

The Snail Kite

Newsletter of the Florida Ornithological Society

Advancing ornithology in Florida

fosbirds.org



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THE SNAIL KITE FLIES AGAIN



Like populations of the charismatic raptor, *The Snail Kite: Newsletter of the Florida Ornithological Society*, is amazingly resilient! After a 14 year hiatus, we are very excited for this first issue and hope this newsletter can serve as a state-wide hub of knowledge, communication, and entertainment for ornithologists, birders, naturalists, and conservation enthusiasts alike. If you are interested in submitting an article, an event announcement, a naturalist note, photography, or artwork, please email the editor at levy.heather789@gmail.com.

President's Message

Ann Paul | FOS President

I am so honored to share this opportunity of being your President to work with you, our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and partners in the science of, appreciation for, and conservation of birds in Florida. I think our Florida Ornithological Society is the key organization to continue to foster cooperation between leading researchers, managers, bird-watchers and enthusiasts, and the public.

I am excited that we are reviving the *Snail Kite* newsletter, and want to tip my hat to former *Snail Kite* editor Tom Palmer. Now, under new leadership by Heather Levy and Todd Engstrom, we are kickstarting our newsletter to share knowledge about the amazing birds, birders, and bird biologists of our state.

I have often thought about the science of studying birds as similar to the layers of an onion – every science fact learned leads to more questions, and for me, a renewed sense of astonishment and appreciation for these unique animal species that share Florida with us.

Thanks to everyone for the articles you've already sent in, and to others who are thinking of fun notices, facts, new insights, and other bird-related information to share with the rest of us! Let's make the *Snail Kite* a real benefit to foster relationships between scientists and bird enthusiasts across Florida!



Ann Paul assisting at a bird survey at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge.
Photo by Ken Spilios.



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Photos by Jim McGinity

Calling all Florida Young Birders!

Jim McGinity | Florida Avian Conservation

Tampa Audubon and Florida Avian Conservation are teaming up to start up a new bird club specifically for young birders.

We are looking for youth ages 9 - 17 years of age. If you know any kids who are really interested in learning more about birds, bird watching, conservation and environmental careers this is the group for them!

This is an opportunity for young birders to meet other kids their own age and to share their love of birds. We are starting with a Tampa Bay Area chapter (FYBC-Tampa Bay) to get rolling then hope to add chapters around the state of Florida. Long-term, the hope is to hold a 1 day mini-conference for the students like those held in other states.

If you are involved with young birders in other parts of Florida and are interested in joining a committee to create the state-wide framework or start a new chapter, contact Jim McGinity at jmcginity53@gmail.com

For youth with questions and to sign up, they can contact the organizers at: ybc.tampabay@gmail.com

More Info About How Young Birder's Clubs work:
<https://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/young-birders-network.html>

Save the Date: Virtual Joint Fall Meeting with the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society October 8-10

The Fall FOS Meeting will be a joint collaboration with the Florida Wildlife Society, presented via Zoom, Friday October 8th and Saturday October 9th. There will be workshops/certification presentations Friday morning, followed by the FOS Board Meeting in the afternoon.

On Saturday, virtual field trips and student presentations will be offered in the morning, followed by keynote talks in the afternoon after a brief report by President Ann Paul on the Board Meeting activities. Test your bird identification skills with Andy Kratter and a Zoom Skin Quiz. In lieu of our traditional field trips, we hope you will join us in a Birding Challenge Sunday morning through eBird! We'll send out details on how to participate prior to the meeting.

Students who wish to present a talk and members who have a presentation to share should contact Mary Mack Gray, mgray@talltimbers.org. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Paul, annpaul26@gmail.com, 813-624-3149.

Updates about the meeting, including the agenda and Zoom registration, will be available on the FOS website prior to the meeting. We will also send an email with detailed meeting information in the next few weeks.

We look forward to 'seeing' you there!



Upcoming Events: Florida Birding & Nature Festival

Expert Seminars

Two days of Zoom broadcast seminars from experts in their fields. View live on Friday and Saturday or subscribe on YouTube afterwards. All seminars are included with registration. Look over the schedule to not miss your favorites!

