



Director Gottschalk, said the possible decline of Ampullaria snails in Florida may be one of the reasons for the scarcity of the Everglade kite, which was once abundant in many fresh-water marshes of peninsular Florida. The marshes have been drained and filled for commercial or industrial development, depriving the Everglade kite of much of its natural habitat. Gottschalk also said many kites have been shot, along with other hawks, by persons unaware of their threatened status.

Wildlife biologists at Patuxent hope to convert the snail kites to a diet of beef and a vitamin supplement. They have no plans to release these exotic birds in the wild, since the shipment was received only for scientific purposes.

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(Note: A photo of the Argentine snail kite may be obtained from: Division of Information and Education, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.)