



EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF THE EVERGLADES

Volume 43, No. 2

NOVEMBER 2002

CALENDAR

- Tues. Nov. 5 - GENERAL MEETING** - Barn Owl Prowl by Richard Raid, Ph.D. UF Research Center, Belle Glade.
- Sat. Nov. 9, 4:00 p.m.** Owl Prowl. UF Research Station, Belle Glade, Leader: Dr. Richard Raid. Details in KITE. Coordinator: Claudine Laabs, 561-655-9779.
- Sat. Nov. 9, 8:00 a.m.** Beginning Birding Class. Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, WPB. Instructors: Ann Weinrich & Clive Pinnock. Reservations required, 561-582-2235.
- Tues. Nov. 12, 8:00 a.m.** John Prince Park, Lake Worth. Meet opposite campground entrance. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
- Sat. Nov. 16, 8:00 a.m.** Beginning Birding Class, pt. 2.
- Nov. 16-23**, Amazon River tour and boat trip. Limited seating, advance payment required. Details in KITE.
Coordinator: Claudine Laabs, 561-655-9779.
- Sat. Nov. 30, 8:00 a.m.** Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach. Meet at boardwalk. East side of Jog Rd. 1.5 miles north of Atlantic Ave. Leader: Doug Beach.
- Tues. Dec. 3, 8:00 a.m.** Okeehelée Nature Center, WPB. North side of Forest Hill Blvd. 1 mile west of Jog Rd. (east of turnpike). Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
- Tues. Dec. 3 - GENERAL MEETING** - "Our Everglades National Park" by Maureen Finnerty, Superintendent, Everglades National Park.
- Sat. Dec. 7, 8:00 a.m.** Loxahatchee NWR, Boynton Beach. Meet at Marsh Trail. West side of 441, south of Boynton Beach Blvd. Leader: Marge Eaton.
- Sat. Jan. 4**, Christmas Bird Count. Call 561-585-7714. Compiler: Gloria Hunter
- Tues. Jan. 7 - GENERAL MEETING** - Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge - the first in the United States - speaker to be announced.
- Tues. Jan. 14, 8:00 a.m.** Wakodahatchee Wetlands. Meet as above. Leader: Dorothy Brindle.
- Sat. Jan. 18, 8:00 a.m.** Belle Glade Campground. NOTE: Meet at west end of Target, NE corner of Southern Blvd. and State Rd 7/441 at 7:00 to carpool. Bring lunch. Leader: Chuck Weber.
- Sat. Jan. 18**, Pelican Island boat ride. Details in KITE.
Coordinator: Claudine Laabs, 561-655-9779.

For Field Trip information contact -
Gloria Hunter
561-585-7714

FOR REFERENCE

Do Not Take From This Room

The Owl and the Professor - Richard Raid



"It is estimated that a pair of nesting Barn Owls eats more than 1000 rodents each year. This is a sustainable means of rodent control. It is environmentally friendly - good for agriculture - the owls - and the environment" says Richard Raid, a plant pathologist at the University of Florida Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade.

Since 1995, hundreds of horizontal nest boxes have been placed around agricultural fields in western Palm Beach County. The boxes provide habitat because barns are being eliminated. The owls are valuable for agriculture and birders, too. Barn Owl families have their own show on Birdhouse Network (<http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/nestboxcam/index.html>). You can give a hoot about these owl even though they just screech and hiss.



Please join us at 7:30 PM on November 5 at the Garden Club Building in Dreher Park.

Mini-Program -

Stan Bronson, Director of the Florida Earth Project

- Claudine Laabs
- Program Chair

Field Trip to See the Barn Owls -

November 9 at 5:00 PM at the Research Center in Belle Glade. Meet at Target parking lot at 4:00 PM for carpooling. Call Claudine Laabs at 561-655-9779 for more information.

President's Column - **- Carol Shields**

Perhaps some of you caught the Palm Beach Post or Sun-Sentinel write-ups on the surprise roast we gave in honor of Cissie Durando, our conservation chairperson. I know of no other person more deserving than Cissie. Not looking for any recognition whatsoever, Cissie's "David" battles the Goliaths of this county and does so with success, although not as often as we would all hope. It would behoove some of us to shadow her as she goes after commissioners, developers, and the like with ammunition based on solid facts that many of these 'novice' or first-term officials are totally unaware of. Hip Hip Hooray for Cissie!

