

1987

Newsletter, Florida Audubon Society - Florida Ornithological Society, Spring/Summer 1987

Florida Audubon Society

Florida Ornithological Society

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The FAS-FOS Newsletter is 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.

Editor: Dr. Herbert W. Kale II, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751 (305/647-2615 or 898-1197).

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS NEWS

The first North American Breeding Bird Atlas Conference was held at San Francisco State University August 9-10, 1987. Participants from Florida were Herb Kale, Wes Biggs, Chuck and Roberta Geanangel (en route back from Australia and New Zealand). Sessions dealt with organization and operation of an atlas, data processing, computer programs, atlas data use, breeding codes, etc.

The breeding code committee recommended, in a 7-6 vote, that the criteria of seven singing males seen on two visits a week or more apart not be used. Inasmuch as this is a criteria code in our "confirmed" category (rejected because it is not tangible evidence of breeding), we will reexamine this as it is being used in Florida and will probably modify it for use only with certain species. In most cases it will be downgraded to "probable".

We will have more details about this in the next atlas newsletter (Issue No. 5). The fourth issue of the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter was mailed on August 19 to all participants in the project.

Most of the field work for the second year of the atlas is now completed. Two new breeding species for Florida were recorded: Cave Swallow, with 16 nests under Florida Turnpike bridges in Homestead found by P.W. Smith; and Bridled Terns found nesting in the Florida Keys by Sandy Sprunt and Wayne Hoffman.

Cooperators are urged to send their original field data cards for 1987 to their county coordinators as soon as they have finished atlasing for the season. Don't wait until October 1. You can always send new or upgraded observations via a "casual observation" card. This year it will be necessary for county and regional coordinators to process their cooperators' field data cards as soon as they receive them, and forward corrected cards to atlas headquarters ASAP. We cannot tolerate the delays that occurred with 1986 cards. Cards

should be the actual field data card, in pencil (not ink). But be sure the pencil is dark and legible. Cards are processed on a light table when data are transferred to the computer. Do not use "white-out" to make corrections on your card because such corrections cannot be read through the light table.

The Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Project will receive \$44,434 from the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund; however, the budget for 1987/88 is about \$66,000; hence, we will need the support of FOS (the FOS Board voted to donate \$500 at the June board meeting), Audubon chapters, and our friends throughout the state to accomplish our goals this year. A grant application has been submitted to a private foundation to help fund the atlas project.



NATIONAL TAXIDERMY ASSOCIATION (NTA) Loses Again -- You will recall our alarm some time ago over a federal register notice about the request by the NTA to change federal regulations to allow any private citizen to possess "road-killed" birds, or any birds that died a "natural" death. The NTA appears to have lost this bid. The only avenue left is to take the matter to federal court. However, the NTA attorney is advising against this tactic, as there is no appeal if they lose. Also, NTA's meager budget could not support the cost. The NTA is planning to write a letter to President Reagan in an appeal for his intercession to apply pressure on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This is such a Pandora's box that I doubt even the President would give a second's thought to the matter (but, then, who would have dreamed that he would trade arms for hostages?!!)

FLORIDA'S NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM

(Editor's note; I asked Susan Cerulean, supervisor of the state's relatively new Nongame Wildlife Program to write an account on the status of the program, now that most of the staff positions have been filled. She has most graciously complied, as follows.)

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Nongame Wildlife Program (NGWP) was funded in 1984 by the Florida Legislature to ensure the conservation and management of all Florida wildlife and their habitats. Before the advent of this new program in the Commission, our state had no active conservation program specifically for nongame wildlife.

The majority of the program staff and responsibilities, as well as the responsibility of overall program direction, resides in the Division of Wildlife. Program Supervisor, Ms. Susan Cerulean, heads the program from this Division in Tallahassee. Five regional biologists, the Research and Survey Unit, and the Planning and Evaluation Unit are also based within the Division of Wildlife.

