

Wildlife Incidents in the Flamingo Area From August 1, 2000 to the Present

Birds:

- During the week ending 11/5, Kent Looney assisted with the rescue of an injured osprey that was found at the employee dock. John and Donna Buckley transported the osprey to the Bird of Prey Center.
- On the week ending 12/10, Brian Meely, from the Miami Museum of Science Raptor Center, released a rehabilitated osprey at the Flamingo Marina. Bruce Gantt, Sarah Beckwith and Nicole Andler assisted with the release. The osprey has been tagged for study.
- On 01/02 Goodwin located a dead pelican with tags at the Flamingo Marina. Goodwin called the contact number on the tags and disposed the pelican carcass.
- On 01/03 Jason Jennings rescued an ailing pelican near the sewer plant. Kent Looney transported the pelican to the park entrance station where personnel from the Lloyd Brown Wildlife Rehabilitation center picked it up. (The rehab people tell us that there is a virus affecting many of the pelicans from Florida Bay/ Keys area.)
- On 01/05 Bruce Gantt recovered an injured Chuckwills Widow from the Flamingo Road. Donna Buckley transported the bird to the entrance station where it was transferred to the Lloyd Brown Rehabilitation Center.
- On 01/12 Gantt sent an injured pelican to the Lloyd Brown Rehab center in Miami.
- On 01/25 John responded to the report of a possible transformer fire in the housing area. At the site, John found an electrocuted Osprey. Its wings had been blown off when it touched a live wire near its nest site. In order to prevent another fire, and injury to a second Osprey (mate to the deceased!), a Florida Power and Light repairman, turned the power off, while John climbed the tower, and removed the remains of the nest.
- During the week ending 2/4, John Goodwin received a report of approximately 65 dead and dying vultures at Sandy Key. He contacted Skip Snow.
- On 2/8 Bill Raften recovered an injured Osprey. It was transferred to the Miami Museum of Science Raptor Center.
- On 2/13 John Goodwin captured an injured pelican at the Flamingo Marina area. He arranged to have the pelican transported to the Park Entrance station where it was transferred to the Lloyd Brown Rehab Center.
- On 3/9 Greta and Brian, from the Raptor and Bird of Prey Center of the Miami Museum of Science, brought back an osprey (that had been sent down several weeks earlier, suffering from a poisoning). Much to the delight of all the onlookers, the fully recovered osprey was happy to be released and back in the Flamingo neighborhood.
- On 3/23, volunteer, John Buckley rescued an osprey that was tangled in fishing line and close to drowning, in Florida Bay. After untangling the exhausted bird, John brought it to shore and placed it in a tree. The osprey quickly recovered and flew away.

- During the week ending 4/22, John Goodwin issued a verbal warning to a visitor who was flying a kite. An osprey, seemingly threatened by the kite, kept flying or diving at the kite. The osprey appeared to be agitated by the kite, which was flying erratically. As the osprey was obviously harassed by the kite, John told the visitor to stop flying the kite in that area.
- On 5/1 Cathy Buckingham found and removed a dead Cattle Egret from the Main Park road and Snake Bight Trail.
- On 5/1 Cathy also observed a dead osprey in the grassy area between the park road and the Flamingo Parking lot.
- On 5/14 John Goodwin dispatched an ill/injured Laughing Gull at the Flamingo Maintenance area.
- On 5/25 Tony Terry assisted with the release of a rehabilitated Black Crowned Night Heron at Eco Pond. The heron had been recuperating at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Florida Keys.
- On 5/27 John Goodwin and Bruce Gantt responded to the report of an ill pelican at Paurotis Pond. They caught the pelican and John transported it up the road where he transferred the bird to Lloyd Brown of the Wildlife Rescue Center in Homestead.
- On 6/26 John Goodwin responded to the report of two pelicans tangled up in fishing line near the walk-in sites at the Flamingo Campground. John untangled the pelicans and set them free.
- During the week ending 2/4, John Goodwin received a report of approximately 65 dead and dying vultures at Sandy Key. He contacted Skip Snow.

Snakes:

- During the week ending 11/12, Bruce Gantt and Kent Looney recovered a nine-foot long Burmese Python from West Lake.
- On 01/01 John Goodwin located and dispatched a 10-foot (plus) Burmese Python at Snake Bight Trail.
- On the evening of 6/14, while travelling to Flamingo, a park employee observed a python (subsequently identified as a Reticulated Python) on the Main Park Road at Flamingo Wells. Bruce Gantt responded to the scene, but by that time the python had moved on. Bruce reported the sighting to Skip Snow.
- On the evening of 7/4, returning from a fishing trip, a visitor observed a 12-foot long, 8-inch wide Burmese Python on the Main Park road, 2 and a half miles north of Paurotis Pond. The visitor told Mirta Maltes (from the Pine Island Ranger District) that he watched the python for awhile, and that he would have taken the python home with him if he had something in which to carry it!
- On 7/16 a visitor reported seeing a very big snake (probably a python) stretched across the road into Pahayokee. As the visitors watched from their car, the snake slowly moved off of the road and into the water.

