



Phase I restoration area river channel



Phase I restoration area oxbow



Great blue heron (Ardea herodias) foraging in the Phase I restoration area floodplain



Phase I restoration area floodplain



Cabbage palm/Oak hammock indicates the upper elevation limit of the Kissimmee River floodplain



Red shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus) lets out a warning shriek...



Before the attack



Phase I restoration area floodplain



Perched osprey (Pandion haliaetus) along the river channel in the phase I restoration area



Osprey (*P. haliaetus*) takes flight



Cloud reflections in the Phase I restoration area



Chain pickerel (Esox reticulatus) caught in the Pool A unrestored area



American coots (Fulica americana) scurry in the Phase I restoration area floodplain



Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna) stakes his claim in this pasture along the Kissimmee River



The Meadowlark (S. magna) disapproves of my presence



Phase I restoration area floodplain and river channel



Red shouldered hawk hunting along the Kissimmee River



Wild Osceola turkeys (*meleagris gallopavo osceola*) along the river channel in upper Pool E of the Kissimmee River



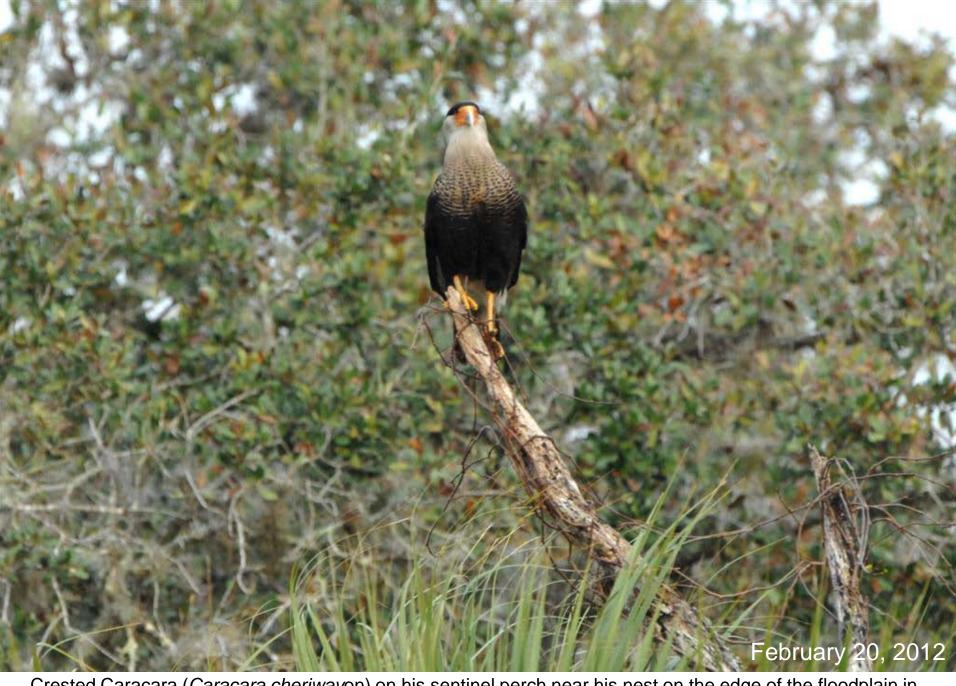
Carolina willow shrubs sprout new foliage which stands out in the winter landscape in the Phase I restoration area



American Kestrel (Falco sparverius) peers out from a cabbage palm in the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) wade through the shallow wetlands of the Phase I restoration area floodplain



Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*on) on his sentinel perch near his nest on the edge of the floodplain in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.



Kissimmee River Phase I restoration area



Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), and small white herons in flight over the Kissimmee River Phase I restoration area



Oak Creek floodplain in the Kissimmee River floodplain



Large multi-species foraging flocks of wading birds in the Phase I restoration area...I wonder what they are eating?...



Let's find out...Environmental scientist Mike Cheek throws a box trap off the bow of the boat as we study wading bird prey density in the Phase I restoration area



Another nice toss



A large mixed species foraging flock (mainly glossy (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*)), flies over the Phase I restoration area



Environmental scientist Mike Cheek records water quality measurements in the throw trap



Scooping for critters

## Construction Update



Phase III - Contract 10A south - river channel recarve construction. Image from December 2011



Phase III - Contract 10A south - river channel recarve construction. Image from January 2012



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve is nearly complete. Contractors are now moving their heavy equipment to the next section of recarve on the north side of HW 98.



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking west at north end of recarve as it nears the C-38 canal just south of HW98.



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking east at north end of recarve as it nears the C-38 canal just south of HW98.





Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking southeast from HW98



Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north.



Contract 10A north – Looking east at the beginning stages of river channel recarve. Contractors have scraped the landscape to map out the course of the river channel and have begun digging in some areas.



Contract 10A north – preliminary stages of excavating the new river channel just north of HW98.



Contract 10A north – preliminary stages of excavating the new river channel just north of HW98.





Looking east at the CSX Railroad bypass track. The old culverts and bridge will be demolished and a new navigable bridge will be constructed to reconnect the historic channel underneath the railway.

