

# THE SNAIL KITE

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
[www.fosbirds.org](http://www.fosbirds.org)



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## Save the Date For Our In-person Fall Meeting with the Raptor Research Foundation!

This will be a joint meeting with the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF). Conference co-hosts include Tropical Audubon Society, South Florida Audubon Society, and the South Florida Conservation Network. This meeting will include scientific programs, symposia, educational workshops, and field trips. Registration for FOS participants is separate from the RRF registration and details to register will be announced this summer. Additionally, the schedule currently posted will be augmented with FOS events. If you are interested in joining as an RRF participant, please check out the Raptor Research Foundation website [here](#) for more detailed information about the schedule and to submit scientific talks, posters, and symposia relating to RRF.

**When:** October 6—9, 2022

**Where:** Embassy Suites 11— SE 17th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL , 33316

**Meetings and Field Trips:** FOS will have an off-site banquet Saturday evening, which is also where the Saturday afternoon meeting will take place after field trips. FOS will host their own field trips on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These will be announced within the next month, so please check back on the FOS website and subscribe to our social media outlets. RRF field trips will take place Saturday and Sunday. They cost \$65/person and have space limits, so please see their website for more information.



## President's Message by Ann Paul

Dear Members,

Once again, I want to share that many people have been doing a lot for the Florida Ornithological Society this year generally, and specifically since the Winter Board Meeting in January. And the work is so impressive!

A main focus has been Mary Mack Gray's planning work on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Fall Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale with the Raptor Research Foundation, taking place October 4-9. This will include a super fun anniversary party for us, with birthday cake! Andy Huse, University of Florida's Special Collections staff, will be presenting a historical perspective. We may even have a video history booth that will allow us to individually record special memories. Jim Kushlan, one of our original FOS members in 1972, will present a talk on the History of the Everglades National Park.

The effort to publish the *Florida Breeding Bird Atlas II* is well underway. Committee members Jim Cox, Todd Engstrom, David Stock, Ann Hodgson, Mary Mack Gray, and I are excited about progress. Jim prepared the maps based on the prodigious field work by so many of you. Most impressive and gratifying is the response from bird biologists and expert birders volunteering to write the individual species accounts. We hope to present the BBA II as an on-line publication with some print versions available with subscription purchase at the Fall Meeting - if you want a printed version, keep alert for announcements this September.

We are working with the University of South Florida Library on the on-line publication of the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas II. There will be an opportunity to use photographs depicting the breeding birds of Florida on the website publication. If you have photographs of breeding birds, please send them to Mary Mack Gray at [graymarymack@gmail.com](mailto:graymarymack@gmail.com).

As a result of a discussion with Michelle Wilcox, our Membership Chair, a group of educators, and our outreach leaders Rindy Anderson, Beth Forys, Mary Mack Gray, Gina Kent, and Heather Levy, we tossed around the idea of increasing our use of multimedia modalities to share our messages with our current members and to engage prospective members. To accomplish this, we formed a Communications Committee and hired Morgan Slevin to be our Communications Coordinator, with the goal of increasing outreach and publicity about the activities of our Society. Please send appropriate communication topics to [mslevin2018@fau.edu](mailto:mslevin2018@fau.edu) for consideration as part of our outreach efforts. If you have any questions about this, please contact FOS President Ann Paul at [annpaul26@gmail.com](mailto:annpaul26@gmail.com) or call 813/624-3149.

Our Conservation Committee is gearing up to create more Position Statements which describe concerns

about birds and habitats issues on a state-wide scale, and which may be used by local conservationists to support best scientifically based actions in local cases. Meanwhile, check the website for the four Positions already posted there, ready to support regional conservation initiatives.



The Grants Committees projects are exciting and a real source of financial assistance to Florida researchers and to bird science.

Jim McGinity and his Florida Young Birders' Club Committee are offering excellent, interesting, and most engaging outings to a growing squad of youthful bird enthusiasts in the greater Tampa Bay area. Field trips and nest-box building activities provide hands-on engagement. We hope to make this club a state-wide program.

