

2-1998

Newsletter, Florida Breeding Bird Atlas, February 1988

Florida Audubon Society

Nongame Wildlife Program, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Florida Ornithological Society

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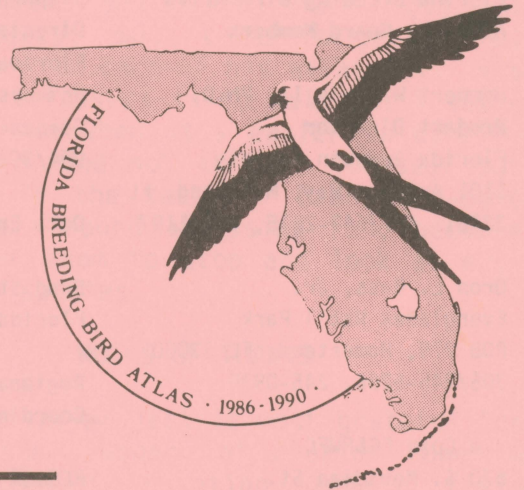
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FLORIDA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS NEWSLETTER

A project of the
FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
and the

NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM,
FLORIDA GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

in cooperation with The Florida Ornithological Society
and local Audubon Chapters



Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, Florida 32751 305/647-2615

NUMBER 5 FEBRUARY, 1988

TWO DOWN, THREE TO GO

The third year of the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas is under way. Eagles, Ospreys, Owls, Great Blue Herons, and Wood Ducks are now nesting, and several other species are about to begin. We are most grateful to all of you who have contributed time, effort, and data to this project. This is an important year--we must be over halfway through block coverage by the end of this season if we are to be successful. Where does your county stand in this regard? One means to help coordinators to improve coverage is through volunteer blockbusting parties. This year some funds are available in each region to assist with organized blockbusting efforts. We hope every coordinator and cooperator will make a special effort to complete their current atlas blocks and move on to new blocks (especially the two priority blocks in each quad).

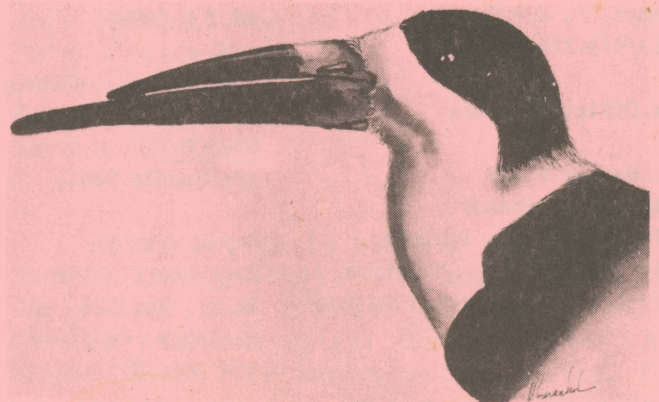
FIRST YEAR'S (1986) DATA PRINTOUTS

Data printouts of the first year's computer input are now in the hands of county and regional coordinators. These are to be checked by the coordinators, and, if necessary by the cooperators involved, and any errors, or missing information brought to the attention of the state coordinator (Wes Biggs). In some instances, new information on the printout will be a result of an added casual observation. Unfortunately, the data processor neglected to add a code to

indicate an added casual observation, but in future printouts this will be indicated by a notation at the bottom of the page.

In some cases, whole blocks or quads may accidentally have been omitted from the printout--please bring this to our attention. Every County coordinator must keep a record of the blocks (and quads) for which he has forwarded data cards so that he can insure that the annual printout accounts for every block for which a card was submitted.

After the 1987 field data are computerized, we will produce as many species maps as possible at the block level for each region. These will better show what and where gaps exist so that special efforts can be made to fill these in by individual cooperators and by blockbusting teams.



