UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Summary of the September 1947 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report for the month of September 1947
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

October 9, 1947

INTRODUCTION

As this is the first Monthly Narrative Report of the Everglades National Park, a brief history of the area might be in order. Chronologically, the highlights are as follows:

1929: The Tropic Everglades National Park Association was formed with Dr. David Fairchilds as President and Mr. Ernest F. Coe as chairman.

The Florida Legislature passed enabling acts for the park and for appointment of a State body to be called the Everglades National Park Commission. This Commission was given broad powers including condemnation of lands.

1931: The National Parks Association appointed a committee to investigate the proposed area.

1932: Congress permitted appointment of a committee to investigate consisting of Frederick Law Olmstead and William P. Wharton (Senate Doc. 54, 72nd Cong. 1st session).

1933: The State of Florida authorized turning over 325,000 acres of State-owned lands for national park purposes.

1934: Congress passed an act authorizing creation of the Everglades National Park when certain conditions were met by the State.

The first Everglades National Park Commission was appointed by Governor Schultz with Thomas Pancoast as chairman and Ernest Coe as executive chairman.

1937: Congress amended the 1934 Act so that the government might be able to expend funds on the project.

Biological investigations were made under the C.C.C. program.

1944: On request of Governor Holland, Service representatives made a study of area to determine minimum acceptable boundaries.

Congress passed an act permitting the Secretary to accept jurisdiction of this minimum area as a federal wildlife refuge for ten years, unless a park was created in the meantime, with oil rights reserved by the State and private owners while it was in refuge status.

1945: Fish and Wildlife Service assigned personnel and equipment to the area.

1946: Governor Caldwell reactivated the Everglades National Park Commission and named August Burghard as Chairman. An executive committee was formed consisting of Burghard of Ft. Lauderdale, John D. Pennekamp of the Miami "Herald", General Blanding of Tallahassee, Mrs. W. L. Jennings of Jacksonville, Karl Bickel of Sarasota, George Ware of Leesburg, Harold Colee of Jacksonville. Gilbert Leach was Executive Director. Will H. Preston of Miami became attorney for the Commission. Commission meetings were held at Miami, Windley Key, and Jacksonville, the first attended by Governor Caldwell, the latter by Senator Spessard Holland.

1947: The President signed an executive order closing the area to migratory waterfowl hunting.

The Department accepted conveyance of State-owned lands for wildlife protection purposes.

A Commission meeting was held at Osceola to determine the legislative program.

Commission members led by John D. Pennekamp appeared before the Florida legislature. Certain enabling acts were then passed and $2,000,000 was appropriated by unanimous vote in the State Senate and only a few dissenting votes in the House, to purchase private lands.

The Everglades National Park was created by an order of the Secretary in June, based upon the 1934 enabling Act of Congress. This consisted of State and private lands free of oil leases. The rest of the area with oil leases on it remained under the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Congress appropriated 1948 fiscal year funds for the park and the refuge.

L. M. Cray was appointed to head the Land Acquisition Office.

Daniel B. Board entered on duty as Superintendent, August 27, on transfer from Refuge Manager, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge.

James N. Smith entered on duty as Chief Clerk, September 21, on transfer from Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Precipitation in September is usually the highest of any months. This year, the 1947 rainy season trend of above normal rainfall continued throughout the month. One full hurricane came across the State in a general east to west direction north of the park causing heavy gale winds in the park from northwest, west, and southwest as the storm moved over the State. As usual, the hurricane was accompanied by heavy rains. A tropical disturbance that did not reach hurricane size passed west of the park in the Gulf of Mexico traveling in a northeasterly direction from the Dry Tortugas (Ft. Jefferson National Monument) to the mainland in the vicinity of Ft. Myers. This brought gale winds from a south and southeasterly direction to the park.

The effect of these winds was to both force salt water into the park and back up fresh water all along the southern coast of the mainland and the southwestern coastal areas. The Everglades were already unusually wet and inundated throughout the park except in pinelands. Approximately fifteen miles of the road from Paradise Key to the Cape Sable area was completely under water, and remained so until the end of the month.

All canals leading out of Lake Okeechobee were wide open all month to permit waters to flow out. Nevertheless, severe damage occurred in sugarcane, bean, and other fields because of inundation and broken dikes.

Loss of life because of hurricanes and floods was extremely light in Florida as there was ample warning and inhabitants of danger areas were evacuated by special trains and other means before the storm reached the mainland. Property damage was also slight, except to trees and crops, because residences and other buildings are built to withstand hurricanes and were well boarded up in advance.

There was practically no damage to the park.

Temperatures for September were approximately normal. Humidity was high though because of the flooded conditions and rainfall.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent and Chief Clerk attended a meeting of the Dedication Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission in Miami in which it was decided that park dedication would be sought December 6.

The Superintendent gave a talk before the Homestead Rotary Club on the Everglades National Park.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Appraisers from the Land Acquisition Office made appraisals of the Fuchs and Wilkinson properties at Coot Bay.

Deeds of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs were turned over to Department of Justice attorney Patten by the Land Acquisition Office. These deeds are now in process of acceptance by the Department for the Royal Palm State Park lands.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

Associated Press dispatches carried a story on the appointment of H. Raymond Gregg as Park Naturalist and D. B. Beard as superintendent.

The Miami "Herald" staff writer, Steven Trumbull, published an article on the progress of the park and moving of headquarters to Homestead.

CONCESSIONERS

Mr. Rome Wayne and General Lorenz made application for a business concession permit for a houseboat this winter at Coot Bay.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr. Gerald Baker of Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge was assigned to the Everglades National Wildlife Refuge by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pilot Biologist David Spencer flew in with the Fish and Wildlife Service's "Widgeon" during the month after a summer in Canada. He left again on a brief trip to the west coast (of Florida) refuges the last of the month.

Patrolman Marcus Barney Parker and Under Refuge Manager Jack Watson continued patrol of the park and the refuge by boat and car all month.

Assistant Chief Conservation Officer Bunnel and State Conservation Officers Cooper and Newton continued operations in and near the park area all month. The so-called Loop Road of the Tamiami Trail was blocked off by them to protect turkeys that sought high ground during floods.

STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

The Supreme Court of Florida agreed to hear the case of Attorney General Tom Watson versus State Treasurer Larson relative to payment of $2,000,000 to the United States to purchase lands in the park. Mr. Watson was given until October 24 to prepare his case against the State and said that if he lost he would carry it to the United States Supreme Court. Senator LeRoy Collins acted as attorney for Mr. Larson and was unsuccessful in his plea that, since the money was already accepted by the Secretary, it was a "dead issue."

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

The large bird rookery at East River was practically dormant during September with a few white ibises still feeding young of the year. Cuthbert Lake rookery was in about the same state and used mainly as a roost. Catfish Key-Dildo Key-Oyster Keys areas of Florida Bay continued as summer rookeries, but were reaching the end of their cycle also.

The late summer roseate spoonbill population of Cape Sable and the west coast reached approximately 250 birds, most of them immature. This is a larger summer population than recorded since records have been kept after the 1935 hurricane.

American crocodile nests in Florida Bay (outside immediate park) indicate successful seasonal hatch and possibly the best survival of young in the past decade.

Large flights of blue-winged teal came into the Cape Sable area about the middle of September which is a little earlier than usual. They were not seen after the hurricane and may have moved to Cuba.

Several mammals were noted that had been drowned in high waters. These were raccoons and various rodents. The mortality among small mammals was probably quite high.

Small alligators were seen more often than ever before in the superintendent's experience here. It is usual for these little 'gators to move into shallow water areas to avoid predacious fishes. The widespread inundation has apparently permitted better than average survival.

Pompano began to run in the Gulf off Cape Sable in September.

Visiting Superintendent Rader is responsible for the first authenticated fish story in this new park. While returning along the flooded road from Coot Bay, his companion killed fifteen pounds of mangrove snappers with a machete on the road.

VISITORS

Benjamin F. L. Heron, Regional Field Examiner, Bureau of Land Management, September 9-27. Mr. Heron was appraising land.

James F. Rader, Superintendent, Ft. McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, September 19-30. Mr. Rader was acting as an appraiser.

ACCIDENTS

A commercial fisherman named Frost and his hound dog were drowned off Flamingo during the hurricane. He had a small boat that he had converted to a house boat. It was topheavy. The body was recovered one week later by a Homestead mortician who reached the area circuitously by a boat out of Tavenier Key Largo.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

cc: Director, Washington (5)
Regional Director, Region One (2)
L. M. Gray
Coordinating Supt., SNMs

Summary of the October 1947 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report for the month of October 1947
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

November 10, 1947

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures for October averaged one point below normal. Highest reading was 90 deg. F. and lowest was 62 deg. F.

Early in the month a tropical disturbance of near hurricane force entered the park in the vicinity of Shark River and moved across in a north northeast direction to Miami. Recorded winds did not reach full hurricane strength (75 m.p.h.), but may have been that high when the storm hit the mainland. Some destruction of giant mangroves occurred in the labyrinth at the mouth of the Shark River. Shortly before this storm, an unusual electric storm occurred. Hurricanes are not normally associated with thunderstorms. This one was of very unusual intensity accompanied by gale winds and a torrential downpour. It traveled in a northerly direction. 5.37 inches of rainfall fell in one day.

There has been much speculation about these two phenomena because of the peculiar behavior of the tropical disturbance. It was known that the storm was "salted" with dry ice, but results were considered a military secret.

Rainfall during October was 15.96 inches near Homestead. Normally it is 6.60 inches, making this month the most unusual on record. Inundation of the entire Everglades region occurred causing widespread flooding of groves, farmlands, and urban property. Emergency dikes were thrown up north and south along the eastern borders of the Everglades north of the Tamiami Trail to protect east coast cities. Federal emergency funds were appropriated. Army engineers worked on a water program which would set up controlled water conservation areas north of the park and protect valuable lands. This would, in effect, contain the waters in the Everglades basin and permit use of them in dry winter periods for recharge into the park as well as other lands where irrigation is needed and salt water infiltration must be stopped. The plan will be presented to Congress and, according to preliminary indications, is very much in keeping with the desires of this Service. It will cost several million dollars.

While water conservation may seem odd in the face of extreme flood conditions, it must be remembered that rain is seasonal and evaporation so great that, in normal years, there is only about three inches of excess annual water in the Everglades basin.

At the end of the month, the park was like a giant supersaturated sponge, but water was dropping rapidly and farmers nearby were already preparing to plant fields which were knee-deep in water earlier in October.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

It was decided by the Everglades National Park Commission that this park will be dedicated on December 6 at Everglades (City) in Collier County. The superintendent was given a catchall title of "Field Director" and assigned to the job of making all plans. Numerous conferences resulted.

A three-cent Everglades National Park stamp was authorized by the Post Office Department to be sold at Florida City on December 6.

Talks on the park were given by the superintendent at:

Annual meeting, Redlands Chamber of Commerce, October 8.
Redlands District High School, October 17.
Annual meeting, Collier County Lions Club, October 20.
Homestead High School, October 31.

INSPECTIONS

James Myers, Regional Equipment Engineer, October 3-6
Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director, October 17-19
C. R. Vinten, Coor. Superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments, October 17-19

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Project Leader L. M. Gray of the Land Acquisition Office completed all negotiations for acquisition of the so-called "Coot Bay property." The Service has taken the area over pending completion of payment by the government.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Bids were let and work started on remodeling the front end of Redlands Chamber of Commerce Building in Homestead as park headquarters.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

The State Highway Department mowed road shoulders through Paradise Key and filled holes in the road there caused by inundation.

The road from the Monroe County line to Flamingo was impassable all month and Coot Bay property could be reached only by boat.

CONCESSIONERS

In conference with Regional Director Allen and Coordinating Superintendent Vinten it was decided that application for a house boat in Coot Bay by Mr. Rome Wayne would be rejected on the grounds of no prior use of the area by him.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Patrolman Marcus "Barney" Parker of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Under Refuge Manager Jack C. Watson of the same agency were the only field men on the Fish and Wildlife Service patrol in October. Mr. Parker worked in the park area.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Colonial birds (ibises, egrets, herons, etc.) were widely scattered during the month because of flooded conditions.

On October 28, park rangers found about fifty adult roseate spoonbills in the vicinity of nesting keys of Florida Bay (outside the park as now constituted). This is a normal situation prior to nesting.

A flock of fifty white pelicans arrived at Cape Sable about the middle of October.

Late in the month, wood ibises had begun to congregate at Cuthbert Lake rookery (a little early) as is customary prior to nesting. Flocks were larger than usual though.

The alligator population this year seems definitely better than in the past. Although one 'gator hunter camp was located that had been recently used (Middle Fox Lake), the number of alligators larger than five feet in length observed, indicates some big ones are left.

The State of Florida closed the deer and turkey season in southern counties this year which was a good move. Deer are increasing in the hardwood hammock sections, especially near Jimmie Tiger's old campsite southwest of Humble Oil road. But high water has made deer vulnerable to hunters in air boats.

No large movements of waterfowl from the north have yet been noted. This is believed to be indicative of reported scarcity.

