

SNAIL KITE

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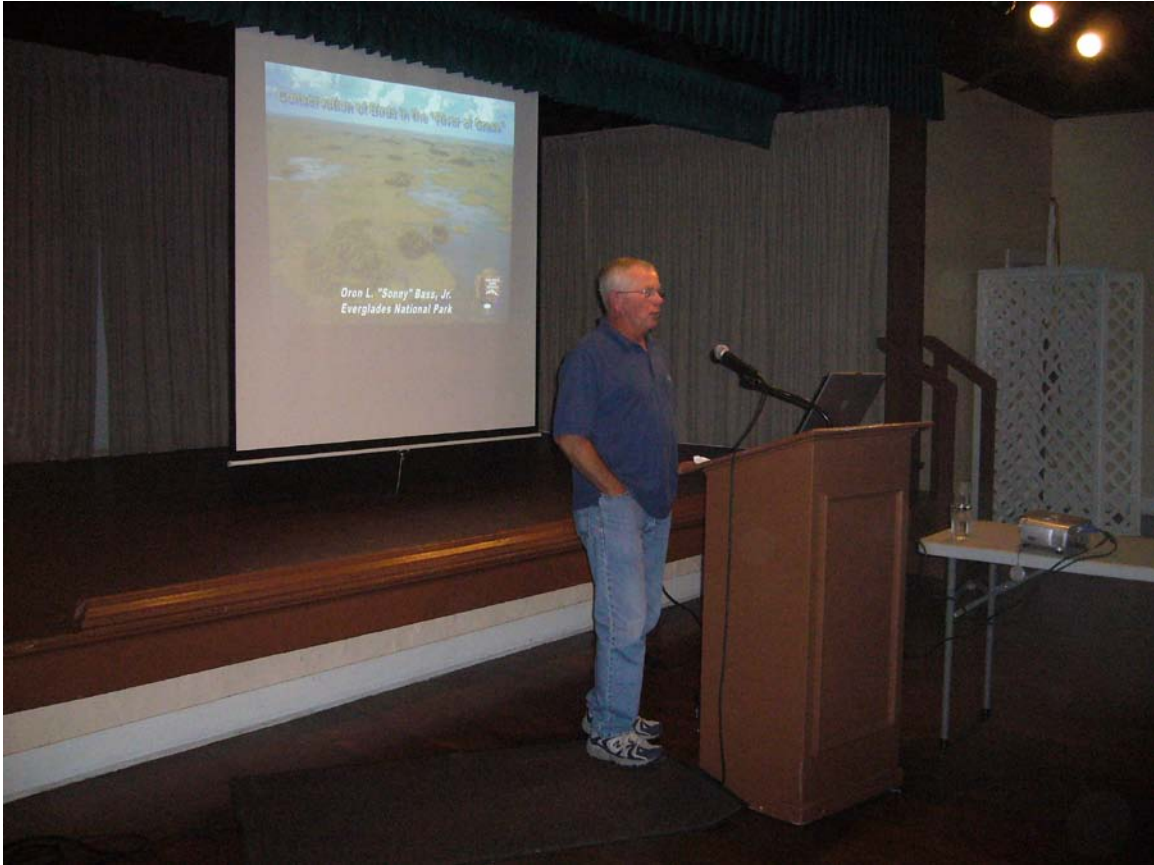
Snail Kite is published by the Florida Ornithological Society as an information exchange among persons interested in the conservation, research and enjoyment of birds in Florida. Notices or requests for information or assistance and news of interest should be sent to the editor: Tom Palmer, 1805 26th St. NW, Winter Haven FL 33891, W. (863)962-7535, Fax (863) 962-7809, H. (863) 967-4711, E-mail tom47@yahoo.com. Recent issues of the newsletter and other information are available on the FOS website www.fosbirds.org.

Adam Kent Elected President of FOS



Adam Kent was elected president of the Florida Ornithological Society on April 24 at the spring meeting in Vero Beach. Kent, 42, is a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Wildlife Legacy program. He's a Gainesville native and a graduate of the University of Florida with degrees in natural resource conservation. "I've been interested in birds my whole life," he said. Before his election, his last milestone occurred in November when he married Gina Zimmerman, a biologist with the Avian Research Conservation Institute. Elena Sachs, Jim Cox and Peter Merritt will remain in their positions as vice president, secretary and treasurer.

In other action, Erik Haney and Caroline Strahala were elected to the FOS board.