Once again in my readings, I have come across some wonderful thoughts to ponder that I would like to share..... If we were to interpret the lives of animals we would say they are content - they have inner peace. They do what they need to do. If they are hungry, they eat and afterwards lie back and dream whatever animals dream. There is no reason to believe that an animal suffers from unfulfilled ambitions or is overwhelmed by responsibilities. Animals do not weigh possibilities that are unavailable to them. The original condition of human

beings, prior to development and progress must have been an inner state of peace. Instinctive needs, such as food and sexual urges, were all that dominated early man. Then due to the 'wonders of progress,' people now have unfulfilled wants, lost expectations, loneliness, frustration, and guilt. These are barriers of what once was for human beings - inner peace. Childhood, too, was an inner peace. Innocence was a freedom we lost as we became more educated about the real world. We have the ability to find that innocence once again by reeducating ourselves. There will always be tangible and intangible desires no matter what standard of living we are at. The key is to learn contentment with who we are and where we are. Learn from the animals; challenge your skills. Enjoy life.

Holidays are on their way; snowbirds are coming back into town; the bustle of activity sure is in the air. Check out the activities and programs your chapter will be having this season. And don't forget the Christmas buffet next month. Contact Stella Rossi at 732-4786 for information. A sheet will also be available at the next general meeting to sign up for a dish you'd like to share.

Welcome New Members -

Judith Merson
Mary E. South
Dolly Reporter
Mary Butterfield
Ms A. Parker Bryant
Conrad Fannon

Ms Terry Tornick, is a new member and she would like a ride to the meetings - phone 561-276-3452 - can you help?

How to Shoot Award-winning Nature Photographs

John J. Lipinot, Chief Photographer for the Palm Beach Post will conduct a seminar on Sunday, November 11th at 3:00 p.m. Attendance is limited. For more information call Lois Chapman at 561-734-8303.

Reservations are a must!

Alaska Rainforest Slide Show

**Tuesday, November 19,
7 p.m.**

**Boynton Beach
Fire Station No 3.**

(Southwest corner of Congress Ave and Miner Rd.)

For more information email John Gates
at
johnkay@mindspring.com

South Florida's Refuges - A Centennial Legacy

An exhibition of new prints by nature photographer Claudine Laabs is at the Visitor Center of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge through December. There will be a special slide program featuring South Florida Refuges at 3 PM on Sunday, December 1, 2002.

Skilled Navigators - **- Hank McCall**

Fanning Island (4 No. Latitude 139 West Longitude) is a little speck of land (8 miles long and 4 miles wide) in a vast, endless ocean. The nearest civilized, inhabited island is Hawaii, 1000 miles north. Fanning is part of the Nation Kiribati and Tarawa, the capital, is 2000 watery miles west.

Its inhabitants are a few Micronesians who live from fishing, farming, seaweed, and raising coconuts for copra. A supply ship comes every three months bringing mail and a few barrels of gasoline. There is no electric power, no plumbing, and the people sleep on the ground in scraggly huts.

There was a little bayou on this bit of land, which I followed looking for birds. To my absolute amazement, I saw 4 bristled-thighed curlews, 20 golden plovers, and 5 wandering tattlers. These birds breed in the Alaskan arctic plain 4000 miles to the north.

If they hop down to southern Alaska to fuel up with 50% of their body fat, then it is 2400 miles to Hawaii, no easy target to find on this endless, empty ocean. Then it's another 1000 miles across a watery plain with no landmarks to that tiny dot of land, Fanning Island.

Variable winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour complicate the flight plan by "setting" the birds off course. Assuming the birds make good speed at 50 mph, it's still a two day flight to Hawaii. How do they position fixes and set courses?

I lift my eyes in awe and tell myself that this is the most marvelous thing I ever beheld!

REPORTING DEAD BIRDS FOR POSSIBLE WEST NILE VIRUS

**- Palm Beach Post,
August 13**

Health department inspectors are encouraging people to call them if they see intact dead birds after a Belle Glade bird tested positive for West Nile on Aug. 2. The Health Department will pick them up and send them to the lab for testing. The toll-free hot line to report dead birds and get information on the virus is (800) 871-9703. The mosquito-borne virus has turned up in 35 states this year, killing seven people in Louisiana and possibly one in Mississippi. About 1 percent of people bitten by virus-carrying mosquitoes develop encephalitis, a life-threatening swelling of the brain. Others may experience flu-like feelings of headache and fever, but most have no symptoms.



Dorothy Wilken, Palm Beach County Clerk of Courts, and Carol Shields, ASE President, escort a "speechless" Rosa "Cissie" Durando into her Roast.

Rosa's Roast -

-Leah Schad

Almost 100 people gathered at the Airport Hilton on October 5th to pay tribute to Rosa "Cissie" Durando. It was a fun-filled afternoon of quips, barbs and tributes. We were able to raise \$ 2200 (net) for our Pathfinder scholarship fund.

Carol Mead, representing the Sierra Club; Nathaniel P. Reed, long-time friend of Audubon and the environment; Dorothy Wilken, personal and political friend of Rosa's; and Bob Wiseman, County Administrator were the invited roasters. Many others spoke in fun as well as seriously recalling the many times that Rosa has 'been there' and sometimes the only voice speaking out and challenging bad decisions about environmental issues.

