

# EVERGLADE KITE

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OF THE EVERGLADES  
(serving Palm Beach County, Florida)

Volume 43, No. 12

September 2003

## CALENDAR

Tues. September 2nd — GENERAL MEETING  
"Florida's Wildlife"

With David Hitzig, Director, Bush Wildlife Sanctuary  
7:30 PM at Howard Park

▶▶ Howard Park Recreation Center ◀◀

Sept. 17th — Agro-Ecology Conference  
For more information see page 3.

Sept. 20th — Migratory Bird Count  
See page 2 for details

Oct. 11th, Youth Naturalist Program  
See the Presidents Column for details

## == WANTED! ==

Volunteers are needed for hospitality during the general meetings.

Also, volunteers are needed for the Young Naturalist Program on October 11th (see page 2 for details)

If you wish to participate for either of these please call Carole at 561 - 964 - 1522

## TUESDAY, Sept. 2nd PROGRAM

Claudine Laabs, Program Chair

### WILD ANIMALS FROM BUSCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

As always, this is a much anticipated event. David Hitzig is one of South Florida's most popular speakers because of the great rapport he has with the animals and the audience. David is now getting national attention via Jack Hanna and his TV program.

David is the Executive Director of the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. He began his wildlife rehab career in Miami-Dade, but moved to Jupiter after hurricane Andrew. With the help of Peter Busch, he set up a sanctuary at his house.

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary now has a permanent home at  
2500 Jupiter Park Drive off Central Boulevard  
(575-3399).

Come see some of our native wildlife with fur, feathers and ,maybe, scales on September 2 at 7:30 P.M. at the Community Center in Howard Park, WPB.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

— Carol Shields —

Prey and Predators -- Audubon Society Young Naturalist Program

Come to ASE's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Naturalist Program (YNP) and learn how wildlife finds its' meals.

This year YNP will be held at the Palm Beach Zoo on October 11 from 9:30 until 12:30.

Kids will have the opportunity to see wildlife up close, try some very interesting foods, and learn just what it means to be a predator and prey.

This program is open to school-aged children from ages 6-15, when accompanied by an adult. Admission to the zoo and the program is free, *but advance registration is required.*

**No one** will be allowed admittance to the zoo that have not pre-registered. ASE is underwriting the costs and we need to give a head count prior to that Saturday. Please understand that siblings under the age of 6 will not be allowed at the program.

The Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Blvd. in West Palm Beach. Gate opens at 9 a.m. for admission and program begins at 9:30 a.m.. For reservations you can call Diane Rivera at 433-4063. Seating is limited so be sure to call early!

## PINK ON BLACK

By: Hank McCall

Led by superb birders Brian Hope and Gloria Hunter, a caravan of 12 cars with 43 birders traveled 20 miles on rough roads through black muck farm fields. Heavy rains had raised the water levels almost to road level, forcing hundreds of least sandpipers to seek the dry ridges on these roads. They scatteres just as wheels almost touched them. Then the flock would settle in front of the next vehicle to repeat this dance for every car.

Squads of 20 to 30 wood storks slowly marched across the drying fields, their pink feet vivid on the black muck. Black-necked stilts flitted about, some shepherding chicks. They are feisty, one taking off to harrass a turkey vulture. Eye-catching were the stilts' long pink legs against the black dirt. On one huge field, where the water had been pumped down to expose the muck, there congregated banks of thousands of white egrets, wood storks, white pelicans, and roseate spoonbills. Their pink just glowed against the background of white and black.

A bald eagle sat on a little hump of muck watching the moving feast. Slowly taking off he flew to the crowd. An explosion of white and pink flared up as the eagle flew over the banks of birds. One squadron of fifty spoonbills flew across a black cloud making a gorgeous sight of moving pink against black.

And that is the way I will remember Duda Farms all the days of my life, pink and bl

## Migratory Bird Count This Month!

Just a reminder, the Fall Migration Count for Palm Beach Co. is Sept. 20, 2003. I dont' have the back up information yet from Bob Hendereson, but I would appreciate your checking the calender and letting me know ASAP. It seems like we just finished the spring count. Yet, we are just a month from the Fall Count. Palm Beach County is huge. Quite a number of important areas did not get covered last spring. We need qualified birders to do this important work.

if you have questions call 561-595-1278 or email [cplocke@mindspring.com](mailto:cplocke@mindspring.com), .

thanks for your help!

Cynthia Plockelman

## **Conservation Corner – Cissie Durando**

Tomorrow, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be the first reading of a proposed ordinance to theoretically nail down protection for the land bought through 2 bond issues in 1991 and 1999 to the tune of \$250 million. We have been looking for legal protection for all this environmentally sensitive land that the public was convinced we should buy and savor in perpetuity. Many thought it was protected from other uses by just an "intent" stated in the original bond issue. When the lands are paid off it really will be open to other possibilities. This ordinance is only a very feeble attempt at placating some of us nervous nellys. The "Public use" clause, and future determination by politicians leaves a lot to be desired. No matter what happens tomorrow, I hope that this stimulates some of you to call your commissioners, or me, to be updated.