Thanks to Andy Kratter for a challenging (as always) Bird Quiz and to Heather Levy and Mary Mack Gray for organizing the Spring 2022 eBird Challenge event on Sunday after our Spring Meeting - these added a lot of fun to our meeting.

The Board of the Florida Ornithological Society has designated a fund to promote student participation in the Fall FOS Meeting. For more information, please contact Mary Mack Gray, Vice President of FOS at [graymarymack@gmail.com](mailto:graymarymack@gmail.com). In addition, student are invited to submit posters to be displayed at the joint Raptor Research Foundation and FOS Friday evening reception October 7 and banquet. Also student presentations for inclusion in the Saturday afternoon Scientific Session October 8 are opportunities for student participation.

I applaud Heather Levy and Todd Engstrom's work on the *Snail Kite* and thank all the writers who share their thoughts and work. You bring the heart of FOS to readers. Please continue to support this very exciting newsletter.

And again, thanks to all of you, members of the Florida Ornithological Society, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president.

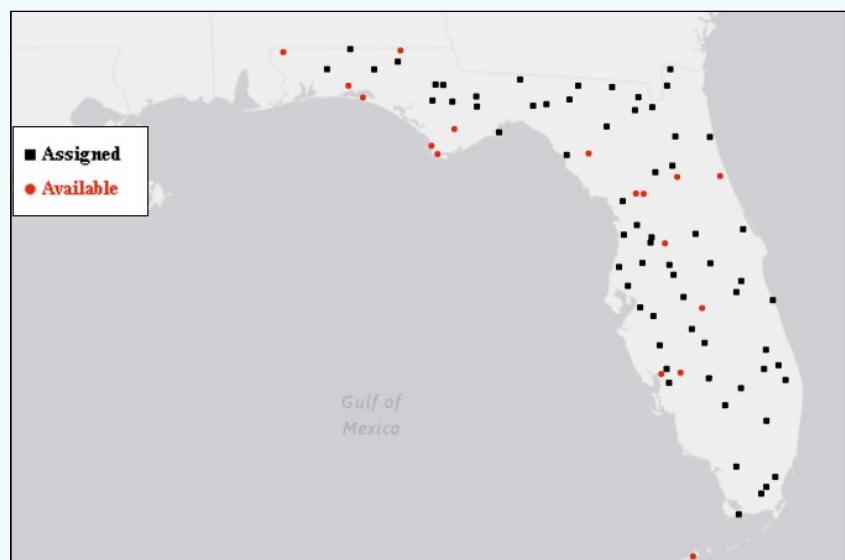
Ann Paul

## The USGS Breeding Bird Survey Needs You in 2023!

The Breeding Bird Survey is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service to monitor the status and trends of North American bird populations.

Be a citizen scientist and participate in the Breeding Bird Survey as an observer (counting birds) or a recorder (writing them down)! Nearly 20 routes in Florida need observers and recorders next year.

You can read more about the Breeding Bird Survey [here](#). If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Florida Breeding Bird Survey coordinator Rob Mulligan at [Robert.Mulligan@myfwc.com](mailto:Robert.Mulligan@myfwc.com)