It was unfortunate that we had a conflict with the Florida Ornithological Society meeting in the Keys, but as we all know this is a busy time of year.

Scholarship Fund -

- Leah Schad

For a number of years the Audubon Society of the Everglades has given a scholarship at the Pathfinder's Awards Ceremony. The minimum scholarship is \$ 2500. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we have raised \$ 2200 toward this year's scholarship. We have also received a contribution to the fund in honor of one of our member's birthday so we are getting close to what we need.

In the past we have been able to fund this program with grant money. However, the grantees have advised that they would not be able to help us this year due to the economy. (A lot of foundations took big hits in the stock market.)

Not wanting to give up this worthwhile program, we opted to raise the money. Rosa's Roast was a place to start.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship fun may do so by making a check payable to: Audubon Society of the Everglades, marked "Scholarship Fund" and mail it to P.O. box 16914, West Palm Beach, FL 33416.

Volunteers Needed -

- Someone is needed to chair the Sanctuary Committee.
- Someone to help with Community Relations / Publicity
- Help is needed for Everglades Day festivities for February, 2003.

If you are interested, call Carol Shields at 561-964-1522.

Environmental Matriarch -

- Patty Pensa

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

October 6, 2002

"Where's the clock?"

For Rosa "Cissie" Durando, it's become second nature to yield to the clock after a good two or three minutes of holding her finger in the air and exhaling a litany of warnings, questions and critiques upon the officials she's trying to persuade. Crowned the matriarch of environmental issues, Durando, 76, joked about being tied to a timer in her 25 years of activism in Palm Beach County.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades, of which Durando is a life member, sponsored a surprise roast at a West Palm Beach hotel Saturday in Durando's honor. The event also raised money for the society's scholarship fund.

But the fun of the afternoon came with the quips about Durando's distinctive style of prodding — well, nagging — officials to manage growth responsibly and protect the environment. The nagging, Durando's roasters said, has not been without results. They credited the former Kentucky horse trainer with forcing big developers to pay more regard to the environment.

"Rosa has a big mouth," said Carol Mead, of the Sierra Club. "It's not big in size, but what comes out is big ... The action is only enlivened by Rosa's big mouth."

Mead described how Durando, who lives on a farm west of Lake Worth, brings to the County Commission or South Florida Water Management District carefully researched notes about project proposals. Not only does Durando dart questions at the officials, but she digs out of her notes contradictory comments officials have made in the past.

It is probably better, Mead said, that Durando ran two unsuccessful campaigns for the County Commission — one in 1988 and the other in 1990 — because her staunch views might have been tamed by political office.

"To Rosa, and to all the Rosas in the 50 United States, who challenge authority and ask the questions no one wants to ask the authority, I say three cheers to you — and keep it up," said Nathaniel Reed, who formerly served on the South Florida Water Management District Board for 14 years.

Durando's activism began in the late 1970s, when her quiet days on her farm were disrupted by noisy trucks hauling away rocks. After some research, she found out protected lands were being overturned for digging shell rock.

Durando went to the first of many County Commission meetings. Without a special permit, these rock miners were violating the law, and Durando helped bring about their conviction on criminal intent.

Since then, Durando has fought against development in the Agricultural Reserve and other projects that harm the environment. Saturday's praising of her past, though, doesn't mean she's ready to give up the fight.

"This is all fun and games here," Durando said, "but all I'm saying is the beat goes on."

Copyright (c) 2002, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

**Lobbyists, lobbyists;
Make yourselves seen;
Rosa is here;
The day has turned green.**

- Bob Weisman

- County Administrator

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make great gifts!

In Florida, a special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Audubon Society of the Everglades. Your membership will include subscriptions to AUDUBON Magazine and the EVERGLADE KITE.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIPS:

Regular - \$ 20 Senior Citizen (62+) - \$ 15 Two Year - \$ 35

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Recipient of Gift Membership:

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

Make check payable to:

National Audubon Society

and send to:

Membership Chair

Audubon Society of the Everglades

PO Box 16914

West Palm Beach, FL, 33416-6914

EOO7XCH

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 submissions for the December issue is November 15.

Audubon Society of the Everglades

PO Box 16914

West Palm Beach, FL, 33416-6914

The Everglade Kite

is published 12 times a year

President

Carol Shields - 561-964-1522

Editor

JoAnn Miner - 561-433-0685

Community Relations

Diane Rivera - 561-433-4063

Membership

561-798-6566

1-800-274-4201

Field Trips - 561-684-8693

Bird Identification - 561-585-7714

ASE Internet Address

audubon.eglades@earthlink.net

Website

home.earthlink.net/~audubon.eglades

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach,
Florida

PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY
SYSTEM
3650 SUMMIT BLVD
WEST PALM BEACH FL 33406-4114



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER