

THE PELICAN

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON CLUB

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA



No. 1

JANUARY

1958

Next regular meeting - Monday, January 27, 7:30 P.M., Y.M.C.A., 260 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach. This is the annual "Poets" night. All who desire may present either original or selected poems that have something to do with birds. It is always very interesting.

COMING FIELD TRIPS:

Friday, Jan. 31 - All day - To Cocoa and west to St. Johns River and east to Canaveral Fill. The Cocoa Christmas Census broke all records for this area. Bring lunch.

Saturday, Feb. 8 - Half day - Riverside Drive, Tomoka Park, Loop Pond.

Friday, Feb. 14 - All day - New Smyrna Beach, Osteen Marshes, Enterprise where the Fla. Scrub Jays welcome those who bring them raw peanuts in the shell. Bring lunch.

Thursday, Feb. 20 - Half day - To the Inlet and the south ocean beaches.

Audubon Screen Tour Lectures - Mr. Hermes scored a hit on the first program of the season. Two more very outstanding ones coming.

Saturday, Jan. 25 - 7:30 P.M. Seabreeze High School. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, formerly Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University and well known for nearly a half century for his famous bird photos and recorded bird songs, will take us to the country "East and West of Hudson Bay". You'll talk about this one for a long time.

Saturday, Feb. 20 - Same time and place. Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, whose bird guides are the most widely used in the world and more recently author of "Wild America" which describes a bird trip from New England to Florida, Texas, California and on up to Alaska, will take us with him on this most interesting journey in pictures.

Christmas Bird Census: Our Halifax Area Census was made Dec. 21, 1957, by 20 selected competent observers under Fred Ackermann. They reported more than 13,000 birds of 109 species.

More than 500 - Black Skimmer, Robin, Goldfinch, Starling and Ring-billed Gulls.

100 to 500 - Cormorant, Fish Crow, Mourning dove, Herring Gull, Little Blue Heron, Sanderling, Myrtle Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Mockingbird, Brown Pelican and Bluebird.

50 to 100 - Lesser Scaup Duck, American Egret, Bonapart Gull, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Vulture, Common Crow, Kestrel, Laughing Gull, Louisiana Heron, American Pipit, Royal Tern, Western Palm Warbler.

25 to 50 - Redwinged Blackbird, Cardinal, Flicker, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Black-bellied Plover, English Sparrow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ground Dove, Rock Dove, Blue Jay, Phoebe, Migrant Shrike, Savannah Sparrow, Kingfisher.

10 to 25 - Catbird, Horner Grebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Merganser, Piping Plover, Tree Swallow, Turkey Vulture, Gannet, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Red Knot, Red-backed Sandpiper, Chipping Sparrow, Towhee.

5 to 10 - Brown Thrasher, Snowy Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Song Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Downy Woodpecker, Fla. Yellow-throat, Fla. Scrub Jay, Chickadee, Common Loon, Fla. Grackle, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow Palm Warbler, Carolina Wren, House Wren.

1 to 4 - Those underlined are unusual here. (4 ea.) Osprey, Pine Warbler. (3 ea.) Purple Finch, Bluegray Gnatcatcher, Marsh Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Forster Tern. (2 ea.) Anhinga, Pileated Woodpecker, Coot, Dowitcher, Mallard Duck, White Ibis, Clapper Rail, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Sandpiper. (one each) - Bob White, Vermillion Flycatcher, Coopers Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson Snipe, Hairy Woodpecker, Canvas-back Duck, Red-headed Duck, Greater Scaup Duck, Fla. Gallinule, Green Heron, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Parula Warbler, Prairie Warbler.

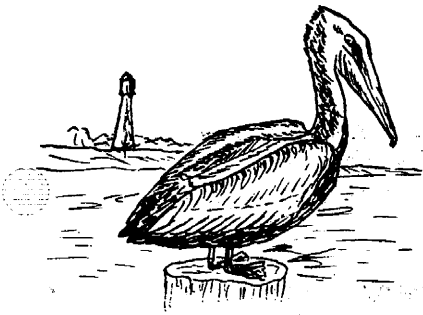
Species recorded last year but not seen this year - Bald Eagle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Lesser Yellow-legs, Wood Ibis, Great Black-backed Gull, White Pelican, Brown-headed Cowbird, Caspian Tern, Cabot Tern, Hooded Merganser, Baldpate Duck.

Robins, Goldfinches and Black Skimmers were seen in flocks totaling more than 1000 individuals. This is the first time in several years that Goldfinches have been so numerous here.

Cocoa Census - Mr. Alan Cruickshank of the National Audubon Society, who supervises the Cocoa area census, reports that on Dec. 27, he had 50 competent observers in the field from dawn to dusk who listed 193 species. This is a new record for any census area in the U.S. and was achieved in spite of the fact that 8 other species were seen during the same week but were not found on the census day. This proves that there are at least 200 species to be found in this area at this time of year.

Titusville Census - Fred Ackermann took four other members of the Halifax River Audubon Society to Titusville on Dec. 30 to help with the Florida Audubon Society Census. 3461 birds of 77 species were recorded.

Mt. Dora Boat Trip - Feb. 19. All 50 tickets have been sold to members. Chairman Chester Childs will arrange for an additional trip for those who were disappointed this time if there is sufficient demand. If you are interested phone him at CL 3-5527. He will be out of town until January 27.



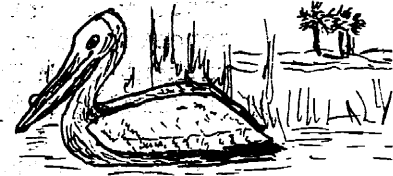
THE PELICAN

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY THE

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON CLUB

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA



No. 2

February

1958

Next Regular Meeting - Monday, Feb. 24 - 7:30 P.M., Y.M.C.A. at 260 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach. Mr. C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, will show a colored motion picture "Spectacular Birds of Florida" and outline plans of the State Society for the coming year.