DIRECTORY TO ADVISORY BOARD & COORDINATORS

Florida Breeding Bird Atlas
Advisory Board Members

Herbert W. Kale II, Ph.D.
Project Director
Florida Audubon Society
1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL
* 32751 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Jim Cox, FG&FWFC
[REDACTED]

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Florida State Museum
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
[REDACTED]

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Tallahassee, FL 32306
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Archbold Biological Station
Venus, FL 33960
[REDACTED]

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Rt. 1, Box 678
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Dept. of Biology
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL 32620
[REDACTED]

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C. Wesley Biggs
State Coordinator
Florida Audubon Society
1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL
* [REDACTED]

Stephen R. Humphrey, Ph.D.
Director, Atlas Data Base
Florida State Museum
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
[REDACTED]

Data Entry Assistant

Brad Stith
Florida State Museum

Regional and County
Coordinators

REGION 1
(Panhandle West)

Curtis L. Kingsbery
Reg. Coordinator
[REDACTED]

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Ann Forster
[REDACTED]
Pensacola, FL 32507
[REDACTED]

OKALOOSA COUNTY

Donald M. Ware
[REDACTED]

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Bob Duncan
[REDACTED]

WALTON COUNTY

(See Okaloosa County)

REGION 2
(Panhandle East)

Brian Specht
Reg. Coordinator
[REDACTED]

BAY COUNTY

Horace Loftin, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]

CALHOUN COUNTY

Sybil Arbery
[REDACTED]

GULF COUNTY

(See Bay County)

HOLMES COUNTY

(See Reg. Coordinator)

JACKSON COUNTY

George Eckerly
[REDACTED]

WASHINGTON COUNTY

No Coordinator

REGION 3
(Tallahassee)

Jim Cox, Reg. Coordinator
[REDACTED]

DIXIE COUNTY

Noel Wamer
[REDACTED]

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Rick West, Ph. D.
[REDACTED]

GADSDEN COUNTY

No Coordinator

JEFFERSON COUNTY

No Coordinator

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Joanne/George Griffin
[REDACTED]

LEON COUNTY

Dana Bryan
[REDACTED]

LIBERTY COUNTY

No Coordinator

MADISON COUNTY

No Coordinator

TAYLOR COUNTY

(See Dixie County)

WAKULLA COUNTY

Ron Christen
[REDACTED]

REGION 4
(Northeast)

Peggy Powell
Reg. Coordinator
[REDACTED]

*Prior to April 16, use Area Code 305.

ALACHUA COUNTY

John Hintermister

[Redacted]

NASSAU COUNTY

Hal Belcher

[Redacted]

LAKE COUNTY

Charles Newell

[Redacted]

REGION 6
(Southwest)

David Goodwin, Reg. Coord.

[Redacted]

BAKER COUNTY

Terry West

[Redacted]

PUTNAM COUNTY

Barbara Parham

[Redacted]

LEVY COUNTY

Harriet Smith

[Redacted]

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Oliver Hewitt, Ph.D.

[Redacted]

BRADFORD COUNTY

Jim Garrison

[Redacted]

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Robert Loftin, Ph.D.

[Redacted]

MARION COUNTY

John Sharpe, M.D.

[Redacted]

DESOTO COUNTY

Arnold Rawson, M.D.

[Redacted]

CLAY COUNTY

Lenore McCullagh, Ph.D.

[Redacted]

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Wallace McCormick

[Redacted]

ORANGE COUNTY

Dot Freeman

[Redacted]

HERNANDO COUNTY

Steve Fickett

[Redacted]

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Pete Southall, FG&FWFC

[Redacted]

UNION COUNTY

No Coordinator

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Bob Sullivan

[Redacted]

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Gail Parsons

[Redacted]

DUVAL COUNTY

Hugh Tyner

[Redacted]

REGION 5
(North Central)

Becky Payne, Reg. Coord.

[Redacted]

and

Walter K. Taylor, Ph.D.
Dept./Biological Sci.
Univ. of Central FL

[Redacted]

MANATEE COUNTY

Charles M. Pead

[Redacted]

GILCHRIST COUNTY

(No Coordinator)

CITRUS COUNTY

Marge Lynch

[Redacted]

SUMTER COUNTY

(See Regional Coordinator)

PASCO COUNTY

Bill Pranty

[Redacted]

HAMILTON COUNTY

Virlyn Willis, Jr.