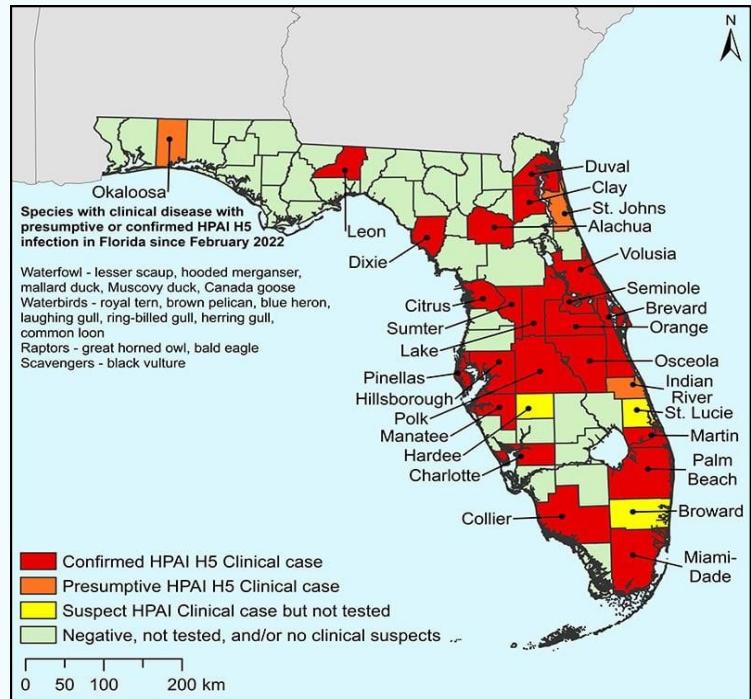
## Avian Influenza Confirmed in Florida

The following information is from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website. Please check out their [webpage](#) for more details and to report bird mortalities.

FWC is monitoring for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in birds found sick or dead of unknown causes. Report bird mortalities so die-offs can be investigated and tested.

### Ways to help prevent HPAI spread

1. Report bird mortalities so die-offs can be investigated and tested.
2. Prevent contact of domestic or captive birds with wild birds (especially waterfowl).
3. Do not handle sick or dead wildlife.
4. Most wildlife rehabilitation facilities in affected areas are not taking sick waterfowl, waterbirds, raptors, or scavengers (vultures, gulls, crows).
5. Follow routine precautions when handling wild birds (precautions are listed on the website).



## News Press: Polk Conservationists Seek OK for New Land-buying Referendum

**BARTOW**—A coalition of local environmental leaders sought approval Tuesday from the Polk County Commission to place a conservation tax referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot. The referendum, proposed by a group called Polk Forever, seeks to get voter approval to revive the property tax of 20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable property that was originally approved by Polk County voters in 1994. “With nearly 18,000 people moving to Polk County each year, our water resources and valuable ecosystems are under pressure,” said Suzanne Lindsey, the group’s chair. “Now is the time for us to protect our working lands and unique natural resources that make up this special place we call home.” Commission Chair Martha Santiago said commissioners need a chance to discuss the request before making a decision. No timeline for that decision was discussed Tuesday. If the measure is to go on the November ballot, a decision must come by summer, said County Attorney Randy Mink.

If commissioners agree to schedule the referendum and voters approve it, the tax would be levied beginning in 2023 and remain in effect for 20 years. It would bring in an estimated \$8.2 million a year. Under the proposed ordinance implementing the referendum, the proceeds from tax could be spent only for the purchase and management of conservation lands or the purchase of conservation easements to protect working agricultural lands that often are key sections of wildlife corridors. The tax would cost the average homeowner \$30 a year.

The 1994 referendum provided funding to purchase, manage or enable the preservation of more than 25,000 acres of conservation lands at sites stretching from the Green Swamp to the Lake Wales Ridge. The program also helped to fund the development of Polk’s Nature Discovery Center at Circle B Bar Reserve, one of 13 sites purchased by funds from the 1994 referendum that is open to the public. An estimated 70 percent of the purchase and development costs for those sites was paid for with matching funds from state and regional agencies.



### The purposes behind the referendum are:

- To preserve Polk’s remaining wildlands that provide habitat for thousands of species of native plants and animals, including 25 plant species and 18 animal species that are in danger of extinction unless adequate habitat is preserved.
- To connect existing conservation lands to remove gaps that can lead to habitat fragmentation.
- To improve the county’s trail system through and between natural areas.
- To improve access to conservation lands and water bodies.

### Key areas that are priorities for the program are:

- The Green Swamp, which contains important aquifer recharge areas, the headwaters of four rivers and the hub for series of statewide wildlife corridors.
- The Lake Wales Ridge, a series of prehistoric islands that contains the largest concentration of rare and endangered species in North America.
- The Upper Kissimmee River Basin, which contains important sections of the headwaters of the Everglades, habitat for uncommon wildlife species and the largest concentration of bald eagles south of Alaska.
- The Upper Peace River, the headwaters of a 100-mile wildlife and recreational corridor.
- All land and conservation easement purchases will be from willing sellers.