Boat Trips. Due to the continued cold weather, it has been necessary to cancel the boat trips from Mt. Dora scheduled for Feb. 19 and 22. The Wednesday, Feb. 19 trip has been rescheduled for Wed. March 5th, and the Sat. 22nd trip will be run on Saturday March 15th. Refund will be made for reservations on the cancelled trips if tickets are returned in time to be resold for the later dates. Changes will be handled by Trip Chairman Chester Childs, 118 Milton Rd. Daytona Beach. Checks for \$2.50 per person should accompany all requests for additional reservations.

Coming Field Trips.

Saturday, Mar. 1 - All day trip to Alexander Springs. Bring lunch. This is always a good trip and quite often Limpkins are seen.

Monday, Mar. 10 - Half day trip to Palmetto Trails. Mrs. Rose Block will give special help to those interested in flowers.

Saturday, Mar. 15 - All day trip to Coronado Beach and Turtle Mound. This is the last scheduled trip to the beaches. Fred Ackermann will be in charge. Conflict between this trip and the second boat trip is regretted but unavoidable.

Saturday, Mar. 20 - Half day trip to Tomoka Park etc. This route never fails to bring good results.

Audubon Screen Tour Lectures - Dr. Arthur Allen and Roger Tory Peterson thrilled the last two audiences with their splendid pictures and lectures. The two remaining lectures are:

Saturday, Mar. 8 - Mr. Leonard Hall will present "Wateray Life" at Seabreeze High School at 7:30 P.M. and

Saturday, Mar. 29 - Mr. Kenneth Morrison will present "The Long Flight Back" at the same time and place.

It is regretted that those who wanted to attend the Peterson lecture exceeded the seating and standing room capacity of the High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 P.M.

Space will not permit giving personal credit for all of the reports of interesting observations but their importance can be measured by the fact that without them Trip Director Fred Ackermann could not have made available the material for the following summary:

The cold weather has killed so much of the insect life that many birds have been forced to depend on other sources for food. Robins and Cedar Waxwings in unusually large numbers have been feeding on the frozen and fermented berries of the Cabbage Palm, Brazilian Pepper and China Berry with the result that many have reported or brought in birds that appeared to be intoxicated. Like any other drunk they recover if left alone. Unfortunately, we do not have black coffee berries for them.

On one field trip, a very large flock of Tree Swallows were seen flying in a counter-clockwise swirl over some low bushes. At intervals they would swoop down en masse (estimated 1500) to weigh down the branches and after a moment rise again to continue their whirling flight. They seemed to be feeding on the berries of the shrubs instead of their usual mosquitoes. When here recently, Roger Peterson told the editor that while this is an uncommon sight in Florida, it is the usual source of food for those (Tree Swallows) who winter on Long Island.

Some of our usual winter residents here in considerable numbers are Ring-billed Gulls, Laughing Gulls, Bonapart Gulls (75 in one flock), Black Skimmers, Meadow Larks, Bluebirds, Myrtle Warblers, and Western Palm Warblers.

Others in larger than usual numbers are, Wood Storks (formerly called Wood Ibis), Gannets, Bald Eagles, Bowitchers, American Pipits, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Florida Scrub Jays.

The Jan. 31 Field trip found the St. John's River marshes west of Cocoa teeming with bird life. Beautiful Shoveller Ducks, Baldpates and Blue-winged Teal fed in good light with Coots and many of the more common ducks. Three Florida Cranes flew over and a Red-tailed Hawk was seen to catch and carry away a good sized snake. The tide was low on Canaveral Flats but many species of shore birds and a nice flock of Pintail Ducks were observed. The Jupiter C Missile could be seen above the trees as it stood on its launching pad. Later that night it was fired to place our first free world satellite in orbit around the earth.

Among others reported were: White Pelican (50), Ovenbird, Pleated Woodpecker, Wilson Snipe, King Rail, Clapper Rail (8 in one spot), Field Sparrow, American Bittern, Tufted Titmouse (early), Caspian Tern and Blackbacked Gull.

Due to our excellent Field trips, our good meetings and excellent Screen Tour lectures, interest in our Society has been strong this winter. Our membership now stands at 156. Only 26 of those who were members last year have failed to reregister and some of these are not due yet for their winter vacations. Our field trips have been specially good in spite of the cold and as many as 96 species have been observed in one day.

Robert S. Henderson, Editor. 431 N. Halifax Ave. Daytona Beach.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin of the
Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Number 3

March

1958

ANNUAL MEETING - 7:30 P.M. Monday, March 31, at the Y.M.C.A. This is the annual business meeting at which officers will be elected and committee reports received. For the entertainment, Mrs. May Folk will review the recent book "Audubon's Lucy" which tells many interesting things about the life of the great naturalist after whom our society is named.

Field Trips - Thursday, April 3rd - Half day to the Tomoka area.

Thursday, April 10th - All day to the West Volusia area.

Wednesday, April 16th - Half day to Bethune Pt., McDonald's Pond etc.

Wednesday, April 23rd - All day to Matanzas Inlet, Conch Is. etc. This will be the last of the organized trips for the season.

Screen Tour Lecture - The last of the season lecture series will be given by Kenneth Morrison on "The Long Flight Back" at Seabreeze High School Auditorium at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, March 29th.