[Redacted]

FLAGLER COUNTY

No Coordinator

VOLUSIA COUNTY

David A. Stock, Ph.D.
Dept. of Biology
Stetson University
Deland, FL 32720

[Redacted]

PINELLAS COUNTY

Larry Hopkins

[Redacted]

SARASOTA COUNTY

Belinda Perry
Sarasota County Nat.

s. [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

REGION 7
(South Central)

Chuck Geanangel, Reg. Coord.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

GLADES COUNTY

June McCallum

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

HARDEE COUNTY

Tom Palmer

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Alice Rasmussen

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

OSCEOLA COUNTY

(See Regional Coordinator)

POLK COUNTY

Buck Cooper
Street Nature Center
115 Lameraux Rd.
Winter Haven, FL 33884

[Redacted]

REGION 8
(Southeast)

Dan Click, Reg. Coord.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

BREVARD COUNTY

Marianne/Tom Cherrington

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Jack Taylor

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

MARTIN COUNTY

D. Greg Braun

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Jane Brooks

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Bill/Helen Dowling

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

REGION 9
(South)

Mickey Wheeler
Reg. Coordinator

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

BROWARD COUNTY

Wally George

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

and

Ed Rosenberg

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

COLLIER COUNTY

John & Linda Douglas

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

DADE COUNTY

Bruce Neville

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

HENDRY COUNTY

Lynne S. Lewis

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

LEE COUNTY

Bob Repenning, Pine Island
Sound Aquatic Preserve

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

MONROE COUNTY

Karen Strobel
National Aud. Society
115 Indian Mound Trail
Tavernier, FL 33070

[Redacted]

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Howard Langridge

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



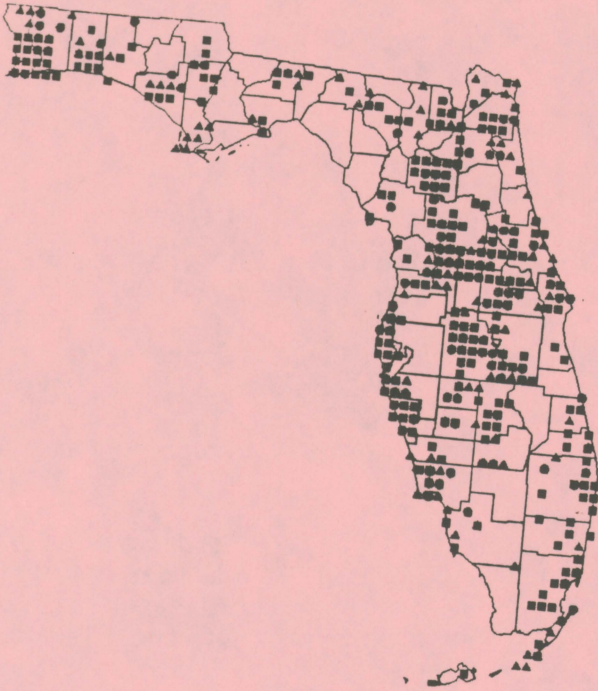
*Prior to April 16, use Area Code 305.

DISBRIBUTION OF FOUR FLORIDA SPECIES

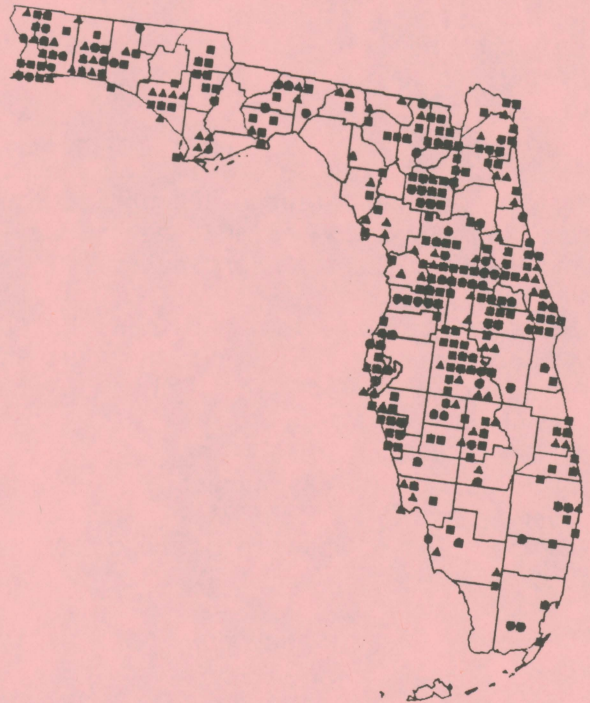
We asked Brad Stith to prepare preliminary maps for four species--two that are widespread in Florida (the Northern Mockingbird and Caroline Wren) and two with relatively restricted distribution (the Indigo Bunting in North Florida and the Mangrove Cuckoo in the Keys and southern mangrove-fringed coasts). These appear on

this page and show distribution (1986 data) by surveyed quadrangles. Please remember that several of our counties and many blocks received no atlas coverage in 1986, hence blank spots do not necessarily indicate absence of birds. On the other hand, it should encourage cooperators to "fill in the blanks" whenever possible.