The cause was immediately stimulated by the proposal of some commissioners to allow a road through one such track, the old Fox property (now known as Pond Cypress), which is adjacent to the W.P.B. water catchment area known as Grassy Waters. This, to alleviate existing traffic and enable more development west of the existing S.R.7 / U.S. 441 and north of Okeechobee Blvd.

**BAD! BAD! BAD!**

The game commission remains devoted to their original charge: Protect and further the cause of hunters — mostly. Their sept. meeting, very important, is in the out of the way place of Pensacola Beach. They will move yet closer to downgrading protection of the manatee and the cockaded woodpecker. The pressure will then be exerted, probably, to get the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ease off.

**BAD! BAD! BAD!**

PLUS, declaring a no-bag limit on shooting otter and bob cat. So much for the great sportsman's declaration, "We eat what we kill!" when is the last time anyone declared otter or bob cat a nuisance animal?

**BAD! BAD! BAD!**

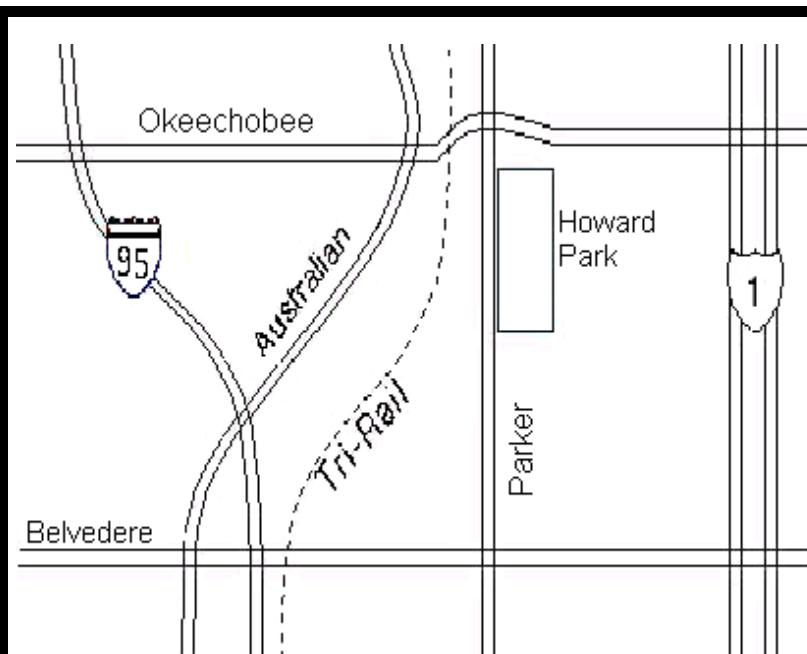
**Some ardent A.S.E.ers have suggested we re-form a conservation group and meet. I'm looking for some word on this.**

## **Save The Date!**

Leah Shad  
Member, Conference Planning  
Committee

Mark your calendars now for September 17, 2003! "Can We Keep Agriculture in the South Florida Ecosystem?" is the theme for an Agro-Ecology Conference set for September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning. The purpose of this conference is to provide direction to the scientific research Community regarding agricultural research necessary to support ecosystem restoration, including CERP implementation. The conference objective is to understand agriculture as a long term component in the south Florida landscape and explore the scientific basis for decision-making.

Registration fee is \$20.00 before September 3, 2003 and \$25.00 after that date. The fee covers lunch, refreshments, and materials. For additional information please call Doreen DiCarlo, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University in Palm Beach Gardens at 799-8553.



## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

### **▶▶ NEW LOCATION: ◀◀**

This month's General Meeting, and all following meetings, will take place at our new location, **Howard Park**, in the Recreation Center.

Howard Park is located east of I-95 about 400 yards south of Okeechobee Blvd. between Parker Ave. and S. Lake Ave.

The phone number for the park's Recreation center is:  
561-835-7055

## 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership ----- \$20.00  
Senior Citizen ----- \$15.00

### 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

**E00 7XCH**

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held  
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Howard Park Recreation Center in West Palm Beach.  
The public is welcome.

Deadline for submissions for the Oct. issue is Sep 10th.

### Audubon Society of the Everglades

PO Box 16914  
West Palm Beach,  
FL, 33416-6914

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Permit 46

***The Everglade Kite***  
**is published 12 times a year**

**President**

Carol Shields - 561-964-1522

**Kite Editor**

Tammy Peeples  
Audubontam@yahoo.com

**Field Trips**

Linda Most - 561-684-8693

**Bird Identification**

Gloria Hunter - 561-585-7714

**ASE Internet Address**

Audubon@auduboneverglades.org

**Website**

Auduboneverglades.org



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER