



EVERGLADE KITE

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES

VOLUME 24, No. 4

Ruth Trumpower, Editor

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Actually, Volume 24, No. 5

BARLEY BARBER SWAMP FEATURED IN FEBRUARY

Prior to ASE's February 11th field trip to the Barley Barber Swamp at Florida Power & Light Company's Martin County plant, Peter A. Quincy of FPL will give us an overview of what we may see there when he speaks at our February 7th meeting.

Peter, who has been Environmental Coordinator of FPL for 3½ years, is a marine biologist and geophysicist. He received his BED and Masters in Science from the University of Miami and was a teacher for 14 years. Peter is known to many of us as a former president of Tropical Audubon Society, as a former FAS staff member, and for his participation in the FAS Canoe-a-thon.

Don't miss this meeting if you are interested in slides and information about the swamp. Join us on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center in Dreher Park.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 8:00 A.M. -
Barley Barber Swamp Walk, meet leader at plant gate. Take SR 710 to 10 miles west of Indiantown, access road is at 2nd blinking light and has FPL sign at turnoff.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7:30 A.M. -

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Meet leader at Marsh Trail parking lot.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 7:30 A.M. -
Okechee Park on Forest Hill Blvd. just east of Turnpike. Meet at main entrance parking lot, then explore new Nature Trail. John Street, leader.

FAS CANOE-A-THON

Florida Audubon's 6th Annual Canoe-a-thon is scheduled for March 24th on the beautiful Wekiva River near Orlando. Persons 15 years of age or older, with a minimum of \$25 in sponsor pledges, may register for either the 19-mile run from King's Landing to Katie's Landing, or the 11-mile run from Wekiva Marina to Katie's Landing.

Anyone interested must register by 5 p.m. on March 9th. Forms will be available at our February meeting. A canoe will be awarded to the winner in each of five categories: individual, corporate, public service, school, and chapter.

Our own Chuck Potter and his wife, Marion, have already entered this event. Chuck will need sponsors, so be sure to help out, as proceeds from the canoe-a-thon will benefit Florida Audubon's Endangered Species Program. We hope a few more

people from ASE will participate.

WILDLIFE FILM SERIES
HAS AUSPICIOUS START

Chuck has indicated that if he wins a canoe, he will donate it to ASE! Contact him at home, 586-4221, or office, 585-2517, to support his efforts for FAS. (Leah Schad)

Those of you who missed the first evening of our Audubon Wildlife Film Series missed some beautiful scenery and a fine speaker. hope you will join us for the rest of them at Rosarian Academy Auditorium at 8 p.m. on the following dates:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

For ASE, January was busy! In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, we attended several Steering Committee meetings for the upcoming Conference on Growth Management for Palm Beach County. This conference will be held February 2, 3 and 4 at Sandpiper Bay in Port St. Lucie. Conservation Chairman Cissy Durando and I will attend.

On Thursday, February 2, Grant Foster will present "Summer in Kiwi Land," a glimpse of New Zealand's natural world and some of its unusual inhabitants.

We were present to hear the governing board of SFWMD uphold the hearing officer's decision (with minor exceptions) to deny a surface water permit to the Strazzulla Brothers. Mr. Strazzulla's attorney indicated they would appeal - so we will wait.

On Thursday, February 16, Charles Hotchkiss will present "From Reefs to Rockies," a journey from the underwater world of coral reefs to the heights of the Rocky Mountains.

Randy Schultz of THE POST wrote an excellent article about Ocean Ridge in the January 15th edition. Let's hope this was an "epitaph" to dredging as a solution to the beach problems there. It is depressing to think about the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars that were spent, with nothing to show for it, due to improper advice!

Thursday, March 1, will bring us Rich Kern and his "Hidden Worlds of the Big Cypress Swamp," in which he reveals a populous world of minute species upon which the swamp's larger creatures depend for sustenance.

KITE STRINGS

In accordance with our Bylaws, a Nominating Committee and a Budget Committee were appointed at the January board meeting. The Nominating Committee members are Al Liberman, Dale Neuenschwander and Terry Palmer, Chairman. Please call Terry, 626-9076, if you have suggestions for nominees. Budget Committee members are Don Braender, Chairman; Susan Korzenewski, Charles Dennis and Helen Gilmore.

