

Fall 1983

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

Florida Audubon Society

Florida Ornithological Society

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/corkscrew_records

Recommended Citation

Florida Audubon Society and Florida Ornithological Society, "Newsletter, Florida Audubon Society - Florida Ornithological Society, Fall 1983" (1983). *Audubon Society Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary - Records*. 6. https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/corkscrew_records/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Florida Audubon Digital Archives at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Audubon Society Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary - Records by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 4

Fall 1983

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] at [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 6.

THE FLORIDA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Because Florida's non-game program is still in the planning stage and will not become fully operational until (and if) the 1984 Legislature authorizes a funding mechanism, the earliest a Breeding Bird Atlas could be instituted is 1985. However, in an effort to gain some experience ahead of time, several blocks (a block is one-sixth of a 7.5' USGS Quadrangle map, or an area of 25km²) will be surveyed by various individuals and groups in 1984. So far, birders in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Orlando, Tampa, and West Palm Beach have offered to conduct the sample surveys. Others interested should contact me (H. Kale). A sample manual is now being prepared and will be distributed to each participant. Before the Atlas gets officially underway we will need to identify Regional Coordinators and Atlasers. Coordinators are in charge of one or more counties and will be responsible for seeing that the blocks in his(her) area are being covered, collecting and checking data forms, etc., and writing periodical reports for the Atlas Newsletter. Volunteers willing to serve as regional coordinators and/or atlasers should contact H. Kale.

DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW BREEDING PROJECT UPDATE

The last newsletter left a 50% Dusky/Scott female incubating two eggs in her fifth (not third as printed) nest at the Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo. One of these eggs hatched Aug. 18 and subsequently fledged. This 75% Dusky completed its post-juvinal molt in November and now looks like a carbon copy of his(her) father. At the end of September all the Seaside at Santa Fe Zoo were transported to brand new quarters on Walt Disney World's Discovery Island where they are under the supervision and care of Charles Cook, Curator of Discovery Island Zoological Park, and his staff. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow Breeding Project is a joint effort of Florida Audubon and Walt Disney World. A display with an educational exhibit will be prepared soon and is expected to be ready when Discovery Island is reopened after its annual shutdown in late Jan/Feb. 1984.

NOTICES AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Color-marked Common Terns--The Canadian Wildlife Service has again marked Common Terns that nest on the lower Great Lakes with wingtags (both wings) bearing a letter and number. Birds tag-in 1981 bear pink or orange tags, in 1982 white or black, and in 1983 red or green. Please report sightings, including date, location, color of tag and, if possible, letter/number combination to: Banding Office, Can. Wildlife Serv., Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E7, Canada.

Birders needed--St. Vincent Is. NWR--On April 21-22, 1984 Steve Christman (USF&WS, 412 NE 16th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 (904-372-2572) will be conducting a spring transient count on St. Vincent Island. Experienced (only) birders are needed to assist. Please contact Steve if you can help. Participants can camp on the island or stay at motels in Apalachicola. St. Vincent Is. is a beautiful relatively pristine island on the upper Gulf, and like St. George Is. and Dauphin Is., can be birding paradises in the spring.

The Cowbirds are coming! The Cowbirds are coming!--Will Post wrote us to say that James Bond has informed him that the Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis) has now reached Cardenas in western Cuba. At the rate this species is expanding in the Caribbean, it may not be long before we see them in the Florida Keys. Birders should keep a sharp lookout. The Yellow-shouldered Blackbird in Puerto Rico, an endangered species, has been severely impacted by Shiny Cowbird parasitism.

The 1983 Kirtland's Warbler Survey--The annual survey of this endangered warbler revealed 215 males in 48 sections of 8 Michigan counties. The Recovery Team has designed an ambitious 2-year study of the species' wintering grounds involving radio-tagging nine birds on the breeding grounds and several on the wintering area in the Bahamas. Paul W. Sykes has been assigned to this project and will be working out of the USF&WS office at the School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. For those who may be in the Michigan area, Kirtland Warbler tours for 1984 will run May 16-July 4. Tours out of Grayling will be twice daily at 7 and 11 AM. Tours out of Mio will run 7:30 AM, W,Th,Fr, and 7:30 and 11 AM on Sat. & Sun.