The County Commission would be responsible for approving all purchases. Their decisions will occur in response to recommendations based on evaluations of each proposed site by a team of technical experts to verify the land meets the program’s criteria

**For more information, contact Marian Ryan at (863) 207-5206 or Tom Palmer at (863) 289-4579 or go to the campaign’s website, [polkforever.com](http://polkforever.com).**

## Save the Date for the Florida Birding and Nature Festival on October 20-23, 2022



**October 20-23, 2022**

[FBNfestival.org](http://FBNfestival.org)

Apollo Beach, FL



**Field Trips, Keynote Speakers, Seminars, & Nature Expo**



Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Manatee County Audubon Societies are pleased to present the following short films:

**A Problem for Pelicans: Fishing Gear Entanglement** - This 21 minute documentary explains the problem in detail, but more importantly, provides tips on how to prevent the issue, as well as how to help a bird that you have accidentally hooked.

**How to Rescue a Hooked Pelican** - This short, 5 minute video explains in detail how to rescue a hooked bird. It is intended to be watched in the field, if you have hooked a bird and are unable to contact a rescuer.

**Please Don't Feed the Pelicans** - Many people toss their fish carcasses to Pelicans and other wild birds, thinking that they are giving the bird a "treat" and that it's better than disposing of the carcass in the trash. Unfortunately, this hurts and can even kill birds, especially Pelicans.

This short film describes the harm caused by feeding pelicans, and suggests alternative ways to connect with pelicans that will not harm the birds.



Use this QR code to view and bookmark the YouTube playlist for these videos.

### Educational Videos

For your educational viewing, Tampa Audubon, St. Petersburg Audubon, and Manatee Audubon have partnered to create 3 short films about fishing gear and pelicans. These videos are posted on YouTube.

They relate to our recently released FOS Position Statement on Fishing Gear and Bird Protection that you can find [here](#).



## FOS Spring Birding Challenge Winners

During our spring meeting, we held a birding challenge to celebrate the 50th anniversary of FOS! Thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to hosting more birding challenges in the future to appreciate the diversity of our avifauna.

### *Rankings:*

First Place: Michelle Wilcox, 68 species

Second Place: Cuneyt Yilmaz, 61 species

Third Place: Tim Towles, 58 species

Fourth Place: Gina Kent, 46 species

### Michelle Wilcox on her birding day



For the challenge I decided to go to Bates Ferry Bridge along the Congaree River here in South Carolina to see nesting Cliff Swallows. I saw lots of their active nests, but as I was walking the banks of the river I heard, "sweet sweet sweet little more sweet" and knew immediately that I was hearing a migrating Yellow Warbler. For my first point count job in the mountains of Virginia I had to memorize all the possible warblers I might encounter, and to remember the song of the Yellow Warbler I told myself that he was like a piece of Butterscotch candy saying 'sweet sweet little more sweet'. I don't think I will ever forget that song!

**Cuneyt Yilmaz** on his highlight of the day



I would say my favorite find of the day were the Magnificent Frigatebirds.

### Gina Kent on her birding day



I was working in Okeechobee and Glades Counties over that weekend. Had an early start at Lake Okeechobee before the sunrise. Purple Martins were busy calling and flying overhead. So many Grey-headed Swampheens! Egrets, ibis, herons, spoonbills, pelicans and more. Slow for migrant songbirds, but I was happy to find a little oak hammock with one beautiful male Blackpoll Warbler.

## Become a Member of FOS!

You can join by check or paypal. Click [here](#) for more information on how to become a member!

