

## ST. CROIX'S SALT RIVER BAY THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT

Salt River Bay is a unique ecosystem in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Because it is the least disturbed mangrove and salt lagoon system in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and because of its several important historical and archaeological sites, the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) considers Salt River to be the island's most critical site for preservation. The SEA Newsletter (September 1987) reported on the proposed construction of the Virgin Grand St. Croix, a major complex consisting of a marina, 288-unit hotel, and 300 condominiums, to be built by the Allen-Williams Corporation at Salt River. Although the builders have been unable to guarantee that the waters of the bay will not be further degraded by the project, and considerable concern exists that the increased boat traffic in the Bay will harm the environment, the Board of Land Use Appeals decided in favor of the developer's permits issued by the Coastal Zone Management Committee and challenged by SEA last summer.

The development of the proposed marina will undoubtedly lead to construction of additional facilities for pleasure boats. Already, other individuals are applying for permits for marina construction in Salt River Bay. The cumulative impact of these developments will be severely adverse and irreversible, with the Salt River becoming a commercial marina, at the expense of the natural, historical, and archaeological values that are at a premium in the Virgin Islands. SEA rejects the developer's contention that the project will benefit the island, pointing out that (1) there are still over 30,000 acres on St. Croix where the project could be developed and not create the kind of environmental havoc that would occur at Salt River, and (2) the jobs promised by the developer will go to non-residents, not to unemployed Crucians.

SEA suggests that persons concerned about protecting Salt River from this damage should write a letter to the following individuals:

Honorable Alan Smith, Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
179 Altona and Welgunst  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802

Honorable Senator Virdin Brown  
17th Virgin Islands Legislature  
P.O. Box 477  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

All St. Croix Senators  
P.O. Box D,  
Christiansted  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

1-3 March **Thirteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference**, Monterey Sheraton Hotel, Monterey, California, U.S.A. (A. Charles Crabb, Chairperson, Crop Science Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California 93407, U.S.A.).

17-22 March **58th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society**, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California 93950, U.S.A. (Dr. Walter D. Koenig, Hastings Reservation, Star Route Box 80, Carmel Valley, California 93924, U.S.A. 408/659-2664).

18-22 March **The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting**, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky (Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A. 301/897-9770).

18-23 March **53rd North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference**, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky (Laurence R. Jahn, Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th St. N.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A. 202/371-1808).

13-15 May **Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting**, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, Vermont 05091 (802/457-2779). [Note: 14 May evening program will be "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker: Stalking an 'Extinct' Species in North America and Cuba," presented by Jerome Jackson.]

17-20 May **2nd International Wildlife Symposium on Economics & Social Aspects of Wildlife**, Calinda Acapulco Quality Inn Hotel, Acapulco Conventions Center, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico (2nd International Wildlife Symposium, Organizing Committee, Mexico Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Apartado Postal 13-432 Mexico D.F., 03500. 553-9408 in Mexico City.)

20-22 May **"Themes in Caribbean Ornithology,"** a symposium organized by the Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology, Fredriksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (Jorge A. Moreno, Committee Chairperson, Department of EPO Biology, Campus Box b-334, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, U.S.A. 303/492-6685 [days] or 303/786-0365 [evenings]).

5-12 June **"Resource Availability and the Structure and Functioning of Tropical Ecosystems,"** an international symposium on tropical studies celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, U.S.A. (Jay M. Savage, Silver Anniversary Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami, P.O. Box 249118, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, U.S.A.).

(continued)