VISITORS

J. V. Kelsey, U. S. Game Management Agent, October 3
James Cass, Custodian of Ft. Jefferson National Monument, October 13
John DeWeese, Boatman of Ft. Jefferson National Monument, October 13
C. A. Hodges, City Editor, Miami Daily News, October 13

RANGER SERVICE

Park Rangers Willard Dilley and Erwin Winte entered on duty in October. Mr. Dilley is a former Naval officer who holds a B. S. in zoology with emphasis on ornithology. Mr. Winte has been a State Conservation officer in the Everglades for about eight years.

Rangers manned the Paradise Key and Coot Bay properties. They made boat patrols in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service to Madeira Bay, Flamingo, Cape Sable, and Cuthbert Lake.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Director, Washington (5)
cc: Regional Director, Region One (2)

DANIEL B BEARD

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Report 1nl

Summary of the November 1947 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Summary of the Fourth of 1947 Monthly Narrative Report
for
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
[illegible]:	Dry season began, but water levels in Grande Ronde.	1
[illegible] INSPECTION:	Park Rehabilitation plans developed. General talks given.	1
[illegible]:	. . . . .	2
[illegible] CONSTRUCTION:	Temporary utilities completed.	2
[illegible] SECURITY:	Accepts such that Yosemite will participate in detection second subversive publicity. Low book on Soviet publications.	2
CONTACTS:	Cape Ranger road construction through several objectives.	2
COOPERATIVE [illegible] ACTIVITY:	One fish and Wildlife Service field team operated.	2
[illegible] and maintenance:	Birds began to concentrate. Cape Ranger "bird show" reserved years. Ten-day waterfowl began to arrive in numbers.	2-3
[illegible]:	. . . . .	3
[illegible] ACTIVITY:	Good day and Paradise Day programs were received. Airborne patrol made to Mount Dyer. Low ranger arrived on duty.	3
POLICE PROTECTION:	Drug numbers operated in park. Bears Killed.	3

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Report lml

Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report for the month of November 1947
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

December 11, 1947

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures for November ranged from a high of 91 degrees F. to a low of 54 degrees F. in the Homestead area. This was about average.

Rainfall continued higher than usual with 3.78 inches against a 2.53 inch average. But, the abnormal rainy season had definitely broken. Flood refugees from Sweetwater, Miami Springs, and Hialeah began to move back during the month and relatively few homes remained inundated by the end of November. Surface water levels in the park, however, continued high. This was in part traceable to emergency dikes and clearing of debris from under Tamiami Trail bridges. The dikes protected east coast cities and contained the waters in the Everglades basin where free flow to the park was enhanced by debris clearance.

Glade farmers near the park were able to get in their crops of tomatoes and beans; but it was still possible to travel easily by airboat to all sections except pine flatwoods.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The superintendent, as director for the forthcoming dedication (December 6) had to spend a great deal of time in making preparations for the event.

Talks were given by the superintendent at:

Lions and Kiwanis Club, Clewiston, November 20.
Clewiston Garden Club, November 20.
Annual Meeting, Florida Academy of Sciences, Tallahassee, November 21.

The superintendent was reelected a director of the Tropical Florida Audubon Society and was elected to membership in the Florida Anthropological Society.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Report 162

Supplementary monthly Travelers Report for the month of November 1937
for
Everglades National Park.

November 12, 1937

Weather Conditions.

Temperatures for November ranged from a high of 91 degrees F. to a low of 64 degrees F. in the protected area. This was about average.

Rainfall continued slightly above normal with 5.75 inches against a 4.25 inch average. But, the actual rainy season has definitely broken. Flood waters from Okeechobee, Kissimmee Springs, and Fisheb have begun to move back during the month and relatively few areas remained inundated by the end of November. Surface water levels in the rain, however, continued high. This was in part traceable to mosquito dikes and obstruction or debris from under Tamiami Trail bridges. On dikes protected most canals either and contained the waters in the Everglades basin where fire flow in the park was obstructed by debris clearance.

Glade fishers near the park were able to get to their camps at Everglades and Pavey, but it was still possible to travel easily by airboat to all economic camps except Pine Island.

Special Activities.

The superintendent, as director for the Conservation Definition (Museum C) had to spend a great deal of time in Miami preparations for the event.

Talks were given by the superintendent at:

Miami and Miami Club, Miami, November 10.
Hialeah Garden Club, November 12.
Dental Society, Public Health Conference,
Hollywood, November 12.

The superintendent was registrar a director of the Tropical Florida Museum Society, and was elected to membership in the Florida Audubon Society.

INSPECTIONS

Regional Architect Higgins and Engineer Sweeny, November 3-6.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Remodeling of the temporary headquarters in the Redlands Chamber of Commerce Building at Homestead was completed.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

The City of Miami Publicity Department sent out approximately 300 park pictures on request during November to newspapers and magazines.

As the dedication drew near, especially upon White House announcement of the President's acceptance, publicity reached a crescendo in Florida newspapers that could not be detailed here.

A book entitled "The Everglades, River of Grass" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, was published by Rinehart.

COMPLAINTS

The House Fish Company of Flamingo, several sports fishermen, and the National Audubon Society complained about the condition of the Cape Sable road. Service representatives pointed out that the government does not yet own the road and public funds cannot be expended. The superintendent talked with County Commissioner Preston P. Bird who promised a few loads of gravel later.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Fish and Wildlife Service had one man at Florida Bay during November. Mr. M. B. Parker, formerly of that agency, joined this Service and had not been replaced by Fish and Wildlife Service during November.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Dropping water levels coupled with the approach of nesting season caused an increased concentration of herons, ibises, and related birds in the Cape Sable region, headwaters of west coast rivers, and nearby areas. Approximately 15,000 snowy egrets and other "wading birds" had stabilized in a roost at Coot Bay.

East River Rookery had not formed, but an ever growing number of anhingas indicated it would develop on schedule in mid or late December. Cuthbert Lake rookery was "white with birds" all month. No nesting was recorded there in November though.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

White pelicans at Cape Sable increased to 200. The waterfowl population grew as northern species such as baldpates, pintail, lesser scaup, and coots moved in. There was a noticeable decrease in blue-winged teal. Shorebirds had not yet arrived in numbers.

The always astounding display of birdlife along the Cape Sable flats was reaching its peak near the end of November. It will gradually diminish in late December as fresh water drains off and salt water becomes dominant via the canals which will presumably be plugged by this time next year.

The most interesting phenomenon continues to be the increase of alligators.

VISITORS

John H. Baker, President of National Audubon Society, November 7.

RANGER SERVICE

Rangers manned the Coot Bay property all month and the Paradise Key property each weekend. A special airboat patrol was run from the Tamiami Trail to Shark River headwaters.

Edward Stephanic, Park Ranger from Blue Ridge Parkway, entered on duty.

POLICE PROTECTION

High waters permitted frog hunters in airboats to cover the entire area between the Tamiami Trail and the Cape Sable road. About eighteen boats continued to operate in the park at the end of the month. Ranger personnel are not yet equipped to completely stop this.

Empty shells and bird feathers strewn on the ground indicated white ibises and other birds were killed at Catfish Key rookery, Paradise Key, Flamingo, and East Cape Canal.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

The Director (5)
cc: Regional Director, Region One (2)

UNITED STATES

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 1947 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report for the Month of December 1947

For

Everglades National Park

January 2, 1948

INTRODUCTION

On December 6, the President of the United States, Secretary of the Interior, Director of the National Park Service, and others participated in the dedication of the Everglades National Park at the town of Everglades in Collier County.

On December 5, a ceremony was held at Florida City on the occasion of the issuance of a new 3-cent stamp honoring the park. First day cancellations ran to 466,647 and 802,500 stamps were sold amounting to $24,075. It was gleefully reported in Florida newspapers shortly afterwards that the postmaster at Santa Monica, California had to exchange Everglades stamps for "regular" ones when beseiged by irate customers who had been sold the Everglades stamps.

For the record, the original and four copies of this report contain a dedication supplement with photographs and other material relating to the twin events.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Rainfall for December was approximately normal with 1.45 inches (1.21 inches is 17 year average) in the Homestead region. Glades lands were drying out and fire hazard increased. Much of the park area was still and under water though. Lake Okeechobee water levels remained abnormally high and all canals leading out of the lake continued to discharge flood waters to maximum capacities.

Temperatures ranged from a low of 36°F to a high of 86°F. The cold spell lasted four days. Mean temperatures for December were 68.15°F. This was about normal although cold spells do not usually occur until after the first of the year.

PERSONNEL

Loretta Bothe, Clerk Stenographer resigned from the Service to live in Coral Gables. Miss Bothe had been employed only a few months at Everglades, coming as a displaced career employee from Cleveland. At the end of the month, the park was without stenographic help.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

During December, the superintendent:

1. Gave a talk on Service objectives and history at the Everglades Community Church (December 7)
2. Attended an informal luncheon meeting with Secretary Krug in Miami (December 10)
3. Attended a meeting of the Florida City council to answer charges that the park entrance had already been decided on at Homestead (December 15)
4. Attended the annual Board of Directors meeting of the Tropical Audubon Society (December 16)

Members of the park staff were hosts for a fire law enforcement school held at park headquarters December 16-17 by the Florida Forest and Park Service.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Park personnel drew up a scheme for early use of the area and a plan for the development of a Coot Bay Ranger and Boat Station. These were submitted to the Regional Director as information for a conference with the Secretary.

Park personnel made a field survey of the Lodge area at Paradise Key (formerly Royal Palm State Park).

COMPLAINTS

Complaints continued on the condition of the Cape Sable road. As it is not yet federally owned, we explained the fact to those wishing immediate action. The National Audubon Society wrote to Governor Caldwell about the road and were assured that the State will do something in January.

A complaint was also received from Mr. Chas. Fuchs of the Shark River Fishing Camp (Coot Bay property) concerning use of the grounds by charter-boatman. We referred the boatman to Mr. Fuchs explaining that until the property is purchased by the government, we can do nothing except try to protect it from vandals. The boatman decided to tie up in the canal and claims he can use Fuch's cut to Coot Bay.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

The Florida State Highway Department mowed road shoulders for fire hazard reduction from Florida City to and including Paradise Key in the park.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The National Audubon Society ran one-day Audubon Tours into the park twice each week until the last week of the month. These averaged six persons per trip. If they can get permission to use Coot Bay property from the owner, Chas. Fuchs, two-day trips will start in January.

STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

The Supreme Court of the State of Florida unanimously upheld the opinion of the lower court that State Treasurer Larson acted legally in preparing a check for $2 million for the United States to purchase private lands in this park. Attorney General Watson brought the suit.

Dade County voters authorized the creation of a water conservation district north of the Tamiami Trail. This has always been endorsed by Service representatives as it will provide for the protection of the vital Everglades Basin watershed north of the park.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was reported forming on schedule in mid-December. East River Rookery had not formed at that time (last observation) and is considered a little late. The situation at Shark River is not known. The largest concentrations of birds continued to be the Cape Sable flats and around the temporary Coot Bay Ranger Station.

Wintering waterfowl were still far below normal with coots, baldpates, pintails, Florida ducks (resident), bluewinged teal, and redbreasted mergansers especially noticed. The coot population has decreased markedly in the past three years.

Noteworthy observations were:

A light phase short-tailed hawk over Coot Bay, December 18
A pair of Florida cranes 16 miles sw of Paradise Key, Dec. 19
Two to five mature roseate spoonbills at Coot Bay all month.
Three scissor-tailed flycatchers at Tamiami Trail, Dec. 20.

Park Ranger Willard Dilley completed a preliminary check list of birds for the park from published data. This is now being set up in cardex files.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Park dedication ceremonies so stimulated travel that it was necessary to post park rangers at Paradise Key for public contact work every weekend. No definite counts have yet been possible, but rangers estimated 200 persons each weekend. This increased towards the end of the month to about 300 as winter tourist season got underway.

RANGER SERVICE

Ranger patrol was limited to land areas because of lack of any floating equipment. None of the Cape Sable- West Coast area of the park has yet been reached by rangers. The Coot Bay property was manned all month. One trip was made to Flamingo by outboard.

The Governor of the State of Florida

and the

Everglades National Park Commission

invite you to attend the

Dedication of the

Everglades National Park

in the

State of Florida

at Everglades

two o'clock in the afternoon

Saturday, December sixth

Nineteen hundred and forty-seven

PROGRAM

DEDICATION OF THE

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

AT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA,

AS THE 28TH NATIONAL PARK

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 6, 1947

at 2:00 P. M.

Program

John D. Pennekamp, Presiding

INVOCATION . . . . . *Deaconess Harriett Bedell*

SELECTION . . . . . *Fort Myers High School Band*

INTRODUCING ERNEST F. COE
and OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS . . . . . *August Burghard*

PRESENTATION OF ROYAL PALM STATE PARK PLAQUE
Mrs. W. S. Jennings and Mrs. L. J. McCaffrey to Mr. Newton P. Drury

SELECTION . . . . . *Fort Myers High School Band*

REMARKS . . . . . *Senator Claude Pepper*

REMARKS . . . . . *Senator Spessard L. Holland*

PRESENTATION OF AREA TO NATION . . *Governor Millard F. Caldwell*

DEDICATION . . . . . *Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug*

ADDRESS . . . . . *The President of the United States*

BENEDICTION . . . . . *Rev. E. A. Finn*

STAR SPANGLED BANNER . . . . . *Fort Myers High School Band*

Wah Nese Red Rock, Soloist

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION

August Burghard, Chairman
Martin Andersen
Karl Bickel
Gen. Albert H. Blanding
Carl Brorein
Harold Colee
D. Graham Copeland
Mrs. Joseph L. Gray
Joe Hall
Carl Hanton
Fayette Holland
Mrs. W. S. Jennings
A. Cliff Johnson
J. Kennard Johnson
Dr. E. C. Lunsford
Mrs. Gillen McClure
A. B. Michael
Mrs. T. V. Moore
John D. Pennekamp
Richard D. Pope
Nelson P. Poynter
Norberg Thompson
Leonard K. Thomson
G. G. Ware

Gilbert Leach
Managing Director

McGregor Smith
Dedication Chairman

Will M. Preston
Commission Attorney

Presidential Luncheon Invitation- 65 people

SEAT ON SPEAKERS' STAND

This card entitles you to occupy a seat on the Speakers' Stand at the Dedication of the Everglades National Park, December 6, 1947
Present this card in time to be seated by 1:45 p.m.

Speakers Platform-- 100 people

DEDICATION BARBECUE

Everglades, Florida, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

December 6, 1947

*Guest*_____

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION

Please Sign before Presenting

RESERVED SEAT

This card entitles you to one Reserved Seat

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DEDICATION

December 6, 1947

Please occupy same by 1:45 p.m.

Barbacue (fish fry) and Reserved Seats - 2,500 issued

Everglades National Park Dedication
December 6, 1947 - Guest Parking Area

CAR STICKER
Used for handling special traffic. Blue for President luncheon-yellow for Fish Fry guests

PROGRAM

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

NEW 3-CENT STAMP HONORING
THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

9:30 A. M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1947

FLORIDA CITY, FLA.

INVOCATION

Given by Deaconess Harriet Bedell, Glades Cross Mission of Everglades, Fla. Deaconess Bedell was missionary to the Indians in Alaska before coming to Florida as Episcopal missionary to the Seminoles.

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"Almighty God Whose never failing Providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth, we praise Thee and thank Thee for Thy gifts of the wonders and the beauties of nature-- that Thou hast into the hearts of man to preserve some of the beautiful places on earth-- beautiful birds, and animals, and rare plants--- that through man's selfishness and commercial greed they may not become extinct.

"Bless we pray Thee this park we are dedicating today. May it be a haven not only for wild life but where we may find the beauties and peace of nature-- where we may go apart from the hurry and anxieties of this life. We specially thank Thee for the privilege of having our President with us today.

"Give grace and wisdom, we pray Thee, to those who are furthering the ideals of this park that it may continue to be a place of joy and pleasure.

"May all who visit this vast and beautiful park be drawn nearer to God and get a glimpse of His peace and Majesty amidst the changing social order of today.

"We ask it through Him Who brought peace and goodwill into the world at the first Christmas time, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour"

- - - - - - - - -

REMARKS
By
Senator Claude Pepper

"Amidst these scenes of enchanting interest today the President of the United States and the Governor of Florida rededicate to nature and to the people, this vast half a million acres which has ever been nature's majestic own.

"Hereafter and for all time it belongs only to nature, to nature's God, and to the American people. For today this primeval expanse, containing vast areas where white man has never set foot, becomes the twenty-eighth national park-- the Everglades National Park.

"It will be the only such tropical park in all the land. Here more than 1,000,000 visitors will soon come each year to enjoy this marvelous museum of nature.

"They will see the crocodile, the giant manatee, the alligator, the white-tailed deer, and 700 varieties of aquatic creatures. They will see the white egret and the roseate spoonbill, the wood ibis, the flamingo, the heron.

"Too, they will see the world's tallest mangrove trees and 14 miles of virgin beaches; a constellation of sparkling lakes, streams, bays, and inaccessible swamps in this river of grass-- the Everglades.

"We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to the President of the United States, not only for the great and strong interest in this project but for the immeasurable compliment of his personal appearance here today; to the Secretary of the Interior, to the National Park Service, and to the Governor and his cabinet and the Legislature of Florida; to others too numerous to mention whose determined and untiring services have brought at long last to the people of this State and this country, this tropical monument to nature.

"And now to the people's Federal Government and to the National Park Service we happily commit the protection and care of this rare and beauteous treasure for the health and happiness of all the American people.

"May it long be a comforting refuge to those who seek inspiration and satisfaction at the shrine of nature."

REMARKS
By
Senator Spessard L. Holland

"President Truman, Governor Caldwell, Secretary Krug, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"The presence here of the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior to dedicate the Everglades National Park shows clearly the importance which the Federal Government gives to this newest of National Parks-- the Nation's only sub-tropical park. Mr. President and Mr. Secretary, the thousands of Floridians, both official and private citizens, who have, through the years, worked together to make possible the grants of State land and State money by which the creation of this Park was made possible are deeply grateful to you for your untiringnaffort unfailing interest and assistnce, as well as for your coming here today.

"Aside from the public and civic agencies which have functioned so effectively in Florida in the long effort to create a great National Park, I feel that this is the appropriate time to call public attention, with gratitude, to the big parts played by two great organizations, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Audubon Society. The Club Women acquired, 31 years ago, the Royal Palm Hammock and preserved it against the de'ruction which occurred in most of our other stands of native royal palms. As a result the Royal Palm Hammock, recently deeded to the Federal Government, has become part of the park, bringing to the park the most majestic Royal Palms in our nation along with many other native, sub tropical trees.

"The Audubon Society supplied the supervision, the equipment, and the Wardens by whose efforts, beginning in 1901, many species of the incomperable bird, animal, and fish life of the Park region were safeguarded and, in some instances, saved from extinction. The thousands of Florida Club Women and the tens of thousands of Audubon members throughout the Nation have every right to feel happy today that their devoted efforts have borne such good fruit.

"I sincerely hope that the National Park Service which now begins its patient labor of years to safeguard this immense wilderness at the same time make it subject to visitation and enjoyment by millions of citizens will have the continuing ardent support of these two great organizations as well as the sympathetic interest and backing of lovers of nature everywhere and of the entire American public."

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

January, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures for January were about average. There were two cold spells accompanied by strong northerly winds (known locally as "northers). On January 15 the temperature dropped to 35°F. High for the month was 87°F.

Rainfall continued to be unusually high with 3.70 inches in the Homestead area which was 2.15 inches above the ten year average. The Tamiami Canal was filled to the brim all month, but not overflowing as in the past few months. Behind the Dade-Broward temporary levee, some inundation continued north of the Trail.

Surface water remained in many parts of the park south of Township line 58-59S and along the main Everglades drainage channels. In other areas, the water table was so high that showers brought temporary, widespread innundation. Cape Sable flats were drying up rapidly all month though.

Clear, fresh water continued to flow through Tarpon Bay and down the Shark and Harney Rivers. Last year at this time the waters at Little Banana Patch near the headwaters of the Shark were extremely salty and a dirty brown color. Salt intrusion in canals was much less than last year. On January 8, 1948 chloride ppm in the Ingraham Canal was 575 at 19 miles sw of Paradise Key, 54 at 16.1 miles, and 15 at 4.1 miles.

Unless almost drought conditions prevail from now until June, the normal rainfall of the rainy season will repeat, to an extent, the floods of last fall which have not yet fully subsided.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

During January, the Superintendent:

1. Gave a talk on park objective to Redlands Garden Club
2. Attended a meeting of the Everglades National Park Commission
3. Attended a meeting of the South Dade County Water Control Committee
4. Gave a talk on the park at the Civitan Club in Miami
5. Gave a talk on park bird life to the Tropical Florida Audubon Society, N. Miami Womans' Club.

Park Ranger Dilley participated in the annual waterfowl inventory Jan. 10.

INSPECTIONS

C. R. Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments---January 19
William O'Neil, Regional Engineer, Ralph Emerson, Regional Chief of Planning---January 16-19.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

The February issue of the National Geoggraphic Magazine carried an article "Haunting Heart of the Everglades" by Brown and Culver.

"Parade" a syndicated Sunday newspaper supplement had a brief story on the park January 11.

National Parks Magazine carried two articles: "The South Florida Situation Today" by Delois Culver and "The Everglades National Park Dedication" by Gilbert Leach.

The "Arkansas Gazette" published a squib under the heading, "Nope, Not Yet" which said: "When President Truman dedicated the Everglades National Park, 100 Seminoles showed up to see if anyone really wanted to give the country back to them."

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Dade County began work on the Cape Sable road during the month and had it in excellent shape to West Lake.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Audobon Tours (two-day) started on January 14.

PERSONNEL

The park remained without services of a stenographer all month. Office work had to be confined to the most important correspondence and reports.

RANGER SERVICE

Chief Ranger Earl Semingsen arrived January 13, promptly found a house, redecorated it, and reported for duty January 29.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

East River Rookery failed during January from unknown causes. This famous rookery usually forms in December, but was late this year and settled down with only about 3,000 birds by January 7. Shortly afterwards, rookery desertation began to occur and by the end of the month there were no birds left in the area.

Service personnel went up and camped near the rookery as soon as the situation was known, but observations failed to disclose the reason for the desertion. Although black vultures were present especially towards the end, rangers did not believe they were the determining factor.

The entire biolic picture in the park this winter is unusual and attributable, in part at least, to high water conditions. Shark River rookery had not begun to form by the end of the month and there were no pre-nesting concentrations of white ibises observed. The American egret roost at Tarpon Bay held very few birds.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was in excellent shape with young of the year ready to leave nests. For the first time, this crowded rookery has spread off Rookery Island to the mangroves along the shore of the lake.

Bird concentrations were at Cape Sable Flats (egrets, heron, shorebirds, white pelicans), Garfield Bight (egrets, herons, shorebirds, spoonbills) and Coot Bay Pond.

A herd of approximately 20 manatees was flushed from favorite feeding grounds at the mouth of Lane River (eastern Whitewater Bay) on January 29. This was a former manatee hunting area and the big mammals were once very rare at the location. An unusually fine observation was made at Avocado Creek in upper Shark River of a manatee cow and calf the same day. The calf was about four feet long. Nearby was a second adult, very large and possibly the bull.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Burnie Campbell, Chief Ranger from Blue Ridge Parkway stayed at Royal Palm Lodge part of the month.
Mrs. Paul Moore, Director of National Audubon Society and Mrs. Crowenshield of Boca Grande and Marblehead were taken to Cuthbert Lake Rookery during the month.
Mrs and Mrs. Devereux Butcher, Executive Secretary ofNational Parks Association arrived the latter part of the month.

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Page

WEATHER CONDITIONS

South Florida's weather was at its vaunted best in February with mean temperature at 71 degrees F. High for the month at Homestead was 90 degrees F. and the low was 43 degrees F. These were all a little higher than the ten year average.

Rainfall was deficient for the first time in many months at .24 inches. The average is 1.60 inches. Pinelands were dry and Everglades prairies were fast drying out. Inundation of glades lands, although not widespread, remained greater than during February of 1947.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent attended United States Engineers' hearings in Miami on February 2. The public hearings dealt with the proposed water conservation plan for South and Central Florida.

INSPECTIONS

William O'Neil, Regional Engineer, February 3
Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director, February 20-23
Donald Lee, Assistant Chief Counsel and James M. Siler, Chief of Real Estate Section, both of Washington, February 27

INVESTIGATIONS OF NEW PARK AREAS OR BOUNDARY CHANGES

With Regional Director Allen, the Superintendent conferred with Miles Collier of the Collier Corporation at Everglades relative to Collier County lands.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

The Wilkinson property at Coot Bay was acquired by purchase during the month and turned over to the Service for administration.

A brief meeting was held in the office of L.M. Gray, Project Manager of Land Acquisition Office in which a purchase priority for private holdings was agreed upon by Major Gray, Donald Lee, and the Superintendent.

Rangers investigated construction work started on private lands at Cape Sable by Dr. E.C. Lunsford. It was found that the airstrip is being lengthened 400' by bulldozing through hammock growth. A substantial pier is being built into the Gulf. Dr. Lunsford was contacted and claimed the developments would in no way increase values. The matter was turned over to the Land Acquisition Office.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

The first Project Construction Program was compiled during the month in cooperation with the Regional Office. A Project Proposal for temporary road repairs at Coot Bay was completed.

Studies were started on construction costs and preliminary recommendations on site were made for the proposed Royal Palm Ranger Station at Paradise Key.

A scheme for more advantageous use of Coot Bay facilities by the public was presented to the Regional Director.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

Representatives of all leading newsreel companies spent seven hours by blimp over the park and followed up with a boat trip to Cuthbert Lake Rookery.

The Redlands Fruit Festival in Homestead featured a pageant called "Echoes of the Everglades" every evening of February 20-28. The local history of the park was depicted as well as a brief history of the twenty-seven other national parks. Approximately 4,000 people attended.

The Homestead "Leader "Enterprise" carried a full page article on February 27.

Mr. Ernest F. Coe was elected "Dade County leading citizen of the year" because of his work in connection with the founding of this park.

COMPLAINTS

Devereux Butcher of the National Parks Association made official complaints to Governor Caldwell and Secretary Krug on the condition of the Cape Sable road on behest of the National Audubon Society. We explained later why road improvement would hamper the land acquisition program and advised the Governor.

