

Summer 1983

Newsletter, Florida Audubon Society - Florida Ornithological Society, Summer 1983

Florida Audubon Society

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Published jointly by the Florida Audubon Society and the Florida Ornithological Society as an information exchange among persons interested in the conservation, research and enjoyment of birds in Florida. Notices and requests for information or assistance, and news about birds, birders, and ornithologists should be sent to the editor, Dr. Herbert W. Kale II, Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751 (Phone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]). Membership information for F.A.S. can be obtained at this address, and for the F.O.S. from the Treasurer, listed on Page 4.

THE FLORIDA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Florida Audubon has received another grant from Mrs. Bradley (Jonnie) Fisk to continue planning for the Atlas. I presented a brief description of the project at a non-game planning meeting in Gainesville on July 13, sponsored by Florida Defenders of the Environment and the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. With passage of the non-game bill the legislature appropriated \$10,000 for planning of a non-game program in Florida. A report is to be presented to the 1984 session by March 15. A workshop to prepare this report will be held in Tallahassee in November or December. Persons desiring more information or willing to participate in the workshop should contact Susan Mashburn at FDE's Environmental Service Center.

H.W. Kale

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR MEETING DATES

FDE's Environmental Service Center, 916 East Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301 has agreed to act as an information clearing house for meeting dates. Phone 1-800-342-2698 and give the Center dates of your organization's meetings and events and request dates of those organizations with whom you do not want to conflict.

CHANGE IN DATE OF F.O.S. 1984 SPRING MEETING - APRIL 27-29, 1984

Speaking of date conflict, we created one in the last newsletter by listing April 20-22 for the 1984 Spring Meeting in St. Petersburg, Easter weekend. Please note this change on your calendars--April 27-29, 1984.

Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon, an arbitrary date that does not necessarily coincide with a real or astronomical full moon. This moon is calculated by adding 1 to the remainder obtained by dividing the year by 19, then referring to a table for the date and then to a perpetual calendar to find the Sunday. To save you the trouble, here are the dates for easter for the next few years. Planners of future spring meetings take note:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1984-Apr. 22 | 1987-Apr. 19 | 1990-Apr. 15 | 1993-Apr. 11 |
| 1985-Apr. 7 | 1988-Apr. 3 | 1991-Mar. 31 | 1994-Apr. 3 |
| 1986-Mar. 30 | 1989-Mar. 26 | 1992-Apr. 19 | 1995-Apr. 16 |

DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW BREEDING PROJECT (NON)PROGRESS REPORT

The last installment of this dramatic saga had one of the Dusky X Scott intergrade females incubating a single egg. We pick up from there. That egg did not hatch and was removed. She immediately built a second nest and laid one egg. After 14 days it was removed unhatched. She built a third nest and this time laid a full complement of three eggs. These did not hatch and were removed after 14 days. She began building a fourth nest, but we intervened and moved her next door into the cage of another male Dusky. She built a nest and laid three

eggs. These eggs were removed unhatched at the end of July. We do not know what this means in terms of male fertility. None of the other females attempted to nest, but they may have been introduced to the males too late in the season. We will now have to place all of our hopes in next year's breeding season after the birds are moved to Walt Disney World's Discovery Island (in September 1983).--H.W.K. addendum: The female is sitting on her third clutch.

NOTICES AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Color-marked Shorebirds--In the spring of 1983 Sanderlings, Red Knots, and Black-bellied Plovers were marked at several sites in California, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, and South America as part of a study of migration routes by the Pan American Shorebird Program, sponsored by World Wildlife Fund, Academy of Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia, and Manomet Bird Observatory. If you observe a color-marked shorebird please try to note the following: (1) Dye: Color and location on body; (2) Leg Flag: Color and leg (left or right); (3) Leg Band: Color and leg. Even incomplete data will be useful. Send reports to Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708. A detailed list of the various colors designating the various countries where Sanderlings were banded appears in the July issue (V. 5, N. 4) of Focus (WWF-US), and an informative article on the project appeared in the January issue of American Birds (V. 37, N. 1).

Color-dyed Wood Storks--The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission is again color-marking storks at several colonies. Colors being used are green, blue, red, and yellow--mostly on wings and sides of body. Please send following data to Dr. James A. Rodgers, Wildlife Res. Lab 4005 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601: Color, date, location, number of marked and unmarked storks, and behavioral activity (feeding, resting, etc.).

Piping Plovers--The World Wildlife Fund-Canada, Delta Waterfowl Res. Station, and Manitoba Dept. of Nat. Resources are soliciting help in locating Piping Plovers on breeding, migration, and wintering areas. Please report past and present sightings (to include dates, locations, numbers of birds, and color bands, if any) to Susan Haig, Delta Waterfowl Res. Sta., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3A1, Canada.

Wintering Common Loon Survey--Because the Common Loon is now listed as threatened or endangered on several northern state or Canadian province lists, and in light of the large dieoff involving possibly 4,000-5,000 loons in the Gulf of Mexico this past spring, a special effort should be made to survey loons wintering in Florida, especially along the coasts, during the winter of 1983-84. Please record all loon sightings this coming winter and send these data to H. W. Kale, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751. Reminders will appear in the fall and winter newsletters.

Florida Keys Hawk-Watch--Shore and inland hawk flights moving down the Florida peninsula converge in the narrow keys where they can be more easily observed and counted. The Florida keys are a long neglected area in terms of fall hawk watching and a concentrated effort to study fall migration here may prove both interesting and valuable. George W. Breck [redacted], a member of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and a new F.O.S. member, is planning to operate a continuous Hawk Migration Watch at a Key Largo site in the fall of 1983. He is looking for volunteers to take 4-hour weekly or bi-weekly watches during the proposed 6-week period from 1 October-10 November. Ideally, in terms of convenience and logistics, most volunteers should come from the Keys or south Florida area, but Audubon and F.O.S. members from elsewhere in the state who could spend some time participating would be welcomed. Novices will be trained on-the-job to identify hawks overhead in flight. It is hoped this will become an annual project. To volunteer please contact George Breck at the address or phone listed above. This is a great opportunity to improve hawk identification skills.

Call for Bird Feeder and House Designs--Stephen W. Kress, author of the excellent Audubon Society Handbook for Birders, is planning a new book on attracting birds that will

include innovative homemade designs for feeders, houses, and baths. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats, and nuisance birds are also being sought. Please send your designs and ideas (successful ones) to Dr. Kress at Cornell Lab. of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Ruffs and Reeves in Florida--Every once in a while it is a good idea for someone to summarize records of occurrence of certain relatively uncommon species that appear sporadically in Florida. One of these species is the Ruff (female known as Reeve), a European shorebird that is appearing more frequently in North America (possibly a breeding population in the Arctic or Greenland?). Dot Freeman ([REDACTED]) has offered to compile and analyze Ruff sightings and would appreciate receiving your observations including date, location, sex, number of birds, and photographs, if any. Contributors will be acknowledged in the paper to be submitted to the Florida Field Naturalist.

Natural History Lectures on Birds of Prey--Bill Clark, formerly director of the Raptor Information Center in Washington is now available for programs on eagles, raptor identification, migration, and other topics. For more information and fees write Raptor Lectures, P.O. Box 1161, Annandale, VA 22003, Ph: [REDACTED].

Color-banded Ospreys--Mark Westall, President of the International Osprey Foundation, is conducting a long-term Osprey color-banding project on Sanibel Island using color combinations of red, green, yellow, blue, white, brown, black, and orange bands on the right leg, USF&WS band on the left leg. Please report date, locations, and colors if you see a color-banded Osprey to Mark Westall, T10F, Box 250, Sanibel Is., FL 33957 (Ph: [REDACTED]).

Orange Audubon Pelagic Trip - October 1, 1983-- The Miss Cape Canaveral (Leader: Johnny Johnson) sails at 7:00 A.M. (return at 5:00 P.M.) out of Port Canaveral into the Gulf Stream, \$15 for birders, \$25 for fisherman. For information and reservations contact Allen Clark ([REDACTED]) or Dot Freeman ([REDACTED]).

RECENT BOOKS AND RECORDS OF INTEREST

The Peacocks of Baboquivari. By Erma J. Fisk. W.W. Norton Co., N.Y. \$14.95 (available from the Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751)--A book by our own Jonnie Fisk. The story of her experiences over a five month period in a tiny cabin in an isolated mountain valley in Arizona where she netted and banded birds for the Nature Conservancy (which benefits from the book's royalties, so buy a copy!). A review will appear in a forthcoming FFN.--H.W.K.