Regional biologists are providing technical assistance and nongame wildlife management on a local basis, and include Dr. Jeff Gore in Panama City, Mr. Peter Southall in Lake City, Mr. Tim O'Meara in Ocala, Mr. Brian Millsap in Lakeland, and Mr. Mark Robson in West Palm Beach.

The Research and Survey Unit is coordinated by Dr. Brad Gruver. Within this unit Dr. Doug Runde coordinates population monitoring and survey work while Mr. David Cook coordinates research and education grants to private contractors. Mrs. Sylvia Bates handles data management for the program. Mr. Mark Duda coordinates program planning and evaluation. Ms. Donna Secor serves as secretary to the Division of Wildlife's Nongame Wildlife Section.

Mr. Randy Kautz coordinates the Nongame Habitat Protection Unit from the office of Environmental Services. Randy oversees the efforts of three nongame biologists who are working specifically with developers and local governments to lessen construction impacts on native animals and their habitats. Ms. Julie Hovis in Marathon is providing guidance to decision makers in the Florida Keys who affect wildlife and habitat through regulatory and land use decisions. Mr. James Cox in Tallahassee is preparing guidelines for the protection of gopher tortoise habitat on developing lands, and Mr. Ray Fernald is preparing a set of recommendations especially for the rapidly disappearing scrub habitats in the Treasure Coast region of Vero Beach. Secretarial duties are performed by Ms. Karen Hatcher in Tallahassee.

Within the Office of Informational Services

(OIS), Nongame Education Coordinator, Ms. Judy Gillan, oversees efforts to help conservation groups, school teachers, and the general public to learn more about wildlife conservation. Education specialists, Mr. Erik Lovstrand in Orlando, Mr. Jeff Priest in West Palm Beach, and Ms. Patricia Millsap in Lakeland, are helping move Floridians from awareness (appreciating wildlife and understanding their needs) to action (working on many levels to maintain healthy wildlife populations). Publication Production Specialist, Ms. Suwanne Nardandrea, completes the OIS's NGWP staff.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Board of Regents of the State of Florida, for and on behalf of the Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Institute of Food and Agricultural Services at the University of Florida established an Urban Wildlife Management Program under the auspices of the Florida Nongame Wildlife Program. The purpose of this program is to increase the appreciation of urban wildlife and to enhance these resources in Florida's urban environments through management, education, and applied research. This program will be administered through the Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences with three Urban Wildlife Extension Specialists. Dr. Joseph M. Schaefer will work out of Gainesville, Dr. Craig N. Huegel will be stationed in Largo (Pinellas County), and Dr. Frank J. Mazzotti will be in Davie (Broward County).

Anyone desiring more information on this component of the Nongame Wildlife Program may contact Dr. Michael Collopy, Chairman, Dept. of Wildlife and Range Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida.

Endangered Species News

During January 1987, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service added seven Florida scrub plants to the U.S. list, six as endangered (Snake Root, Pygmy Fringe Tree, Highlands Scrub Hypericum, Wireweed, Scrub Plum, Carter's Mustard) and one threatened (Papery Whitlow-wort). Two Florida lizards, also restricted to Florida scrub -- the Sand Skink and the Blue-tailed Moie Skink --



have been proposed for listing as threatened species.

Two more Florida birds made the federal threatened list this year -- the Florida Scrub Jay

Notices and Requests

on July 1, and the Crested Caracara on August 5. Anyone desiring to have a copy of the federal register dealing with these two species (and the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, which was listed as endangered in 1986) can obtain this from FAS for the cost of photocopying and postage (\$1/species).

The most current list of federally-listed Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (April 10, 1987) may be obtained free from the Publications Unit, USF&WS, Washington, DC 20240. The most current list of Florida Endangered Flora and Fauna (July 1987) may be obtained free from Don Wood, FG&FWFC, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32301.