Commercial fishermen in the park and nearby complained that large companies are coming in with heavy drag seines at Florida Bay. This heavy equipment is, they claim, gutting the area, and is illegal. Service personnel took it up with local State Conservation Agents and newspapers. The area is outside the immediate park. No action had been taken by the end of February.

Complaints from various sources continued on the following: Lack of information booklets or interpretive service, no entrance or boundary signs, deer and alligator hunting along the west coast rivers. These complaints were answered by reference to private lands status, the fact that the area is still new and all equipment has not been assembled.

COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The local staff of the U.S. Border Patrol called at the office to offer cooperation and outline their activities in the vicinity.

Howard Miller, Regional Refuge Supervisor for Fish and Wildlife Service and Refuge Manager Gerald Baker called at the office. It was learned that the

Fish and Wildlife Service is moving from Coconut Grove to Ft. Lauderdale. One patrolman remains in this section of the state -- Florida Bay.

Mr. L.H. Greer, Chief of the Dade County Fire Patrol spent several days in the field with the Chief Ranger to discuss fire control and lines of cooperation.

The Chief Ranger participated in conferences with the U.S. District Attorney and U.S. Commissioner to pave the way for law enforcement cooperation.

COOPERATIVE NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

National Audubon Society 2-day tours continued all month. All tours were booked to capacity and many were turned away.

Grey Line Tours (Greyhound) averaged 20 people per tour twice each week to Paradise Key.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

The East River Rookery which started late then "blew up" (January report) has now re-formed and is in excellent condition. White ibises are the dominant species. Service personnel only are being permitted in the area. The Cuthbert Lake Rookery remains in good shape and there is some evidence that wood ibises are re-nesting. No rookery has formed in Shark River yet. Many boats have been in the area this winter and Service patrol has not yet been extended there.

Fish and wildlife reports indicate another year of roseate spoonbill increase and extension of range to other keys in Florida Bay.

Everglades black bears were reported by State Conservation Officers at Tarpon Bay and Grossman's Hammock. The latter area is about one mile outside the eastern park boundary (Sect. 5, T. 55, S.R. 38 E.)

Kingfish and mackeral school moved northward along the Gulf Coast to the Lostmans River area during the month. The fishing fleets are following them northward. Mullet season reopened and catches up to 4,000 pounds in 2 days were taken out of Flamingo.

Migratory birds which normally winter south of the United States began funneling through the Cape Sable region in February. Large warbler migrations were especially noted.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

After getting off to a bad start in so called "black December" the winter tourist season in southern Florida reached its peak in February. Chambers of Commerce found that the free spending spree is over, but the numbers of visitors has held at a high level. Of special interest is the continuation of the boom on the Florida Keys. Building activity and tourist trade along the Keys indicated that the area is fast becoming one of the major recreational spots in the State. Much land within the 1934 maximum park boundary on Key Largo is now being developed or purchased by large development corporations.

Rangers estimated an average of 400 persons in the park each Sunday.

VISITORS

Devereaux Butcher, Executive Secretary, National Parks Association
John Hinternheff, Editor, Philadelphia Inquirer
H. Ruth Geissen, Photographer of national parks
Dr. Eghart, Research Botanist, U. of Conn.
Mrs. L.J. McCaffrey, President, Florida Federation of Women's Clubs
Mrs. Marjory Stoneman Douglas, author of book, "The Everglades"

RANGER SERVICE

Rangers were scheduled on regular tours of duty to give 7-day coverage of Coot Bay Ranger Station and weekend coverage of the Paradise Key area.

The Chief Ranger made a patrol trip from Tamiami Trail to Lostmans River by Glades Buggy. Boat patrols were carried on only by storm boat and outboard.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Hazardous conditions existed in pinelands all month and Everglades grasses and sedges were curing and reaching extreme conditions throughout the northern two thirds of the park by the end of February.

On February 8, a 5-acre grass fire was suppressed at Flamingo.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Pauline Bradley of Homestead entered on duty as Clerk-Stenographer on February 12.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

March, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Everglades dried out in March much quicker than had been anticipated. Only .18 inches of rainfall occurred at Homestead against a 2.41 average. This was the lowest since before 1931. Fresh and sometimes strong warm winds were prevalent and evaporation was consequently excessive. The slough east of Paradise Key ceased to flow and has dropped an estimated 5 feet since last October. A local rain of March 21, fell at Paradise Key.

Salt intrusion naturally followed with March 19 showing 5,180 p.p.m. 19 miles southwest of Paradise Key in the Ingraham Canal, 3,750 p.p.m. 12.7 miles and 12 p.p.m. at Paradise Key.

Mean temperature for March was 75 degrees F., highest was 92 degrees F., and lowest 51 degrees F., the temperatures were a little above average.

A cold front on March 4 - 6, brought a moderate southeast gale causing loss of three lives as noted under appropriate heading in this report.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent gave a talk at the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society and was elected to their Executive Board.

INSPECTIONS

Lawrence Cook and William Savage, foresters from the Director's Office and Region One Office, respectively, spent over a week in the park and environs going over fire protection problems in the field with Service personnel and cooperators. Their trip was very useful to the local staff as they confirmed several ideas and gave professional advice on others.

Chief Clerk Bahlman and Mr. Arthur Perkins of the Regional Office were also in the park for a first hand inspection of the office setup, area itself, concessions possibilities, and the mechanics of our new organization.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

The first Master Plan was completed by the Regional Office and submitted to the Director.

A plan for Dark Hammock Fire Tower was completed after field study.

Soundings were made of Coot Bay and Joe River during the month for preliminary information on development location studies.

MAINTENANCE

The debris and undergrowth in the vicinity of Royal Palm Ranger Station was cleaned out for the first time during the month. Huge quantities of exotic wandering jew were grubbed out.

CONCESSIONERS

Business Concession Permits for photography and selling pictures in the park were issued to Frank Gatteri of Tampa and Dan L. Meeker of Homestead.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

There were no signs of a Shark River Rookery during the month and it is now questionable whether this famous old rookery will form in 1948. Cuthbert Lake Rookery continued and is now well past maturity. Wood ibis, American egret, snowy egret, water turkey, Louisiana heron, and white ibis hatched in the East River Rookery during March. Many birds are still incubating there though.

Early in the month, there were large concentrations of ibises and egrets at Paradise Key, but loss of water caused most to leave later.

One new record, 20 avocets, was added to the park check list. They remained most of the month at Cuthbert Lake. Swallow-tailed kites appeared on schedule the first week of March at Cape Sable.

Alligators moved back to fresh water sloughs and lagoons. The old standbys at Coot Bay Pond were no longer seen. A six foot 'gator ran out of the bushes under the superintendent's car causing a near accident, but no harm was done to the new Buick, gator, or driver. Can it be we shall soon be putting up signs "Do not feed the alligators"?

Great numbers of bream died in the Tamiami Canal, near Paradise Key, along the Humble Oil Road ditch and in Shark River. Loss of water, concentration of fishes, salt infiltration, and decaying vegetation seem to have been the causes. Most fishes were "young of the year".

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Rangers on duty at Paradise Key and Coot Bay consulted for a very careful estimate on the number of visitors during the December-March winter season. Counts were made at numerous intervals and we were all a little surprised to come out at between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors for the 1948 winter season.

VISITORS

Irving C. Root, Superintendent of National Capital Parks .
L.A. Jones, Chief of Division of Drainage and Water Control, S.C.S.
Robert Fink, Illustrator of book, "The Everglades"
Ernest F. Coe, President of Everglades National Park Association.
Anthony Merrill, free lance photographer.
Dr. H.E. Williams, Marine biologist of University of Miami.
C.N. Grimshawe, authority on Liguus snails.
Dr. Frans Verdoon, Editor of Chronica Botanica.
Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, former chief U.S.F.W.S.
John D. Pennekamp, Editor, Miami "Herald"
Drs. Alexander and Miller of University of Miami Zoology Department.

RANGER SERVICE

Park Ranger Stephanic and his family settled at Royal Palm Lodge on Paradise Key, which is now known as Royal Palm Ranger Station. Except for a slight intrusion of rat snakes, Mr. Stephanic's move was uneventful.

Air patrols were made on several occasions and the value of such is now well established if handled in conjunction with boat patrols.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Fire hazard was extreme all month in pinelands and high in glades areas. Burning in nearby pine flatwoods caused danger to the park, but for the first time in the past decade at least, the Long Pine Key and Everglades country has not been subjected to a major conflagration by this time of the year. Press releases were issued urging fire protection, visitors were contacted on the point, and Service personnel were alerted. The results so far are gratifying.

ACCIDENTS

On March 5, a jockey named Al Snider, a horse trainer named Trotta, and a third man went fishing in an outboard skiff from the cabin cruiser Evelyn K between Sandy Key and Dildo Key. A moderate gale sprang up from southeast and they did not return to the cruiser.

The Coast Guard was reached by ship's radio and, with Naval Reserve pilots, set out on a systematic air search. Service personnel cooperated by boat from Coot Bay with radios loaned by the Coast Guard.

"Dead or alive" rewards ran up to $15,000 and everyone who owned an airboat a glades buggy, or a small plane joined the search from East Cape to Everglades. At its peak, about 300 persons were in the area - most of them armed to the teeth for "snakes, crocodiles, etc." An army unit set off on a much advertised search to "live off the land", but fortunately the living was not good and they never reached the park.

Snider's boat, or what was reputed to be his, was found washed ashore on Rabbit Key near Everglades. The three men were never found.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Net fishermen from Flamingo and Snake Bight were relatively inactive all month because of rough, muddy waters. Drag seines out of Tavernier and the west coast were in operation to some extent. State Conservation Officer Loftis put out from Flamingo to try to catch illegal drag netters, but they had apparently already been tipped off and the results were, as usual, negative. Wholesale fish houses of Flamingo, Tavernier, and Marathon had few fish to sell. Pompano were running fair off Sandy Key though.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT (Cont.)

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

April, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Recent Weather Bureau compilations have verified that the year of 1947 was the wettest on record with nearly 40% above average rainfall in the park area. The winter season for truck crops ended in April. It was generally a successful year and one of the warmest winters on record. Excessive winds, however, caused windburn losses of tomatoes and beans in the Homestead area. Frost Warning Service records show temperatures at night reached the forties at Paradise Key in the park eight times during the winter with 43.4°F. the absolute minimum (Jan. 16).

Everglades water conditions remained about the same as in March. There was a noticeable increase of surface water after a short rainy period, but it quickly fell off again. Salt water encroachment records were not made in the park by the U.S.G.S. in April.

Average temperatures were 74.8 degrees F., minimum was 53°F. and maximum 90°F. at Subtropical Experimental Station near Homestead. Rainfall continued below average with 2.57 inches against 3.02 average. Characteristic rainy season showers started late in the month, but it cleared off again. Rainy season cumulus clouds added much to the sunsets and the beauty of the "skycapes" in late April.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Talks were given by the superintendent at the Kiwanis Club of Ft. Myers and the Coral Gables Women's Club.

The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs held a small ceremony at Paradise Key to unveil a placque commemorating their gift of Royal Palm State Park to the Service.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Land Acquisition Office personnel continued field work in the park during the month. The village of Flamingo was surveyed and mapped. Inspections were made of Whitewater Bay tidal areas.

We were advised by Goodyear pilots that Model Land Company appraisers flew over the area in a blimp. Later in the month, Mr. C.K. Davis and Mr. Orr, the latter claiming to be an "economic forester," took soil samples in the Madeira Bay country.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Aerial reconnaissance was carried on by Ranger Dilley preliminary to ground studies on a possible trail from the old Gulf Oil well near West Lake to Cuthbert Lake. The thought is whether it will be possible to close Cuthbert to all boat sightseeing and have the only approach by foot.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

As the hotly contested gubernatorial campaign in Florida neared its crest, many references appeared in the newspapers against the park by candidate J. Tom Watson and for the park by John D. Pennekamp and his associates. Mr. Pennekamp spoke at Tampa, at the Federated Garden Clubs in Jacksonville, and several times in the Miami area. In response to one talk, the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Miami resolved to urge early development of the park by this Service.

MAINTENANCE

One of the cabins from the Wilkinson property was moved to Coot Bay Ranger Station as a storehouse. A second cabin was taken apart and stock piled for future use as a patrol cabin in the Shark River area.

Work was started on a walk from the road to Coot Bay Ranger Station dock for visitor use.

A much needed temporary entrance sign and several other signs were started.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Upon allotment of funds, work was started on a parking turnout at Coot Bay Ranger Station. With the approach of rainy season, the work was pushed ahead as rapidly as possible. By the end of the month all pit rock base material was in place and several loads of road rock had been hauled and spread.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

The State Highway Department began work on grading route 27 from Paradise Key east to park boundaries and let a surfacing contract for this area.

CONCESSIONS

A business concession permit for photography was submitted for Charles Ebbets of Miami.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Recommendations for a memorandum of understanding between the National Audubon Society and the Service for continuance of Audubon Wildlife Tours was submitted. The 2-day tours, twice each week to Cuthbert Lake continued all month.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Norville Shearer, Cadastral Engineer for Fish and Wildlife Service headed a field party on boundary survey and posting. The park and the wildlife refuge boundary were completely posted from highway U.S. #1 west and north to Ingraham Highway. Part of the west boundary of the wildlife refuge south of the Tamiami Trail (parallel to Dade-Monroe county lines) was also surveyed and posted.

