

EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON
SOCIETY
OF THE
EVERGLADES

Volume 41, No. 2

NOVEMBER 2000

CALENDER

ASE Activities in **BOLD Print**

OCTOBER

- 28 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Bird Walk. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park,
Ft. Lauderdale. Meet at entrance north side
of Sunrise Blvd., just west of A1A.
Leader: Wally George

NOVEMBER

- 4 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Beginning Bird Class. Pine Jog
Environmental Education Center, WPB.
Instructors: Ann Weinrich & Clive Pinnock.
Reservations required - (561) 686-6600.
- 11 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Indian River Lagoon, Ft. Pierce.
Guided Bird Cruise on the lagoon.
Carpool. Leader: Claudine Laabs.
Details in Kite.
- 14 Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.**
Bird Walk. Okeehetee Park Nature Center,
WPB. North side of Forest Hill Blvd., 1 mile
west of Jog Road. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
- 18 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Bird Walk. Belle Glade Camp Ground.
Meet at NW corner of Military Trail &
Southern Blvd., WPB at 7 a.m. to carpool,
or meet at campground entrance. Bring lunch.

DECEMBER

- 2 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**
Bird Walk. Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray.
East side of Jog Road, 1.5 miles north of
Atlantic Ave. Leader: Wilma Zane.

General Meeting...

"Everglades Lawmen"

by James T. Huffstodt

"Everglades Lawmen" puts readers aboard a speeding airboat bound for a world of gators and gunfights... roaring through the vast Everglades in search of sportsmen in distress or heavily armed poachers stalking our precious wildlife," says Miami Herald outdoor writer Sue Cocking. Historian James T. Huffstodt has put together a collection of stories of wardens dating back to the early 1950's. He is currently the Information Officer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - Everglades Region. His first book "Hard Dying Men" is a Civil War history published in 1991 by Heritage Press.

Please join us to learn some of Florida's exciting history on November 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Club building in Dreher Park.

Mini-program: "Indian River Lagoon" by Leah Schad.

Claudine Laabs
Program Chair

NOTE: On November 11 at 7 p.m. on Channel 2, "New Florida" will feature a segment on Claudine Laabs' nature photography.

New Chapter Brochure Available

Enclosed you will find our 2000-2001 season brochure. Listed inside are field trips and events, programs, numbers to keep handy, and a membership application to join. Perhaps this year a holiday gift of membership with Audubon is on your list. There is space on the application form to add you gift recipients name and address.

From The President

by Carol Shields

Welcome South County

Last month the Audubon Society of the Everglades officially took over the membership of Royal Palm Audubon, which folded earlier this year. I genuinely welcome all of you who are members and hope that you will soon join us for our field trips and programs. I know some of you already come to our events. Well now, you can read about them every month in the Everglade Kite, 12 times a year. Look for a special personal welcome letter to arrive soon.

Election Connection

Be sure to vote before coming to the November meeting on the 7th. Very rarely in our history has it been so important to vote pro-environment for a number of candidates this year.

While this chapter does not endorse any particular candidate, I would like to pass along information on a very effective environmental watchdog. The League of Conservation Voters, based in Washington D.C., watches political candidates at both the state and federal levels.

The League of Conservation Voters works to create a Congress more responsive to your environmental concerns. As the nonpartisan political voice for over nine million members of environmental and conservation groups, LCV is the only national environmental organization dedicated full-time to educating citizens about the environmental voting records of Members of Congress.

They watch candidate voting history related to environmental issues and have a percentage scale on which they rate the candidates. Candidates can be as low as 0% (Connie Mack) or as high as 100% (Robert Wexler).

The LCV also has what they call a "Dirty Dozen List" which lists the worst rated incumbents in the country up for reelection and LCV makes efforts to oust them out of office by bringing information to the people. In the last two elections, LCV has helped defeat 16 of the 25 candidates named to its Dirty Dozen list. This year a Florida candidate is on the list.

To get a closer look at all of the candidates in Florida log onto their website at www.lcv.org or call them at (202) 785-8683. And then, *get out there and vote!*



Don't Forget To

VOTE!



Saving Cranes with Planes

Will thirteen birds follow a plane from Wisconsin to Florida even if to find their way back to Wisconsin without an escort once winter is over?

These are the questions that researchers hope to answer in the next several months. Their ultimate goal is to reestablish a migratory population of endangered Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States, but in order to accomplish that feat they must first see whether Sandhill Cranes, a similar but less threatened species, can make the journey.

At present there's only one migrating flock of Whooping Cranes in North America. These 187 birds travel between Wood Buffalo National Park in northwestern Canada and Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. If the experiment with the Sandhill Cranes proves to be a success, a group of captive bred Whooping Cranes will be trained to migrate between Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin and Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Go to this website for a map of the planned migration route:
enature.com/news/newsletter_39.asp?link=5

Whooping Cranes will be the topic of our December meeting. Join us at that Tuesday evening 6 p.m. for a Holiday buffet before this special presentation. Bring a covered dish to share at the table. Audubon will provide the eats and drinks. For more information call Sue Gates at 742-9219.

Conservation Report

by Cissie Durando

Let me personally welcome all the members of Royal Palm Audubon that have been transferred to our chapter. Please adopt us!

This is a big county under tremendous threat of losing habitat and species (plant and animal). In my opinion we will be the ultimate cause of success or failure of the Everglades Restoration Project. We are stewards of a federally protected wild & scenic river, the Loxahatchee and its headwaters (the Slough); Lake Worth Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee, Corbett, Du Puis, Everglades Agr. Area, Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, Holey Land, all our sensitive land purchases. Do not forget the common denominator is, how we address water management.

We need more vocalists at public meetings. Today, October 17, at FAU was the first, of probably more to come, public meetings on what to do about FAU's proposed expansion into burrowing owl territory. This should fall under the former south county chapter. Is there someone there who could join in this crisis? Charles Lee posed the question to me last week at an unrelated meeting: "What are we doing about this?" At that point I had to say "nothing". We will have ASE representation at today's meeting, but we need HELP!

After the 3rd meeting of the Governor's Commission on Growth Management, I am discouraged. This will be a big legislative item next year. Our fate, goals, policies and land use will hang on this. So far, there is more elimination from protection than protection! Development of regional impact will be eliminated. As a matter of fact regional planning councils will be emasculated. Water supply as an issue was voted down. Possible division of large counties will be considered. We are looking at further fragmentation of regional systems.

October 11 witnessed an almost historic meeting of our Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners and the Board of South Florida Water Management District. Opportunity to be foresighted, insightful, even heroic, tossed in favor of pandering, political, and requesting easing and streamlining requirements for agriculture!

**Let me repeat: HELP WANTED!!!
Call Cissie at 965-2420.**

A Sense of Humor - The Sixth Sense?



An old man was sitting on a bench in the mall, when a young man with spiked hair sat down beside him. The boy's hair was yellow, green, orange and purple and he had heavy black makeup around his eyes. The old man couldn't keep from staring at the youngster. The boy said, "What's the matter, old man, haven't you ever done anything wild in your life?" The old man answered "Well yes, actually, I have. I once got drunk and had sex with a parrot and I was just wondering if you were my son."



Indian River Lagoon Field Trip

Our first field trip to cruise the Indian River Lagoon is scheduled for November 11. We will have Audubon guide Warden Barry "Chop" Lege as our personal guide on this boat excursion to spot birds from an exceptional vantage point.

For those who wish to carpool, we would meet in the JC Penny's parking lot at the Palm Beach Mall at 6:30 a.m. For those who wish to drive separately, directions are below. Plan one-hour travel time to reach Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, (HBOI) where we will launch. 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, PO Box 16914, WPB, Florida 33416-6914 to be received no later than Friday November 3.

The Conference Center has a Visitors Center and gift shop. For information on this field trip contact Carol Shields at 964-1522 or Claudine Laabs at 655-9779.

Directions to HBOI: Take I-95 north to Exit 67 (Indiro Road). East on Indiro Road for 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.