The Pelican - The last issue of the spring season will go out in April and the first of the fall season is planned for October. All members who wish to have either or both of these sent to Northern addresses should notify the editor. Since our paper supply was exhausted and we had changed the name of our group to "Society" it was necessary to have a new head. It was cheaper and will serve its purpose. We hope you like it.

A Good Season - In spite of the unusually cool season, this has been one of our best years. Our membership has set a record and now stands at 163.

Fred Ackermann's usual good schedule of field trips have been well attended and though we have not, perhaps, always recorded quite as many species as in warmer winters, some very unusual records have been made and we will probably catch up on the total as the warmer weather brings those who like many of our tourists, have delayed their trip north.

Connie Ekdahl and his Screen Tour Committee have given us a very successful season both in the high quality of the programs and the overflow crowds that have attended. We look forward to next year knowing that The National Audubon Society will have more equally good lecturers with stirring pictures.

Chet Childs had a lot of trouble getting our boat trips off because of bad weather but both were finally held and those who went (63) enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately high water and the dredging in Haines Creek interfered a little with the "birding" but these could not be helped and he did his usual good job.

Miss Abbie Hobbs and her committee had a fine exhibit in the flower show which attracted many interested visitors.

Frank Berger gave us good meeting programs, our new Y.M.C.A. meeting place proved to be very comfortable and convenient and our club meetings have been well attended.

President Edgar Folk has kept his active Executive Committee hard at work and we have had a good financial year.

Interesting details will be given in the reports at the coming annual meeting and will be summarized in the April PELLICAN.

A Picnic sometime in April to provide a social event for the season end has been suggested. It will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Dr. Folk suggests that the Society consider publishing the outline of birds that may usually be seen in the Halifax River area that was issued in mimeograph form to all members this year. Estimates are being obtained on the cost of issuing it about 4" x 7" so that it could be pasted in the back cover of the Peterson Bird Guide. It should be revised and might be made available to members free or at small cost. Would you be interested in having it in this form?

Fred Ackermann's reports on field trips since the last issue show that practically all of the species commonly seen at this season have been observed with the following that are not so common:

A few Caspian and Forster Terns are on the beach. Florida Cranes were seen on two trips. King, Clapper and Sora Rails in the marshes. Many Savannah and White-throated Sparrows. Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked, Ruddy and Bufflehead Ducks and Blue-winged Teal.

Pileated and Redheaded Woodpeckers, Purple Finches and Goldfinches.

Warblers are starting to come. Yellow-throated, Parula, Cerulean, and Pine, in addition to the Myrtle and Western Palm wintering here.

Baltimore Orioles and Rusty Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Boat-tailed Gracklers.

Florida and Purple Gallinules and many Anhingas (on the boat trips.)

Limpkin and both Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons.

Bald Eagles and Ospeys. Wood Ibis, (more than usual).

The Purple Martins have taken both new houses at the Yacht Basin.

Cedar Waxwings and Robins so numerous for months have thinned out.

Laughing Gulls are getting the summer black heads.

The next month should be about the best of the season.

Editor - Robert S. Henderson, 431 N. Halifax Ave., Daytona Beach.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin of the
Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Number 4

APRIL

1958

The Annual Meeting was one of our best. Attendance was about 25% of our membership which is considered good since so many of our members are here for only part of the season and many had already left for their permanent homes.

Mrs. May Folk, wife of our president, gave a very interesting review of the 1957 novel by Lucy Kennedy, "Audubon's Lucy" followed by the business meeting.

The report of the president was warm in its appreciation and sincere in its praise for the good work that has been done by many members to round out another good year. He said in part:

"The past season has been most successful and our members have gathered a heap of living out of it. We have, in fact, sometimes been embarrassed by our successes and growth.

"Our field trips have grown from a small group that would meet some years ago, to ask, "Where shall we go today?" to a well-organized department with a fine published calendar of events for the entire season. The increasing attendance has challenged Trip Director Fred Ackermann and his splendid assistants and it is only because of their loyalty and efficiency that we have been so well taken care of.

"Our boat trips were a great challenge, more wanting to go than could be accommodated. Bad weather caused postponment of both sections and only the fine management and tact of Chairman Chester Childs made it possible to meet the situation.

"Our Screen Tour Lectures have been of the usual high quality and Chairman Conrad Ekdahl and his fine assistants gave their same high efficiency and leadership. It is regretable that the limited seating capacity of the hall prevented some from attending.

"Our finances are in good shape, due largely to the success of our Screen Tours. The annual membership fee of \$1.00 a year does not meet the operating expenses of the society and it has been proposed that we make available a Sustaining membership of \$2.00 and a Life membership of \$25.00 for those who wish to contribute more liberally.

"Vice-president Frank Berger furnished good programs for our business meetings, which were well attended. The Y.M.C.A. have proved to be a very satisfactory meeting place.

"Vice-president Robert Henderson has kept the full membership in touch with the society's activities thru THE PELICAN and also edited a very useful outline to help less experienced members identify the birds of the Halifax River area.

"Miss Addie Hobbs led an able group that arranged a fine exhibit relating to the society's activities at the "Everybody's Flower Show". It was much enjoyed by many and was given a special award by the judges.

"Mrs. Rose Block rendered a valuable service to those interested in tree and flower identification and spoke before a number of clubs and other groups about birds.

"Our membership has reached 169 which is a new high.

"The loyalty of the Executive Committee and the entire membership has made the '57-'58 season an outstanding success."

High spots from the reports of committees and officers are touched upon as follows:

Field Trips. Several species new to our club list and as far as we know, new records for the Halifax River Area were, Harlequin Duck, Bullock's Oriole and Glossy Ibis. Golden-crowned Kinglets and Man-O-War birds, very scarce in this area, were also seen.