Nature Expo

Free of charge, our Expo Hall will be full of nature organizations, original artwork, and more. Come meet the groups working hard to protect the environment, and shop! Open 9 am to 5 pm Friday & Saturday.

Field & Boat Trips

After registration, add-on a field or boat trip (Fri-Sun) - many of which will take you to sites not normally accessible to the public - for \$25 to \$60. Many of our popular trips sell out, so get your tickets early!

Silent Auction

Donations have come in from vendors, individual supporters, and more. Items will be on display, and winners will be announced on both Friday and Saturday at 4 pm. (You must be present to win.)

Keynote Events

At 6 pm on Friday & Saturday, come enjoy an hors d'oeuvres buffet and then listen to renowned experts give a keynote. Registration is not required. Keynotes are \$20 over Zoom or \$40 live with the buffet and two drinks included. Our new KEYNOTE SERIES ticket saves you money!

FOS is a financial supporter of the Florida Birding & Nature Festival.

October
15-17, 2021

Experience
Tampa Bay's
Peak Fall Migration!



A three-day festival offering expert seminars on Zoom, field and boat trips, keynote speaker, and a nature expo!

Learn more at

fbnfestival.org

Click on the flyer to learn more!



Keynote Speakers

Friday night: Craig Pittman | Award winning author (top photo)

Craig Pittman is the author of and will speak about "CAT TALE: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther." Schoolchildren chose the Florida panther as our state animal in the 1980s, but it wasn't too long after that that panthers wound up on the verge of going extinct. Desperate scientists tried an unprecedented experiment to save them - but it has had some unforeseen ramifications



Saturday night: Clay Taylor | Manager, Swarovski Optik (bottom photo)

Clay Taylor grew up in Connecticut, where he pointed his camera lenses at lots of things in the 1970s. Birds became an interest, then an obsession. He joined Swarovski Optik North America in 1999 as their "Birder", and is now Naturalist Market Manager, attending birding festivals and giving workshops on optics and bird photography. He currently favors using a Swarovski Optik

Eastern Black Rail: Conservation Status and Research Update

By Peter Monte | FOS Board Member

In 1901, Ornithologist William Brewster wrote of “an ornithological mystery”, referring to an unfamiliar rail-like call from a bed of cattails in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He abruptly nicknamed the unidentifiable bird the “kicker” for the introductory series of *kick-kicks* in its song.

Over one hundred years later, bird enthusiasts creatively describe that same bird as “near-mythical” or “the bird that doesn’t exist”. Although no longer a complete mystery, this elusive marsh bird does persist while experiencing steep declines in its population. Following a recent federal conservation status uplisting, a collaborative research project is underway to help preserve North America's smallest rail.

The Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), is both rare and broadly distributed but highly localized throughout its range. A subspecies, the Eastern Black Rail (*L. j. jamaicensis*), was first discovered in Jamaica in 1760 and for the first time in the United States by John James Audubon in 1838. It’s now known from as many as 35 U.S. States, as well as parts of Canada, the Caribbean, and Central America.



Female Black Rail. Photo by Christy Hand, SCDNR

Adults are gray-black with a chestnut nape and upper back, shades of dark gray with chestnut or brown and scattered white spots from back to remiges, all adorned by piercing scarlet irises. Its small sparrow-like size allows it to swiftly navigate dense emergent plants in tidal marshes and freshwater wetlands. With a tendency to avoid flight, Black Rails are more often heard but still remain a challenge to detect. Among North America’s most secretive birds, this species has made population estimates difficult, but well-studied populations on the mid-Atlantic coast indicate steep declines and in some cases the complete loss of historic populations. As a wetland dependent bird, these declines have largely been attributed to habitat loss due to sea level rise and loss or conversion of habitat as a consequence of development.

Professionals recognize, however, that threats to the species are the result of complex interactions between many factors including vulnerability to wild and domestic predators, altered food webs, and infrequent but potentially devastating weather or exposure to contaminants.