Edward C. Griffin, state Federal Aid to wildlife deer and turkey survey man spent several days in the park.

James Loftis and William Freeman, State Conservation Officers (salt water) conferred with the superintendent and chief ranger concerning illegal netting in Florida Bay. Lines of cooperation were worked out with them.

STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

The Florida Supreme Court approved the state's donation of 7,680 acres of school lands to the government for Everglades National Park purposes. The opinion was unanimous. It ended the last lawsuit questioning the right of the state to share in creation of the park.

The ruling affirmed a Leon County Court order which dismissed an attack by Attorney General Tom Watson on the transfer.

Writing the court's opinion, Justice Glen Terrell said: "No single project in the state has been given more publicity than the creation of the Everglades National Park .....The integrity of the school fund has been rigidly observed, no constitutional mandate has been violated nor is there the slightest showing of lack of power of the legislature to engage in and participate in the project in the manner shown....."

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Park Ranger Stephanic took University of Miami students on two, botanical field trips during the month.

The park added equipment necessary for photographic work during the month. Park Ranger Dilley started cutting and splicing 16mm color movies of bird rookeries and added several hundred feet in the field.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

East River Rookery was larger during April than ever before in its "recorded history," certainly since 1940. Young white ibises, the last species to nest, were in flying stage, but some other birds of various species still had downy young. It would appear that this great rookery will continue to produce well into the summer.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery was beyond its peak. Water turkeys and Florida cormorants had ceased nesting and we think this rookery will be dead by the end of June. It produced an estimated 60% wood ibises, 20% American egrets, 10% snowy egrets, 10% other species.

Marbled godwits (6) at Snake Bight were added to the park check list.

Roseate spoonbills in Florida Bay completed nesting and there was a marked decrease in the birds there with a corresponding increase of past nuptial wanderers or migrants in the Cape Sable country.

Mahogany trees in the park had seed pods ready to burst during April. The trees in the park had dropped their leaves and obtained new growth and seeds well ahead of those in Miami. Royal Palms, in several instances were bearing seeds. Wright palms bloomed early in the month and seeds were show- later in April.

Ranger Stephanic verified reports of large mahogany trees in a hammock about two miles west of Ingraham Highway in Section 20, T 59 S., R. 35 E. The largest tree was 10 feet 2 inches in circumference breast high. Royal palms approximately 50 feet high also grew in this and neighboring hammocks.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Travel dropped off during April, but local weekend use of the park continued relatively high. A total of 2,000 visitors was estimated for the month at Royal Palm Ranger Station, 1350 at Coot Bay Ranger Station.

VISITORS

Nelson Paynter, editor of St. Petersburg Times and member of Everglades National Park Commission with Rube Allyn, Sports Editor, spent several days in the park.

W.H. Williams, Aquatic Biologist of U. of Miami continued plankton studies and reported favorably on ecological conditions in headwaters of Broad and Shark Rivers where the Service plans call for a connecting canal.

Edmund Shear, free lance outdoor writer and Charles Long, Florida Conservation officer, made a canoe trip from Everglades to Coot Bay in 10 days. They do not recommend it for the average canoeist. Among their interesting experiences was running unawares into a school of sawfish which nearly upset them.

RANGER SERVICE

Much of the ranger activity during April centered around the various projects at Coot Bay Ranger Station because "all hands" were needed to complete certain work before the rains start and the road once more becomes a quagmire.

Boat patrols on inland waters out of Coot Bay continued, but weather conditions prevented Service personnel from reaching north of Shark River. Our one small patrol boat cannot take the outside waters of the Gulf when waves are bad So, aircraft was used for this northern part of the park to check for fires and note the movements of boats.

POLICE PROTECTION

Airplane patrol for fires found a float plane in Middle Fox Lake which tried to escape detection and had to be chased down. Circumstantial evidence indicates they were alligator hunting, and the pilot was contacted. Information leads were tracked down to Ft. Myers, Everglades and other places. The U.S. District Attorney advised that there is still insufficient evidence for bringing the case to trial. Efforts are continuing with the help of Collier County sheriff Thorpe and State Wildlife officers. Considerable "stir" has been caused in local poaching circles by the investigations to date which have had a salutary effect. If radios had been set up in the park, the violators would have been caught in the act. They were able to get out and even return to clean up incriminating evidence before rangers reached the site.

Several persons were contacted along Ingraham Highway with firearms, however no actual shooting was noted. With early erection of temporary signs, this should be completely eliminated.

WILDLIFE AND FISH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

A full grown alligator from Southern Florida was sent to the Humane Society by a man in Virginia with instructions to "release it in its old Everglades home." He had raised it from a small 'gator. We released the reptile at Taylor River Slough east of Paradise Key where it remained all month with its seven fellows already there.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Fire hazard remained high all month. Three fires, all of which were classified as of incendiary origin burned approximately 777 acres within the park or near boundaries. In spite of this record, there were fewer acres burned in the area than ever before. By this time of the year with hazardous conditions as they have existed, most of Long Pine Key would have been burned and large areas of the open Everglades too. We have no statistics upon which to base comparisons, but personal observation indicates at least

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION (Continued)

a 75% reduction in acres burned this year from average.

New fire tools were put to work and valuable experience was gained in techniques of fighting both pineland and glades fires.

OIL EXPLORATION

The Gulf Oil Company installed a radar set at Cape Sable, another on the Florida Keys, and one at Key West. These are being used to track a plane with aerial magnetometer equipment which gives the general lines of magnetic force for rough mapping of subsurface strata. Murray L. Johnson, zone manager, stated that the technique will be used over a wide area in the state and nearby waters.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE MAY 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

May, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures and rainfall for May were approximately average. High temperature at Subtropical Experiment Station near Homestead was 93 degrees, low was 54 degrees, mean was 76.4 degrees. There was 4.11 inches of rainfall against a 4.59 average.

During the month, temperatures moved gradually upward causing increasing, personal discomfort especially when personnel had physical labor to do where no breeze was blowing. Rain was in the form of drenching cloudbursts sometimes accompanied by lightning - usually in restricted areas.

Water began coming back into the Everglades, but evaporation continued high. On May 12, chloride p.p.m. 19 miles from Paradise Key in Ingraham Canal was 14,000, 12 miles was 5,260, and at Paradise Key 16. Early in May, the South Dade Farm Labor Camp (about 5 miles east of Homestead) was abandoned because the wells turned to salt.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

During May the superintendent gave a radio talk on the park at a meeting of the State Chamber of Commerce. Talks were given at a meeting of Intermediate School teachers in Miami and the Redlands Art Club.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission was attended by the superintendent and Coordinating Superintendent Vinten of Southeastern National Monuments.

INSPECTIONS

Coordinating Superintendent Vinten and Assistant Superintendent Meanerhan of Southeastern National Monuments were at the park separately during May.

INVESTIGATIONS OF NEW PARK AREAS

A committee consisting of the superintendent, chief ranger, and Coordinating Superintendent Vinten studied the Fahkahatchee Slough and its unique royal palm forest in Collier County. The area had been proposed as a national monument or some other type of reservation.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

The parking area at Coot Bay Ranger Station was 90 per cent complete at the end of the month.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

The State Highway Department completed resurfacing Route 27 from Florida City to Paradise Key.

CONCESSIONERS

Dan L. Meeker, holder of photographic business concession permit, purchased a used cabin cruiser for his work and has it based at Coot Bay Ranger Station.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Everglades National Park Commission "filled the breach," by publishing an attractive information leaflet on the park.

Humpback Bridge fell down. After some frantic scrambling, we got the State Highway Department to fix it.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Audubon Tours closed in May and are prepared to reopen in June from Everglades to Duck Rock.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Botany:

Much of the wetter glades areas were brown with prominent saw-grass blooms and seeds all month for the first time since fires have been stopped. In pinelands, an attractive shrub, Tetrazygia bicolor, gave the same general aspect to the forest in several places as blooming mountain laurel or azalia in the north. Jamaica dogwood (Ichthyomenthia piscipula (L.) A.S. Hitchcock) trees were in full bloom early in May and, by the end of the month, seed pods had formed. Another small tree, the now quite rare custard apple, had both blossoms and fruit during the month.

Several orchids began flowering including Vanilla barbellata, Epidendrum tampense, and Oncidium floridanum.

A few months ago, it was difficult to navigate Rookery Branch, South Prong, or other Shark River headwaters because of masses of fresh water weeds. During May, all these streams were open (and salty) without any weeds at all.

A noteworthy ecological change is taking place in Shark River headwaters and Tarpon Bay. Areas of grasses and sedges along water edges are the best alligator habitats. In past years, these grassy areas were maintained by occasional burning by illegal hunters. Now the red mangroves are coming in "thicker than hair on a dog's back."

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Zoology

Cuthbert Lake rookery was down to not over 30 per cent of its peak population earlier in the year. East River rookery was also well past its peak. In upper Shark River (headwaters of Otter Creek) a white ibis rookery was found but not visited. Also in the same general locality (Rookery Branch) a small American egret rookery was noted for the first time this year although it was well past maturity.

Swallow-tailed kites seem more numerous in the park than last year and were found nesting at Long Pine Key. Florida turkeys are quite numerous in certain areas and had good hatches. The population is recovering from the ill effects of last year's flood.

Park Ranger Stephanic noted five otters crossing the road near West Lake.

Rains during May increased the flow of fresh water in canals and streams thereby relieving the remaining fish of the lethal effects of pool stagnation.

Along the upper west coast at Duck Rock (northwest of park boundary) the big white ibis-heron summer roost began to form. About 200 roseate spoonbills moved in to feeding areas near it. Dildo Key summer rookery in Florida Bay was reported underway on schedule. Cape Sable flats, were without fresh water and practically denuded of all bird life.

A shark (black-finned) judged to be nine feet long was seen feeding in Tarpon Bay.

Loggerhead turtles began nesting on beaches during the month. On May 13, the first nest was noted (robbed by raccoons).

VISITORS

During May, we were able to take certain people into the park, some for more than a day, who are interested in various aspects of our program. These included: Richard Danner, City Manager of Miami; Dewey Hilsabeck, chairman and LaMarr Johnson, Chief Engineer of Everglades Drainage District; Gilbert Leach, Managing Director of the Everglades National Park Commission; Doctors Alexander and Miller of the University of Miami Department of zoology; Kenneth Close and associates of Miami Bird Club; Augustus M. Houghton of the Camp Fire Club of America; Captain C.C. Van Paulson (orchids), formerly of U.S. Coast Guard; Luther Bunnel, Assistant Chief State Wildlife Officer, and Mont J. Baker, executive of the Redlands Chamber of Commerce.

RANGER SERVICE

With the acquisition of a new, 25 foot cabin cruiser, ranger personnel were able to start regular patrols of the west coast of the park for the first time.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Extreme hazardous conditions which existed during April were alleviated to an extent in May with fire danger no longer serious. Although pinelands were still quite dry, the glades areas were not. There was a marked drop in fires outside the park area during the month. No park fires were reported in May. Fire Equipment was stored and serviced. Fire cache was started.

BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

Soda acid extinguishers were put in order and, for the first time, distributed at headquarters, Coot Bay Ranger Station, and Royal Palm Ranger Station.

INSECTS AND TREE DISEASES

Whitefly infestation on red mangroves of upper Shark River and several other localities (usually near headwaters) was noticeably severe in May. The infestation is noted by a black appearance of leaves and mold from exudations of the insects. No defoliation was seen and the infestation might be entirely normal.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

June, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General Conditions

June was a hot month with mean maximum temperatures at 91.2 degrees which was about six degrees above the average. Mean minimum temperature at 68.6 degrees was exactly average.

Rainfall was deficient at 3.38 inches against a 9.18 ten year average; but this does not mean very much. Typical, rainy season squalls occurred all month. These, very local rains often miss a weather station by a mile or so while innundating the nearby areas.

Glades Water Situation

The situation in the Everglades was normal, or as nearly so as we can estimate in this somewhat erratic climate. During early May, storage decreased rapidly through evaporation and salt water advanced everywhere in uncontrolled canals. Later in May, and throughout June, the Everglades began to recharge and salt water was beginning to yield to the fresh.

Discharge of the Kissimmee River far to the north continued above average for the sixteenth consecutive month, but was being absorbed in Lake Okeechobee which had been purposely lowered to store rainy season waters. The Everglades Drainage District recently reported: "The situation as a whole is not unfavorable as the rainy season is approached. Dikes and drainage facilities have been somewhat improved during the past year and a well distributed, normal rainfall should not cause serious flooding again this year. The arterial canal system is working more efficiently than at any time for many years. The danger of flooding will be more from a concentration of heavy rainfall, rather than prolonged rainfall of normal intensity. The frequency of great rains in summer and fall is usually closely allied with the occurrence of hurricanes, the frequency of which has shown no discernible pattern."

A dike being built to contain the waters of the Glades from Krome Avenue at the Tamiami Trail north to Miami Canal was finished except for one mile by the end of June.