THE DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW



The last 100% Dusky Seaside Sparrow died in his cage at Walt Disney World's Discovery Island Zoological Park on June 16, 1987, leaving as survivors one 75% Dusky son, and three daughters -- 87.5%, 75%, and 50% Dusksies. The birds 75% and above look like the pure Dusky. Efforts will continue for another year or two to breed these birds to see what we can come up with. In the meanwhile, mitochondrial DNA from the heart and liver of the deceased bird has been preserved in a culture of *Escherichia coli* at the University of Georgia, and living cells from the bone marrow are being preserved for possible cloning at a bio-engineering firm in Pennsylvania. Science fiction? Well, wait and see!

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER 1987 SURVEY

Paul Sykes informs us that the count of Kirtland's Warblers on their Michigan breeding grounds is the lowest since 1974. Only 167 pairs were seen in 1987, compared with 210 pairs in 1986.

SNAIL KITE SURVEY (Nov. 24-Dec. 12, 1986)

Jim Rodgers reported that 563 Snail Kites were counted, a 38% increase over the dry year of 1985. Most of these birds were in Conservation Areas 2B and 3A. The 1987 season should have been a good one for this species and we look forward to seeing the survey results.

Requests for 1987 Christmas Count Dates -- The Fall (Nov.) issue of the FAS-FOS Newsletter will carry the annual listing of Florida Christmas Bird Counts. If I can receive the date and compiler's name and address and phone number early enough, then we can get this issue out earlier so that birders can plan to participate in several counts. PLEASE, count COMPILER, or Audubon Chapter PRESIDENT, pick your date now (the 1987-88 count period is Thursday, December 17 to Sunday, Jan. 3) and send the requested info to H.W. Kale, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751, or phone it to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

New Smyrna Audubon Society is planning to initiate a new count that will include Ponce de Leon Inlet (formerly a part of the old Daytona Beach count circle, last conducted in 1967), and will need and appreciate the help of several experienced birders to assist them.

Corkscrew Swamp Position Open -- Assistant Manager with state of the art knowledge of interpretive programming and interpretive facility design is being sought to administer, plan, and execute the interpretive program at National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Send letter and resume to Ed Carlson, Manager, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Rt. 6, Box 1875-A, Naples, FL 33964 (813/657-3771).

Field Ornithologist Position -- The Massachusetts Audubon Society seeks a person as its principal bird authority and liaison to the birdwatching and ornithological communities. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree in biology with emphasis in ornithology or equivalent experience, plus five years related experience; detailed knowledge of northeastern and North American birdlife, excellent field identification skills, and familiarity with world avifauna. Salary negotiable, with a minimum of \$18,900, plus excellent benefits. To apply, send a letter and resume to Director of Personnel, MAS, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Who is doing What in avian research in Florida? -- A decade ago in this newsletter, we published a column on who was conducting research on birds in Florida. It is timely to repeat this, so I am requesting you to let me know what you and your students/assistants/employees are doing. All we need is a name, address, and a brief sentence or list of the topics and species you are dealing with.

Beach-Nesting Bird Colony Request -- This

notice is printed with apologies to Tim O'Meara -- We did not publish a spring newsletter this year; hence, it is now too late for the 1987 nesting season, but we are printing it in this summer issue because the information still is valuable to the Nongame Wildlife Program and we urge readers to send reports about the colonies you observed this summer to Tim.)

"Florida's beach-nesting birds are increasingly threatened as a result of development of beaches and coastal islands for housing and recreation. As an initial step in developing a program for monitoring population trends for these species and identifying areas in need of protection, the Nongame Wildlife Program is conducting a study to locate nesting sites. If you know of areas where Least Terns, Royal Terns, Caspian Terns, Gull-billed Terns, Sandwich Terns, Black Skimmers, or American Oystercatchers have nested in the past, or in the 1987 season, we would appreciate your help. Please send a map or directions detailed enough for us to find the colony, to Timothy O'Meara, Nongame Biologist, FL Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm., 1239 SW 10th St. Ocala, FL 32674."