Spare That Tree!--Each spring Florida Audubon's Madelyn Baldwin Bird of Prey Center is inundated with baby Screech Owls--over 40 in 1983--most of these are brought in after a dead tree has been cut down. Several species of woodpeckers also suffer this fate. Oftentimes the landowner laments that if he had known the tree was occupied he would have waited. Audubon chapters could render a helpful service if they would send out a news release in early spring requesting people who plan to cut down an old tree to check it first for nest cavities, or to wait until late summer or fall before removing dead trees. In like manner the trimming of shrubbery or the removal of cattails by lakefront owners should be done after the breeding season.

Wintering Common Loon Survey--A reminder to birders to record Common Loon sightings this winter. At the end of winter send your data to H. W. Kale, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, Fl 32751. I will send this on to Malcolm Simons who has been documenting the 1983 spring dieoff. Malcolm presented a fascinating talk on this episode at the Fall F.O.S. meeting. Although laboratory analyses still have not pinpointed the exact cause of death (most showed a gastroenteritis) many of these birds contained an alarmingly high mercury content, a fact that demands follow-up studies by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in both wintering and breeding areas.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Jonnie Fisk informs us that her English translation of the late Maria Koepcke's The Birds of the Department of Lima, Peru, which has long been out of print, has been reprinted and is available from Harrowood Books, 3943 N. Providence Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073 (\$9.95)

Speaking of Jonnie, her book The Peacocks of Baboquivari (accent on the QUI) has sold out its first printing. The notice in the last newsletter was written before I had received and read her book. It is positively delightful and filled with humor and wisdom, one of those books that is a pure pleasure to read. Order your second printing copy from W. W. Norton Co., New York. \$14.95 (Royalties go to the Nature Conservancy.)

Another rapid sellout of a first edition is A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by Herbert A. Raffaele (Fondo Educativo Interamericano, San Juan, P.R.) I used this guide during my recent visit to Puerto Rico and found both the text and illustrations to be excellent (though you will want to write in the text page numbers opposite the figures.) The Puerto Rican Ornithological Society still has a few copies on hand, and may be contacted through the Dept. of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR. Price: \$13.95.

Now available ''The Checklist of North American Birds. 6th Ed. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Order from A.O.U., Box 368, Lawrence KS 66044 \$35.(\$28 to AOU members).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PERIODS THROUGH 1985-86

December 17, 1983 - January 1, 1984

December 15, 1984 - January 1, 1985

December 18, 1985 - January 5, 1986

1983 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN FLORIDA

Saturday, December 17

Compiler

Bradenton Charles M. Pead, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Choctawhatchee Bay W. M. Gray, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Rick Bantz, CSS, Rt 6, Box 1875-A, Naples, Fl 33999 ([REDACTED] or [REDACTED])

Dade County Bruce Neville, Tropical Aud. Soc., [REDACTED] and Jim King, % Metro Dade Parks, [REDACTED]

Gulf Circle Charles M. Pead, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Manatee Co.

Lakeland Dr. Paul J. Fellers, [REDACTED]

Lower Keys Marge Brown, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Marianna Marion & Mary Gray, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Pensacola Curtis L. Kingsbery, [REDACTED]

St. Augustine Joseph L. Wilson, [REDACTED]

St. Petersburg Glen E. Woolfenden, [REDACTED] (Contact: Chan Vincent, [REDACTED])

St. Marks F. C. James & H. M. Stevenson, Dept. Biol. Sci., Fla. State Univ., Tallahassee, Fl 32306 ([REDACTED])

Sanibel-Captiva K.C. & Mary R. Emerson, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sarasota Marge & Bob Sokol, [REDACTED]

West Palm Beach H. P. Langridge, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

West Volusia Co. D. A. Stock, Dept. Biol., Stetson Univ., Deland, Fl 32720 [REDACTED]

Sunday, December 18

Econlockhatchee Bob Sullivan, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Ft. Lauderdale William J. Bolte, [REDACTED]

Sunday, December 18 (Cont.)