Everglades Birds Face Progress, Peril, Bass Says

Bird populations in Everglades National Park face a mixed future, Sonny Bass told FOS members at the spring meeting in Vero Beach.

Habitat improvement that has accompanied Everglades restoration efforts so far and other efforts hold promise for restoring and maintaining populations of some species, but

threats ranging from effects of climate change to the effects of exotic predators remain a source of uncertainty, he said.

Water management is at the heart of much of decline of the Everglades as well as efforts to restore this unique South Florida ecosystem, said Bass, a veteran park biologist.

Quoting his late colleague William Robertson, Bass said. "The Everglades was half destroyed before it was half understood."

Everglades National Park is unique because it was the first national park established primarily for the protection of wildlife species rather than for its scenic beauty or unusual geological features, Bass said.

He described the various habitats that include prairies, pine rocklands, tree islands, mangrove forests, cypress forests, bays and the vast marshes where, taken together, 370 species of birds have been observed, 90 of them breeding species.

Bass said some of the major challenges include attempts to reintroduce species such as Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird and Wild Turkey into the pinelands, maintaining water levels that will help to preserve populations of the Cable Sable Seaside Sparrow and wading birds such as the Wood Stork.

Meanwhile, the invasion into the park by Burmese pythons is a major concern because they are large, effective predators. Scientists have documented these snakes have attacked and killed practically every major species in the park.

"The only thing they haven't found it them was a Florida panther," he said.

Meanwhile, sea level rise as a result of climate change is a long-term concern.

He said the potential threat of sea level rise has persuaded National Park Service officials to shelve plans to replace the Flamingo Lodge..

Breeding Bird Atlas Update

Plans to launch an update of the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas remain undetermined. A committee composed of Wes Biggs, Dave Goodwin, Karl Miller, David Stock and Rick West will meet this summer and are scheduled to deliver a report to the FOS Board in October.

Some of the unresolved issues include funding, organization and the scope of the project.

Bird news

The Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, Audubon of Florida and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have combined to form the Florida Shorebird Alliance to coordinate protection of Florida's shorebirds as the state's population increases, habitat declines and human disturbance becomes more frequent.

For more information, go to <http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/index.html>

In April, state wildlife officers arrested four men in Dade County. The men were accused of trapping painted buntings, indigo buntings and a cardinal for sale as cage birds. Twenty birds had been captured. All were released. Anyone who sees this kind of trapping can report it via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Hotline 888-808-3922.

A private company that trains Aplomado Falcons was hired to keep cedar waxwings and other marauding birds away from a blueberry farm in Polk County, according to a press report.

The State of the Birds 2010 Report on Climate Change was released in March by the U.S. Department of the Interior. It includes comments on some Florida species. The report is available at <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

Requests For Assistance

Breeding Bird Survey Route Runners are needed. The routes, which are run between May 1 and June 15, needed are: 60 (Nassau County), 77 (Broward and Dade counties),, 83 (Monroe County , Keys)' 902 (Baker and Columbia counties) and 917(Baker County)

Contact Mike Delany at mike.delany@myfwc.com or 352 955 2081 x 114

The U.S. Nightjar Survey is looking for participants. Go to <http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm> for details.

Anyone who spots a banded shorebird can now report it via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Shorebird Alliance website.

<http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/resources-pages/bands.html>

Researchers are seeking reports of banded Great White Herons as part of a study on dispersion and feeding habits. The bands are on the right legs and will be either red or blue. The birds may be present anywhere on the Atlantic or Gulf coasts of Florida or in the West Indies. Send reports to zimmerman@arcinst.org.

Information is being sought on Eastern Bluebird banding in Florida. Send information to Kathryn E Sieving, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, www.wec.ufl.edu/faculty/sievingk and to Bill Pennewill, president of the Florida Bluebird Society, at billsbluebirds@yahoo.com

Announcements

The Florida Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting will be held in Oct. 8-10 in Tallahassee. . Watch for details on the website.

From The Editor

Where's a good place to go birdwatching in Florida in the summer?

Yeah, I know it's hot, but there are plenty of native birds singing and nesting and behaving in ways we don't see at other times of the year. Send me an article about the site and some species to check out.

I'm also looking for articles about birds and birdwatching anywhere in Florida, bird research and bird lore and trivia. If you can think of something else let me know.

I envision Snail Kite as a place to share information among the Florida birding community, but I need your help to pull it off.

--Tom Palmer

Please submit material for the Summer 2010 issue of Snail Kite by June 15.

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