Pelagic Bird Seminar -- The Indian River Audubon Society and the Brevard Museum, Inc., are cosponsoring their second Pelagic Bird Seminar on October 31 and Nov. 1, 1987. The presenter of the seminar will be Johnnie Johnson, a nationally recognized authority on pelagic birds. The Saturday session will be informal classroom study held at the museum. Jaegers, gulls, terns, alcid, and migrating passerines will be studied with use of skins, slides, posters, and lectures. Sunday will feature an all day pelagic trip on Miss Cape Canaveral out of Port Canaveral.

Enrollment must be limited to 40, so early registration is advised. Send a check for \$30 payable to Indian River Audubon Society to Pelagic Birding, Brevard Museum, Inc., 2201 Michigan Ave, Cocoa, FL 32922. The fee covers both the seminar and pelagic trip. List your name, address, and phone number with your check. For further information call Don Devitt [redacted] or Brevard Museum (305/632-1830).

Color-banded American Kestrels -- As part of a long term study of a small breeding population of the Southeastern Kestrel on and in the vicinity of the Archbold Biological Station, adult and young kestrels were banded by Jim Layne with USF&WS aluminum bands and colored plastic bands. Reports of banded kestrels in the Highlands County area should be phoned to the Station (813/465-2571). If possible please describe band colors and sequence of bands, and

on which leg, and give location, date, your name and address.

New Fees -- The Federal Register of June 10, 1987, announced that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing to charge entrance fees at the following refuges in Florida: Ding Darling, Hobe Sound, Loxahatchee, and St. Marks.

Purple Martin Gourds and Seed Sources --

In response to my request for information, David Yon informs me that Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32308 (904/386-8882), sells natural gourds for Purple Martin use. Current price is \$3.50 each.

Joe Ondrejko reminded me of a valuable reference for seed sources: the Florida Market Bulletin, a free semi-monthly publication of the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Birdhouse gourd seeds are available from:

R.G. Birk, Rt. 1, Box 169-A,
Fountain, FL 32438 (Send \$1/ pkg and SASE.)

C.E. McGill, POB 225,
Kinard, FL 32449 (\$1/pkg and SASE).

Another ad reads: "Long-handled gourd seeds (5 for \$1 and SASE), T.E. Owen, 2230 Michigan St., Melbourne, FL 32904."

For those Audubon chapters who are always getting calls from people looking for a source of swans, peacocks, ducks, etc., the Market Bulletin column on "Poultry, Fowl, and Eggs" lists one or more such sources.

Purple Martin Colony Registry Program -- The newly formed Purple Martin Conservation Association is attempting to locate and register a majority of the martin colonies in North America. If you know of a colony that existed this past season, or would like to start one, please let the



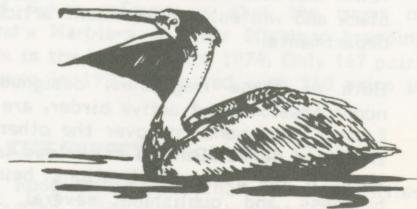
PMCA know. You can further assist by noting martin houses or gourds in people's yards during your travels and sending us a mailing address. Send info to The Purple Martin Conservation

Assn., P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, PA 16412. Two F.O.S. members are on the Scientific Advisory Board for PMCA: Dr. Bill Hardy and Dr. Herb Kale. Annual dues are \$15 and include a subscription to the Purple Martin Update.

Help for Hooked Birds -- The Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary received a grant from Exxon to produce posters, brochures, and boaters' guides publicizing the hazards of fishing lines and hooks to birds, and containing instructions for removing tangled or hooked birds. The poster and guides are coated with a plastic waterproofing. These are available free (I'm sure a donation would be appreciated) from the Sanctuary, 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33535 (813/391-6211). Exxon also funded two TV public service announcements (VHS or 3/4" video). Contact Ralph Heath at the Sanctuary if your local TV stations would air these.

