




FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The membership rolls of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society contain virtually all of the professional wildlife ecologists in Florida. As practicing participants in the management of Florida's outdoor environment and in the research leading to that management, we firmly believe that the deterioration of our environment is altogether unnecessary. We believe that further deterioration cannot rightfully be blamed upon our technical inability to prevent it. Rather, continued degradation will result only from the refusal of government, and society in general, to apply some of its vast present-day wealth to solve the problems confronting our ecosystem.

The brown pelican has been extirpated recently from Louisiana and Texas and is declining alarmingly in California and South Carolina. This is regrettable enough, but to permit this species to face possible extinction in Florida for lack of adequate scientific knowledge would be unforgivable.

Let it be known, therefore, that the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society strongly urges that the Government of the State of Florida undertake research studies immediately to obtain knowledge



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about the population health of the brown pelican in Florida upon which to base sound plans to prevent its extinction in the State. Further, let it be known that the Executive Board of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society has read Senate Bill 859 and House Bill 4288 relating to an appropriation for research on the brown pelican and has a sufficient understanding of the research proposed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for this appropriation. These bills represent a well planned research program for the preservation of a valuable endangered species of Florida bird. As such we commend them to the Florida legislature as a ~~well~~-warranted expenditure of public funds.