Bugs:

- On 10/20 Tony responded to a child with a swollen hand, probably a reaction to insect bites.
- On 11/18 Bill Raften responded to a minor medical at the marina. A 60-year-old male experienced an allergic reaction to a possible bug bite.
- On 12/27, a park employee was bitten by a Brown Recluse Spider in the Flamingo Campground. She was treated at Homestead Hospital with large amounts of antibiotics to counteract the spread of infection that can result from the bite of these spiders.
- On 2/19 John Goodwin and John Buckley investigated the report of 100 dead or dying Spanish Moths at the floodlights of the Flamingo Maintenance building.
- On 4/9 Bruce Gantt responded to the report of people with scorpions at Cabin A. Bruce advised and reassured the people, and cleared from the scene.
- On 4/10 John Goodwin received the report of "tent eating" caterpillars at the Flamingo Campground. The caterpillars were observed eating the screen off a tent. Caterpillars are bluish tinged. On 4/11 Bruce Gantt checked site 32A in the campground for possible non-native species of caterpillars. None were found.
- On 6/6 John Goodwin responded to the report of a woman with an insect bite at Flamingo Lodge. The woman's eye was swollen shut from the bite. She transported herself to the hospital.
- On 6/8 Bruce Gantt responded to a minor medical. In a hurry to get into her car and away from the mosquitoes, a woman cut her face on the edge of her car door. Bruce cleaned and bandaged the cut, and gave the woman an ice pack for the swelling.
- During the week ending 6/24, A Bee Nesting Bucket, one of the many brown, cardboard buckets researchers have hung around the park, fell from a tree in front of Flamingo Lodge. As it was surrounded by a swarm of agitated bees, Bruce Gantt cordoned off the area with yellow crime scene tape. Researchers came out to look at the bucket. They planned to be back in a couple of weeks to remove it after the bees moved (hopefully) to a new hive site.
- On 6/26 Bruce Gantt responded to an Amfac employee suffering a minor reaction to a bug bite.
- On 7/5 Bruce Gantt assisted with the assembly of 15 new Mosquito Magnets for the housing area of the Flamingo District.

Raccoons:

- On 9/20 Gantt trapped and relocated a problem raccoon.
- On 11/ 17 and 18, Bill Raften educated Flamingo visitors on raccoon issues and educated raccoons on people and garbage issues.
- On 11/29 and 12/1, for a total of 11 hours, Bill Raften conducted negative reinforcement training with delinquent raccoons from the Flamingo area.
- On 12/6, at 5:00 p.m., an Outward Bound canoe group landed at Shark Point. One of the group leaders attempted to take a picture of a raccoon. The raccoon bit the photographer. The victim was transported to Homestead Hospital by Outward Bound staff. The victim was subsequently sent to Mariners Hospital to receive the rabies vaccine. Bruce Gantt investigated this incident.

- On 12/28 Bill Raften conducted negative reinforcement training with 13 raccoons.
- Bruce Gantt responded to the report of a raccoon acting strangely at the Buttonwood Café. Gantt checked out the raccoon and concluded that its behavior was not out of the ordinary for Flamingo.
- On 01/01/01 Bill Raften continued negative reinforcement training with local raccoons.
- On 2/11 Tony Terry responded to the report of a man bitten by a raccoon. The man and his family are from Australia. While staying at Flamingo Lodge they observed a raccoon whose head was stuck in a jar. Intending to help the raccoon, the man pulled it loose from the jar, and was immediately bitten and scratched. Afterwards the raccoon escaped into the wild. Arrangements were made for the man to receive the rabies vaccine at Mariners Hospital.
- On 2/15 Bill Raften conducted 4 hours of negative reinforcement training with some of the local area raccoons.
- On 3/14 Bill Raften and Bruce Gantt removed an injured raccoon from the campground.