Project Feederwatch -- The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has initiated a new bird survey designed to answer questions about wintering bird populations. Beginning in November volunteers will be recording the birds that visit their feeders on one or two days each week through March. To participate you must be able to identify the birds that normally come to your feeder, and to keep an eye on your feeder for several hours on each count day. To participate, contact Laboratory of Ornithology, Feederwatch, P.O. Box 223, Ithaca, NY 14850-0223. A \$7.00 registration fee will provide funds for the data forms, postage, etc.

Color-Banded Brown Pelicans in Panama City -- Game Commission and Park Service biologists have color-banded juvenile pelicans on Audubon Island in St. Andrews Bay for the sixth year in a row. Yellow or blue bands have been used to study the patterns of juvenile dispersal from this, the only, Panhandle breeding colony. Anyone



sighting color-banded pelicans is urged to report their locations and band colors to Don Wood, Endangered Species Coordinator, FG&FWFC, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904/488-3831).

Sav-A-Life Animal Warning Device. \$30. (SAV-A-LIFE Inc., POB 1226, New York NY 10025, 1-800-654-3337)--Two small 2-inch chrome whistles placed on a car bumper emit a shrill warning at speeds above 30 mph. The noise is inaudible to humans, but alerts wildlife of an approaching auto. Invented in Austria, the device is credited with reducing animal/vehicle collisions by over 80%. (Might be good for vehicles on Alligator Alley and S.R. 29 in panther country?)

FLORIDA RARE BIRD ALERT

As soon as the new Florida Hotline list was published in March, a number of corrections and changes arrived. Please make a photocopy of these and post them to your list.

Blountstown (add before Marianna)

Sybil Arbery 904/674-5344
Rt. 1, Box 124
Blountstown, FL 32424

Tallahassee

David Von Phone: [REDACTED]

Jacksonville

Virge Markgraf: Delete

Lakeland Area

Delete Linda Grable (now Mrs
Buck Cooper)

Ormond Beach (Delete entry and add:
Daytona Beach

Roger Harshaw [REDACTED] (res)
[REDACTED] (Ofc)

Vero Beach

Delete Susan Blackshaw
Add: Pat Brown [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ft. Pierce

Add: Susan Blackshaw [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

St. Petersburg

Charles Buhman [REDACTED] (res)
[REDACTED]

Some Publications of Interest

Planting a Refuge for Wildlife! How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Florida's Birds and Beasts. Written and edited by Susan Cerulean, Celeste Botha, and Donna Legare. Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission Nongame Wildlife Program and USDA Soil Conservation Service. Free on request. Copies available from G&FWFC offices throughout the state, or by writing to the Nongame Program, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. -- **OUTSTANDING!** If you donated \$1.00 to the Nongame Program when you renewed your auto tag this year, here's your dollar back, with interest. If you did not add one measly little dollar for the program when you renewed, then you owe a dollar, and when you renew your tag in your next birthday month, remember to add \$2.

A Bibliography of Bird Identification Articles in Five Journals, with Cross References to a List of over 580 Species. By Clarise Watson. Oregon Field Ornithologists, Spec. Publ. No. 4, 1987. 44 pp. \$4 ppd. (Write Treas., OFO, POB 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.)

Woodworking for Wildlife. Publ. No. 9-1456, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources. 48 pp. \$6.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. State Documents Div., 117 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155. -- Contains designs for 27 houses and structures that attract 46 species of wildlife.

Bird Sounds -- A New Cassette -- Voices of New World Cuckoos and Trogons, ARA Records has published a cassette containing sounds of all western hemisphere species of trogons and most of the cuckoos. Available for \$10.00 postpaid from ARA Records, Box 12347, Gainesville, FL 32604-0347.

Checklist of North American Birds: United States and Canada, including Hawaii, by Ruth Ogden Russell, Compiler. 1985. 20 pp. \$1.50 first copy, \$1.25 additional copies. Tucson Audubon Soc., 30-A North Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716. -- Useful for curators, birders, authors, editors, everyone who needs to know the current scientific and common names and taxonomic sequence of our avifauna. "Highly recommended." (F.E. Lohrer)

Checklist of the Birds of South America, by Altman and Swift. 1986. 64 pp. \$4.95 ppd from Allan Altman, POB 441, Great Barrington, MA 01230. -- Includes information on the status of every species, by country.