Sounds of Purple Martins. By John William Hardy, ARA Records, 1615 NW 14th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32611. \$9.00--For the martin fan to keep him company all winter long while martins are in South America. If you have installed a new martin house, it might help to play this recording outside next spring to attract martins to it.--H.W.K.

Nature Guide-8th Edition. Tahoma Audubon Soc., 34915 4th Ave., So., Federal Way, WA 98003. \$6.00 plus \$1.50 postage.--Lists names and addresses of local birders throughout 50 states, 12 provinces, and 27 countries who are willing to assist you in finding birds in their areas. Also includes nature trails, national parks, hawk watching stations, maps, rare bird alerts, etc. Anyone birding away from home should have a copy of this guide.--H.W.K.

FLORIDA RARE BIRD ALERT CHANGES TO THE 1983 PARTICIPANT LIST

- Larry Hopkins, [REDACTED]
- Brooks & Lyn Atherton, (Delete Ft. Myers listing, add following to Tampa Bay Area listings) [REDACTED] P.O. Box 58124, Tierra Verde, FL 33715
- Delete Henry M. Stevenson from Tally area listing

FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Pres: Barbara C. Kittleson, [REDACTED]
V.P.: Fred E. Lohrer, Archbold Biol. Sta., Rt.2, Box 180, Lake Placid, FL 33852
Sec.: Marsha S. Winegarner, Rt. 2, Box 180, Lake Placid, FL 33852
Treas: Caroline H. Coleman, [REDACTED]

The Fall 1983 Meeting - October 14-16 - Sea Turtle Inn, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233--Reservations should be made directly to Sea Turtle Inn. Rates are \$37.00 per night, double or single. All rooms have ocean view. One night rate must be sent to Inn by Sept. 21 for group rate. Registration is \$3.00, Pelagic trip \$33.00 (limited to 67 persons, register early), banquet \$12.20. Send registration, Pelagic trip, and banquet fees to Patricia Anderson, 1275 Norwich Rd. Jax., FL 32207 by Oct. 1. Camping facilities are available at Hanna Park (15 min. from Inn), 301 Campground Dr., Seminole Beach 32233, Phone [REDACTED]. Students interested in being privately housed or loaned camping gear contact local chairman, Dr. Robert W. Loftin, [REDACTED], Phone [REDACTED]. Guest speaker will be Dr. Colin Pennycuik, Maytag Prof. Ornithology, Univ. of Miami. Meeting hosted by Duval Audubon Society. Please remember to bring slides for photographer's round-up.

Spring 1984 Meeting - April 27-29 - St. Petersburg, FL Local Chrm: David Goodwin, [REDACTED]

F.O.S. President's Message--"As we start our second decade we reflect on the success of our Society and on those who have contributed to that success. Those who envisioned an ornithological society in Florida struggled diligently to get it going. They and others have worked steadfastly and faithfully to ensure its continuation and progress. We have modestly and cautiously taken step after step to where we are today. Our position is secure and one we can build upon. Join me in thanking all those who have participated in giving us an organization that enriches us and of which we can be proud, and please continue to be, as you have been, supportive and active participants in the work and the enjoyment of FOS"...Bobbie Kittleson.

Half-Price Sale of Back Issues of Florida Field Naturalist--F.O.S. celebrates its 10th Anniversary by getting rid of its stock of back issues at half-price. All issues, Volumes 1-10, are now \$1.50 ea. (members and subscribers only) until the supply lasts or the Spring 1984 meeting, whichever occurs first. If you are a new member now is the time to complete your sets of FFN. Mail check (include 50¢/issue postage and make payable to F.O.S.) and a mailing label to Fred E. Lohrer, at above listed address, or save postage costs and send your order to Fred and tell him you will pick up the order at the Fall (or Spring) F.O.S. meeting.

News of F.O.S. Members--Margaret C. Bowman, former F.O.S. secretary (1975-77) and currently Secretary of the F.O.S. Records Committee, was appointed to the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County by Governor Graham in April. Congratulations, Maggy!

UPCOMING FLORIDA AUDUBON BIRDING TOURS (Contact FAS for details and costs)

October 7-9, Birds of the Florida Keys, Boca Chica Lodge, Islamorada
Late January 1984, Costa Rica (7 days)
February 10-12, Birds of a Barrier Island, Amalia Island Plantation
March 1984, Galapagos Islands
April 27-29, May 1-3, and May 5-7, Dry Tortugas trips.

*** Deadline for next newsletter: 30 October 1983***