### Memberships available

\$25 Regular

\$15 Student

\$30 Family

\$45 Contributing

\$40 Library/Institution

\$400 Individual Lifetime

### Benefits

- Learn more about birds and improve your birding skills
- Support research and conservation of Florida birds
- Interact with Florida's leading birders and researchers
- Participate on great field trips and visit unique areas in Florida
- Contribute to our knowledge of Florida avifauna
- All members receive the FFN

## USF Library Archives Becomes the Official Repository for FOS

We are excited to be partnering with the University of South Florida Libraries as a repository for the physical and digital records of FOS. "We appreciate our new partnership with the libraries, especially as we are entering the society's fiftieth year. We anticipate that the partnership between the Florida Ornithological Society and the University will offer many opportunities to make history together," says FOS president Ann Paul.

Read more about the details and scope of the new partnership in [this article](#) written by Andy Huse, Special Collections Associate Librarian.



From FOS archives: FOS birding expedition hikes into the mist, Gainesville, 1999.

## Call for Help to Complete the Florida Field Naturalist Archive Holdings at the USF Libraries – Tampa Special Collections Department

The University of South Florida Libraries-Tampa Special Collections Department is excited to have received the Florida Ornithological Society Records earlier this year. The staff at USF Special Collections are working hard to preserve these important materials and make them more accessible to FOS members and researchers throughout the Digital Commons.

Much of the FOS records are contingency copies of *The Florida Field Naturalist*, from the first issue in 1973 to current issues. However, several issues of the FFN are either missing or have less than 3 copies in the FOS records. Special Collections prefers to hold 3 copies of each issue and would like to collect these missing issues to ensure that the FOS has archival print copies of FFN preserved in perpetuity. If you can help us collect the missing issues, we'd greatly appreciate it! Below is a chart of the years and issue numbers for which the archive is searching.

Year	Missing Issues = X			
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4
1990-1993	X	X	X	X
2001-2005	X	X	X	X
2006	X	X		
2010		X	X	
2019	X			
2020				X
2021	X	X	X	X

If you have any copies of these FFN issues and are willing to donate them to the FOS archives, please contact Andy Huse at [ahuse@usf.edu](mailto:ahuse@usf.edu) or 813-974-7622. After contacting Andy, copies can be mailed directly to:

Andy Huse/Special Collections  
4202 E. Fowler Ave. LIB 122  
Tampa, FL 33620

## FOS Begins!

### By David Goodwin

I plan on contributing several installments during this fiftieth year of FOS relaying my thoughts on what FOS has done over the years and what it has meant to me personally. I want to begin at the beginning, so today I start with "Once upon a time...."

In April 1972 I was birding at Ft. DeSoto Park with my good friend Wes Biggs when he invited me to attend a meeting that afternoon in St. Petersburg with several birders and ornithologists along with Hal Scott from the Florida Audubon Society. While I had met some of the people previously, there were a number of folks there who were new to me. Needless to say I felt somewhat awkward as a 22 year old school teacher sitting in a room with many of the "living legends" of the Florida bird world: Dr. Bill Robertson, Dr. Glen Woolfenden, Dr. Herb Kale, Dr. Henry Stevenson, Paul Sykes and several others. During this meeting a plan was drawn up to form a Florida Ornithological Society which would address the need to bring ornithologists, biologists, and birders together in order to further the study and enjoyment of birds in Florida. Florida Audubon wanted to focus on conservation issues facing the state, while birders wanted to contribute more into ornithology. Ornithologists had realized the importance of contributions by birders to bird studies. It was obvious to all that an FOS was needed. A group was selected to draw up by-laws, articles of incorporation, and a plan to get the organization off the ground by the fall of 1972. To make things easy, Hal Scott offered to form the organization under the umbrella of Florida Audubon.