Gainesville Barbara Muschlitz, [REDACTED]
and, Craig Parenteau, [REDACTED]

Monday, December 19

Brooksville Steve Fickett, Jr., [REDACTED]

Ft. Myers Edna R. Egbert, [REDACTED]

Mt. Dora Charles E. Newell, [REDACTED]

Myakka River State Park Don H. Mace, [REDACTED]

Tuesday, December 20

Biscayne Natl. Mon. (Elliot Key) Oron L. Bass, Jr., S. Fla. Res. Ctr., [REDACTED]

Saturday, December 24

No. Pinella Co. Dave Goodwin, [REDACTED]

Monday, December 26

Ft. Pierce Bill & Helen Dowling, [REDACTED]

Jacksonville Virge Markgraf, [REDACTED]
and Peggy Powell, [REDACTED]

Tuesday, December 27

Kissimmee Nina Steffee, [REDACTED]
and Jerry Fishman, [REDACTED]

Merritt Is. NWR Doug Stuckey, Jr., [REDACTED]
or phone Lois Brown [REDACTED]

Wednesday, December 28

Port St. Joe Dr. Stephan J. Stedman, [REDACTED]

Thursday, December 29

Key Largo-Plantation Key A. Sprunt, Natl. Audubon Soc., [REDACTED]

Venice-Englewood Stan Stedman, [REDACTED]

Friday, December 30

Bay County Dr. Joe Harbison, [REDACTED]

read Dbl.-crested Cormorant. Checklists are available from Florida Audubon for 15¢ each, or 10¢ each in lots of 25 or more.

FLORIDA RARE BIRD ALERT

Hotline participants should add the following names to their lists:

Tampa Area: Niles Bashaw, 8418 Manhattan Ave., Tampa, Fl 33614, [REDACTED]

Tallahassee Area: Ron Christian, [REDACTED]

Res: [REDACTED], Ofc: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sunny Hills (Insert between Pensacola and Marianna): Joy Underborn, [REDACTED]

Brian Specht (Marianna) informs us that the postal service changed his box number to #235

Copies of the Hotline list may be obtained from the FOS Treasurer for \$1.25.

Callers to the FAS Hotline Number 305-644-0190 have been disappointed because of no answer. Florida Audubon has changed phone systems and this line temporarily has no recorder connection. Nevertheless, none of the hotline birds reported since last spring have remained beyond the date sighted. The one bird worthy of hotline status--a beautiful male Harlequin Duck wintering since Oct. 13 within the security area of the Kennedy Space Center is off-limits, with rare exceptions to birders. Other birds of interest reported recently are: A male Vermilion Flycatcher, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a Western Kingbird, and a Clay-colored Sparrow, all in the campground area at Flamingo in Everglades National Park. All were seen on the weekend of Nov. 5-7 by participants of Florida Audubon's annual convention. Also seen were two Short-tailed Hawks.

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, [REDACTED]

Treas: Caroline H. Coleman, [REDACTED]

FALL 1983 MEETING REPORT

Matching the success of the Duncans and Francis M. Weston Audubon Society in arranging a weatherfront accompanied by birds at the Spring FOS meeting, Bob Loftin and the Duval Audubon Society delighted birders at the 1983 Fall meeting in Jacksonville Beach with a fallout of fall migrants, including over 20 species of warblers. Up to 20 Peregrine Falcons were sighted over the weekend, with 10 seen migrating south along the coastal dunes near Guana Lake. From the high dune overlooking the Guana area, we watched both Peregrines and Merlins on the land side, and two Shearwaters--a Sooty and either a Cory's or Greater--out over the Atlantic. The Sunday boat trip was highlighted with excellent views of Cory's Shearwaters.

The Saturday afternoon paper session featured three talks by Mike Collopy and his graduate students on the Southeastern (Amer.) Kestrel, and a talk on the Common Loon dieoff last spring by Malcolm Simons. The banquet speaker was Dr. Colin Pennycuik--new Maytag professor of ornithology at the University of Miami, who spoke on his research in soaring flight of birds. The bird skin quiz, prepared by Dr. Ted Allen of Jacksonville University was won by Bob Loftin.

Items of business covered by the FOS Board of Directors included appointment of Dr. Mary Clench and Pat Lanzilotti as Assistant Treasurers; appointment of Dr. J. W. Hardy as F.O.S. archivist; and appointment of Peggy Powell and Wayne Hoffman to three year terms on the F.O.S. Records Committee. Retirees Dr. Henry M. Stevenson and Lucy Duncan were voted a sincere thanks of the Board for their service during the early development of this committee. Marion Hines agreed to serve as F.O.S. membership chairman.

Bob Loftin, Marion Hines, other members of the local committee, and Duval Audubon are to be thanked and congratulated for an outstanding FOS meeting.