Boat trips. Even after postponement, the weather could have been improved upon. Many birds were seen by the 64 members who took the two sections of the trip, though the very high water and the dredging of Haines Creek into a straight canal made close observation of the marsh birds difficult.

Treasurer's Report.

Balance April 1, 1957 \$ 1664.87

Operating Receipts

Screen Tour ticket sales	1612.65	
Dues from members	169.00	
Boat trip ticket sales	175.00	
Miscellaneous sales, etc.	3.50	1960.15

Total \$ 3625.02

Operating Disbursements

Screen Tour costs	1160.62	
PELICAN - Clerical, supplies, postage	149.00	
Boat trip cost (including refunds)	140.70	
Rent (for business meeting room)	50.00	
Stationery and printing	41.79	
Telephone	54.85	
Contributions and memberships	62.00	
Miscellaneous	16.48	\$ 1675.44

Balance April 1, 1958 \$ 1949.58

Our Membership reached a new high this year with 171 enrolled.

Of these 95 or 55% have their permanent addresses in this area. However, many of them go north for some part of the summer. Those who live away and come to this area for winter vacations number 63, or 37% of our membership. Their stay with us varies from a few weeks to the entire winter program season.

Past members who like to keep in touch with the society, though they seldom come here now, number 13, or 8%. We are glad to have them still associated with us and since their main contact is thru THE PELICAN we specially want to know if it meets their needs.

Field Trip Director Fred Ackermann's final report shows that the season ended in a blaze of glory with the best weather, 43 members taking part and 114 species recorded.

Our official field trip season included 25 field trips and 2 boat trips. Attendance averaged 30 per trip and totaled 813. In all, 217 species were reported to Mr. Ackermann. This is 22 more than were reported for the same period in 1956-'57.

Three new species for our society list and, as far as we know, new records for the Halifax River Area were Harlequin Duck, Bullock's Oriole and Glossy Ibis. Only one each of the first two were found, but the Glossy Ibis came in numbers, (25 in one flock) and have been seen repeatedly in several locations.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet and Man-O-War were also very unusual records.

There has been more than usual activity in small one car trips by those who wanted to go in the field more often than the scheduled trips occurred. This is excellent and probably accounts for much of the increase in species reported.

Some of the good records from trips taken since the last issue include Baldpate Duck, White Pelican, Dowitcher, Red-backed Sandpiper, Wilson, Ringed and Piping Plover, Purple Gallinule, Wood Ibis (in larger than usual numbers), Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt, Glossy Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Anhinga, Cattle Egret, Oystercatcher, Gull-billed tern, Hudsonian Curlew, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Chuck-Wills-Widow, Night Hawk, Chimney Swift, Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager and many warblers including the Black-throated Blue, Black-poll, Cape May, Cerulian, Magnolia, Ovenbird, Prothonotary, Yellow, and Wormeating not so commonly found here.

It has been a good season and the society is very much indebted to Director Fred Ackermann and those who have helped him.

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY has recognized the Halifax River Area and our Conrad Ekdahl by electing him a member of its Board of Directors. He will keep us informed about the State Society's expanded program and opportunities we will all have to advance its interests.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Three years ago, when we reorganized, details of management were delegated to the Executive Committee. This took long discussions out of our business meetings and left time for interesting programs of an educational nature.

Actions taken by The Executive Committee have always been submitted to the society at its next business meeting where approval has usually been given without very much discussion.

Even though we have seemed to progress smoothly, some one occasionally expresses the opinion that the society is being managed by too few people. We do not know of any widespread desire to go back to the old method of having all business handled in the full society meeting, but we do know that all of the officers and committees often wish that they could have the judgment of the full membership when important decisions are being made.

At the recent annual meeting, Mr. Henderson reported that he planned to insert a questionnaire in the next PELIGAN, asking what features in it were most desirable. This met with ready response and it was agreed to include questions on other subjects especially those like the Field Trip Calendar and the Screen Tour arrangements, many of which must be decided before the society meets again.

Mr. Henderson was delegated to develop this idea. He has conferred with the Field Trip and Screen Tour Directors and questionnaires dealing with some of their problems are enclosed. When both man and wife are members, two have been sent.

To save time and present questions so that answers will be in a countable form, you can answer them with a check mark. Please feel free, however, to answer any of them more fully or to raise new ones. In such case, write whatever you wish to add and send to Mr. Henderson. A return envelope is enclosed.

We feel that now when we have just closed a very good season is the time to find out whether we are succeeding BECAUSE of what we are doing or IN SPITE OF IT, and we are most anxious to know what the majority of our members think about these questions.

Since future decisions will be made according to what the most members want, it is not necessary to ask that returned questionnaires be signed. It is important, however, that we have prompt returns.

The 25% of our members who were at the annual meeting pledged their full support to this experiment and we hope and expect that the other 75% will do as well. It is specially important that we hear from those who expect to spend all or part of next season with us.

Please read the questions and think them over. Then check your answers and mail them back as soon as possible.

Yours for an even better season,

G. Edgar Folk, President.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY.

Please read carefully, check your preferences and return to R. S. Henderson,
431 N. Halifax Ave., Daytona Beach, Fla.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR LECTURE PROBLEMS.

Attendance sometimes fills our present hall to capacity but no larger hall is available except City Auditorium which is too large and too expensive. Many come as much as an hour early to get good seats and good parking. As a result they are often already tired of sitting by the time the program starts.

This past season, we experimented by moving the starting time from 8:00 P.M. to 7:30. Should it be 7:30, 7:45 or 8:00?

Check the number of programs you attended last year: 0- 1- 2- 3- 4- 5.