Manatees:

- On 10/3 and 10/4 Bill Raften and Tony Terry assisted Skip Snow with manatee capture and checks.
- During the week ending 10/15 Bill Raften assisted Skip Snow with manatee tracking. They used a helicopter to look for an exit route for a stranded manatee.
- On 10/16, 18 and 19 Bill Raften assisted Skip Snow with manatee tracking and feeding. The stranded manatee was still confined to a mangrove pond with no discernable outlets.
- On 10/31 the marooned manatee was rescued.
- On 12/30 Bill Raften recovered a dead manatee near Bowtie Key in Whitewater Bay. He investigated the incident and notified the Department of Environmental Protection.
- On 01/22, park volunteers, John and Donna Buckley, responded to the report of a dead manatee near the Watson River Chickee. The manatee was autopsied on site by two people from FWC.
- During the week ending 02/04, Kent Looney received two reports of two dead manatees along the Roberts River canoe trail. John and Donna Buckley found and recovered one of the dead manatees.
- On 2/12 Kent Looney took Wanda, from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, to a dead manatee at the mouth of North River. Wanda performed a necropsy, and Skip Snow was notified.
- On 2/13 John and Donna Buckley found a dead manatee south of the North River Chickee. Christi, from the Florida DEP did a necropsy on the manatee, and Skip Snow was notified.
- On 2/14 Donna Buckley observed another dead manatee at Roberts River. Skip Snow was notified and Christi from the Florida DEP was brought in to do a necropsy.
- During the week ending on 2/11, Rangers responded to three reports of dead manatees. The BUCKLEYS assisted in helping secure the manatees and got people from

the DEP and the FWCC out to the dead manatees to do necropsies. Rangers who dealt with the incidents are Bill Raften and Kent Looney.

Turtles:

- On 01/12 Gantt responded to the report of a dead sea turtle at Cottage "G". It was a Horseshoe Crab.
- On 2/5 Donna Buckley brought in a dead Green Sea Turtle. The DEP was notified.
- On 6/1 Bruce Gantt was given a sick Green Turtle from a fishing guide at the Whitewater Bay Ramp. Volunteers transferred the turtle to the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center in Tavernier, where the turtle was held until picked up by volunteers from the Turtle Hospital at Hidden Harbor Motel in Marathon. The turtle was suffering from common papaloma virus that infects sea turtles.

Alligators:

- On 4/13 Bruce Gantt was called out to remove a large, dead alligator from the Main Park Road at Nine-Mile Pond.
- On 5/18 John Goodwin assisted 524 at Pahayokee with two individuals who were harassing the wildlife. One of the suspects was bitten on his foot by an alligator. The victim was treated on the scene, but refused transport to a hospital.
- On 6/17 John Goodwin and Brandon Marsmaker responded to the report of a nuisance alligator at Nine Mile Pond. Park visitors have probably fed the alligator, as it was obviously unafraid of people. John and Brandon conducted negative reinforcement training with the delinquent alligator.
- On 6/23 and 6/24 Brandon Marsmaker monitored 2 alligators at Nine-mile Pond that are showing signs of habituation to humans. The suspect alligators are 5 and 6 feet-long. Both are aggressive, and seem to be attracted by the fishing activity in the area. Many of the visitors at Nine-mile Pond are lacking a healthy fear of the alligators. Brandon warned several people of the dangers of approaching too close to the alligators.
- On 7/1 Brandon Marsmaker monitored 10 problem alligators at Nine Mile Pond. Bill Raften and Brandon conducted negative reinforcement training with 5 of the alligators. Two alligators, that have been monitored previously, are becoming increasingly aggressive. As the tourists are as eager as ever to get up close to the alligators, Brandon spent time educating the visitors on the dangers of getting too close to wild animals.
- On 7/12 Bill Raften conducted negative reinforcement training with 2 alligators. Bill repeated the training on 7/14.

Iguanas:

- On 6/4 Bruce Gantt came across a non-native iguana grazing on vegetation in the Flamingo Campground. Bruce dispatched the 3-foot iguana, filled out a wildlife report and notified Skip Snow.

Fish and other Sea Creatures:

- On the evening of 12/17 John Goodwin and Bill Raften responded to the report of a 39-year old male Amfac employee who suffered several shark bites to his lower left leg. Raften and Goodwin transported the victim to Homestead Hospital where the victim underwent surgery to repair his leg.
- On 3/30 Kent Looney responded to the report of an Amfac employee impaled by a catfish spine.
- On 4/10 John Goodwin investigated the report of a fish kill at Oyster and Mud Bays. After taking water samples and readings at both locations, John established that the report was unfounded. He notified Skip Snow and Tom Schmidt.
- On 5/15 John Goodwin responded to the report of a catfish sting at the amphitheater. John gave the victim treatment advice.
- On 6/3 John Goodwin responded to the report of a Stingray sting infection at the Marina Parking Lot. The victim drove himself to Mariner's Hospital in the Keys for further treatment.