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From William F. Loftus, fishery biologist at Everglades NP and Fort Jefferson NM, comes a 344-page Bulletin of the Florida State Museum, Biological Sciences (Vol. 31 No. 4), authored by himself and James A. Kushlan (former NPS research biologist), and entitled **Freshwater Fishes of Southern Florida**.

The monograph presents the results of the first systematic study of the distribution of fishes in southern Florida's fresh waters. The presence of 92 species is documented for extreme southern Florida and their status, distribution, and the ecological factors that affect them are discussed. The data were collected during a seven-year study supported by the South Florida Research Center of Everglades NP.

A limited number of reprints are available and may be had by writing Loftus at the park, P.O. Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030.

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Three new Technical Reports were reported by the NPS Cooperative Resources Studies Unit at U-Cal

Davis. No. 26, by Mark K. Sogge and Charles van Riper III, is titled "Breeding Biology and Population Dynamics of the San Miguel Island Song Sparrow"; No. 29, by Johnson C.S. Wang and Thomas P. Keegan, is "Assessment of an Oil Spill on Selected Fishes in Rodeo Lagoon and Muir Beach"; No. 30, by Margaret Cymerys and Brian J. Walton, is "Raptors of the Pinnacles National Monument: Past and Present Nesting and Possible Impacts of Rock Climbers."

"Bird Buyer Beware" is the title of the cover story in the May 8, 1988 issue of **Parade** magazine. The story gives nationwide coverage to one facet of the illegal international trade in wildlife. For the NPS angle on this story, see this issue page 6.

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Score one more advance in the universe's effort to understand itself. Researchers at MIT have deciphered a second genetic code – that governing "transfer RNA" – thus promising important applications in genetic engineering.

The biology revolution began in 1953 when James Watson and Francis Crick worked out the basic structure and function of DNA, which contains the master plan for assembling amino acids into protein. The DNA passes this information along to a substance called "messenger RNA," which then gives it to another substance, "transfer RNA," which actually puts the protein together.

That there was a second genetic code – one governing this putting-together process – has been known for 20 years, but its deciphering was described in May in an article in the British science journal **Nature**. The paper's two authors, Paul Schimmel and Ya-Ming Hou of MIT, professed surprise at the elegantly simple logic of the code.

The **Los Angeles Times**, commenting editorially on this stunning discovery, wrote: "The key word is elegantly. As Albert Einstein said in a different context, 'Subtle is the Lord, but malicious he is not. Nature hides her secrets because of her essential loftiness, but not by means of ruse.' He was speaking of physics, but his insight applies to all of science."