Hospitality Chairman Sylvia Dunnam says many thanks to those of you who brought Christmas and Hanukkah goodies to the December meeting. They were delicious and made a big hit with our members and guests.
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For Sale: Keith Simpson, 686-0125, has a new pair of 8 x 30B Zeiss binoculars for sale for \$300.00 (purchase price was \$800).
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Ye Ed. is seeking old, old copies of the KITE. We thought there was a file of same with other Audubon materials in our cabinet which Pine Jog graciously permits us to store there, but could find none. I have them on file from December 1970 on, and know it's doubtful that earlier ones are available - but just in case - call me at 585-3968 and I'll arrange to pick them up.
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At our January meeting, the Board of Directors approved expenditures of funds to the following: \$250 to Dr. Greg Harrison's Research Institute for Avian Medicine for treatment of the eagle which was found in a Belle Glade canal and brought to him; \$100 to the Martin County Audubon Wildlife Hospital which is operated by Jean Henry; \$400 toward the legal expenses incurred regarding the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; \$100 to the Francis Biedler Forest (NAS Sanctuary) for use in its educational programs, and \$100 to Pine Jog for an upcoming Acclimatization Workshop.

1983 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Plagued by scattered showers, the 1983 West Palm Beach Christmas counters tallied 146 species and 3 yellow-headed parrots. The count average is slowly and inexorably slipping downward because of the planting of more and more acres every year that completely cover habitat areas. With this yearly crop of new housing developments, we can expect this continuous decline in results.

Several items of interest in the FAS Outreach Newsletter: FAS will offer a 10-day Natural History Tour of Florida. If anyone is interested, please call Wendy Hale at Florida Audubon, (305) 647-2615.

Although the White Pelican winters in Florida, the sighting by Clifford, Albera, Connolly and Hartranft (also seen by Hope) at Boynton Sewage Plant is our first ever for a Christmas Count in 26 years. The Clifford party also found a Horned Grebe, only our third count sighting, and a Cooper's Hawk. Sandella and Hartranft found 3 Scrub Jays.

FAS also has a new staff member, Janice Moore, who will be responsible for building membership, increasing donations, and public relations. Her official title is Development Coordinator. Welcome, Janice, and good luck in your endeavors.

The Dowling party, with Brooks, from Ft. Pierce recorded a sound count and a Grasshopper Sparrow. The Eaton party, with Palmer and Calmes, had good numbers of yellowlegs and two redstarts.

Brochures on National Audubon's 1984/85 Camps, Field Seminars and Wild Country will be available on the information table at the February meeting. Those interested should help themselves. (Leah Schad)

The Hope party, with George from Ft. Lauderdale, recorded the only Great Horned Owl, Western Kingbird, a Black-throated Green Warbler and the amazing number of 7 Least Flycatchers. Covering the condo beat, the Hunter party, with Janning and the Christians, added 30 Gannets.

The Langridge party, with Bolte from Ft. Lauderdale and Basham from Tennessee, saw 3 Black-throated Green Warblers, a Black-throated Blue Warbler and 4 Least Flycatchers.

The Liberman party, with Wilson, added Clay-colored Sparrows and a Barn Owl. The McCall party, with Palmer, Muller, Silverman and Rimberg, sighted 2 Dunlin and a Hermit Thrush. The Parmalee party, with Wagner and Korzenewski, saw a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. The Plockelman party, with Trumpower, sighted a Merlin and a Hermit Thrush.

The Schad party, with Guadagnoli, Dunnam and Teahan, added the only Magnolia Warblers, Parulas, Reddish Egret and 6 Limpkin.

The Sykes party, with Takekawa and Flores at Loxahatchee Refuge, reported 98 American Bitterns, 77 Least Bitterns, 1200 Turkey Vultures in the air at one time, 42 Limpkins, a Virginia Rail, a Common Nighthawk, only our fourth count sighting, and a Wilson's Warbler.

The Trotsky-Matthews party used a tape to get Bachman's Sparrows to respond, counted only 32 Screech Owls (they started at 12:30 a.m.) and reported a Prothonotary Warbler, only the second count sighting. The Weinrichs, with Bryam, counted 3340 Laughing Gulls at the lump. (Howard Langridge)

CONSERVATION REPORT

"Hell hath no fury....." The woman I refer to is Mother Nature! Oops, there goes another sea wall! Dr. Orrin Pilkey, a leading marine geologist heading a research project at Duke University, tried to educate a Palm Beach seminar last year, but was dismissed as a doom and gloomer with no solution. We found the same reception before that for ASE's beach expert, Dinesh Sharma. The truth of the matter is, given the fragmented, selfish handling of our oceanfront and the parameters each community and inlet district has dictated, there is no solution.

The beaches are moving; always have and always will. Ms. Nature tries to aid and patch with sandbars, which we promptly dredge away. With the problem compounded by the rising oceans, at some point the cost will become prohibitive. There is a plan for forming a task force for considering the creation of a Palm Beach County Erosion Prevention District. It would consider an effective and unified method of combating the problem from one end of the county to the other. Sounds good, until you realize one of the biggest contributors to the problem, the Palm Beach Inlet, would not be included with the other three inlets. It would remain solely under the jurisdiction of the Corps. Anyone interested in beach problems can attend the meetings scheduled for the 1st Monday of each month at 2 p.m. in the County Court House, W.P.B.