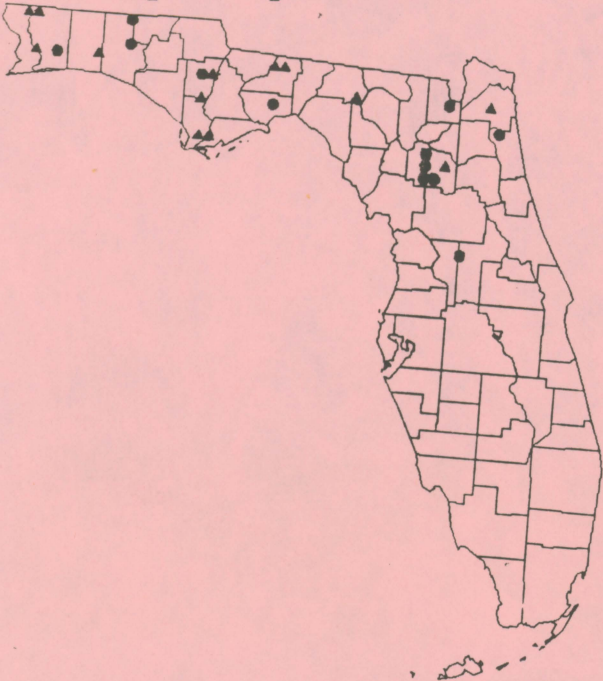
Northern Mockingbird Distribution



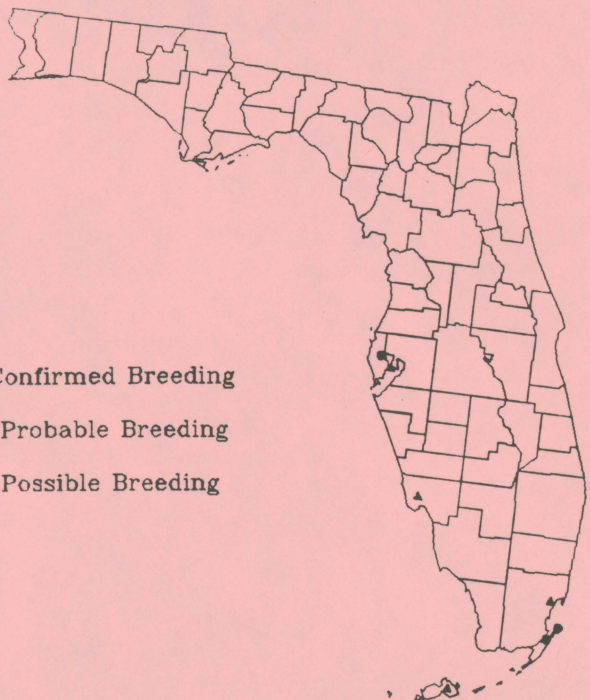
Carolina Wren Distribution



Indigo Bunting Distribution



Mangrove Cuckoo Distribution



- Confirmed Breeding
- Probable Breeding
- ▲ Possible Breeding

RECENT COORDINATOR CHANGES

A number of changes in the coordinator ranks have taken place in the last few months. The accompanying Directory is the current listing of all Advisory Board members and Coordinators. This directory supercedes the one that appeared in Newsletter Number 1 and the addendum and corrigenda that appeared in Newsletter Number 3. We wish to thank all outgoing coordinators for their help and hard work, and wish them well in all future endeavors, and look forward to their continued participation as cooperators.

Dr. Richard West was the State Coordinator of the Delaware BBA project and has recently moved to Tallahassee. Rick is the new Franklin County Coordinator.

Barbara Parham is the new Putnam County Coordinator. She and her husband have recently moved to Palatka from Jacksonville.

Dr. Bob Loftin has agreed to serve as St. Johns County Coordinator, replacing Brian Peters, who was transferred out of state.

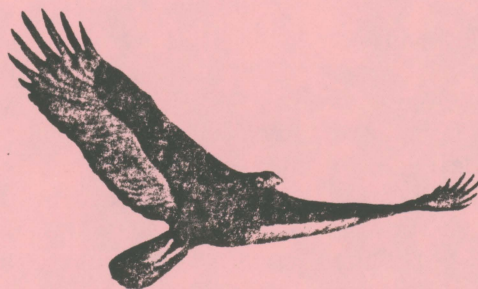
Longtime Orange Auduboner and active atlasser Bob Sullivan will be co-coordinating Seminole County with Dr. Walt Taylor.