Songbirds in Your Garden, by John K. Terres. Reissued 1987 with new forward and new chapter about bird songs. 306 pp. \$9.95. Flexibook, Harper & Row, Publ. Inc., 10 E. 53rd St., NY 10022.

Bird Scope. The research newsletter of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Vol. 1, No. 1. Summer 1987. Cornell Lab. of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. -- This publication replaces the former Cooperative Research Newsletter and is sent to members of the Laboratory with the Living Bird Quarterly (annual membership to LOO is \$25.00).

Naturalist Review. Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States (8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815). \$5/year (payable to Naturalist Review). -- Reviews of new natural history books for adults and children are the focus of this quarterly tabloid, a supplement to the monthly Audubon Naturalist News. A great way to become apprised of the innumerable books in this field.

Birder's World. The Magazine for Bird Enthusiasts. Published bimonthly by Birder's World, Inc. Subscription: \$25/year from Birder's World Subscription Dept., POB 1347, Elmhurst, IL 60126-8347. -- A slick paper magazine with beautiful color photographs, interesting articles (about six/issue), and 16 regular departments.

WildBird. Your Guide to Birding at its Best. Published bimonthly by Fancy Publications, Inc. Subscription: \$8.99/year from WildBird Subscription Dept., POB 6040, Mission Viejo, CA 92690-9983. -- A less slick paper magazine with fewer (but still excellent) color photographs (more black and whites) and excellent articles and 12 departments.

Both of these magazines, designed for the nonprofessional but active birder, are excellent. I can't recommend one over the other, although the price of WildBird is much less (a result, I suspect, of Fancy Publications being in the business and publishing several specialized magazines which may be temporarily subsidizing WildBird. If true, then watch the price increase quickly once it catches on.) I don't want to miss the articles from either magazine, so I'm buying both! --HWK.

FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

OFFICERS, 1987-1989

Pres: R. David Goodwin, [redacted]
[redacted]

V. P.: Richard T. Paul, [redacted]

Secy: Bruce D. Neville, [redacted]

Treas: Caroline H. Coleman [redacted]

Directors: William Dowling, Roberta Gean-angel, Cecil Kilmer, Lyn Atherton, Joe Marto, John Ogden

Past President: Bob Brown

Editor, Florida Field Naturalist:

Dr. James A. Rodgers

Editor, FAS-FOS Newsletter: Dr. Herbert W. Kale II

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Fall, 1987 - Oct. 2-4, Clearwater

Ramada Inn Countryside, Sgl/Dbf: \$29, (813/796-1234 for reservations; mention FOS).
Registration fee: \$5.00 (Student: \$4.00)
Buffet: \$13.
Send check for registration and buffet to Paul Trunk, [redacted]

Host chapter: Clearwater Audubon Society

Spring, 1988 - April 22-24

Dauphin Island, Alabama
Joint meeting with
Alabama Ornithological Society.
Details in next newsletter.

REPORT on Spring 1987 FOS Meeting

The F.O.S. met June 5-7 at the beautiful Episcopal Camp and Conference Center near Live Oak, hosted by the Four Rivers Audubon Society. Local chairman was Pete Southall. He and his assistants performed an outstanding job of organizing and conducting the meeting. This meeting, held later in the spring than usual, centered around blockbusting for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas in a part of the state where few active birders live. A total of 18 blocks, chiefly No. 6 priority blocks, were surveyed during the two days.

The Saturday afternoon program was a round-up by each blockbusting team relating finds and experiences. Awards were given to Joe Ondrejko (a Jim Lane guide) for having traveled the greatest distance to attend (from Key West); to Richard Slater (an NGS bird guide) for helping Lyn Atherton's team to confirm the most species; and to Pete Southall and Brenda Rhodes (Atlas T-shirts) for their excellent planning and execution of the blockbusting effort.