“...well-studied populations on the mid-Atlantic coast indicate steep declines and in some cases the complete loss of historic populations”

A species status assessment completed in 2019 for the Eastern Black Rail found that the bird meets the definition of a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and this past October the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) made that determination official. Although some feel the stronger designation of “endangered” is justified, most welcome this long awaited designation, anticipating increased funding for long-term projects leading to recovery and conservation of the subspecies.

One such project that has been underway prior to the federal uplisting addresses the effects of fire in Gulf of Mexico marshes in which the bird both breeds, but more widely overwinters. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) RESTORE Firebird project is investigating how three bird species of concern (Black Rail, Yellow Rail, and Mottled Duck) respond to different prescribed fire management regimes. The diverse team of investigators and collaborators includes Tall Timbers Research Station, U.S. Geological Survey, National Audubon Society, USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, NOAA, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and several other institutions and agencies from multiple states. Over the 5-year project period (2019-2024) the project aims to identify effective field methods for detection of focal species, produce models (occurrence, distribution, and abundance), clarify the relative proportion of resident vs. migratory Black Rails via stable isotope analysis, monitor responses to prescribed fire applications, map critical high marsh habitat, and implement adaptive management.

The results of this research will fill some of the existing knowledge gaps for the Eastern Black Rail and in turn will increase the ability of natural resource managers to manage and conserve the species throughout the Gulf Coast with potential implications for management throughout its range. The uplisting to threatened status under the ESA comes with targeted protections under federal law while also generating public awareness. We hope these developments generate further research like the Firebird project and inspire future actions similar to the support of the ornithological community leading up to this point.

Brown-headed Nuthatches Return to Jonathan Dickinson State Park

By Jim Cox | Tall Timbers Research Station

An attempt to restore Brown-headed Nuthatches to Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP) is helping to bring the squeak back to south Florida. The nuthatch disappeared from the park (and many other locations in south Florida) several decades before the last Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen on JDSP in the early 1980s.

Starting in 2018, staff with the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station began translocating nuthatches at the rate of 5 male:female pairs each year. The sex of a nuthatches is difficult to discern visually, but males and females have distinctive calls that can be used reliably to distinguish sexes. In fact, each sex responds more aggressively towards its sex-specific vocalization, and this can be used to target the capture of males vs. females. This past breeding season on Jonathan Dickinson featured at least 5 territorial groups and 4 known nesting attempts.

One incentive for the work is to re-establish a distinctive genetic subpopulation that now appears to be restricted to St. Sebastian River Preserve just 80 miles north of Jonathon Dickinson. It's not known what value, if any, these distinctive alleles might have, but they are not found elsewhere in Florida and susceptible to being extinguished by storms and other threats. Establishing a second population could help avert such losses in addition to establishing an important cavity excavating bird now missing from Jonathan Dickinson.

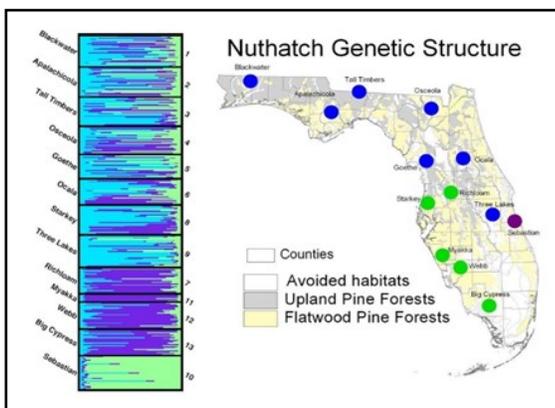
Another goal of the project is to test out low-cost procedures for reintroducing extirpated populations. The focus has been to translocate male and female juveniles at a point in the year when they normal disperse and attempt to find vacancies on the landscape. Independent juveniles from St. Sebastian State Preserve State Park are being captured from Sept-Dec, banded, and quickly whisked down to release sites on Jonathon Dickinson. The cost of moving a bird is about \$100 rather than the \$2200 per bird it takes to reintroduce species like the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.



Juvenile male nuthatch released on JDSP. Note the grayish juvenile feathers on the head of this individual.