After three other County Coordinators have fallen by the wayside, Hillsborough County has now got a fireball named Gail Parsons.

The new coordinator for Osceola County is none other than our Region 7 Coordinator, Chuck Geanangel.

Merritt Island atlasser Dan Click is now the Coordinator for Region 8, replacing Doug Stuckey, who had to resign because of other demands on his time.

St. Lucie County Cooperator, Jane Brooks, is the new Okeechobee County Coordinator. Jane's husband, John, has also agreed to help get the job done.



One of the hottest birders in Miami is the new Region 9 Coordinator, Mickey Wheeler. Mickey takes over from Sonny Bass, who will continue to serve as a member of the Atlas Advisory Board and cooperator.

John and Linda Douglas are the new Collier County Coordinators.

Our new Hendry County Coordinator is Lynne S. Lewis of LaBelle. Lynne moved south from Jacksonville about a year ago, and is just about the only birder in Hendry County.

There isn't a new coordinator for Monroe County, it just looks that way on the list. The original coordinator has a new name. The blockbuster of the Florida Keys, Karen Sunderland, has married the luckiest man in Tavernier, and is now Karen Strobel.



NEWS FROM THE COORDINATORS' CONFERENCES

The annual coordinators' conferences were held in January, 1988. We wish to thank Jim Cox and the Game Commission for hosting the January 16 meeting in Tallahassee, which was attended by 24 people from Regions 1-4.

The Archbold Biological Station hosted the meeting for Regions 5-9 near Lake Placid on January 23, attended by 52 people. Thanks go to Fred Lohrer and Dave Johnston of ABS for their assistance.

Project Director Herb Kale and State Coordinator Wes Biggs gave a brief overview of the project to date and reported on the North American Breeding Bird Atlas (NABBA) Conference that they and Region 7 Coordinator Chuck Geanangel attended in San Francisco in August, 1987.

The 1986 computer printouts were distributed to county and regional coordinators.

A lengthy discussion concerning "adequate block coverage" was held. Coordinators were urged to seek breeding information from wildlife rehabilitation centers who receive many baby birds each year.

Techniques for recruiting and retaining cooperators were discussed, with many good ideas coming from Polk County Coordinator, Buck Cooper, and Hillsborough County Coordinator, Gail Parsons.

The conclusion was reached that County Coordinators need to spend some time with their atlasers showing them the most profitable use of their time in the field.

A great deal of information was exchanged in regard to blockbusting ideas and how Regional Coordinators and County Coordinators will need to work closely to institute effective regional blockbusting during the coming breeding season.

It was announced that every effort would be made to raise the needed additional monies to start the paid blockbusting phase of the project in 1988 instead of 1989.

The importance of a good working relationship between cooperators and County and Regional Coordinators and Atlas Headquarters was emphasized.

A new "Year End Report Form" was distributed to all county coordinators. The form is designed to help coordinators and Atlas Headquarters keep up to date on block coverage.

Coordinators were resupplied with all atlas printed materials with the exception of Handbooks which Herb and Wes will be revising before a new printing is made.

The annual Coordinators' Conferences are forums for Coordinators to learn and to teach. Based on comments and suggestions from participants, next year's conferences will be conducted with slightly altered format.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

All checks sent to the Atlas project for whatever reason should be made out to Florida Audubon Society, with a notation at the bottom of the check, "For BBA project."

Breeding Bird Atlas materials cost money. If you are no longer interested in taking an active part in the Atlas project, please inform your county coordinator, and return materials that another person could be making use of. If you have completed field data cards from 1986 or 1987, please make a copy and send the original directly to Atlas headquarters.

PLEASE be sure to fill in the space for hours on your 1988 Field Data Cards. If the block you are working in is also where you live, do the best you can to estimate the actual time you spent atlasing there. For those of you who left that space blank on your 1986 or 1987 cards, you will be contacted by your County or Regional Coordinator in the very near future to provide that very necessary information.

ATLASSERS IN THE NEWS

The Glades County Democrat ran a story in the July 9, 1987 issue that explained the Atlas project and asked prospective cooperators in Glades and Hendry Counties to contact Glades County Coordinator, June McCallum.