At the January SFWMD Board meeting, we were

given a thick draft of major construction program descriptions for the coming year and beyond. Some are necessary and good and remedy problems resulting from an over-engineered environment. We are most familiar with the Kissimmee Valley, East Everglades and Everglades National Park problems. Slipped in, there is a C-51 Flood Control project. We should be aware that that is our Palm Beach Canal and the project is a proposal to back-pump from SR 7 west and discharge into the Loxahatchee Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1). Don't let all the platitudes disguise the results of this massive drainage project. We have already laid the groundwork for our own East Everglades-type problem. If this drainage/backpumping happens, with its resulting developable land, a University Expressway toll road will slice through and destroy what remaining everglades habitat we have left.

Communicate with your County Commissioner on the values of wetlands as water recharge areas, and the dangers and discomforts of paving over our lowlands. Also write or call Representative Ray Liberti concerning putting all of our county in drainage programs. We don't need drainage districts to monitor the land. We have sufficient agencies doing that (DER, DNR, SFWMD, etc.). The autonomous drainage districts such as Acme, Lake Worth, Indian Trail, etc., all acting separately, are one of our major problems in controlling over-drainage, manipulation of water tables, and water quality.

During its February Board meeting, SFWMD will consider the application of Ford Motor Company to have a testing area in panther territory between Fakahatchee Strand and Big Cypress Swamp. We must oppose this vigorously. If you cannot attend, write Chairman William Clark before February 9 to express your views.

On a national level, the time has come to write Senators Chiles and Hawkins again. Urge them to support S.2159, the Hazardous Air Pollutant Control Act of 1983. EPA regulates only four toxic air pollutants. Twelve more are now considered carcinogenic by the Dept. of Health & Human Services. S.2159 would limit EPA negligence to three years, after which such pollutants would automatically be declared hazardous and regulations would follow.

In line with this, write your representative in Washington to support HR.3400 and HR.4404. These measures would amend and implement the Clean Air Act. The consideration should not be "can we afford it." We can no longer afford to delay.

Next Conservation Committee meeting: Wednesday, February 8, at Trumpower home, 165 Auburn Drive, L.W. (Cissy Durando)

ACCLIMATIZATION WORKSHOP

Outdoor educator Steve Van Matre will conduct an Acclimatization Workshop for teachers, naturalists, youth leaders and outdoor instructors on Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pine Jog Center.

Van Matre, a professor of Environmental Education at George Williams College in Illinois, is the author of three books about

this unique approach for helping people understand and appreciate our planet and its systems of life. Acclimatization programs sharpen perceptions and build ecological concepts. It's different. Call Pine Jog, 686-6600, for registration information.

There may be a few available seats for the Pine Jog Everglades Bus Trip on February 9. Call before January 31. And don't forget the following:

RAIN FORESTS OF THE WORLD - a look at the life found in these diverse and mysterious jungles, Wednesdays, February 8 and 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m., fee \$8.

COASTAL WILDERNESS - Florida's subtropical coastal plant and animal communities, Tuesdays, February 28 and March 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m., plus field trips to MacArthur Beach State Park on Saturdays, March 3 and 10, 9 a.m.-noon, \$20, limit 20 persons.

PINE JOG JAUNT - learn about plant and animal interrelationships in Pine Jog's natural communities, Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration required, \$2.

SMART TURKEYS

About two hours drive to the north of Palm Beach lies a game paradise. Deer, hogs, turkey and bobwhite come from miles around to savor these 700 acres. The land is sandy, with scattered ponds and streams, and it supports pine, palmetto, and broom grass. Little two and three acre patches of millet and sorghum are cultivated at random throughout the spread. Jeep and horse trails wind in and out of the pine stands.

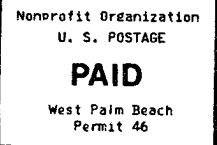
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This did not occur by nature alone. Its owner lavished time, equipment, seed, and loving care to make the land a creation. His wife calls it "Tom's Playpen."

One Saturday afternoon we counted 78 turkeys grazing about the pastures. At first sight of us, they ran across the ground to disappear into the brush. This count of 78 is more turkeys than I have seen in my entire life.

The next weekend was the first day of hunting season, and we were out a morning twilight to get one of these delicious birds. There must have been in our ranks a treacherous spy who leaked a warning. Or perhaps someone in Tallahassee sent out an announcement by tom-tom. In this land loaded with turkeys, can you guess how many we saw? None; not one was seen or collected.

We scratched our heads and engaged in deep thought. Was it our lack of skill, or should we admit that these turkeys are just a heap smarter than we are? (Hank McCall)



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