

September 2013 Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features





September 16, 2013

Torrential rain storms continue to sweep across the Kissimmee Valley through September.



September 17, 2013

MacArthur Phase I restoration area inundated floodplain



September 16, 2013

Micco Run and Oak Creek in the Phase I restoration area



September 16, 2013

Phase I restoration area floodplain



September 16, 2013

Kissimmee River and floodplain in the Phase IVB restoration area



September 16, 2013

Nearly 2000 birds were observed in a massive foraging flock of wading birds (ibis, egret, herons, woodstorks, spoonbill, etc.) were observed in the Phase IVB restoration area in the Avon Park Air Force range area.



September 16, 2013

Phase IV restoration area



September 11, 2013

Green treefrog



September 5, 2013

High densities of the exotic apple snail eggs were observed in the Phase IVB restoration area. This is the first that we have seen of high densities of either exotic or native apple snails in the restoration area.



September 5, 2013

More exotic snail eggs in the Phase IVB restoration area



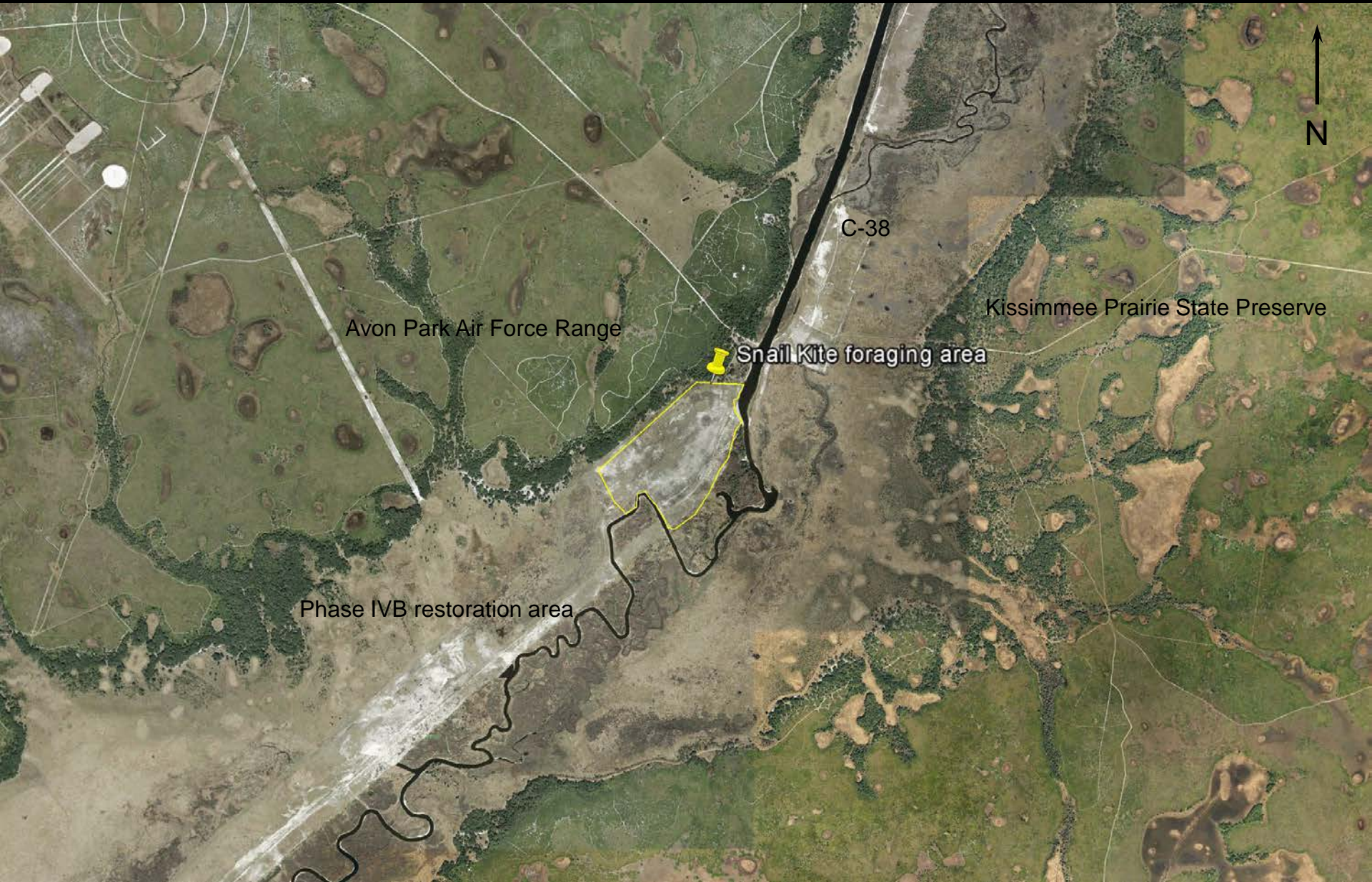
September 5, 2013

The high density of apple snails has attracted snail kites into the area. More than 78 snail kites were observed in only a 1-2 mile stretch of the northern most reach of the Phase IVB backfill on Avon Park Air Force Range. Four snail kites can be seen in this image alone.



September 5, 2013

The snail kite density is noteworthy because only two other snail kites have been observed by SFWMD scientists in the restoration area to date during the past 10 years since restoration began.



Google earth image of the observed snail kite foraging area



September 5, 2013

Although most observed snail kites were juveniles, a couple of adult birds were seen in the mix including this adult male trying to fit in with the dragonflies.



September 5, 2013

Juvenile snail kite in the Phase IVB restoration area perches on the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line and waits patiently for his next meal to hatch.



September 17, 2013

Exotic apple snail eggs and snail kites on the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line



September 17, 2013

A group of six snail kites flying above the floodplain along the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line.



September 17, 2013

A snail kite with an apple snail above the floodplain along the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line



September 17, 2013

A snail kite with an apple snail above the floodplain along the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line



September 26, 2013

A snail kite with an apple snail above the floodplain along the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line



September 26, 2013

A group of young roseate spoonbills forage along the Avon Park Air Force Range fence line in the Phase IVB restoration area.



September 26, 2013

Blue-winged teal have begun to migrate south and are beginning to show up on the Kissimmee River floodplain. This flock was observed in the Phase IVB restoration area.