A speaker cannot tell how well his voice carries over the amplifying system and we do not all hear alike. Some want it louder, some softer and some are satisfied.

Would you prefer to have it Louder, Softer, As it was?

Only about 25% of those at any one lecture are our members who receive society news thru the Pelican. About 75% are not thus reached and it has been suggested that most of them are probably not interested in our announcements anyway and might be glad to have the program limited to the introduction of the speaker and his presentation. This would shorten the evening by from 10 to 15 minutes.

Shall we limit the program in this way? YES NO

If we have special announcements shall they be kept to an essential minimum: YES NO

PROBLEMS OF THE PELICAN EDITOR.

This past season, it cost 87% of all dues paid in for supplies, clerical work and postage for seven issues of THE PELICAN.

Is its publication worth this to you? YES NO

If YES number (1 for best and so on) the following things you want to see included. Cross out any you think might well be eliminated.

Reminders of coming meetings and trips? _____

Reports of business meetings, etc. _____

Notes on birds seen since the last issue? _____

Birds due during the coming month? _____

Names of those who report first records? _____

Names and addresses of new members as they come in? _____

Suggestions on birds study methods, etc. _____

What else? _____

FIELD TRIP PROBLEMS you can help solve. READ CAREFULLY AND CHECK.

We have had a good field trip year in spite of unusual weather. Trip attendance has averaged about 30 for 27 land and boat trips. Many members are not here all season so probably only about half of our total membership went on one or more trips.

Those who plan and lead these trips want to know if anything can be done to increase participation by those who do not take part. Please check the months you were in the Halifax area last season.

Sept. ___ Oct. ___ Nov. ___ Dec. ___ Jan. ___ Feb. ___ Mar. ___ April ___

How many regular field trips did you go on? None- 1- 2- 3- 4- 5- over 5.

Are the days right? Past year trips were on Monday (2), Wednesday (2), Thursday (8), Friday (2) and Saturday (11). Check those you prefer.

For half days: Mon. ___ Tues. ___ Wed. ___ Thurs. ___ Fri. ___ Sat. ___

For full days: Mon. ___ Tues. ___ Wed. ___ Thurs. ___ Fri. ___ Sat. ___

Half day trips (13) were all in the Halifax area. Full day trips (14 including boat trips) were outside this area.

Do you enjoy one type of trip more than the other? YES ___ NO ___.

If YES, check which: All day trips ___ Half day trips ___.

All trips have been started at 8:00 A.M. because birds are most active and best seen in the early hours. Should they be started

Earlier - 7:30 ___, as now 8:00 ___, or later 8:30 ___, or 9:00 ___?

Interest in birds probably brings in most of our members, but many also enjoy this chance to meet and be with other members. All day trips, when we lunch together, and business meetings offer the best chance to get acquainted.

Should there be more such opportunities? YES ___, NO ___. Suggested are:

More all day trips ___, Special picnics ___, programs with speakers and discussions. If the later, which? Afternoons ___ or Evenings ___.

Large groups mean many cars. When all stay together, parking is hazardous at many good birding places, and good birds are often gone before all can see them. Starting small groups at intervals has been tried, but they soon caught up to each other. Is this problem serious enough to warrant continued study? Yes ___
No ___

It is suggested that this might be overcome on half day trips and opportunity for acquaintance increased if small groups went to several different good birding areas and returned to a 11:30 meeting to compare notes. More species would be recorded and a "good find" by one group could be followed up by others interested.

Would you like to see this plan tried? Yes ___ NO ___

(O v e r)

SPECIES RECORDED BY THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Between November 1, 1957 and April 23, 1958.

COMMON LOON- GREBES, Horned & Pied-billed-PELICANS, White & Brown, FLA. CORMORANT-
ANHINGA- EGRETS, American, Snowy, Cattle- HERONS, Great Blue, Little Blue,
Louisiana, Green, Black-crowned Night, Yellow-crowned Night. American Bittern.

WOOD IBIS- IBIS, White Glossy- DUCKS, American, Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Bald-
pate, Blue-winged Teal, Fla. Black, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup,
Harlequin, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Mottled (Black), Pintail, Redhead, Red-
breasted Merganser, Ring-necked, Ruddy, Shoveller and Wood duck.

VULTURES, Turkey & Black- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE; HAWKS, Sparrow, Cooper, Marsh,
Merline, Osprey, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Sharp-shinned, BALD EAGLE- FLA.
QUAIL - TURKEY - SANDHILL CRANE- LIMPKIN- RAILS, Clapper, King, Sora, Virginia,
American Coot, GALLINULES, Florida, Purple, OYSTER CATCHER.

PLOVERS, Black-bellied, Killdeer, Piping, Semi-palmated, Wilson, RUDDY TURN-
STONE- AMERICAN WOODCOCK- WILSON SNIPE- HUDSONIAN CURLEW- SANDPIPERS, Spotted,
Solitary, Least, Red-backed, Semi-palmated, Western, KNOT- DOWITCHER- WILLET-
YELLOW-LEGS, Greater, Lesser. SANDERLING- AVOCET - BLACK-NECKED STILT-

GULLS, Bonaparte, Herring, Great Black-backed, Laughing, and Ring-billed, TERNS,
Caspian, Common, Cabot, Forster, Gull-billed, Least, Royal. BLACK SKIMMER-
DOVES, Ground, Mourning, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, OWLS, Barn, Barred, Screech.

CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW- WHIP-POOR-WILL- NIGHTHAWK- CHIMNEY SWIFT, RUBY-THROATED
HUMMINGBIRD, - KINGFISHER- WOODPECKERS, Downy, Hairy, Flicker, Pileated, Red-
bellied, Red-headed, Yellow-bellied, Sapsucker. KINGBIRDS, Eastern Gray, CRESTED
FLYCATCHER. WOOD PEWEE, PHOEBE, VERMILLION FLYCATCHER.

