

1989

Newsletter, Florida Audubon Society - Florida Ornithological Society, Winter/Spring 1989

Florida Audubon 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. Notices, requests for information or assistance, and news of interest should be sent to the editor: Dr. Herbert W. Kale II, Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751 (407/647-2615).

Florida Breeding Bird Atlas

This year marks the fourth year of this five-year (1986-1990) FAS/FOS project. Now is the time to be out in the field completing the priority blocks in each quadrangle. All remaining efforts for the project should concentrate on the completion of these priority blocks. Regional blockbusting efforts are being undertaken this year to survey incomplete or unsurveyed priority blocks. A list of these dates appears in the recent issue of the Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter, No. 8. (By the time you read this, the FAS Blockbusting weekend in Putnam County, May 26-29, will be history.)

We have not yet been successful in obtaining foundation support for 1989/'90 (several applications are pending); hence, the blockbusting phase of the project is currently unfunded. To help meet the operating expenses above and beyond those funded by the Nongame Wildlife Program, F.O.S. and several Audubon chapters have provided some welcomed funds, and Florida Audubon has agreed to contribute its share of Birdathon proceeds to the project. Audubon chapters that have not yet sent a contribution to the atlas project are urged to do so, and we welcome donations from individuals desiring to help us survive the current drought.



Florida Rare Bird Alert

Participants in the Orlando area of the Florida Hotline are advised to add the following name to their alert list:

Chris Hobbs

Requests for Assistance/Information

Breeding Bird Surveys -- Jim Cox, state coordinator for the Breeding Bird Surveys, has about 15 survey routes that are still unassigned for 1989. Below is a list of these. Routes need to be run sometime between late May and mid-June, beginning about a half-hour before sunrise and ending 4+ hours later (stops are made every half mile for three minutes each). If you are a good, reliable birder with good hearing and great familiarity with local bird calls and songs, and are willing to run one or more of these, please contact Jim Cox, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission in Tallahassee (904/488-1960). The Commission pays a flat rate of \$50 for each route surveyed, but does not reimburse gas or other expenses.

Route Number, Name, County

25012	Belmont	Hamilton/Suwannee
25013	Micanopy	Alachua/Marion
25014	Romeo	Levy/Marion
25038	Doctor's Inlet	Clay
25039	Boca Raton	Palm Beach/Broward
25040	Andytown	Broward/Dade
25059	Hildreth	Suwannee/Gilchrist
25060	Callahann	Duval
25063	Ft. McCoy	Marion
25065	Flemington	Marion
25082	Palmdale	Glades/Charlotte
25083	Key West	Monroe
25105	Nixon	Calhoun/Bay
25911	Corbett	Palm Beach
25912	Holey Land	Palm Beach

Standardized Bird Counts -- Dr. R. Todd Engstrom, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, (169 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; 607/254-2416) is conducting a review of standardized bird counts in Florida for the Florida Nongame Wildlife Program. He would appreciate any reprints or copies of

quantitative counts of birds in Florida habitats, or references to these counts. Counts done according to standard sampling procedures, such as point counts, transects, or spot-mapping, are especially valuable. This review will help us to identify gaps in our knowledge of the bird communities in Florida habitats.

Swallow-tailed Kites -- This is the final season of a two-year study on the summer distribution and habitat use of the American Swallow-tailed Kite in Florida. Reports of actual or suspected nesting attempts are needed. Please report observations, including recent sightings, kites carrying nesting material, interactions, vocalizations, and begging/feeding of fledged young, to Dr. Ken Meyer, Dept. of Wildlife & Range Science, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, or leave a message at [REDACTED].



Informational Notices

Dakota Bird Tours -- Bruce Harris [REDACTED] offers bird tours in the Dakotas as your time and budget allow -- one day or multi-day trips, with any number of people. Harris is co-author of *The Birds of South Dakota*.

1988 Midwinter Snail Kite Survey -- A total of 500 Snail Kites observed during Nov.-Dec., 1988, represents a 53.4% increase over the number of kites observed in 1987. Significant increases were found at Fellsmere Marsh, Lake Okeechobee, and Conservation Areas 2B and 3A, whereas a notable decrease occurred at Lake Kissimmee. Lake Okeechobee possessed the most kites for the first time since kite censuses were begun in 1967 (James A. Rodgers).

Sanctuaries. A Checklist of Bird Sightings in Broward County, Florida, Regional Parks-- The Broward County Parks & Recreation Division (950 NW 38th St., Oakland Park, 33309) announces the publication of this booklet, based on sightings by park naturalists and members of Broward County Audubon in 10 of the county's 14 parks.