INSPECTIONS

Radio Engineer Rowley arrived late in the month from Washington to set up a radio communications system.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Base maps of the Paradise Key area were drawn up and sent to the Regional Office for studies on the Royal Palm Ranger Station proposal.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Coot Bay Ranger Station Parking Area was completed.

A radio tower (70') was set up by park personnel and City of Homestead crews at park headquarters.

CONCESSIONERS

Dan L. Meeker, photographer, operated his cabin cruiser taking pictures from Cape Sable to Tarpon Bay.

Frank Gatteri, photographer, apparently left town without forwarding address. We doubt if he will return.

COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

A meeting was held with Howard Miller, Regional Refuge Supervisor of the Fish and Wildlife Service and his local staff relative to radio communications. The Fish and Wildlife Service now has one man covering Florida Bay and a second stationed on the Humble Oil Road along the Tamiami Trail.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

National Audubon Society Wildlife Tours continued operation from Everglades to Duck Rock Roost all month.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

During the entire month of June, loggerhead turtles were nesting on the Cape Sable beaches. And, as soon as the big reptiles had laboriously laid their eggs and hidden the nests, the raccoons came to dig them out. Park Rangers estimated 90% egg loss, the Superintendent guessed it was even higher. When one realizes that loss of young turtles by predatory fish is normally high, some eggs are infertile, and if the turtle lives to be an adult its life is in constant jeopardy from fishermen it would seem that female turtles at Cape Sable are wasting a lot of time and effort.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

As usual in early summer, colonial nesting birds concentrated along the coasts. East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery were practically deserted. Duck Rock Roost (northwest of park) was the largest concentration point for birds in south Florida. Catfish Key Rookery and Oyster Keys Rookery, both in Florida Bay south of Flamingo, were underway. About 2,000 white ibises were nesting on Catfish Key with unestimated numbers of other species. Two-hundred fifty roseate spoonbills fed all month along East Cape Canal. Feeding grounds at Alligator and Fox Lakes were building up.

Ranger Stephanic met a park visitor who minutely described a "black" cougar south of Paradise Key. The description and subsequent questioning by Mr. Stephanic left little doubt as to the observation. Melanistic cougars are known to occur in south Florida.

Geiger trees (Cordia sebestena) were in startling bloom during June. Blossoms are a brilliant orange, about the size of a doubled fist. The trees are rare in the park and leaves are usually very badly chewed by insects. They are surprising trees to find and remind one of a royal poincianna a little past blooming.

VISITORS

Visitors for the month included:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Belton, cowboy photographer of Wyoming.
Miss Virginia Ayers of the Director's Office.
Mr. and Mrs. August Burghard, Everglades National Park Commission.

RANGER SERVICE

The park protective force was reduced during the month when one ranger took annual leave, a second man was on sick leave, and Park Ranger Erwin Winte lost his wife and had to take leave.

A boat patrol was made through the entire west coast country from Shark River to Everglades. Residents of Lostmans River were contacted for the first time and given information on park rules and regulations. All back country that could be reached by cabin cruiser or skiff was thoroughly covered.

The Chief Ranger spent the latter part of the month installing a radio tower at headquarters.

POLICE PROTECTION

Catfish Key Rookery in Florida Bay was shot up, presumably by commercial fishermen from Flamingo. No dead birds were found of course, but empty cartridges and the "spooky" actions of birds were ample evidence.

Alligator hunting along the upper west coast and deer hunting from airboats was reported by state wildlife officers.

Late in the night of June 21, park personnel on patrol of Cape Sable beaches encountered a party of men from Flamingo out to turn turtles on the shore. There were seven in the group led by Joe Douthert and Coleman Erwin. Douthert carried a rifle and, according to Park Ranger Dilley's report, "his every action was just about as far as he could go without pointing the gun at me." Maintenancemen "Barney" Parker, with a 30-30 in the background had a discouraging effect. The Flamingoites got back in their boats and went home.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Fire hazard increased during early June because rains were localized and the evaporation rate was high. No fires were reported in the park, but there was a flurry of pineland fires in the Redlands District, to the east of the park.

BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

There is one less house in Flamingo since a dwelling belonging to Loren Roberts went up in flames near the end of the month.

ACCIDENTS

William Brown's boat "Doug" blew up in Chockoloskee Bay when Mr. Brown was bringing in a load of live shrimp from Cape Sable. Mr. Brown was badly burned and died later at the Everglades hospital.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Acting upon suggestion of the Chief Ranger, Gene Hamilton and others at Lostmans River forcefully asked a drag net outfit to refrain from beginning activities along the west coast of the park. The drag netters left. But in Florida Bay, according to reports, the Santini crew from Tavernier hauled eight miles of net catching 30,000 pounds of trout, plus many other fishes which were discarded.

COMMERCIAL FISHING (Continued)

Live shrimp from New Smyrna began to flood the bait market in June causing shrimpers in the park to lose their market, temporarily at least.

A drag netter who was headed for Whitewater Bay was discouraged and did not come into the park after all.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE JULY 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

July, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

As usual, July was hot, humid, and uncomfortable. Rain fell in drenching, local squalls. There was generally very little wind. The maximum temperature at Homestead was 93 degrees, although "unrecorded" readings at Coot Bay Ranger Station reached 102 degrees. The minimum temperature was 69 degrees. Early morning excess humidity made it extremely hot from sunup. Rainfall was about average with 9.05 inches at headquarters, less at Coot Bay. The road from County Line (Humpback Bridge) to Flamingo dissolved into a sea of mud several times during the month.

Glades Conditions

Fresh water increased everywhere during July accompanied by marked recession of salt except during high spring tides. Many parts of the Everglades were inundated all month. Insect pests increased with the rainy season.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The superintendent gave a talk to the Professional Womans Club of south Dade County on cooperation of the community with the park.

The park naturalist talked before South Miami Men's Brotherhood on the park and the aims of the Service.

INSPECTIONS

Under Secretary and Mrs. Oscar Chapman.
Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, Member of Advisory Board.
V.E. Rowley, Radio Engineer from Director's Office.

COMPLAINTS

Commercial fishermen from Andrew's Fish Company at Flamingo entered a complaint against drag netting in Florida Bay. They were told the Service has no present jurisdiction.

Homer Rhodes, Jr., former State Conservation Officer, and professional fly fisherman guide complained of commercial fishing for snook in park waters which is destroying sport fishing. We discussed special regulation proposals with him and he offered support for them.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Radio towers were erected at Coot Bay Ranger Station, 70 ft., and on top of the ranger quarters at Royal Palm Ranger Station, 55 ft. The Chief Ranger spent the entire month, and other personnel part of the month, assisting V.E. Rowley, radio engineer from the Director's Office. Work was slow through lack of advance planning on parts and materials necessitating much higher costs and longer working time than originally contemplated.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

"Mable", the venerable manatee of Pearl Bay near East River Rookery, was seen with a half-grown calf. When separated from her offspring by the Service patrol cruiser, "Mable" got excited and hurled her ungainly bulk clear of the water, landing with a tremendous "belly-whopper." "Mable" is no diving champion, but her behavior was at least quite unusual for a manatee. Only a manatee could show that much concern for another manatee!

Fruiting cocoplums along the Old Ingraham Highway drew feeding raccoons during July.

Catfish Key Rookery and Oyster Keys Rookery, both in Florida Bay south of Flamingo, were beyond their peaks in late July with many young birds at flying stage - Louisiana heron, snowy egrets, Florida cormorants, eastern brown pelicans, and white ibises. These two summer rookeries are not in a healthy condition. With better protection and an improved feeding area at Cape Sable Flats, they should eventually build up both as rookeries and roosts.

Duck Rock Roost (beyond park boundaries) continued to be a superb, bird spectacle. The number of birds this year is about average, (white ibis predominant with snowy egrets, Louisiana herons, little blue herons, roseate spoonbills, yellow-crowned night herons, black-crowned night herons, and man-o'-war-birds). A marked increase of white ibises cannot be reconciled with the hatch from known rookeries.

A new roost of American egrets was discovered on a key in Rodgers River Bay. The roost in Oyster Bay contained several thousand birds all month. Feeding grounds at Cape Sable Flats were building up rapidly in late July.

Eastern glossy ibises were seen near the headwaters of Broad River, an unusual but not unprecedented summer observation.

VISITORS

Frank W. Rasor, State Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service.
Dr. George Ruhle, Director, Sub-tropical Experimental Station.
Nixon Smiley, Agricultural Editor, Miami "Herald".
D. James B. McFarlien, Former CCC, NPS, botanist.
Dr. Alexander B. Klotz, Entomologist, American Museum of Natural History.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

No fires occurred in the park during July. Hazard was generally low with most vegetation green.

The park staff were hosts to a fire school on July 23, attended by:

John E. Montgomery, Chief Investigator, Florida Forest Service.
E.W. Kreber, District Forester, Florida Forest Service.
E.C. Rodgers, Warden, Everglades Fire Control District.
C.K. Greer, Fireman, Dade County Fire Patrol.
W.H. Newton, " " " " "
L.H. Greer, Chief, " " " "
G.C. Mullins, Fireman " " " "
J.B. Schnok, Investigator, Florida Forest Service.
Hal Dodd, I & E Assistant, " " "
A.A. Alexander, Investigator " " "
W.A. Thompson, Fireman, County Fire Station #6.
P.D. Reams. " " " " #5

PERSONNEL

Willard E. Dilley was promoted from Park Ranger to Park Naturalist.

Gerard Doezie entered on duty as Fiscal Accounting Clerk on transfer from Yellowstone National Park.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Lake Ingraham (at Cape Sable) received the "drag net treatment" by the Mills outfit from Tavernier during the month. A commercial fisherman reported "less mullet than I have seen there in fifteen years" after Mills moved out.

An interesting catch was noted by park personnel. A commercial hook and line fisherman working for House Fish Company of Flamingo laboriously hauled out 712 pounds of redfish in part of one day from Little Sable Creek. At 15¢ a pound it brought $106.80, for a day's work. This is not unusual.

The State Board of Conservation allotted $45,000, to the University of Miami Marine Laboratory for studies of mullet, sponges, the "Red Tide," and spiny lobsters. Director G. Walton Smith of the Marine Laboratory reported a 50 percent decrease in mullet fisheries in parts of Florida.

Allan Carson, fishing editor of the Miami "Herald" began a vigorous campaign to save the snook or robalo, the best gamefish (excepting

tarpon) in park waters now being taken in large quantities by commercial fishermen from Cape Sable to Naples.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

E V E R G L A D E S N A T I O N A L P A R K

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK.

August, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

August was a hot, decidedly uncomfortable month. Insects were unusually bad in the Cape Sable-Coot Bay area making outside work almost impossible at times. Mean maximum temperatures were 90.4 degrees at Sub-tropical Experimental Station near Homestead. This was about average. Mean minimum temperatures of 70.7 degrees were a little above average. Rainfall (same station) was 10.99 inches - a little above 10-year average. The Coot Bay road was a quagmire for part of the month.

Glades Conditions

Incomplete reports indicate water stages at key locations throughout the Everglades were close to average (10-year period). Lake Okeechobee water levels were held between 13 and 14 feet mean sea level datum and storage for excess remained in case of hurricane and normal, rainy season rainfall. Chloride concentrations p.p.m. were 82 at Concrete Bridge on Ingraham Canal in park, 11 at Paradise Key, and 21,100, 19.0 miles below Paradise Key in Ingraham Canal (July 20). Some recession occurred in August.

Ground water levels which increased at all points during July continued during August. Free water above the ground was noted in about 80% of the park glade lands. Fresh water covered upper Shark River as far as Tarpon Bay.

The approach of September-October heavy rainfalls found the Everglades in good, normal condition.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The superintendent gave a talk at the Coral Gables Breakfast Club on the present status of the park. He was somewhat surprised to be introduced by Judge McDougall, park opponent on oil matters. The superintendent also participated in the annual meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation at Miami Beach where commercial and sports fishing discussions dominated the program.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Several conferences were held with Acting Land Acquisition Project Manager Manley relative to threatened developments at Flamingo. Policy of early acquisition of these private lands was recommended.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

Rangers made a stadia survey at Coot Bay Ranger Station for a more accurate base map of existing facilities there.

The superintendent began preparation of a map to study the eastern approach to the park from Homestead-Florida City vicinity.

MAINTENANCE

A cut was made in Coot Bay wharf to permit Service boats and charter boats to move up Ingraham Canal in case of hurricanes.

One of the old trails at Paradise Key was brushed out for use as a nature trail and fire break this winter.

APPROACHES TO PARK AREA

The State Highway Department replaced with heavier structures (wood) the two bridges over Taylor Slough east of Paradise Key.

Dade County road crews began to grade and roll the Ingraham Highway between Paradise Key and Humpback Bridge (county line). Prison labor is being used. Rangers marked specimen trees that were agreed to be left standing in roadside cleanup. Approximately six miles were finished in August. The road will be in excellent condition to County Line for the winter season.

DONATIONS AND ACCESSIONS

Former Congressman J. Mark Wilcox turned over to the park several cases containing press clippings and other material from the files of the Everglades National Park Association. Some of it is of historical value.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

"Bozo", the venerable alligator of Coot Bay Pond returned during August as the forerunner of the concentration of wildlife which normally occurs in that vicinity from late September to January.