SWALLOWS- Bank, Barn, Rough-winged, Purple Martin, Tree, JAYS, Fla. Blue, Fla.
Scrub- CROWS, Fla. Common, Fish, CHICKADEE, - TUFTED TITMOUSE, - NUTHATCHES,
White-breasted, Brown-headed, WRENS, Carolina, House, Long-billed Marsh, Short-
billed Marsh.

MOCKINGBIRD- CATBIRD- BROWN THRASHER- THRUSHES, Hermit, Robin, Bluebird, BLUE-
GRAY @NATCATCHER- KINGLETS, Golden-crowned, Ruby-crowned, AMERICAN PIPIT- CEDAR
WAX-WING - LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE- STARLING- VIREOS, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, White-
eyed, Yellow-throated.

WARBLERS, Black and White, Black-throated Blue, Black-poll, Cape May, Cerulean,
Magnolia, Myrtle, Ovenbird, Parula, Pine, Prothonotary, Prairie, Orange-crowned,
Redstart, Hooded, Western Palm, Yellow Palm, Fla. Yellow-throat, Yellow-throated,
Yellow, Worm-eating.

BLACKBIRDS, Red-winged, Rusty, BOBOLINK, MEADOWLARK, COWBIRD, GRACKLES, Fla.
Purple, Boat-tailed, ORIOLES, Baltimore, Bullocks, TANAGERS, Scarlet, Summer.
GROSBEAKS, Cardinal, Blue, BUNTINGS, Indigo, Painted. PURPLE FINCH, GOLD-
FINCH, TOWHEES, Red-eyed, White-eyed, SPARROWS, Dusky Seaside, Chipping,
Field, Fox, Swamp, Pine-woods, Grasshopper, Sharp-tailed, Savannah, White-
throated, White-crowned, Vesper, English.

Total Species - 217. Same period last year - 195.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin of the
Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

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October

1958

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE.

Our society year ended September 30th. A Form is enclosed for your use. Please send it in SOON with complete information and your dues of \$1.00. We ended the year with 171 members. Of these 112 live in the Halifax area or spend the winter here. Of the remainder, 28 visit us for less than five months during the winter and 31 live outside the area. Some of these are former members who like to keep in contact with the society's activities. We are glad to have them all. Perhaps some day they may come back.

THE NEW CALENDAR

Fred Ackermann has done his usual good job and we have a fine program of field trips. Connie Ekdahl and his committee are all set for a good Screen Tour season. Some of the speakers are new to us but we can count on The National Audubon Society to keep up the excellent quality that has marked these programs. Copies of the calendar are now in the hands of all of last year's members. A limited supply remains for new members and other demands.

The new PELICAN feature, "Birds expected next month", will take up considerable space and something must give. One of the best places may be "Reminders of coming events" so take good care of your copy of the calendar for reference for trip details for it is planned to give space to only an outline reminder of dates.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS - First meeting Monday November 3rd.

The Executive Board meetings have outgrown the seating facilities of our president's living room so arrangements have been made to hold these meetings in the Green Room at the Y.M.C.A. this year. The time and dates will be as given in the calendar. All members will be welcome to come to these meetings and, if they wish, take part in the discussions of society affairs. However, as provided in the by-laws, only board members may vote. Executive Board decisions will still be passed upon at the monthly business meetings when all members vote.

FIELD TRIPS and FIRST BUSINESS MEETING.

Note in your calendar that three good trips will be held before the first fall business meeting. These are scheduled for Wednesdays, November 5th and 12; and Thursday, November 20th. The first Business Meeting will be November 24th when the program time will be given to reports from members on their summer birding. This is always one of our best meetings. Be sure to come.

REMEMBER THE QUESTIONNAIRES?

There is a story about a boy who phoned his boss to ask if he needed a new errand boy. On being told that the present one was doing well, he went away rejoicing saying "I was just checking up on myself".

In this same spirit it was voted at the annual meeting to ask the full membership to express its opinions on how the society might improve its service. The editor accordingly prepared a questionnaire which was approved by the president, the chairman of the Screen Tour Committee and the Director of Field Trips and sent it out with the last issue of THE PELICAN.

When fifty had been returned (six weeks later), the answers were tabulated and analysed and the results given to those who had important summer decisions to make in preparation for our fall and winter activities. Later returns followed the same trends.

About 35% of our 171 members answered, mostly from the 65% who live in the Halifax area or spend several winter months here. Most of them came from members who are active in going on field trips and attending Screen Tour lectures. Thus the following summary expresses the opinions of a good cross section of those who seem to be most interested in these programs.

The returns show a strong desire for more activities that will help members become better acquainted. All-day trips when the groups gather for lunch are popular with 94% of those who answered while only 6% prefer half-day trips. This may well be due to the fact that the short trips have not offered as much chance for sociability. This seems bourn out by the heavy vote in favor of trying the proposed experiment in which small groups will cover several good nearby areas and return at 11:30 A.M. for a short meeting to compare notes and talk over the morning's experiences.

A considerable number asked for a series of programs in addition to our business meetings to provide more time for movies, slides, and lectures on birds with more chance to get better acquainted. Only a few voted for more picnics and purely social gatherings.

The 7:30 P.M. time for starting Screen-Tour Lectures is popular but 75% voted to limit the program to the main speaker and 93% say that if announcements, etc. are necessary they should be kept to a minimum.