SPRING 1984 F.O.S. MEETING--APRIL 27-29--ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA. Host Chapter: St. Petersburg Audubon Society. Local Chrm: Dave Goodwin [REDACTED]

FALL 1984 F.O.S. MEETING--an October date--Orlando area. Hosts: Orange Audubon Society, Local Chrm: Dot Freeman [REDACTED]

Treasurer Caroline Coleman reports that the financial health of F.O.S. is due in large part to the generosity of a number of our members who contribute far beyond what is expected of our members. Bob Brown has provided a file cabinet for the FOS archives at Florida State Museum, a traveling FOS sign that appears at each of our meetings, funding for the Fall 1982 meeting costs, and he underwrote the costs of production of the most recent Rare Bird Alert participant list. Bob and Lucy Duncan provided funds for some of the costs of our spring meeting at Gulf Breeze. Jonnie Fisk has donated \$1000 to the Special Publication Fund to assist in publication of her paper on band recoveries of Florida birds. The following members have donated generously to the FOS Research Fund: Brooks and Lyn Atherton, Maggy Bowman, Helen Cruickshank, Cynthia Plockelman, Sara A. Zimmerly, and St. Petersburg Audubon Society.

The following F.O.S. members are contributing members: Virginia A. and Theodore H. Below, Vida Blauvelt, Margaret C. Bowman, Jane M. Brooks, Bob Brown, Margaret R. Brown, Helen P. Dowling, William E. Dowling, Lucy & Robert Duncan, Raymond H. Gilbert, Louise L. Greene, Dr. Joe B. Harbison, Kenneth A. Howland, Gloria S. Hunter, Dr. Charles J. Kahn, Robert D. Moore, Dr. Mark T. Orr, Susan P. Pairsh, Dr. C. Ted Robinson, Joseph F. Sandella, Malcolm M. Simons, Jr., Anrete and Stanley Stedman, Dr. Durbin C. Tabb, Louis Wiederhold, Joseph L. Wilson, and Broward Audubon Society. The F.O.S. is grateful for the support of these members.

NEWS OF F.O.S. MEMBERS

Congratulations to Joe and Leslie Wilson who were married on June 19 in Virginia, and are now residing in Gainesville where Joe is chief of the Gainesville-Ocala IRS offices.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Haskell B. Curry on Sept. 1, 1982. Mrs. Curry indicated that Mr. Curry was a devoted bird lover since he was a small boy.

Noel Wamer is now with the Florida Dept. of Transportation in the Deland area (P.O. Box 47, Deland, Fl 32721)

Congratulations to Leah Schad, president of Audubon Society of the Everglades, who for the third year in a row has raised the most funds (over \$6000) in Florida and the Southeast for the National Audubon Birdathon. In addition, in 1983 she recorded the highest number of birds in Florida during her 24-hour birdathon. She has been challenged by this year's national leader (funds raised) to try to beat him next year. We will have more to say about the Birdathon in the next newsletter. .

Back issues of the Florida Field Naturalist are valuable and should not be thrown away. If you do not save your copies please consider donating them back to F.O.S. Each issue is worth \$2.50 for tax deduction purposes. Either mail them to Fred Lohrer (address on Pg 6) or bring them to an FOS meeting.

UPCOMING FLORIDA AUDUBON BIRDING TOURS

Costa Rica, January 19-27, 1984, \$1057 from Miami. Leader: Dr. Herbert W. Kale II
Birds of a Barrier Island, Amelia Is, \$180 up. Leaders: Peter Mott, H. Kale, J. Wilson,
February 10-12, 1984 M. Bowman, H. Cruickshank
East Africa and the Seychelles, February 2-19, 1984. \$3279. Leader: Dr. Peter Pritchard
Galapagos Islands, April 20-May 2, 1984. \$2627-2677. Leader: Dr. Peter Pritchard
Dry Tortugas, April 27-29 and May 1-3, 1984. \$265. Leaders: Wendy Hale, Herb Kale, Maggy
Bowman, Dave Maehr

Contact Florida Audubon for details.

F.O.S. SHOULDER PATCH STILL AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLY LASTS

The shoulderpatch reproduced on the right is a reduced black and white version of the 4-color 3¼ inch real thing available from Fred Lohrer, Rt 2, Box 180, Lake Placid, Fl 33852 for \$4.00 each (50¢ of which goes into the FOS Research Fund.)



Deadline for material for next Newsletter is February 20, 1984.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"
1101 AUDUBON WAY
MAITLAND, FLORIDA 32751

NONPROFIT ORG.



Mr. Rick Bantz
Rt. 6, Box 1875-A
Naples, FL 33999