1989 Workshops for Birders and Ornithologists -- The Institute of Field Ornithology, Univ. of Maine (9 O'Brien Ave., Machias, ME 04654; 207/255-3313, Ext. 289).

- >Rancho del Cielo, Mexico, Jun 10-18
- >Bird Song Recording, Machias, Jun 25-Jul 1
- >Warblers, Machias, Jul 2-7
- >Seabirds of NW Atlantic, Machias, Jul30-Aug 5
- >Shorebirds, Machias, Aug 6-11
- >Seabirds of N. Pacific, Seattle, Aug 20-27
- >Raptors at Cape May Point, Oct 15-21

Colonial Waterbird Society Meeting, 1989-- The annual meeting of this international organization will be held at the Sheraton Resort, Key Largo, FL, October 25-29, 1989. The meeting will overlap an Everglades Symposium, Oct 22-27, sponsored by the National Park Service and the South Florida Water Management District. A symposium paper session on wading bird ecology on Oct. 26 will mark the beginning of the CWS meeting. The local committee chair is John Ogden (ENP, Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030). The CWS program chair is Herbert W. Kale II (1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751).

Indian River Audubon Archives -- Bob Brown, president of IRAS, informs us that his chapter has established an archive file at Brevard Community College and desires copies of any archival material -- letters, documents, articles, etc. -- dealing with the history and activities of the chapter. These should be sent to Bob at 1218 E. New Haven Ave., Melbourne, FL 32901.



Flamingo Gardens Aviary -- Flamingo Gardens, a nonprofit botanical garden in western Broward County, is constructing a 25,000-foot free-flight aviary and an in-aviary classroom that will feature a display of native plant species and will house south Florida wading birds in a wetland habitat. Dr. Terri Parrott, DVM, is aviary curator, and Dr. Frank Mazzotti, Urban Wildlife Extinction specialist at the Dept. of Wildlife & Range Sciences, Univ. of Florida, and John Goldasich, biologist with Keith & Schnars Engineering, are the environmental advisors. For more information, or if you wish to provide assistance in its development, contact Joann Lips, Aviary Manager, 3750 Flamingo Rd., Davie, FL 33330; 305/473-2955.

Banded Birds -- Audubon chapters often receive calls from the public about banded birds. For wild birds bearing a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aluminum band, the following information should be included with the band (if from a dead bird): Date, location (state, county, nearest town), name and address of finder, circumstances (sick? hit by car? found dead? etc.). The band should be flattened and taped to the report. If the bird can be rehabilitated, then the band should be left on the leg and only its number and other data recorded. The rehabilitator should inform the BBL when and where the banded bird was released. This information should be sent to: Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20708.

In the case of banded pigeons, a different procedure is followed. Two organizations issue bands for use on pigeons: A band with the prefix AU followed by a year and an alphanumeric is that of the American Racing Pigeon Union. A band with the prefix IF followed by a year and alphanumeric is that of the International Federation of Racing Pigeon Fanciers. Both organizations issue bands to the secretaries of their local pigeon clubs. The alphabet portion of the alphanumeric identifies the local club. Florida Audubon has a list of the names and addresses of these club secretaries. Colored rubber bands or tape that are on pigeon legs (or on the metal band) are placed there by the pigeon's owner just before a race for identification purposes.

Exhausted pigeons usually find their way home after being fed, watered, and rested. Injured or sick pigeons may be treated and their owner (via club secretary) contacted. Many fanciers are not interested in their "losers", dead or alive, so don't be surprised by a lack of concern or even curiosity, about a lost bird. Badly injured birds should be humanely dispatched, and care should be exercised in handling diseased birds, especially if you have other birds in your care.

Sometimes a member of a local club is willing to handle pigeon calls. It would be worthwhile searching for such a person in your chapter area.

Operation Tern Bridge -- Paul Sykes has come up with an exciting suggestion concerning potential tern nesting sites in the Florida Keys. One day while he was driving through the Keys, it occurred to him that the old abandoned bridges paralleling U.S. 1 could become nesting sites for Least and Roseate Terns and Black Skimmers if they had a layer of sand or gravel on them. These bridges are isolated from humans and raccoons and would be ideal nest sites, similar to gravel roof tops

used by terns throughout Florida. The task of placing sand/gravel in patches on the bridges could be undertaken as a National Guard or Army Reserve training exercise.

If you agree that this novel idea is worth pursuing, why not drop a note to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, and the Florida Dept. of Transportation? Paul has already sent them copies of his letter, but it is such an avant garde idea that no bureaucrat is going to take any initiative without public encouragement or goading.