The avian situation remained about the same with birds congregating along coastal areas, especially at Duck Rock. Catfish Key and Oyster Keys in Florida Bay were poor producers as summer rookeries this year probably due to molestation by Flamingo fishermen.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Blue-winged teal made an early appearance in the Cape Sable country arriving shortly after large flocks of migrating barn swallows.

VISITORS

Allan Cason, Fishing Editor, Miami "Herald"
Rube Allyn, Fishing Editor, St. Petersburg "Times"
Mrs. Margaret Meski, Upper Keys Chamber of Commerce
Robert P. Allen, National Audubon Society

FIRE PROTECTION

During the month a conference was held at Park Headquarters with County Commissioner Preston B. Bird; Dade County Fire Chief Harmon Greer; Chamber of Commerce Manager Mont J. Baker; relative to a proposal that Dade County construct fire break lanes along county road right-of-ways west, northwest and southwest of Homestead with a view of providing a protection facility that would enable Dade County and Everglades National Park personnel to suppress fires and patrol for fires in pine lands and and grove areas which threaten park areas and now create a fire hazard to the park area. Commissioner Bird's reaction to the plan worked out by Dade County Fire Chief and our staff was very favorable. When additional information can be secured as to the location of the U.S. Army Engineers dyke protection system for Dade County, so that the proposed fire break construction can be coordinated in alinement with the dyke alinement, it is almost certain that Dade County will go ahead with the fire breaks so urgently needed along our east boundry.

Two Chrysler Hale fire pumps arrived this month.

ACCIDENTS

Maintenanceman M. Barnie Parker was injured while repairing the dock at Coot Bay Ranger Station. A sliver of galvanized iron was lodged in his eye. Treatment was given according to procedure and he reported back on duty.

A single engine Aronaca plane with pilot W.N. Marlin and passenger J.F. Fowler made a forced landing on Old Ingraham Highway between West Lake and Humpback Bridge. Both wings were broken, but nobody was injured. Rangers at Coot Bay rendered first aid (for serious "case" of insect bites) and brought them out. The plane had been at Dr. Lunsford's at Cape Sable. It ran out of gasoline.

PERSONNEL

The Chief Clerk and Fiscal Accounting Clerk spent varying amounts of time at the office of the Coordinating Superintendent for Southeastern National Monuments at St. Augustine. They were working up accounts for transferring the books which, until September 1, were kept at St. Augustine.

PERSONNEL (Continued)

The Park Naturalist was sent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park to consult with Naturalist Stupka and to observe the interpretive program in operation there. He later went to the Regional Office to pick up a fire truck.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Gill net fishing for mullet was good during August. With the exception of one drag seine operated by Mr. Shores in Lake Ingraham, very few fish were taken by other means than gill net. Cane pole fishermen averaged about thirty-five pounds during working days taking trout (weakfish) redfish, snapper, and a few other species.

The elder Mr. Mills began operating out of West Lake and Cuthbert Lake on perch and mullet.

Although the take of shrimp for bait purposes was smaller than in July, four new commercial shrimpers are trying to make a go of it in the Cape Sable region.

State Conservation Officer Loftis picked up a stop net at Slagel's Ditch. Ownership could not be determined so the net was given to the University of Miami (value $75).

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 1948 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

September, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

A hurricane passed through the park in a north -north - east direction during the night of September 21, with center of storm in the vicinity of the town of Everglades. Hurricane conditions prevailed September 20 -22. Winds reached a velocity of over 100 miles per hour (estimated) along the west coast, not over 100 at Flamingo. Damage was caused by water blown in from Florida Bay covering Flamingo 6-8 feet deep, and washing away eighteen houses. Damage to vegetation was slight.

The hurricane followed a period of high northeasterly winds not connected with the storm.

Temperatures for September were approximately normal. Mean high was 88.70 and mean low was 72.4 degrees. With a maximum of 90 degrees on the 11th, 13th, and 14th, and a minimum of 65 degrees on the 15th.

Glades

Water in the Everglades increased throughout September; but recharge was accelerated by the hurricane rainfall. After the storm, a check of water levels compared to the 1947 October flood were as follows:

	Sept. 23, 1948	October, 1947
South New River Canal	7.9	11.1
Forty-Mile Bend (Tamiami Trail)	9.0	10.3
Krome Avenue & Tamiami Trail	7.6	9.2

This indicates that unless another storm strikes, floods of 1947 will not be repeated; but the glades are well saturated. Rainfall during the storm averaged 7.5 inches in the open Everglades. The total for September at Subtropical Experiment Station near Homestead was 23.88". Ten year average is 11.47, September 1947 was 21.80.

Construction of dikes and clearing of water hyacinths from canals (2-4-D spray by planes) has prevented inundation of urban areas so far this year.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Superintendent Beard left Park Headquarters on the morning of September 29, to attend the Superintendents' Conference at Grand Canyon National Park.

The Superintendent met with others of the board of the Tropical Audubon Society to plan the winter's program of activities. He also participated in a survey of the Redlands District relative to elimination of blind crossings and establishment of a scenic route.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

A conference was held with Assistant Chief Counsel Lee, Land Acquisition Manager Gray, and members of Mr. Gray's staff following their meeting with Model Land Company. It related to administrative aspects of so-called Unit One lands now ready for purchase.

Appraisers Manley and Smith went into the park following the hurricane to see about Flamingo property. Efforts were made to expedite purchasing from anyone now eager to sell.

PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS

A map of eastern approaches to the park was sent to the Regional Office to stimulate study and discussion on handling the entrance road.

MAINTENANCE

Broken down picnic tables at Paradise Key were replaced with sturdier ones during the month. A water line for drinking water to serve the picnic areas has been installed.

APPROACHES TO THE PARK AREA

Dade County road crews continued work on Ingraham Highway. Roadside clearing was completed to West Lake, grading and rolling to about northern line of Township 60 south.

Two small sections of the paved highway through Paradise Key was badly damaged by high water conditions in the area. The county road department will repair the road as soon as the water recedes sufficiently.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

The effects of a hurricane on wildlife populations are noteworthy. The storm did not have severe winds, but some observations were made.

The only bird mortalities noted were near Indian Cane Patch Hammock near headwaters of Shark River. A twister within the hurricane levelled vegetation and appeared to have killed several snowy egrets.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION (Continued)

Ibises, herons, egrets, and roseate spoonbills seemed to have been only slightly disturbed except at Duck Rock (outside park) where that large roost was broken up, temporarily at least. The birds were noticeably fatigued and more spread out than before the storm.

Maritime species occurred far inland and were more buffeted by winds. These included semipalmated sandpipers, ruddy turnstones, black-necked stilts, reddish egrets, great white herons, yellowlegs, ospreys, man-o'-war birds, a few dowitchers, black skimmers, and semipalmated plovers. Many shore birds were killed by cars along the Ingraham Highway at night.

Deer came out to roads and high pinelands. Those observed were in weakened condition and we suspect some mortalities at Cape Sable and the Madeira Bay country.

The current warbler migration seemed to be uneffected.

A pre hurricane record of a pair of white-tailed kites at headwaters of a river leading into Whitewater Bay was new for the park. This kite has been considered extirpated from Florida for many years.

Following the hurricane, a single Everglades kite has been observed feeding and resting in Taylor River Slough, east of Paradise Key. This is an exceptionally rare bird, the few remaining individuals breeding in the marshes on the northwest shore of Lake Okeechobee. It is hoped that the bird now in the park area will attract others and once again this interesting kite can be called a resident bird.

RANGER SERVICE

Our Ranger force was augmented by the reinstatement of Paul Barnes as Park Ranger. Mr. Barnes entered on duty September 19, and was assigned to the Coot Bay Ranger Station. He was formerly with the Service as C.C.C. Project Superintendent at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

FIRE PROTECTION

Chief Ranger Semingsen and Ranger Winte attended the fire school at Shenandoah National Park. This was the first contact by Everglades ranger personnel with others in similar positions in the Region and it proved very beneficial.

With high water in both glades and pinelnads, no fire hazard existed in September.

The situation throughout the Everglades is very favorable and water levels should hold enough to prevent minor fires from forming major conflagrations well into the winter season.

DEATHS

Mr. Augustus M. Houghton, of New York and Coconut Grove, died in France while visiting his son. Mr. Houghton was an active supporter of Everglades National Park for many years as well as a prominent conservationist with the Camp Fire Club of America, American Game Association and others.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

On the afternoon and night of October 5, a medium sized hurricane of moderate force struck the park. The eye of the storm passed over Coot Bay, Paradise Key, and Homestead, travelling in a northeasterly direction. Winds were stronger than during the September storm, but they did not last as long and water damage, through inundation of areas along the coast, was considerably less. In short, the October storm was fairly strong, but damage was less than that caused by the bigger, weaker, September storm.

October followed the pattern of the previous three months by being warmer than normal. Highest temperature was 91 degrees, lowest was 60 degrees during a cold spell at the end of the month. The average temperature was 76.5 degrees. Rainfall was above normal (10.8 inches near Homestead) due to the hurricane. But, rainy season was over by the end of October.

Glades waters were better than a ten year average, but considerably lower than in 1947. The surface waters in the glades dropped much more rapidly than had been anticipated. The road from Humpback Bridge to Coot Bay Ranger Station that was covered with water in places and deep enough to pole a boat through early in October had become dusty by month's end.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Superintendent was at the National Park Conference at Grand Canyon National Park early in the month.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Flamingo is not being rebuilt very rapidly. A few, toppled houses have been righted. Docks have been repaired, and some reconstruction work is being attempted. Appraisers from the Land Acquisition Office contacted Flamingoites again and, although none desired to begin negotiations, the situation is clearer to them than before. Much of the time of the commercial fishermen has been spent cleaning up and repairing the structures that remained after the September storm.

Major L.M. Gray, Project Manager of the Land Acquisition Office, suffered a post operational relapse and is confined to Pratt General Hospital at Coral Gables. Albert Manley is Acting Project Manager and has ably filled the breach as before.

APPROACHES TO PARK

The State Highway Department made temporary repairs on a serious washout along the Ingrahan Highway at Taylor River Slough.

Formation of a nudist camp (capacity 400 bodies) between Florida City and the park within Service fire protection zones has caused more than passing attention. If useful in no other way, it should cause a considerable migration of mosquitoes, chiggers, sandflies, and such from the eastern section of the park.

COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

National Audubon Society one day Wildlife Tours started on October 31.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Although full supporting data are lacking, it is now becoming quite evident that Long Pine Key (only part of which is in the park) is an important, seasonal habitat during floods. In some ways, it can be compared to the requirements for winter ranges in western national parks. These "Everglades Keys," "Pine flatwoods," or "Miami Rocklands," are rapidly being occupied by urban developments and groves outside the park.

The Everglade kite at Taylor River Slough was not seen the latter part of October, but the one at Humble Oil Road near Tamiami Trail remained. Several reports from different sources indicate that a flamingo came into Lake Ingrahan after the hurricane. The observations have not yet been confirmed by Service personnel.

White-tailed deer suffered from high water as did most other forms of terrestrial wildlife including raccoons. Diamondback rattlesnakes were more numerous on higher hammocks and in pinelands. The fact that they, too, were thin and had suffered from floods seemed not to concern anyone very much.

The "bird show" at Coot Bay Ranger Station was good all month with American egrets, snowy egrets, white ibises, and other birds present. Bird populations increased all along the Ingrahan Highway.

Roseate spoonbills came in at Florida Bay preparatory to nesting the last week of October.

MAINTENANCE

Work continued on the rehabilitation of quarters at Coot Bay Ranger Station where the appearance of Mrs. Barnes in an historically bachelor environment is resulting in many, worthwhile changes.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Road conditions prevented visitors from going into the park during the early part of the month. Later, however, weekend use picked up a little augmented by visitors from the American Legion Convention in Miami. The increase was from 5 cars per weekend early in October to 40 cars later.

VISITORS

Governor Earl Warren of California and party
Senator and Mrs. Spessard Holland
Congressman and Mrs. J. Hardin Peterson
Congressman George Smathers
Mr. August Burghard, Chairman Everglades Park Commission
Harold Peters, Atlantic Flyway Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service
Jay V. Kelsey, Game Management Agent, Fish and Wildlife Service
Edward B. Chamberlain, Jr. State P-R Biologist
James Silver, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

POLICE PROTECTION

High water brought out the poachers to get any wildlife that sought high ground. Rangers Stephanic and Winte cooperating with State Wildlife Officers made car checks at night on Paradise Key.

Donald Sullivan of the Homestead Police (former custodian of Royal Palm Park and applicant for position with Service) and Fire Chief Sullivan of Homestead were relieved of firearms. A 3-foot alligator which had been run over by a car was taken away from Charles Del-Ask, shrimper. Five negroes with shot guns were apprehended, one with a dead Florida crane. The case was turned over to the state. "Buddy" Roberts's fish truck from Flamingo yielded a rifle and the query from Roberts if the government would henceforth take responsibility for hi-jacking on the road if he went unarmed.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

The October hurricane was followed by strong easterly and southeasterly winds which held commercial fishing practically at a standstill all month. Enough catches of mullet and trout were made to keep the fish trucks rolling from Flamingo, but it was not a profitable enterprise.