Things moved forward during the summer, and the invitation was sent out to all concerned to meet in Lakeland in October 1972. At that meeting, officers were elected with Bill Robertson (Everglades National Park) as President, John Edscorn (Lakeland) as Vice President, Curtis Kingsley (Pensacola) as Secretary, and Dot Freeman (Orlando) as Treasurer. The membership dues were set at \$5.00 for regular members and plans were set to publish a journal called the "Florida Field Naturalist" twice a year beginning with the Spring 1973 issue with Henry Stevenson serving as the Editor. I went on the Saturday morning field trip to Saddle Creek Park led by John Edscorn and Allan Cruichshank where we had a nice selection of fall migrants. A photo from that field trip is on the FOS website under "The Beginning". The banquet keynote Saturday evening was "Cranes of the World" by Larry Walkinshaw. Sunday morning we visited a site at the old Panther Point



The summer of 1973 in North Dakota. From left to right are four charter members of FOS - Dave Goodwin, Wes Biggs, Johnnie Johnson, and Larry Hopkins. Photo by Pam Biggs.

phosphate mine. Plans were made to meet in the spring of 1973 in St. Petersburg.

The first issue of the FFN in Spring 1973 had articles on "Inland Nesting of the Least Tern in Highlands County, Florida" by Fred and Charlotte Lohrer, "Bird Records From the Dry Tortugas" by Clive Petrovic and James King, "Migration of the Blue Jay in the Southeastern United States" by Henry Stevenson as well several field notes and obituaries. During the first year through the end of 1973, all people who joined were considered "Charter Members".

**Bio:** I became a birder in high school when I shared a biology class with Wes Biggs who has become a life-long friend and birding companion. I took Ornithology as an elective in college and just before graduation in 1971, I ran into Wes again as he had returned home from the service. We began birding around the state and I got to know a number of top birders and ornithologists. In fall of 1972 I attended the first meeting of the newly formed FOS in Lakeland. Over the years I have served as Vice-president, two terms as President, and as a member of the Board of Directors. I also served a seven-year term on the FOS Records Committee as well as a member of a number of other committees including membership, nominations, education awards, and archives. Also, for quite a few years I have handled the mailing of Special Publications orders. As a charter member of FOS, I must say it has been a big part of my life.

## Featured Native Plant for Birds: Pines

### By Donna Legare

In April I discovered the nest of an American Crow high in a mature loblolly pine tree in our backyard. The nest is an accumulation of sticks attached firmly to two large limbs close to the top of the tree. I watched an adult crow hop into the nest, but they have been quite secretive since.

This reinforces what I have known for years – the importance of mature pine trees in our urban forest. At Native Nurseries in Tallahassee where I worked for 40 years, Red-shouldered Hawks nested repetitively in three different mature pine trees over the years. We watched the parents haul in snakes, crawfish, and frogs. In my own neighborhood we have observed Mississippi Kite and Cooper's Hawk nests, again, always high in pine trees. But honestly, I had no idea where crows nested until I saw this crow in my backyard. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's All About Birds website notes that crows prefer to nest in conifers but will nest in deciduous trees when conifers are less available.

Unfortunately, between lightning strikes, hurricane losses and irrational fear of pines, Florida is losing its pine canopy. At the nursery, we observed that customers bought perhaps one hundred hardwood trees for every one pine tree. The old pines are not being replaced. On our nursery property, we have lost grand old pines mostly due to lightning strikes and resultant pine bark beetles. Each time we replace the missing pine with a young one – sometimes longleaf, sometimes spruce pine.

To plant a pine, choose a sunny area. If you are at the Gulf coast, choose a slash pine which is the most salt tolerant species. Most typical soils around Tallahassee support loblolly, shortleaf, longleaf, slash and spruce pine. We prefer to plant longleaf since it is less common and it is a strong, long lived tree reaching ages of three hundred years. No, I will not be around to see it, but we are planting for future generations.

For lightly shaded spots, plant a spruce pine because it is shade tolerant. It is a soft, graceful, short-needed tree with small cones. If you have space, plant a small grove of pines. Their proximity to each other will help protect them during high winds. The best planting time is November through February. Start small with six-inch bare root trees up to ones growing in three-gallon pots.



This grove of longleaf pine, planted by first graders at an elementary school in midtown Tallahassee, is 13 years old at the time of this photo. It is an important part of Tallahassee's urban forest. Photo by Donna Legare.

Pines are very desirable. They provide a light shade that native understory trees and shrubs prefer. They provide free mulch every autumn for use in landscape beds. They are long lived and make excellent carbon sinks. They harbor a world of insects that become food for birds. Seed bearing cones are an important source of food for birds and mammals.