THE PELICAN is popular. Only three voted to discontinue it as too expensive. Preferences for the several kinds of material that might be included were given as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Reminders for coming events. | 4 - Condensed reports on meetings. |
| 2 - Birds to expect next month. | 5 - Special editorial features. |
| 3 - Birds seen last month. | 6 - Who reported first records. |

A majority voted for continued study on the problem of having too many cars in one group on field trips. Fred Ackermann who has tried to solve this will be glad to have further suggestions.

Those who responded to our questions seem well pleased, generally, with the way the society is being operated. The others may also be but they didn't say.

A NEW COURSE IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION

A new Course in BIRD IDENTIFICATION will soon be announced by Daytona Beach Junior College as a part of its adult education program. While this course is planned primarily for those with limited or no experience as bird watchers, it will contain much that will interest anyone who has not made a systematic study of birds and the "short cuts" to their proper identification.

The course will be practical and non-technical and will include:

An outline of the origin of birds and how they have developed during the past 150,000,000 years.

How birds are classified and named and the characteristics that determine their species and grouping in families.

Instruction and practice in making good field observations.

How to use bird guides in completing identifications.

How to keep good bird records.

The course will begin with several illustrated lectures which will be given from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. weekly or semi-weekly as the class desires. These will be followed by a number of field trips for actual practice in making observations and using them to complete identification of the birds studied. Trips will be made by auto on a share-the-ride basis and will be held either in the forenoon or afternoon as the group prefers. They are planned so as to not conflict with our regular field trips.

Field trips will be limited to 25 persons but as many groups as are necessary will be formed to accommodate the enrollment.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS by Roger Tory Peterson will be used as reference in completing identifications. A limited number will be made available by the College for use on field trips.

The course will be taught by Robert S. Henderson who studied Ornithology under Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University who was one of our Screen Tour lecturers last winter and who has approved the plans for this course, and with Mr. Ludlow Griscom head of the Department of Ornithology at Harvard University who is generally recognized as one of the country's leading experts in field identification. He has had 50 years of field experience as well.

A registration fee of \$2.00 (due with enrollment) will cover the cost of materials and printed helps that will be provided.

Applications for enrollment will be received at Mainland High School (Room 105) from 7:30 to 9 P.M. on Wednesday, October 29. As a special service to Halifax River Society members, Secretary Mrs. R. S. Henderson, 431 N. Halifax Ave., Daytona Beach, Fla. will mail application forms to those who send a self addressed stamped envelope. This may be mailed with the fee to the Dept. of Adult Education, Daytona Beach Junior College. Make checks payable to the college.

Watch the local papers for additional details concerning time and place of meetings, etc. Classes will start as soon as the enrollment is completed but the length of the course cannot be determined until some experience has been gained.

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Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

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DECEMBER

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THE NEXT MEETING of the society will be held Monday, December 29th at 7:30 P.M. at the Y.M.C.A., 260 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach. Mr. Rubert J. Longstreet, former president of the Halifax River and of the Florida Audubon Societies will be the speaker. He is author of "Birds of Florida" and "Ornithology" of the Mosquitoes" the only bird book dealing particularly with the Halifax River area, and every one will want to hear him.

COMING FIELD TRIPS. All day trips to Welaka Fish Hatchery on Friday, January 2, and on Saturday January 17 to Rock Springs, and half day trips on Friday, January 9, and Saturday, January 24. If they are as good as the December trips, you will not want to miss any.

THE FIRST AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR LECTURE - Saturday, January 3, 7:30 P.M. at Seabreez High School. Mr. A. C. Twomey of the National Audubon Society staff will illustrate his talk with excellent colored motion pictures of his birding within the Arctic Circle. Season tickets for all five lectures in this popular series are on sale thru our officers and members of our Screen Tour Committee, or may be purchased at the door on Jan. 3. \$3.00 for Adults, \$1.50 for children and students. Single admissions 80 cents and 40 cents respectively. Don't miss it and come early.

MEMBERSHIP. To date, 100, or 63% of last year's members have renewed for the present year. Nine have died or have notified the Secretary that they do not plan to be in the Halifax area this season. Are you one of the 62 members who have not been heard from? If so, you will find an application form herewith. If you have recently sent application and dues (\$1.00 for Active, \$2.00 for Sustaining, or \$5.00 for Contributing Memberships), just ignore this. If you have not renewed but plan to, be sure to send it soon so you will not miss the January issue of THE PELICAN. As usual, this is the last issue that will be mailed to those who have not renewed their memberships.

A COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION has been appointed by President Folk to make a study of bird sanctuaries and other conservation activities in this area, in preparation for further development of our Society's Conservation Program. The committee consists of Chester H. Childs, Chairman, Fred Ackermann, Ernest Benn, Mrs. Rose Block and Conrad Ekdahl. They will be glad to hear any suggestions.

THE NEW SERVICE DEPARTMENT has been authorized on an experimental basis under the leadership of Joe Fairbank who will organize a Service Committee to assist in making items of interest to birders easily available at society meetings and on field trips. The Florida Audubon Society is cooperating in this venture. Items now in stock include:

"A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS" Roger Tory Peterson 3.95

This is the standard guide used by most birders in America.
Every one interested in birds should have one.

"HOW TO KNOW THE BIRDS" Roger Tory Peterson50

A paper edition of excellent material and details about habitats etc. not found in the larger guide.

Plastic Covers for the Peterson "Guide to the Birds" 1.00 page
Index tabs for the color plates in Peterson Guide50

Very helpful in finding illustrations quickly.

