalist Program", October 14 at the Okechee Native Center.

The FREE program is from 9:00 a.m. - noon. For information or to register call 964-1522 or 433-4063.



## Conservation Report

by Cissie Durando

For all those folks that are not members of the Florida Native Plant Society you need to know our own ASE long-time member Cecil Kilmer was honored by that organizations' magazine, *The Palmetto*, for all her loyalty, support, and activism in an interview by another long-time ASE member, Barbara Liberman.

The assaults by the legislature during this past spring session were only slightly side-stepped and will be reborn by 2001. Concurrent with state action, our county is playing games under the guise of "Smart Growth", the last few years it was "Eastward Ho", but that is old hat in the new millennium. Keeps staffs of government and non-profit busy spouting grandiose visions, goals, policies, etc. And committees and meetings: WOW! ad nauseum.

It makes it very difficult for the small number of unpaid and fearless volunteers to attend all the meetings and indulge in public comment. Like the marines, I'm still looking for a few (more) good people!

In my opinion, local agriculture may not be preserved in the face of economic forces like more and wider roads and street lights; sprawl cannot be stopped; and there is not much difference between so-called rural and urban in Palm Beach County.

Our hope lies in forcing permitting agencies to enforce existing rules, draft new ones where necessary, and not contribute to the demise of native habitat to the point of no return.

New subdivisions covering thousands of acres west of the turnpike and feverishly expanding cities have made a mockery of all the well-intentioned cliches.

With this in mind, we should support the Save the Manatee Club. Several groups have joined with them in a great and noble lawsuit under the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protections Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The only way to force local political bodies and the state to take notice and do the right thing, is to make it a little uncomfortable for them.

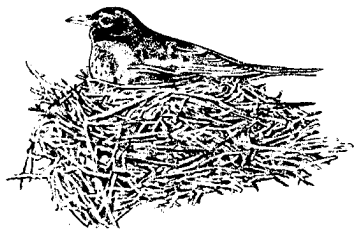
Yes, it takes money. There is an anonymous donor that will match \$50,000 by November 30, 2000. A victory here will have repercussions for all habitat and species in jeopardy. S.M.C., 500 N. Maitland Ave., Ste. 210, Maitland, FL 32751.

Cissie Durando - 965-2420.

## Field Trip October 7 to Sanctuary

Our special trip to Turkey Creek Sanctuary, located in Palm Bay, is scheduled for Saturday, October 7. To reach the Sanctuary from I-95, exit at SR-514 (Malabar Road) and go east, one-half mile, to SR-507 (Babcock Street). Turn left on Babcock and go 1.3 miles to Port Malabar Blvd, then turn right. Continue 1.1 miles and at Santiago Drive turn right to the Sanctuary, located on the right. If you arrive late, look for the group on the trail. The leaders will be Al and Barbara Liberman, who can be reached at 965-2909. Meet in the Sanctuary parking lot at 8 a.m. It will take about two hours to get there. Carpooling is suggested.

The Sanctuary property, 113 acres, was donated to the City of Palm Bay and to the Florida Audubon Society in 1978. Also on the premises is the Margaret Hames Nature Center. Keep your eyes open for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, indigo snakes, river otters and more.



## Whatever Happened To Jenny Wren?

Its name once was Jenny Wren. That's what the English of long ago called the little bird with the red chest. The name was later shortened to Jenny. And Jenny it remained until someone decided that a male name would be preferable. So Jenny then became Robin REDbreast and eventually just plain Robin.

British explorers and colonists encountered birds similar to the red-breasted Robin around the world. And in each place, the local birds received names that related them directly to their English counterpart. For better or worse, these names have stuck. There's the Japanese robin and the Indian Robin. Australian birders watch the Flame Robin, the Scarlet Robin, and the Rose Robin. And in North America, we have the American Robin. In all there are nearly fifty robin species on the planet.

## Indian River Lagoon Boat Trip

A new field trip this year is a birding cruise on the Indian River Lagoon. Audubon Warden Barry "Chop" Lege has led Audubon tours on Lake Okeechobee and will give our Audubon group a personalized trip on the Lagoon to spot birds form an exceptional advantage point.

The boat will launch from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) in Fort Pierce. The boat trip begins at 8 a.m. and lasts for about 90 minutes. After the boat tour, weather permitting, the group will board a one-hour open-air tram for a look at the HBOI mosquito impoundment, an area generally abundant with bird life.