There are also signs of reduced genetic diversity among other subpopulations of nuthatches in south Florida that appear to be linked to the habitat fragmentation that has occurred in recent decades. There's no imminent threat the lost diversity likely poses, but translocating a few juveniles now and then could be used at some future point to augment genetic diversity.

The new population is off to a great start, and plans are to translocate a few birds each year to help transfer as much genetic diversity as possible. The Stoddard Lab has developed a simple phone app that FOS members visiting Jonathan Dickinson can use to log their nuthatch observations. Directions on how to download and use the app are available in a shared Google Drive folder that can be access using the link below. It operates through a free on-line service called Epicollect that supports humanitarian and ecological research across the globe.



Nuthatch subpopulations in Florida.



First nesting attempt discovered on JDSP in 2019. The nest successfully fledged 3 nuthatches.

Project Link: <https://five.epicollect.net/project/nuthatch-reintroduction-to-jdsp>

Tracking Nuthatches: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gXBGrUmKNzrsqYvxPA0tVsxr8cqnogC7?usp=sharing>

First Assessment of Raptor Migration through the Florida Keys in August

By Karl Miller | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Keys Hawkwatch (FKH) at Curry Hammock State Park in Marathon is the southernmost raptor migration count site in the United States. The FKH has been operating nearly continuously since 1999, with skilled experts conducting daily counts of raptors from the second week in September through the first or second week in November. Data from the FKH contribute to the Raptor Population Index, a collaborative effort designed to pool data from a broad network of raptor migration sites throughout North America. Given that the southeastern United States is devoid of other monitoring sites, the FKH provides an invaluable dataset for monitoring population trends in the region. Last year alone, nearly twenty thousand raptors were counted at the FKH, including 4,103 Broad-winged Hawks, 3,792 Peregrine Falcons, 2,710 Osprey, and 2,643 American Kestrels. More Peregrine Falcons are counted annually at the FKH than at any other raptor migration station in the world!

The traditional FKH count period (mid-September through mid-November) aligns with passage of the eight most abundant species of raptors through the middle Keys but unfortunately does not align well with early migrating species, such as the Swallow-tailed Kite and Mississippi Kite. Therefore, the FKH advisory board has initiated a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of monitoring late summer raptor migration. We are excited to report that a new chapter in FKH history will kick off on August 1st. For the first time ever, daily counts of raptor migration through the Florida Keys will be conducted throughout the month of August! We hope to learn more about the timing and extent of kite migration through the Keys, but we also expect to find early migrants of many other species.

We welcome financial contributions to help cover additional housing costs and stipends for counters during the expanded 2021 count period. Please visit our website <https://floridakeyshawkwatch.com/> to find out more about FKH or to make a donation.

Florida Keys Hawkwatch Collaborators:

Rafael Galvez, FKH Project Director, Tropical Audubon Society

Jeff Bouton, FKH Advisory Board, Kowa Optics

Karl E. Miller, FKH Advisory Board, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and K-Bird



Success of Re-nesting Ospreys into Surrogate Nests

By Fairl Thomas | Eckerd College



Photo by Terrie Dahl Thomas

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are a fish eating raptor species that are commonly found in the Southwestern region of Florida, which supports both migratory and resident individuals. They are well adapted to life around humans, often building their large nests on artificial structures, such as power poles, signs, or man-made nesting platforms; though some can still be seen nesting in trees. Typically producing two to three young, ospreys make great, protective parents. Despite their parenting skills, nests can sometimes fail from being in precarious locations and/or individual chicks can fall from the nest too early to fend for themselves. Because ospreys are unable to care for their young once out of the nest, those that fall usually require assistance from wildlife rescuers, such as those of us with Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue. If the nest is still intact, chicks can be returned to their nest via a bucket truck or ladder.

Those that cannot be returned to their nest are typically raised in captivity by a permitted rehabilitator and released at adulthood. Another, less utilized option is placement in pre-existing nests with a surrogate family.

This past nesting season, I assisted in the placement of three osprey chicks into surrogate nests in Pinellas County, Florida. The purpose of this article is to share our accomplishments and to seek data and other insight from those who have conducted renests in other parts of the state or country.