Pines are such beautiful, stately trees. I love to listen to the wind rustling their needles. Let's start planting more pines in our yards and parks. Wildlife and future generations will reap the rewards.

**Biography:** 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

# 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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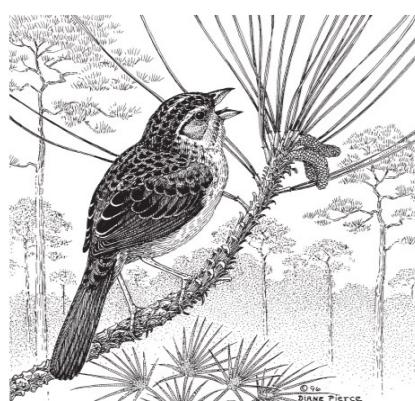
### **Florida Field Naturalist**

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### **Florida Field Naturalist**

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PAGES 1-32



*FOS Publications continued on next page.*

# FOS Publications

## Official Checklist of Florida State Birds



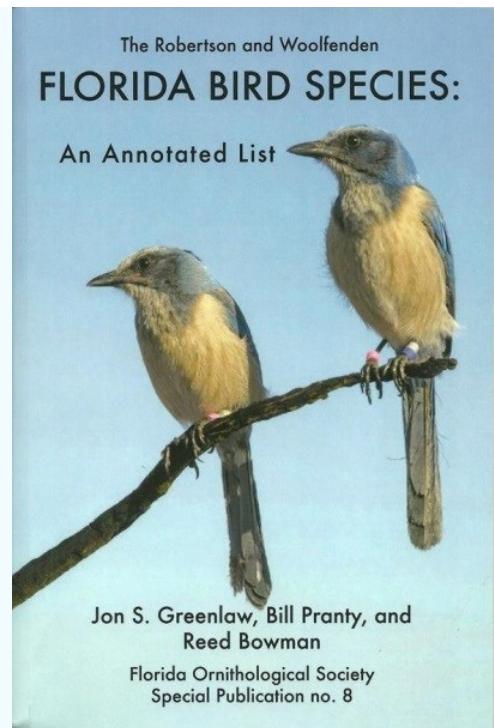
This is a formal list of modern bird species that have occurred in Florida by natural appearance or by establishment of an exotic. The base list shall be the Supplement: Checklist of Florida Birds, pp. 255-260 in Robertson & Woolfenden (1992), as updated by final decisions of the Florida Ornithological 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 fill out a form. All potentially suitable manuscripts will undergo a peer review process.



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

## Florida Ornithological Society Executive Committee Members

### Officers:

President: Ann Paul

Vice President: Mary Mack Gray

Secretary: Judith Milcarsky

Treasurer: Valerie Sparling

### Board of Directors:

Christopher Ferro

Beth Forys

Heather Levy

Rindy Anderson

Jon Hoch

David Goodwin

### Editors:

Scott Robinson, Editor of the  
*Florida Field Naturalist*

Allison Cox, Associate Editor of the  
*Florida Field Naturalist*

Ann Hodgson, Editor of the  
FOS Special Publications

## *Grant Opportunities*

### Helen G. and Allan D. Cruikshank Education Award

Due: September 1st of each year

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. 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 [Cruikshank.Education.Award@gmail.com](mailto:Cruikshank.Education.Award@gmail.com)

### Mary J. and William B. Robertson Fellowship Award

Due: February 15th of each year

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).

The maximum amount awarded each year is typically about \$2000. Please check [fosbirds.org](http://fosbirds.org) for details on how to apply and send your application to [Robertson.Fellow.Award@gmail.com](mailto:Robertson.Fellow.Award@gmail.com)



## Letter from the Editor:

Thank you to all who contributed to the latest edition of the Snail Kite. I'm excited to be a part of the 50th year celebration and all of the wonderful directions our community is moving in. We are looking forward to gathering in person for the first time since the pandemic during our fall meeting!



Sincerely,  
Heather