

## SFAS Conservation report 9-09

Bald eagles are returning to former nesting sites throughout Florida from Duval to Collier counties, although there are no reports of nesting activity yet. The official start of the nesting season is Oct. 1. Florida has gone from 88 active nests in 1973 to more than 1,100 nests in 2007; that's a 1200% increase in Florida.

Project Perch has met with tremendous success at Driftwood Middle School. Three starter burrows were placed on a Tuesday, and when the crew arrived on the following Tuesday to erect barrier fencing, one burrow was already occupied and the other two show signs of visitation. Driftwood Middle is the first school in Florida to install artificial burrows, and Macarthur High School will begin a project soon that will consist of two starter burrows with prefabricated nesting boxes and will feature web cams and CCTV to provide the students with the opportunity to observe the fledging process in real time. Macarthur High has room to install many burrows and will be able to accommodate owls that need to be relocated from other areas.

Project perch has set up a web page at: <http://projectperch.ning.com/?xgs=1>, and the site has attracted the attention of a similar program in California. Kudos to Kelly Heffernan for a fine job.

The battle for near shore oil drilling is getting a lot of attention from Texas based oil companies. And they have a lot of money to spend in getting the legislation passed. Audubon is allied with others in fighting this proposition. I will be sending out more info as it becomes available.

A judge has okayed the USA Sugar financing deal and it looks as if we may be starting some earnest work on the Everglades restoration in the near future.

Palm Beach County's southern boundary officially moves north  
CBS 12 News, September 21, 2009 12:09 PM Palm Beach County

For the first time since Martin County separated from it in 1925, Palm Beach County 's boundary has changed. The so-called "Wedge," a three-square-mile tract in the southwestern part of Palm Beach County , is now officially part of Broward County .

State lawmakers originally approved the boundary change by adopting legislation in 2007, subject to the effective date of the removal of two planned road extensions, University and Riverside Drive , from Palm Beach County 's Comprehensive Plan and their subsequent abandonment. The amendment became effective on July 28, 2009. The boundary change officially became effective on September 18, 2009, when the abandonment of these roads was recorded.

Written by Grant Campbell