In each of the three cases, I renested chicks from failed nests into currently active nests that have had evidence of success in past seasons. Nest collapse was the cause of failure for each of the three chicks I renested. The first chick was from a nest that was located in a dead tree and collapsed during a storm, killing two of three chicks. The second chick was given to us by a local rehabilitation agency. I was informed that the chick was from a collapsed nest but wasn't given specific details. The third chick was from a nest built in a dangerous spot on a highway exit sign. The nest caved in onto the roadway below. In this specific case, I was also the rescuer who retrieved the chick from the highway.

The renesting process began by choosing an area with many viable nests and with permission from the proper officials. We utilized a bucket truck and used binoculars to conduct an aerial survey. This survey method was to determine how many chicks were in each nest and to estimate their age. In each renest we chose surrogate nests with two or less chicks that were closest in age to our chick.

After each chick was placed in the surrogate nest using a bucket truck, the nests were continually monitored by a ground volunteer team. Volunteers documented the success of the nests by taking photos and videos. The surrogate parents accepted and cared for each chick that was renested showing that this technique is a viable option for chicks from failed nests.



Photos by Terrie Dahl Thomas

Featured Native Plant for Birds: Black Cherry

By Donna Legare | Apalachee Audubon Society

For my inaugural column featuring a native plant for birds, I have chosen the quite common black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) for two reasons. It is considered a keystone species, which means it has a disproportionately large effect on the abundance and diversity of other species, like insects, in an ecosystem. There are 247 species of caterpillars that feed on plants in the *Prunus* genus in my Tallahassee zip code. Entomologist, ecologist, and author Doug Tallamy considers black cherry and other native *Prunus* species as his #2 pick of ecological gold in the landscape with oaks rated #1. Visit National Wildlife Federation's Plant Finder and type in your zip code to find out what native plants nurture the most caterpillars in your area.

You may wonder why I am writing about caterpillars when this article is supposed to be about birds. Let us look at one species – the Cecropia Moth. An individual female lays up to 300 eggs on its host plants of mainly black cherry, birch, or maple. Of those 300 caterpillars that hatch from these eggs, how many live to reproduce as a moth? Only two or three! What happens to all the others? They are consumed as high-quality protein by spiders, lizards, wasps and yes, birds – a complex food web with a native plant at its base. These caterpillars are produced when the leaves are young and tender, a time when birds are busy searching for insects, primarily caterpillars, to feed their young.



Song Sparrow on Black Cherry. Photo by Mary Anne Borge



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Black Cherry. Photo by Michael Singer

The second reason for choosing black cherry for this first issue is because it is a plant of my childhood. Growing up on the south shore of Long Island, I have fond memories associated with a grove of black cherries in our front yard. It is, indeed, a beautiful tree with greyish-black textured bark, and its long, slender densely packed white flower clusters that bear nectar and pollen for native bees and honeybees. The flowers are followed by abundant small dark purplish red to black fruit called drupes that are highly favored by birds from thrushes and woodpeckers to sparrows, tanagers, and bluebirds. And it even has nice fall color.

You can purchase a black cherry from a plant nursery but if you look around at the small seedlings that pop up in your yard, there is a good chance one may be black cherry. The copious amounts of fruit provide nourishment for birds and then birds do their part by dispersing the seeds, after they have been processed through their digestive tracts, to old fields, hedgerows, and urban and suburban yards. Black cherry will grow in sun or partial shade, 70 to 90 feet tall, in average to well-drained soil as far south as the Tampa/Orlando area.

There are butterflies such as the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Red-spotted Purple that are associated with black cherry, but moth species produce a good many more caterpillars. One that comes to mind are tent caterpillars which are highly attractive to Yellow-billed Cuckoos.

What you plant in your yard matters. Your landscaping can be mere decoration, or it can be habitat for birds and other wildlife. It is up to you.

About Donna: Donna Legare graduated from the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation. In 1980 she co-founded Native Nurseries in Tallahassee, retiring after 40 years. She is co-author of *Planting a Refuge for Wildlife*, a publication by FWC.



