

agement for a single species is neither practical nor desirable over most of the kite's range including Lake Okeechobee and the Conservation Areas. In most years these areas will provide some kite habitat. In addition selected "islands" of habitat scattered within the historic range should be intensively managed for the kite. He suggests that the kite population will be preserved only by the combined maintenance of the remaining large marsh systems in as close as possible to their natural conditions and the creation smaller refuges for use by kites during periodic droughts.

The difference in approach probably derives less from individual viewpoint than from the purpose and constraints of the single-species recovery planning effort. The authors of the plan have worked admirably and done a great service in categorizing, analyzing, and prioritizing the needs of the Snail Kite and in composing a plan that conservationists and management agencies need to consider carefully in their planning efforts. It would be useful to continue the team or a successor in existence by some means to provide a forum for kite conservation. Lacking that, responsibility now rests entirely with state and federal agencies to assure the kite's continued existence in Florida, hopefully as part of a more naturally functioning Everglades ecosystem.—**James A. Kushlan**, Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124.

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EDITORIAL

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