Lost Friends

We are greatly saddened to report the deaths of several prominent members of Florida Audubon and F.O.S. during the past several months:

On Dec. 31, 1988, Oliver L. Austin, Jr., a charter and honorary member of F.O.S., died at his home in Gainesville. He was 84 years old. Dr. Austin was Emeritus Curator of Birds at the Florida Museum of Natural History, a past editor of the *Auk*, journal of the American Ornithologist's Union, and was the only honorary member of the Colonial Waterbird Society. Many of his family, friends, and colleagues attended a celebration held in his memory at his home in January. Our condolences go to Mrs. Austin and his family.

On February 2, 1989, Jean Henry, founder and director of the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital and a member of the board of Florida Audubon, died in Stuart. Jean, who was suffering from advanced stages of emphysema, requested her life support systems be shut off, and she peacefully passed away shortly afterwards, surrounded by her friends.

On March 11, 1989, Dr. James L. Baker, 49, chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management, USF&WS, in Anchorage, Alaska, died of cardiac arrhythmia while cross-country skiing. Jim spent nine years in Florida and for six years, 1975-'81, he was the biologist at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge where he was in charge of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow recovery effort. Jim accomplished more in his 49 years than most people do in 100 years, and we shall miss this kind and gentle man. Our sympathies go to his wife, Dr.

Gail Baker, a plant ecologist with the USF&WS in Alaska.

On May 6, 1989, Laurence Alexander, 41, a PhD candidate at the Univ. of Florida under Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, died of cancer in Hawaii. Alex, as he preferred to be called, was studying wintering populations of the Common Loon in Florida for his second dissertation (his first PhD was in literature and he taught for several years at Emory Univ. before returning to Florida to earn a zoology degree). Dr. Alexander was a knowledgeable, competent

biologist with much promise, and we shall suffer the loss of his unfulfilled contributions to ornithology.

We have recently learned of the death of Ray Gilbert on February 19, 1989, in Tampa. Ray was an active birder with Tampa Audubon and a longtime member of F.O.S. He served as the Hillsborough County coordinator for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Project in 1987. Our sympathies go to his wife, Eve, and his family.

Florida Ornithological Society News

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F.O.S. Sales: Bruce Neville

1989 Fall Meeting

Date: October 6-8, 1989

Place: Holiday Inn, U.S.1
Titusville, Florida

Hosts: Indian River Audubon Society

Local Chair: Bob Brown, 407/724-8078

Field Trips: Merritt Is. NWR
Port Canaveral

A Sunday Pelagic Trip

Report on the Spring, 1989, Meeting

The spring, 1989, meeting of the F.O.S. was held at the Holiday Inn Riverfront in Bradenton, Florida, on April 28-30. Manatee County Audubon Society was the host chapter, and Meric Woodward was the Local Committee Chairman.

During the board meeting on Friday, Naomi Edelson of the Univ. of Florida was awarded the Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Award for work on "Foraging ecology of wading birds: use of altered wetland in Polk County, Florida".

The board approved a contribution of \$800 to the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

The receipt of a grant from the Beveridge Foundation for a computer was announced.

Dave Goodwin presented the Society with a check for \$900 in proceeds from the 1989 F.O.S. Dry Tortugas trip. This donation put the endowment of the Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Fund over \$10,000. The board also voted a dues increase to become effective in 1990.

A committee was appointed to investigate a regular birding feature for the FFN.

During the annual membership meeting on Saturday, new officers and directors were elected (listed above). Judi Hopkins was elected director for the remainder of Dr. Hardy's unexpired term.

A workshop on Burrowing Owls presented on Saturday afternoon was moderated by Brian Millsap, head of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Nongame Wildlife Program.

Brian Mealy of the Museum of Science in Miami spoke on the status of Burrowing Owls in Dade and Broward counties. Julie Hovis of FG&FWFC spoke on its status in the Florida Keys. Cindy Bear of the Audubon Society of Southwest Florida and Brian Millsap spoke on the impact of urban growth on the owl population at Cape Coral. The presentations were followed by a question and answer

session.

A skin quiz, mostly of wings only, prepared by Dr. J.W. Hardy, was won by Glen Woolfenden, who was awarded a photo of a Great Egret by Don Bansen of Manatee County Audubon. Bill Pranty won the second prize, tapes of birds of Mexico by ARA Records.

Dr. James Layne of Archbold Biological Station, our banquet speaker, spoke on his work with the Crested Caracara.