Wes Biggs, State Coordinator for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas, presented Buck Cooper, the coordinator for Polk County, with the Most Valuable Coordinator Award for the first year of the project. This was a framed Ray Harm print.

During the annual member's meeting, new officers for the Society were elected (see list above). Three new directors also were elected: Lyn Atherton, Cecil Kilmer, and John Ogden. The

Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Fund award (\$300) this year was won by Bonnie J. Ploger of the University of Florida for work on the topic, "Do parent Cattle Egrets manipulate hatch intervals?"

The banquet speaker Saturday evening was Dr. Robert Loftin, who presented a slide show and stimulating talk on Birds of the Arctic slope of Alaska where he participated in a ten-week research project in 1985.

President Bob Brown announced that the 1987 FOS Dry Tortugas trip realized a profit of \$600, which Bill and Helen Dowling, organizers of the trip for the past two years, donated to the FOS Research Fund.

Although the lateness of the date for this meeting resulted in many of our members not attending (approximately 50 participated), everyone present thought the time working on the Atlas project well worth the effort. We all had a great time and learned much about atlassing and the north Florida habitats. It was a pleasure to hear and see Field Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Acadian Flycatchers, among the other species rarely, if ever, found breeding in central and south Florida.

The F.O.S. Blockbusting trip next summer will be a special meeting in the Florida Panhandle (Region 2) in early June (the regular spring meeting will be April 22-24 on Dauphin Island, Alabama). Details about this will appear in a future newsletter.

It is with great sorrow that we note the death of Virge Markgraf, a charter member of FOS, on April 6, 1987. Virge was a member and officer of Duval Audubon for 25 years, compiled the Jacksonville Christmas Bird Count for 16 years, and was an area editor for *American Birds*. She was an outstanding observer of nature and wrote many excellent articles for the chapter newsletter, the *Duval Observer*. She is missed by all her friends and FOS members who had the pleasure of knowing her.

One of our longtime members, Bernard King from Great Britain, often visited his daughter in Winter Park, and would stop in to see Wes Biggs and Herb Kale at Florida Audubon to learn what good birds were in the area. A few days after visiting us this past March, Bernard boarded a fishing boat to look for pelagics. While at sea he suffered a massive heart attack and died. Bernard published several papers on Florida birds in the *Florida Field Naturalist*, and in *British Birds*. He once told me that he had the largest list of North American birds seen in the British Isles of any British birder. We shall miss him here in Maitland and in the pages of FFN. To his wife and daughter go our deepest sympathies.

Paul Sykes, now researching the Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan and the Bahamas out of his headquarters in Athens, Georgia, announces his new home address and phone is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His work address is USF&WS, Southeast Field Station, School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 404/546-3216.

Congratulations to Dr. Michael W. Collopy, who has been appointed chairman of the Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences, School of Forest Resource and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Congratulations are extended also to Dr. Steve Beissinger, Dr. Godfry Bourne, Steve Nesbitt, and Dr. James A. Rodgers, who were honored by being made Elective Members of the American Ornithologists' Union at the recent meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Bourne has recently accepted an appointment in the Dept. of Biology at Florida Atlantic University.

Dr. Glen E. Woolfenden, president-elect of the A.O.U. and a member of the Dept. of Biology at the University of South Florida, will be on sabbatical at Archbold Biological Station until May of 1988.

Wedding congratulations are extended to Buck and Linda (Grable) Cooper, and congratulations and best wishes for successful college careers are conveyed to Steven Bassett and David Yon, both of whom were graduated from high school this June.

Dr. Mary Clench, a former FOS Board member, moved from Gainesville with her laboratory colleagues to the University of Virginia last year, and now we have been informed that the entire laboratory will move to Galveston, Texas. Does anybody in Florida have a better offer to lure Mary back here?

FAS-FOS NEWSLETTER
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Naples, FL 33959