Hillsborough County Coordinator Gail Parsons and Pasco County Coordinator Bill Pranty appeared in an article in the July 28, 1987, issue of the Tampa Tribune's Pasco edition. Writer Eunice Stump seemed to have had a good time on her trip into "the world of birds." Not surprising, considering the fact that they had the rare "yellow crownight warbler!"

The Caloosa Belle printed a guest editorial by Hendry County Coordinator Lynne Lewis in the edition of August 19, 1987. Lynne's article on the life and times of the Florida Scrub Jay gave the reader a good overview of the precarious situation in which the Scrub Jay exists.

The Miami Herald of January 17, 1988, ran a very funny and entertaining story written by Dade County atlasser John Pancake, a Miami Herald editor. John describes State Coordinator Wes Biggs as looking like a biker from Sinister, West Virginia or the cartoon character, Bluto. You get the idea.

Lafayette County Coordinator George Griffin has had a number of his articles on the Breeding Bird Atlas and general birding appear in various numbers of Florida Living Magazine.

Levy County Coordinator Harriet Smith has written a very informative booklet entitled The Naturalist's Guide to Cedar Key, Florida. To order: Send \$3.25 plus \$1.00 postage and handling to Harriet Smith, P. O. Box 82, Cedar Key, Florida 32625.

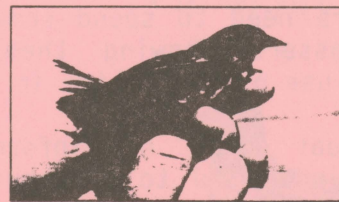
Horace Loftin, coordinator for Bay and Gulf Counties and panhandle atlassers Stephen Stedman and Tom Francis are the co-compilers of an annotated checklist entitled Birds of Bay County. This is a very useful reference for north Florida atlassers. To order: Send \$4.50 to Bay County Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1182, Panama City, FL 32402.

The Hillsborough County BBA meeting on September 12, 1987, at Lettuce Lake Park in Tampa was the subject of an article that appeared in the September 14, 1987, Tampa Tribune. Region 6 coordinator Dave Goodwin and Hillsborough County Coordinator, Gail Parsons, conducted the meeting attended by 24 atlassers and Tribune staff writer, Naftali Bendavid, who wrote a good article explaining the atlas project and the proceedings at the meeting.

The fall issue of The Nature Conservancy Florida Chapter Newsletter contained a photo of Atlas Data Base Director and Conservancy Chapter Chairman, Steve Humphrey. In the photo, Steve and Northwest Florida Water Management District representative, Bill Smith, are shown unveiling a plaque at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park last July.

It's hard to believe, folks, but there is something that Polk County atlasser Paul Fellers knows even more about than birds. Yes, Virginia, it's orange juice. The Orlando Sentinel Florida Magazine of September 20, 1987, had a very interesting interview with Dr. O.J. that appeared in the People Watch section. The accompanying color photo by staff photographer George Skene made Paul look much younger than he really is.

The striking color illustration that appeared on the cover of the September/October 1987 issue of Bird Watcher's Digest was the creation of BBA logo designer, Ann Sisson. Ann also co-authored a wonderful article in that issue entitled "Burrowing Owls in Florida's Urban Underground."



The last DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW perished.

Atlas Project Director, Herb Kale, made the January, 1988 issue of Life Magazine--well, part of him did--see that Dusky Seaside Sparrow on Page 105? That's Herb's hand.

Please send Atlas headquarters any articles by or about BBA participants; let's share the wealth.

MEET THE COORDINATORS
BY BRUCE NEVILLE

COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR 1986

The first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas award for Best Coordinator went to Buck Cooper of Polk County. For the honor, Buck received a Ray Harm bird print at the spring 1987 FOS meeting near Lake City.

Buck was born and raised in Winter Haven. After his retirement from the Air Force, he returned to Winter Haven, where he has been the Resident Naturalist at Ridge Audubon Society's Street Nature Center for the past two years. Buck recently married, and he and his wife, Linda, honeymooned in Panama. When not birding, Buck and Linda enjoy antiques, music, and the theater.

Birds are just one of his hobbies, and he is interested in all facets of natural history. His early training was in herpetology. Buck is a reformed lister. He still keeps a Florida list, but he can't say how many he's seen in the U.S. or the world.

He says his favorite bird is the one in his binoculars at the time, but when pressed, he says it would have to be the Swallow-tailed Kite. His favorite local birding spot is the phosphate mines of central Florida, which he likens to the mountains of the moon.