Black Cherry flowers. Photo by Mary Anne Borge.

Florida Ornithological Society

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FOS Special Publications

Become a member!

Benefits:

- Learn more about birds and improve your birding skills
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- Interact with Florida's leading birders and researchers
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- Contribute to our knowledge of Florida avifauna
- All members receive the FFN

Memberships available:

\$25 Regular

\$15 Student

\$30 Family

\$45 Contributing

\$40 Library/Institution

\$400 Individual Lifetime

\$500 Family Lifetime

You can join or renew using Paypal (link on our website) or by mailing a check made out to FOS and a Membership Application Form to:

Michelle Wilcox

2576 Congaree Rd

Gadsden, SC 29052

Adrienne Fitzwilliam devoted three years as membership chair for FOS and we are grateful for her time and talents. She is passing the baton to Michelle Wilcox this year. Michelle has strong ties to Florida with her family and her volunteer work with Florida Scrub Jays, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Her current job has taken her to South Carolina, but she continues to be an active FOS board member and is often found birding in Florida. It may be strange to send your annual membership check to a SC address, but they are always made out to the Florida Ornithological Society and will be routed correctly.

FOS Publications



Call for submissions for the Florida Field Naturalist

The *Florida Field Naturalist*, quarterly publication of the Florida Ornithological Society, welcomes submission of articles and notes containing the results of biological field studies, distributional records, and natural history observations of vertebrates, especially birds. Its geographic area includes Florida, adjacent states, the Bahamas, and nearby West Indies. Manuscripts of original articles and notes should follow the Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation and sent to the Editor. Suitable manuscripts are sent by the editor to referees for evaluation of scientific merit.

Notes on behavior should consider previously published information, and interpret the biological, ecological, or evolutionary significance of the behavior reported. Field studies must conform to standard scientific criteria for study design, analysis, and interpretation. Hypotheses should be clearly stated and data should be subjected to statistical testing where appropriate.

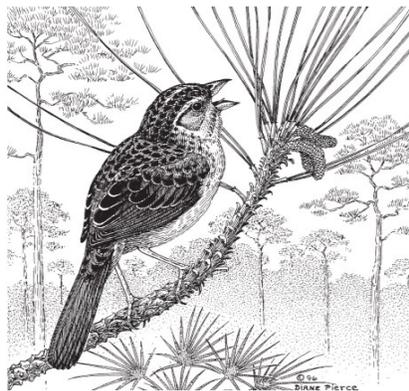
The *Florida Field Naturalist* presents reviews of books, monographs, and other material of interest to its readers. Materials to be considered for review should be sent to the Associate Editor (for reviews). Ideas for commentaries should be submitted to the Editor. Please check our website for more details on submitting an article for review.

To read an article or obtain a PDF copy of a Florida Field Naturalist article, first visit the SORA website <https://sora.unm.edu/>. Click on the Florida Field Naturalist in the “Browse Publications” list on the left-hand side of the page.

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Florida Field Naturalist
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FOS Publications continued on next page.