Charter boatmen from Coot Bay found unusually good fishing in Whitewater Bay and Oyster Bay areas. And, naturally, they took full advantage by having their parties catch as many fish as they could haul in. Catches per party (average three people) per day ranged from 150 to 200 fishes ! One party that boasted 169 fish was asked what they did with so many. One of the party replied, "When we got home we filleted all the big ones we needed and chucked the rest out."

ACCIDENTS

Chief Ranger Earl Seningsen left the office after clearing for the hurricane. His family was with him in their personal car. They were involved in a crossing accident on the way home and their car was demolished. Mrs. Seningsen sustained a broken leg and other injuries. Their son, Donald, had a broken collar bone and Chief Ranger Seningsen had serious bruises on head and side. At the end of the month, all were out of the hospital; but Mrs. Seningsen was confined at home with her leg in a cast.

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

November, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

Temperatures for November were unusually high after a brief cold spell that hit 58 degrees early in the month. Average mean temperature at Homestead was 75.2 degrees. Highest was 89 degrees.

Glades Conditions

The following November 26 recordings were made for ppm chloride in Ingraham Canal:

19.0 miles S.W. Royal Palm Ranger Station, surface	590
19.0 miles S.W. Royal Palm Ranger Station, bottom	2,550
12.7 miles S.W. Royal Palm Ranger Station, bottom	42
0.3 miles S.W. Royal Palm Ranger Station, botton	11

Heavier salt water had infiltrated over lighter fresh water, but salt intrusion was still relatively slight. There were no noticeable effects of salt intrusion yet (such as fish mortalities).

Glades surface waters held quite well all month in spite of increased evaporation. Innundation continued in many areas with the probable accompanying production of fresh water organisms at winter bird feeding areas, especially near headwaters of the Shark-Broad Rivers where the major Shark River rookery has had three successive "sick" years and has caused considerable concern.

INSPECTIONS

Regional Director Allen visited the area four days. He was interested in the land acquisition program and the general situation in the park such as personnel setup, progress of work at Coot Bay Ranger Station, status of equipment, and physical improvement plans for the near future. He inspected the recently acquired lands at Cape Sable.

Robert Moore, forester from the Regional Office arrived November 28, and began field work with the Chief Ranger preparatory to assisting in fire plans.

MAINTENANCE

Work was begun under contract to replace the roof of the old C.C.C. built equipment storage building at Royal Palm Ranger Station.

A house boat, on loan from U.S.D.A., was towed to the Homestead canal and repainted for use as a floating patrol station. It will be taken to Shark River.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

The Land Acquisition Office at Coconut Grove completed the acquisition of 134,880 acres in the purchase area by agreement on sovereignty lands and direct purchase from the Model Land Company. This increased federal ownership in the purchase area to a total of 542,240 acres and reduced private holdings to be acquired to 220,035 acres. Handling of the negotiations was commendable and the precedent set should be profitable to the Service in dealing with other owners. Although negotiations took place earlier, the deal was consummated in November. Acting Project Manager Manley, Assistant Chief Counsel Lee, Appraiser McKee, and Coordinating Superintendent Vinten share the honors on this important deal.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

As winter travel season approached, added interest was expressed in the park. The quest for information resulted in increased numbers of invitations for Service personnel to speak before local civic and service clubs.

Talks were given by the park naturalist at the Tropical Audubon Society and the Homestead Rotary Club. The superintendent gave talks at the Florida City Kiwanis Club, Miami Beach Rotary Club, and Florida Junior Academy of Sciences.

A four hundred foot reel of 16 mm color film on the park has been assembled and was used on several occasions during November.

On November 18, the superintendent and park naturalist embarked on a rather unique tour with members of the National Association of Travel Officials. Arrangements were made by August Burghard of the Everglades National Park Commission for use of a new DC-6 Delta Airlines plane for this conducted trip. Using the plane's intercommunication system, Service personnel gave a talk on the park as the plane flew over. It was broadcast by transcription over WIOD next day. Admittedly, this was no way to run a park tour, but it served a useful purpose and prohibitive costs will prevent it from "becoming a habit."

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

An outstanding bird observation was made during the month by Robert P. Allen of the National Audubon Society in company with Charles Brookfield, of the same Society, and John O'Reiley a reporter from the New York Herald-Tribune. Near Bear Lake, they observed a Zenaida dove at close hand for several minutes. The last person (and up until this record the only person) to see this species in Florida was John James Audubon over 100 years ago. The incident was well publicized by Mr. O'Reiley.

Colonial nesting birds sent out their first "scouts" at East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery, but no nesting started in November. The large concentrations at Cape Sable Flats continued and white pelicans came in there.

Waterfowl began to arrive in large numbers during the month. In approximate order of abundance they were: coots, blue-winged teal, scaups, baldpates, red-breasted mergansers, and a scattering of ruddy ducks.

The pre nesting population of roseate spoonbills in Florida Bay was reported better than ever for this time of the year.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Early "snow birds" began coming to Florida in November and travel in the park by out of state cars picked up. Continuing good weather in the north held many would be Florida winter tourists back so that complaints from local hotelmen and others were a little more numerous than usual.

RANGER SERVICE

An airboat patrol of approximately 75 miles was made by park rangers and the park naturalist. Boats belonging to Dan Poppenhager of Coconut Grove were used. Mr. John Goggins, archeologist of the University of Florida, was on the trip to observe shell mounds and old Seminole campsites. It was a productive patrol as it gave park personnel a better concept of certain remote areas in the glades and demonstrated the value of small airboats working in pairs. The patrol started near Cement Bridge on Ingraham Highway, went northwest along headwaters to Lostmans River Pines, where camp was made in a cabbage palm hammock. The next day, they went to the Collier County Line, then turned back in a wide circle to come out on the Tamiami Trail at William McKinley Osceola's camp.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

A pine woods fire occurred on Long Pine Key on November 22, burning 63 acres of park land and 184 acres of land outside the park.

Hazardous conditions existed all month in the pinelands and there were numerous fires in nearby areas caused by farmers burning their fields preparatory to planting glades lands. Everglades grasses and sedges had begun to cure in places and hazard was increasing rapidly towards the end of the month.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

December, 1948

WEATHER CONDITIONS

General

The customary "white Christmas" spirit with artificial snow, fur trimmed Santa Clauses, and crackling yule logs seemed somewhat ludicrous with the thermometer in the eighties. Bathing beauties of the Orange Bowl festival were more in tune with the weather which remained unusually warm until December 27. Highest temperature for the month was 89 degrees on the twenty-first. Lowest was 45 degrees the last day of the month. Mean temperature was 72.1 degrees.

Glades Conditions

Rainfall fell off to .46 inches. There were a few, spotty showers in the park, but generally a typical, dry season condition prevailed. Water held well in the open Everglades with indication of continued flow along natural drainage courses from the north. Inundation was less, however, than during December, 1947. Salt intrusion had not become serious by December 29, when U.S.G.S. tests were made.

INSPECTIONS

Conrad L. Wirth and Sidney Kennedy, of the Branch of Lands and Recreational Planning, Washington, visited the park and the Land Acquisition Office. They were interested in seeing lands recently purchased as well as key areas still in private ownership.

Assistant Regional Director Lisle accompanied Messrs. Wirth and Kennedy on part of their trip. He also discussed in the field with the superintendent, immediate plans for physical improvements.

Mr. Tom Wallace, of the National Parks Advisory Board, was in the park one day. His early travels in the area (1900) provided interesting information on former conditions.

Forester Moore, from the Regional Office, completed his work early in the month and returned to Richmond.

STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS

Park personnel cooperated with the Land Acquisition Office and Soil Conservation Service in getting soil samples of key private lands in the park prior to purchase negotiations.

PUBLICITY

John O'Reilly, of the New York Herald-Tribune, visited the park and prepared an excellent, factual account that was featured in his paper and syndicated through the Herald-Tribune News Service. Mr. O'Reilly's key paragraphs were:

"This is the period during which the rest of the land must be acquired, a master plan of development must be worked out, and personnel and equipment must be provided. At the same time, the wildlife and forests must be protected until the area emerges as a well-controlled link in the national park system.

"To all those who struggled during the last 20 years to get this unusual section of America placed beyond the reach of destructive forces, it is gratifying that the park is at least a fact. But the work of protecting and preserving the area has hardly begun."

The National Geographic Magazine for January, carried an article on the park by the superintendent and a series of superb color plates from paintings by Walter A. Weber, famous wildlife artist and former member of the Service.

The Redlands District News, of Homestead, Fla., sponsored a contest among high school students for an Everglades National Park sticker design.

COMPLAINTS

Three common complaints are increasing as more and more people use the park:

1. Lack of comfort stations at Paradise Key. We explain lack of funds for this work is the reason. We also emphasize the newness of the park. But we are hoping to get at least one pit latrine in during the winter.

2. Lack of gas stations, food, cold drinks, at Coot Bay area. A sign is being erected telling visitors there are no gas stations down the road.

3. The very general, bitter complaint that there is "nothing to see." Naturalist personnel and rangers are trying to alleviate the complaint by making personal contacts which have proved almost 100% effective.

MAINTENANCE

Work was completed under contract on the new roof on the garage in Royal Palm Ranger Station. At the same station, Service personnel painted some rooms and made the rear of Royal Palm Lodge more livable for seasonal rangers and ranger-naturalist.

Work continued as time permitted, on the painting of the rangers' quarters at Coot Bay Ranger Station.

INTERPRETATION

A seasonal Ranger-Naturalist was appointed and worked from Royal Palm Ranger Station.

The park superintendent gave talks to the Association of College Swimming Coaches, Miami Beach Lions' Club, and Dade County Council of Boy Scouts. The park naturalist spoke at the Ft. Lauderdale Book Club.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Cuthbert Lake Rookery began to form during December with wood ibises, American egrets, water turkeys, and Florida cormorants beginning to nest late in the month. East River Rookery was further advanced.

The waterfowl population built up rapidly and, by month's end, there was a very noticeable increase over the previous year. Coots and scaup in Coot Bay were abundant - more so than in many years. Part of the concentration there can be directly attributed to regrowth of submerged vegetation; but the increase throughout the park is because of better conditions in the north coupled with protection in the park which kept the birds in the area. The tameness of the waterfowl in the park was noteworthy.

Residents of Flamingo report a dearth of rodents, (rats, marsh rabbits, mice) since the hurricanes. This is, of course, entirely understandable because the entire area was inundated. Mortality of rodents must have been tremendous and must be having its effects in many yet unstudied ways.

A crocodile spent the entire month at West Lake and was seen by numerous park visitors. More alligators were along Ingraham Canal as glades waters receded.

Taylor Slough, east of Paradise Key, was visited by many people. The wildlife "show" there, including a family of otters, was excellent and accessible. Water is receding now and will not last much longer. The Tropical Audubon Society made a Christmas bird census in the Paradise Key area.

INCREASE IN TRAVEL

Winter visitors began to come to south Florida in numbers during December. Warm weather in the north held down the number somewhat, but there was a substantial jump in the visitor count in the park. It was interesting to note that the Orange Bowl Festival Week in Miami which drew many people down for the holidays did not have a corresponding effect on the number of park visitors.

POLICE PROTECTION

Ranger Winte apprehended 5 men with guns, shooting within park boundaries. Guns and men were turned over to State Wildlife Officers for prosecution as they were shooting from a state highway.

Low flying private airplanes have become a serious matter. With a landing strip on private land at Middle Cape, many planes go down there. Not one weekend passed without someone seeing at least one plane flying low and causing clouds of disturbed birds to fly up somewhere in the park.

FIRE PROTECTION

Everglades grasses and sedges began to cure. A light frost in certain sections caused, overnight, a decided increase in fire hazard in the open grasslands of the glades. Diligent precautions by rangers and fire control aids prevented fires. Every time a smoke appeared as a farmer burned his field near the park, a ranger was there. It is paying off.

A fire school was held at Park Headquarters on December 6. All cooperating agencies were present with their equipment. The school was entirely successful and gave others a better insight on the Service's point of view and organization. Chief Ranger Semingsen and Forester Moore, of the Regional Office, planned and conducted the school.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Mullet season closed December 1, and commercial fishermen were given five days grace to clean out their ice boxes. Naturally, they kept right on fishing, but by the end of five days most mullet fishing was over. Commercial fishermen, of Flamingo, had time to indulge in other activities.

The "Battle of Slagel's Ditch" near Flamingo developed during the month. Charles Del-Ask, James McCall, and the Lloyd House outfit, came finally to blows on who should get the shrimp from Slagel's Ditch. With live shrimp retailing at, from two cents to three cents each, and shrimpers making from $50.00 to $75.00 per night; it is understandable why the fight began. Lloyd House purchased from Model Land Company 160 acres along the

ditch. Shacks were put up for shrimpers. Someone got hit over the head with a gasoline lantern. A black eye appeared and the park headquarters was full of feuding shrimpers all month. State officers confiscated two nets, gave one back. At least one shrimper began carrying a gun and, at month's end, the unfortunate affair was reaching a crescendo.

DANIEL B. BEARD

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent

U.S.N.P.S. Everglades Nat'l Park,
AUTHOR

Fla. Superintendent
TITLE

Monthly narrative reports. 1947-48

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