Polk County is one of the largest in the state, with 32 quads. So far, Buck has 30 atlassers in the county. Among the best finds have been Blue Grosbeaks feeding young in Green Swamp, 70 Sandhill Crane nests, and a previously unknown Bald Eagle nest. Buck and a friend in a plane managed to spot three families of Wild Turkeys, thus confirming that species in three blocks in one morning. His most exciting find was the biggest rattler he ever saw under a huge live oak.



Buck's advice to his fellow coordinators is to treat your atlassers with respect and give them lots of encouragement. Buck tries to get out at least once with each of his atlassers. His advice to atlassers is to wait until later in the season when it's easier to confirm more species and not to burn yourself out too early in the season. Even hard-core listers have found atlassing fun, because it requires them to stop and **look** at even the common species.

NOTES OF THANKS

The atlas project is most grateful for the continued support of Florida Power & Light Company in printing manuals, field data cards, and casual observation cards. Our annual printing costs are far greater than the amount provided by the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund Grant, and this service has been a Godsend for us. We are especially indebted to FP & L's Dr. Ross Wilcox, Chief Ecologist, and to Peter Quincy and D. Greg Braun, Environmental Coordinators.

We are happy to acknowledge recent contributions to the Atlas Project from the following organizations and individuals:

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society
St. Petersburg Audubon Society
Southeast Volusia Audubon Society
Sun City Center Audubon Society
Tampa Audubon Society
Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club
Dirt Dauber Circle
Founders Circle
Green Thumb Circle
Spade & Trowel Circle
Straw Hat Circle
Venice Area Garden Club
Homosassa River Garden Club
Sybil Arbery
Edward & Lucille Busch
Jeff & Cristy Cox
Helen Cruickshank
Lewis Durham
Marie Eggert
Vaughn Morrison
Dr. Richard West

We also wish to express our thanks to the following individuals who contributed their time and talents to preparation of the BBA poster display: Mary Sprankel, New Smyrna Beach (lettering), Bill Bolte, Ft. Lauderdale, and Lee Snyder, St. Petersburg (photographs).

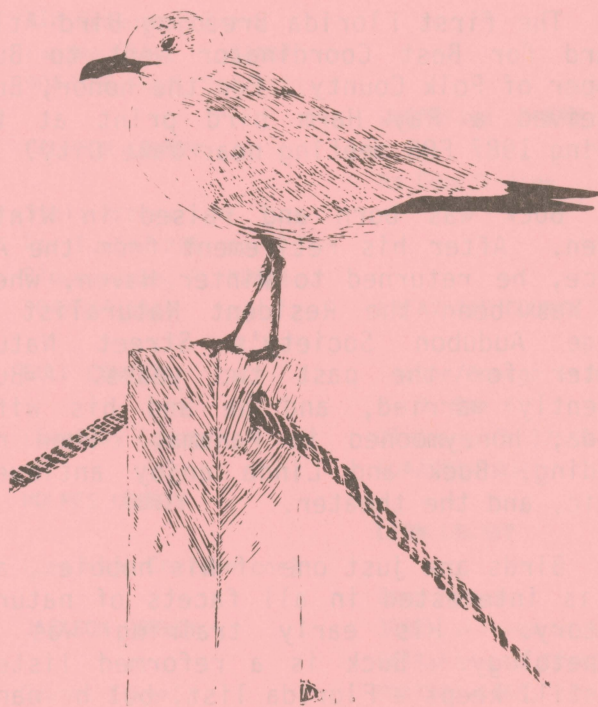
NOTES TO COUNTY COORDINATORS

Please remember to contact individuals who were given atlas handbooks and other materials and who have not participated in the project and collect these items from them. Our supply of handbooks is exhausted temporarily, and we need all we can recover.

Please remember to contact each cooperator who did not list hours actively atlassing on their 1986 data cards. In one way or another, they need to come up with a reasonable estimate of actual time spent in their blocks. This should not be difficult to do.

Please ask your cooperators about any interesting anecdotes, incidents, experiences, ideas, etc., that they would be willing to share with other atlassers in the pages of this newsletter.

Funds (\$200/region) are available to support voluntary blockbusting in each region during 1988. Please get with your regional coordinator to help determine where and when your regional blockbusting will occur. Regional coordinators should keep Atlas headquarters apprised of your plans.



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Maitland, FL 32751

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Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
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Naples, FL 33964