Everglades Restoration Forum

Sponsored by University of Florida/IFAS, the South Florida Water Management District and South Florida Everglades Restoration Task Force, there will be a forum on:

Friday, December 8, 9:00a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Center
Exhibit Hall A&B
559 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida 33414

Topics include:

- Surviving the Acronym Onslaught
- Kissimmee River Update
- Elements of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP)
- Legislative and Congressional Update
- What we know about Aquifer Storage & Retention (ASR) Technology
- The Straight Scoop on Wildlife in the Everglades Region
- What the Restoration effort Means to South Florida

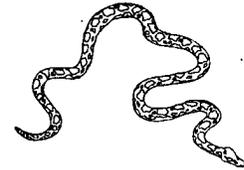


For detailed information:

Phone: (561) 233-1724 or Fax (561) 233-1768

E-Mail: sbronson@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

Website: <http://earthproject.ifas.ufl.edu>



Everglades Restoration Tree Planting Program

By Nancy Marshall

The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation has initiated a massive Cypress tree planting project in cooperation with the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The planting will coincide with Everglades Day at the Refuge and the 12th Anniversary of the renaming of the Refuge after Conservationist of the Decade, Art Marshall.

Why a Tree Planting Project?

Cypress and numerous other species were an important part of the water quality filtration system, taking up huge amounts of phosphorous and other heavy metals, such as mercury and lead, which pollute our water quality and environment today.

Since very little reforestation has been included in the official Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the planting of native trees will enhance restoration of habitat corridors, establishment of greenways, reduction of pollutants, and full involvement by citizens.

For the project to be successful we need volunteers to be involved with the hands on planning and planting, others to purchase family trees or memorial trees and local sponsors to underwrite the cost of purchasing Pond Cypress seedlings in a variety of sizes.

This is a Palm Beach County program with global implications. The nation and the world are watching the progress of the Everglades restoration effort. We need to become the model for stewardship of the environment that the world will follow. This can only be achieved through volunteers and community-wide support. If you are interested in being part of the project please call John or Nancy Marshall at (561) 833-4425.

How to Recognize Common Bird Songs

Sometimes simple phrases can help you remember which bird sings which song.

Here's How:

American Robin- *Cherry, cherry, cherry* • **Blue Jay**- *Jay, jay*

Carolina Chickadee- *Feebee feebay and chick-adee-dee-dee*

Eastern Meadowlark - *Spring-of-THE-year* • **Killdeer** - *Kill-dee, kill-dee, kill-dee*

Red-winged Blackbird - *Konk-a-reee* • **Rufous-Sided Towhee** - *Drink-your-tea*

Tufted Titmouse - *Peter, peter, peter* • **Whip-poor-will** - *Whip-poor-will*

White-throated Sparrow - *Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada*

Carolina Wren: *Tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle*

Military Offensive Menaces Endangered Philippine Eagle

The endangered Philippine eagle, a national symbol of the Philippines as the bald eagle is in the United States, is facing a new threat. This time it is from the conflict between the Philippine military and Muslim rebels.

First placed on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 10 years ago, the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) has been reclassified on IUCN's Red List 2000 released last week as very rare and highly endangered.

The relentless government offensive against the rebel faction the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is threatening the lives of the already critically endangered Philippine eagles. Many of the MILF militants have fled to Mount Apo, the highest mountain in the Philippines. Protected as a national park, Mount Apo is the sanctuary of the Philippine eagle. Mount Apo, an inactive volcano, has waterfalls, rapids, lakes, geysers, sulphur pillars, primeval trees, endangered plant and animal species and a steaming blue lake.

According to Dennis Salvador, executive director of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) that provides protection and

conservation measures for the eagle, the military has started a massive military assault on the rebels in hiding on Mount Apo.

Already, the breeding activities of the eagles have been disturbed, because of an aerial assault in the hinterlands of Baracata, Toril, where many of the eagles are known to breed. Yearly, from August to December the eagles mate, so this month is a critical time for their survival. The eagle, once called the monkey-eating eagle since it preys mostly on monkeys and flying lemurs, lays its eggs in the tops of trees and high slopes above 1,300 meters (4,225 feet).

Salvador estimates there are about 300 Philippine eagles left compared to the 6,000 that flew the Philippine skies 40 years ago. Deforestation and hunting are the main reasons for the eagle's population decline, and the only way to ensure its survival is to protect the remains of its habitat.

Philippine Eagle Foundation maintains a captive breeding program in an eight-hectare Philippine Eagle Center where scientists have successfully bred two eagles. Fourteen other eagles are in the Center. The foundation also implements a field research program to study the characteristics of the eagle and its environment.

—*Environmental News Service*

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.

Deadline for Articles in December issue is November 15.

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