FOS Publications

Official Checklist of Florida State Birds



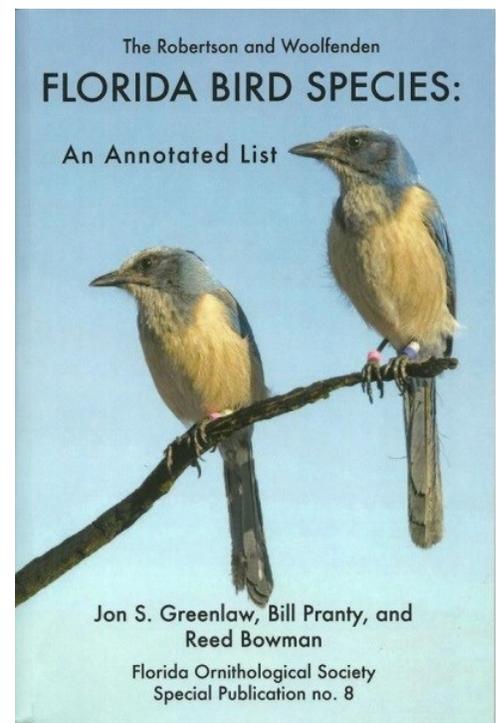
This is a formal list of modern bird species that have occurred in Florida by natural appearance or by establishment of an exotic. The base list shall be the Supplement: Checklist of Florida Birds, pp. 255-260 in Robertson & Woolfenden (1992), as updated by final decisions of the Florida Ornithological Society's Records Committee. Status = Review species (Review), established exotics (Exotic); extinct or extirpated native species (Extinct) and disestablished exotics (Disestablished Exotic). Extinct species do not reduce the size of the Florida list, but a disestablished exotic species does. A distinctive member of a subspecies group may be added to the list for review purposes (see below), but it shall not be counted on the list beyond the species' presence there. Review species should be documented when detected in Florida and submitted to the FOSRC for review. In addition, documentation should be submitted to the FOSRC for any species detected in Florida believed to have occurred naturally or to have escaped, but not appearing in the main list below or in its formatted download versions. Currently, there are 545 total taxa of which nine are subspecies, four are extinct, and one is a disestablished exotic leaving 531 extant species. Of these 531 species 17 are established exotics.

Check our website to download the checklist as a PDF, Excel, or Word document!

FOS Special Publications

Occasionally, students of the wildlife of Florida need a longer format for publication of research results, reviews, species accounts, or basic reference materials than cannot be accommodated by the article format of the *Florida Field Naturalist*. The Society created a "Special Publications" series to provide such an outlet. The length of the Florida Ornithological Society Special Publications has ranged from 43 to 435 pages, and the rate of publication has been a steady one per decade since the 1970's except for a burst of activity in the 1990's with three publications. Most Special Publications are solely soft cover, but two have been published in soft- and hard-cover.

If you have a manuscript that you would like to have considered as a Special Publication of the Florida Ornithological Society, please visit our website to contact the Special Publications Editor.



You can find a list and purchasing information for our Special Publications on our website!

Florida Ornithological Society Awards

Congratulations to our 2021 **Cruickshank Research Award** recipients!

Odile V. J. Maurelli

MSc student, University of Florida

Project: Noise pollution on nocturnal incubation behavior and nestling stress in Eastern bluebirds



Eliza Stein

MSc student, Louisiana State University

Project: Does habitat management influence prey selection by a declining aerial insectivore?



Apply for the Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Award

The Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Awards are given to support projects dealing with wild birds in Florida. Proposals submitted for research awards should be directed at improving knowledge of Florida birds and should propose work to be done in Florida. Students (undergraduate to PhD) are especially encouraged to apply; post-doctoral level scientists and non-profit organizations or their representatives may also be considered for funding. The maximum amount awarded each year typically falls in the range of \$2000-2500; multiple awards for smaller grants are occasionally provided. Check fosbirds.org for details on how to apply and send your application to Cruickshank.Research.Award@gmail.com



Allan D. Cruickshank was wrote many books about birds and was the National Audubon Society's official photographer and a staff

Applications should be strong in one or more of these focal areas:

- (1) Basic biology (new understanding of bird biology in area(s) of specialization)
- (2) Conservation biology (new understanding of how populations, species, or communities (patterns, processes) are affected by humans such that this understanding could lead to designing better protection of avian biodiversity)
- (3) Management application (testing of management techniques that foster native birds: species, populations, communities)

Proposal Due Date: February 15 of each year.

Grant opportunities continued on next page.

Additional Grant Opportunities

Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Education Award

The Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Education Award is awarded to projects that expand and enhance knowledge of Florida's native birds during primary and secondary education. This award is generally given to a Florida primary or secondary teacher to create or enhance teaching of classes on the scientific study of birds or to provide support for continuing education for teachers. The applicant should provide a two-page written description of the proposed use of the award, a time schedule, and a budget. Applications should be sent to Cruickshank.Education.Award@gmail.com



Helen G. Cruickshank was an award winning nature writer and photographer of birds in their natural areas.