Binoculars - 7 x 35 Swift & Anderson - "Triton".36.00

This is a high quality glass (Japanese) fully tested and adjusted in America. Several local members have tested it in the field and rate it an excellent product. This price includes both Federal and State taxes and is 25% off list price to Audubon members only. A list of other binoculars available thru the Florida Audubon Society at 25% discount is available on request.

"BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN FLORIDA"

This is the new check list published by the Halifax River Society specially for use in this area. A copy is enclosed. It is on sale in our Service Department at Single copy 5¢, 3 for 10¢, 5 for 15¢, or 10 for 25¢.

All sales are for cash as listed plus 3% State sales tax.

In revising the old check list, the committee eliminated some species not usually seen here and added some that are becoming increasingly common. It was necessary to print 2000 cards to keep the price down so buy them and use them widely.

A new feature allows for grading identifications making it easy to differentiate between those you are sure of and are willing to put on your life list, those you are fairly well sure of and those that you consider only "possible" or that was merely pointed out to you by someone else and which you do not feel sure you will know next time. Of course, those who know most of the species well will not often use this feature but it will be useful to a large majority of our members and will be appreciated more and more as it is used.

CREDIT FOR FIRST. Everyone gets a thrill out of seeing a rare species or to be first to see one returning to the area and the question of giving editorial credit in the Pelican keeps coming up. This is very difficult to do fairly because:

First: The record is often seen by a group all of whom should claim equal mention. This takes a lot of space and is often inaccurate and there is more chance of seeming to slight a member than it is worth to the membership as a whole.

Second: Those who answered the questionnaires sent out to all members last spring, rated giving such credit last among six types of material suggested as possible PELICAN material, indicating that there is not much general interest in it.

Third: Sometimes on field trips different groups will see the same record and report on the same day. Who is to say who's first?

However, there are times when very unusual birds are reported when it seems likely that most members will want to know about when and where they were found and who takes the responsibility for the identifications. The editor has decided to use the method of the National Audubon Society in publishing FIELD NOTES, namely, to give the name of the person who reports the record or the name of the leader of the group who presumably has checked the identification. Hence the special mention in the following:

* Pelican - '58 Dec.

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MAN-O-WAR BIRDS - (Robert Hunter) Nov. 17, 14 seen near the Inlet. These are never common in our territory and specially that near.

WOOD PEWEE - (Ackermann & Ekdahl) Nov. 12, near Samsula. This is a common summer bird for many of us who go north but rare here.

DICKCISSEL - (Ackermann). A fine male Nov. 25, near Cody Corners. Looks much like a small Meadowlark and is a rare, accidental visitor from the western plains.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - (Ackermann) Nov. 25, also near Cody Corners. This, too, is well known to those who bird in the north but rare here.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW and REDDISH EGRET (Henderson) Nov. 28 at Canaveral Harbor. The first is very rare from the north, the second equally rare from the south. The record was substantiated by W. F. White Trip Director of the Indian River Audubon Society who was present.

GREATER SCAUP DUCK - (Henderson) Dec. 9, 12 seen at Bethune Point. Concerning the hard-to-see greenish cast on the head as compared with the dull purplish cast on the more familiar Lesser Scaup, Peterson says, "These differences are tricky and can be made sure of only when the bird is nearby and in good light." In this case the distance was about 100 ft. and the light perfect.

MARbled GODWIT - (Hamilton) Dec. 13, at Canaveral Harbor. This is another bird from the west and a very good bird.

* The boat trip Dec. 6, was a great success. Weather was fine and 45 attended. About 50 species, mostly water birds were seen including a very fine adult Bald Eagle at the Daytona Beach Yacht Basin, many Caspian Terns, and Black Skimmers, White Pelicans, White and Wood Ibis and all of the more common Herons.

The field trips have all been good. Many old bird friends are back for the winter including, Laughing and Bonapart Gulls, Forster Terns, 1 Gull-billed Tern, thousands of Royal Terns, Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Robins, Bluebirds, Meadowlarks, Pine, Myrtle and Palm Warblers, Avocets, Boat-tailed Grackles, Red-tailed Hawk, and many Sparrow Hawks, Pintail and Mallard Ducks, 500 White Ibis in one flock, Pipits.

Cattle Egrets which were quite common in October seem to have left.

The turn of the year should bring more old friends both in birds and in members. A holiday greeting from Ed. and Gussie Harding says they are firmly settled in Bradenton and have joined two Audubon Societies down "that-a-way".

The Christmas Bird Count will be over by the time this issue reaches you but will undoubtedly have some good records.

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The Junior College Course in BIRDS AND THEIR CONSERVATION has a class of 27 including several Audubon Society members.

A new class will be started on Monday, January 12, with field trips probably on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The registration fee will be \$2.00 for the course. The schedule has been arranged to prevent conflicts with the business meetings of the Halifax River Society but some conflict with the Saturday field trips is unavoidable since some class members have only that day free. Audubon Society members will be urged to go on the society field trips. The change from Tuesday to Monday evenings for lectures is due to the fact that the new course will start before the present one is finished and only Monday evening is available at the school.

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY, which now numbers more than 1700 members, is making great strides in acquiring sanctuaries. Six new ones have been taken over in the past few months and a number of others are expected to develop in the near future. Quite a number of Halifax River members are also in the state society and enjoy the excellent state publication, The Florida Naturalist, which is sent regularly to all members of the Florida Society.

The state wide society can do many more things to advance the preservation of breeding and feeding areas for our Herons and Ibis which are losing ground to the advances of civilization.

Conrad Ekdahl of our Society, Box 1246, Daytona Beach, is a member of the Membership Committee of the Florida Audubon Society and will be pleased to receive the application of any one who will join in the great work of the state society.

A membership application is enclosed. Why not give yourself a fine New Year's present by "joining up"?