

WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered kite:

1. All construction personnel watch the Wildlife Education Workshop video which includes information on the snail kite and be able to identify a snail kite and have brochures onsite.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a snail kite is sighted.
3. If an snail kite is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, and the kite allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A SNAIL KITE ON THE RESERVATION?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact:

***Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist***

***Phone: 863-902-3249 x13411
Cell: 954-410-7073***

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department**

Snail Kite

Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A SNAIL KITE?



The snail kite has been federally listed as endangered since 1967 and was included on the Endangered Species Act as it was established in 1973.

Snail kites have a highly specialized diet of apple snails, therefore their habitat is restricted to watersheds in central and south Florida. Their beaks are evolutionarily adapted to feed on apple snails.

WHY IS THE SNAIL KITE ENDANGERED?

- Loss of wetland habitat by drainage and development resulting in eliminated shallow or freshwater habitat
- Runoff from fertilizers causing eutrophication leading to growth of invasive species such as water hyacinth, which restricts ability to feed on apple snails

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SNAIL KITE?



Adult Male (above-left):

- Dark blue-gray plumage
- Talons and beak are red-orange with black tipped beak
- Eyes are red

Female (above-right):

- Dark brown above with streaked white and brown under parts
 - Talons and beak are red-orange with black tipped beak
 - Eyes are red
- *Juveniles resemble female (below)

WHAT DO THEIR NESTS LOOK LIKE?

Snail kites breed from December to August and build bulky nests over water to avoid predation. They nest in wetland trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation.



HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SNAIL KITE IN FLIGHT?



The snail kite flies slowly and flaps its wings in flight with its head facing down in search of apple snails.

The snail kite has a distinctive white patch at the base of its tail ending in a dark band with a thin white edge (above).



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A SNAIL KITE?

If you encounter a snail kite, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the kite to pass before resuming construction. Do not touch the kite or harass it in any way.

Please contact your supervisor or the number on the back of this pamphlet to report the location and circumstance of all sightings.