Application Due Date: September 1 of each year

Mary J. and William B. Robertson Fellowship Award



Known as the "Dean of Florida Ornithology", William Beckwith Robertson, Jr.'s vast knowledge of the habits, habitats, and history of Florida's avifauna qualified Bill for the title. He was a founding member of the Florida Ornithological Society, which came into being in the early 70's.

The William B. and Mary J. Robertson Fellowship Award is offered to support the study and conservation of wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems in Florida and the Caribbean, as defined by the area covered in "A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies" by Raffaele et al. (2003).

Preference is given to projects with an ornithological emphasis, and those that further the research of Bill and Betty Robertson, such as their 40-year study of Sooty Terns in the Dry Tortugas, Florida. The maximum amount awarded each year is typically about \$2000. Please check fosbirds.org for details on how to apply and send your application to Robertson.Fellow.Award@gmail.com

Application Due Date: February 15 of each year.

Photo and Art Submissions



Brown Pelican by Natasza Fontaine



Cedar Waxwings by Natasza Fontaine



Green Heron by Natasza Fontaine



Cooper's Hawk at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla County. Photo by Heather Hill



Roseate Spoonbill at Tigertail Beach, Collier County. Photo by Heather Levy.

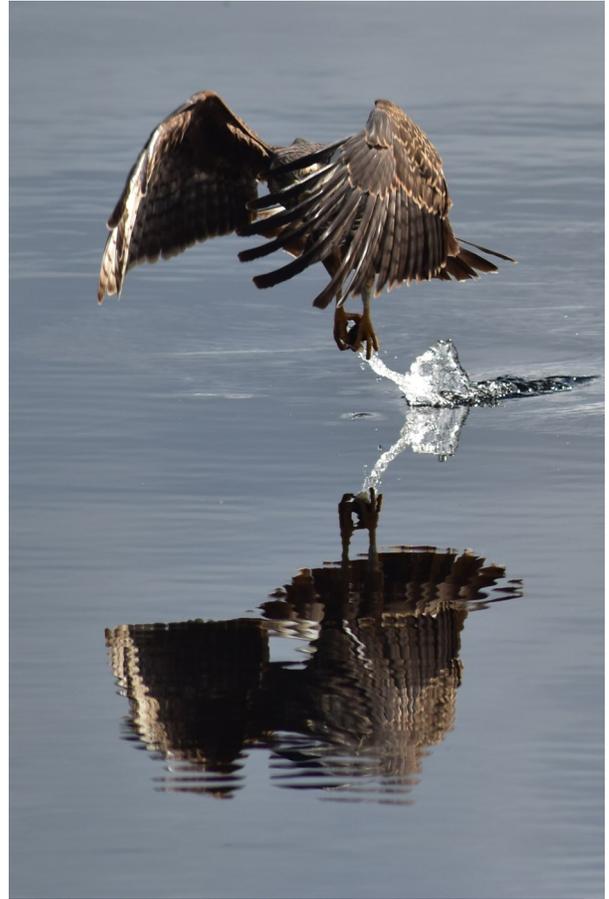
Photo and Art Submissions



Limpkin at Myakka River State Park, Sarasota County. Photo by Robert Gundy.



Black (left) and Brown (right) Noddy at Dry Tortugas NP by Robert Gundy



Snail Kite catching invasive apple snail at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP, Alachua County. Photo by Robert Gundy



Boat-tailed Grackle at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla County. Photo by Heather Hill.



Carolina Wren in a Tallahassee backyard, Leon County. Photo by Heather Hill.

Photo and Art Submissions



Sandhill Crane, Peace Waters Preserve, Palm Beach County. Photo by Heather Levy.



Summer Tanager, Ponce de Leon Springs State Park, Holmes County. Photo by Peter Kleinhenz.



Purple Gallinule, Wakulla Springs State Park, Wakulla County. Photo by Peter Kleinhenz.



Black-and-white Warbler in Manatee County salt marsh. Photo by Robert Gundy



Red-breasted Merganser, Big Bend WMA - Hickory Mound Unit, Taylor County . Photo by Peter Kleinhenz.