The cost for the trip is \$15 per person. Please mail your check in advance to ASE - Field Trip, P.O. Box 16914, WPB, Florida 33416-6914 to be received no later than Friday, November 3.

Directions to the Institute are simple. Take I-95 north to Exit 67 (Indiro Road), East on Indiro Road, 8 miles to Route 1, North on U.S. 1, 1.9 miles, to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute entrance. Follow BOAT TOUR signs to the J. Seward Johnson Marine & Educational Conference Center.

The Conference Center has a Visitors Center and gift shop. Plan an hour travel time to reach HBOI. See you there for what will be a refreshing look at wildlife. For information on this field trip contact Carol Shields at 964-1522 or Claudine Laabs at 655-9779.

## Feather Appetizers

People who've been humbled, it's said, eat their words. By the same token, certain birds eat their own feathers, though not because they've suffered a defeat. Rather, these birds consume feathers in order to survive.

The birds in question are grebes, aquatic birds with a diet that consists of insects, crustaceans, and sometimes fish. But fish-eating grebes like the Horned Grebe and the Red-necked Grebe can't readily digest the bones inside fish. That's why the pluck and eat large quantities of their own feathers. The feathers create a filter of sorts within the grebe that traps the bones in the bird's stomach before they can enter intestine. Thus trapped, the bones slowly dissolve until they can more easily be passed.

## Seeking that Special Someone

We are looking for a couple of key positions with the chapter and know that that special someone may be reading this right now.

The chapter needs an editor for our newsletter, *Everglade Kite*. If you have a new software program you're itching to work with, need practice at a software program or hobby relating to writing, or if you just enjoy desktop publishing, contact Carol at 964-1522. She'll be glad to answer any questions about the position.

We are also searching for that someone who we can depend on to keep minutes at our meetings and participate in the planning process on our board. We are looking for someone to serve as Secretary. Diane, who has been the Secretary, loves the chapter so much that she has taken on the position of Community Relations to create more of an interaction with the chapter and our community. She is acting secretary now and it would be great for someone, like you, to join us. Call Diane at 433-4063. Our working board has a good rapport and respect amongst each other. Check it out. We don't bite.

## Beginning Birders Workshop

by Ann Weinrich

Have you always had questions about bird watching, but were to shy to ask? Do you wonder what all the excitement over birds is about? Are you too embarrassed around your friends to say, "How do I use these binoculars, anyway?!!!"

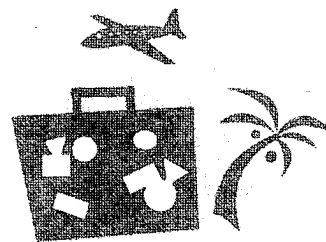
Well, this workshop is for you! We will answer all these questions (as many as we can fit into two Saturday mornings), inspire you to get excited about birds, and show you how to use your binoculars! We will also help you find the birds and learn how to tell one from another. We will meet at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, November 4 for the indoor portion of the workshop. (Call the Center for directions - 686-6600). The following Saturday, November 11, we will meet at a local birding spot (to be announced) for the field trip portion.

The size of the class is limited, so to save your spot, send your check for \$8 (made out to ASE) to Ann Weinrich, 826 N. Palmway, Lake Worth, FL 33460. You can call her if you have questions - 582-2235.

# Our First Foreign Field Trips

Get your passports ready!

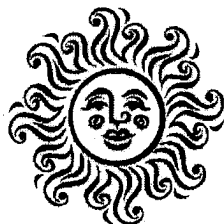
The Audubon Society of the Everglades is offering two foreign field trips this coming year:



❖ **Birding in Belize** (January 25-30)

*lead by Richard Mouyroud and a Belizian guide*

Richard will present a mini-program on the Belize trip at the October 3 meeting. Get a taste of the tropical adventure that our chapter is offering. Details on the trip and handouts will be available at the meeting.



*and*

❖ **Upper Amazon: Birding and Boating** (June 2-9)

*lead by Claudine Laabs and  
Amazonian guide Beder Chavez*

Details on the Amazon trip in early spring.

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The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held  
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center -  
Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach. (opposite the Science Museum). The public is welcome.

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Deadline for Articles in November issue is October 15.

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