Outgoing president Dave Goodwin recognized outgoing treasurer Caroline Coleman for her tireless and devoted service, so, these many years. Wes Biggs presented a framed Ray Harm print of a Purple Martin and a set of "Oceanic Birds of South America" by Robert Cushman Murphy to Bill Pranty of Pasco County as Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator of the Year.

Field trips were held at Fort DeSoto Park; Beer Can Island and Selby Gardens; and Riverview, Simmons Park, and Little Manatee River State Recreation Area. A boat trip went to the National Audubon Washburn Sanctuary in Terra Ceia Bay.

The usual good time was had by all.

>Bruce D. Neville, Secretary

News of F.O.S. Members

James D. Dinsmore was elected president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for 1988-'89.

Ms. Kathy Robison, a PhD candidate at the Univ. of Florida, has been appointed a curatorial assistant in the bird range of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

Bob Brown, past president of F.O.S., has been elected president of Indian River Audubon Society.

Chuck Hunter has completed his MSc program at Arizona State Univ. and is now a biologist with the USF&WS's Region IV office (75 Spring St., SW, Suite 1276, Atlanta, GA 30303) where he is working on a nongame bird handbook.

We welcome Chris Hobbs to Florida and F.O.S. Chris moved to the Orlando area on January 5 from Kansas City, Missouri, where he has been an active birder for over 20 years. He writes, "My Kansas and Missouri lists are well over 300 species, so I fully expect to be a continuing participant in the Florida birding community."

F.O.S. Contributing Members

Each year many F.O.S. members renew their membership above and beyond the basic minimum dues, and 1988 was no exception. We are most grateful to the following members:

F.O.S. Ambassadors (\$100 or more): Dr. Dan L. Canterbury, Constance S. Caswell, Helen G. Cruickshank, Dr. Joe B. Harbison, Dr. Bradford T. Williams, St. Petersburg Audubon Society.

F.O.S. Patrons (\$50 or more): Earl F. and Eleanor L. Colburn, Mary C. Davidson, Helen P. Dowling, William E. Dowling.

F.O.S. Contributing Members (\$25 or more): Dr. I.J. Abramson, David W. Arnold, T.H. and V.A. Below, Hank T. Bowen, Margaret Bowman, Herb J. Brammier Jr., Jane M. Brooks, Margaret R. Brown, Dr. Thomas P. Bennett, Vida Blauvelt, Bob Brown, Teena and Randall Bryan, Dr. James E. Cavanagh Jr., Jeff and Cristy Cox, Allen V. and Claudia Clark, D. Jackson Dozier, R. Todd Engstrom, James K. Freeland, Mrs. Carl L. Gibson, Raymond H. and

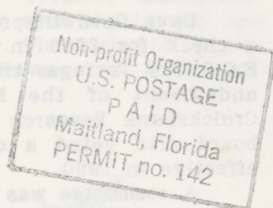
Eve F. Gilbert, Louise L. Greene, Robert D. Goodwin, Ruth A. Haynes, H.D. Hartgrove, Gloria S. Hunter, Barbara C. Kittleson, Dr.

Herbert W. Kale, Frank H. Krull, Dr. Charles J. Kahn, Col. Carl Lentz, Roy R. Lewis III, Manuel Lopez, Patricia J. Lanzillotti, Joseph V. Marto, June and Aubry McCallum, Albert F. McGowan, Annie McKelvey, Hannah Nadel, Dr. Mark T. Orr, Joseph A. Ondrejko, Cynthia H. Plockelman, Dr. C. Ted Robinson, Malcolm M. Simons, Annette and Stanley Stedman, Hal Scott, Catherine A. Suarez, Dr. Durbin C. Tabb, Ernest and Betty Wargo, John P. Wiley, Barry L. Williams, and Thomas M. Yurchenko.

The following members made additional contributions to the Allan D. and Helen G. Cruickshank Research Fund: Cheryl Chenoweth, Helen G. Cruickshank, R. Todd Engstrom, Ruth A. Haynes, William and Ruth Alboth, Bob Brown, Arthur and Judy Buhrman, Brett K. Bannor, Hank T. Bowen, Sally W. Clifton, Jeff and Cristy Cox, Helen and William Dowling, Stephen B. Fickett Jr., Deborah and Colin Grimes, Gloria S. Hunter, Herbert W. Kale, Manuel Lopez, Annie McKelvey, Edwina W. Morrison, Barbara P. Muschlitz, Nina D. Steffee, Dr. Bradford T. Williams, St. Petersburg Audubon Society, and Dry Tortugas 1988 Trip income (\$120).

FAS-FOS NEWSLETTER

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