

The 1959 Christmas Census taken in conjunction with the National Audubon Society was very successful. The weather was mild and quiet and the 20 or so birders who took part reported 130 species identified between 7:30 A.M. and 5 P.M. When large flocks were seen their number was carefully estimated. The others were actually counted. Space will not permit giving the number for each but an idea of their prevalence can be had from the grouping below. Those underlined are not commonly seen here at this season.

- Over 500 - Fish Crow, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Robin, Black Skimmer, Common Crow, Tree Swallow.
- 200 -500 - Starling, Royal Tern, Little Blue Heron, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-winged Blackbird, Fla. Cormorant, Mourning Dove, Common Egret, Herring Gull, Mockingbird, Brown Pelican, Sanderling, Myrtle Warbler.
- 100 -200 - Fla. Cardinal, Brown-headed Cowbird, Lesser Scaup Duck, Snowy Egret, Bonapart Gull, Louisiana Heron, White Ibis, Fla. Blue Jay, House Sparrow, Ruddy Turnstone, Cedar Waxwing.
- 50 -100 - Rusty Blackbird, Bluebird, Cattle Egret, Goldfinch, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Chipping Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, Western Palm Warbler, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike.
- 25 - 50 - Catbird, Flicker, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Common Loon, Phoebe, American Pipit, Black-bellied Plover, Forster Tern, Rufous-sided Towhee, Black Vulture, House Wren, Ground Dove, Fla. Grackle, Common Snipe.
- 10 - 25 - Fla. Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Merganser, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Yellow Palm Warbler, Fla. Wren.
- 5 - 10 - Coot, Fla. Chickadee, Mallard Duck, Marsh Hawk, Green Heron, Wood Stork, Scrub Jay, Hooded Merganser, Semi-palmated Plover, Clapper Rail, White-throated Sparrow, Caspian Tern, Brown Thrasher, Black and White Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Willet, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Anhinga, Fla. Yellowthroat.
- 4 - Knot, Dunlin, White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker.
- 3 - Buffle-head Duck, Fla. Gallinule, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Osprey, Field Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Piping Plover, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Lesser Yellowlegs.
- 2 - Ovenbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Blue-winged Teal, Hermit Thrush, Parula Warbler, Greater Yellow-legs, Black-backed Gull.
- 1 - Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Gannet, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Screech Owl, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Seaside Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Snow goose.

This is the largest number of species ever recorded in the Christmas census in this area. Interestingly, the totals recorded for the Titusville area by the Florida Audubon Society and in the Jacksonville area by the Duval County Audubon Society were almost identical with this. It just seems to have been unusually good birding along the Florida east coast.

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY will hold its 60th Annual Meeting in Maitland and nearby Winter Park Friday, February 5th thru Sunday, February 7th.

A group of Halifax Society members are planning to attend on Saturday, the 6th. They will leave Daytona Beach Saturday morning and return in late afternoon or early evening. The annual meeting session will be held in connection with the luncheon meeting at the Hotel Langford, Winter Park at 12:15 P.M.

The cost will be a registration fee (\$1.00) for the conference and \$3.00 for the luncheon. This covers tips and gratuities.

Members of the F.A.S. have received notices and application forms for reservations for the luncheon and can make their own reservations. Others are welcome and can make reservations thru President Chester H. Childs, Phone CL 3-5527 not later than Saturday, January 30.

Members of the Florida Audubon Society from the Halifax Area as of last July are:

: Fred J. Ackermann	H. Francis Kortheuer
Mrs. Fred J. Armstrong	* Mrs. F. M. Kirkpatrick
Miss Marie M. Badetty	John Lahart
Mrs. W. W. Beatty	* Mrs. Isaac L. Merrill, Sr.
* Mrs. Rose Block	* Dennis E. Miller
Capt. T. C. Blodgett	Mrs. Victor Morrison
Mrs. W. J. Boulboulle	Mrs. H. B. Monroe
Miss Lesley Brower	Mrs. Aurora Poston
John A. Brown, Jr.	* Mrs. Arthur L. Purinton
Miss Leslie R. Brown	Miss Inga H. Quam
. Mr. J. A. Burgman	* Mr. & Mrs. F. Beacom Rich
. Chester H. Childs	Miss Margaret G. Rogers
Mrs. Lula D. Crouch	. Dr. Ruth T. Rogers
Frank Crosby	Fred Schmidt
Mrs. W. H. Damon	* Mrs. C. Ezra Scott
: Mrs. Alice S. Dimmick	Frank Shelby
: Conrad H. Ekdahl	Mrs. Clarence Simpson, Sr.
Mrs. J. Howard Elliott	Charles Skerrett
* Mrs. Herbert M. Fillebrown	Col. O. E. Thomas
: A. J. Fairbank	* Mrs. R. William Titus
* Mrs. William A. Finney	Mrs. A. H. Waldon
Rev. G. Edgar Folk	Mr. & Mrs. William M. Wright
. Mrs. J. Roberts Given	Mrs. Madeline B. Wright
. Frederick P. Goodrich	Mrs. Marjorie M. Van Buren
. Robert S. Henderson	* Mrs. L. G. Van Sickle

There are undoubtedly others who have joined whose names we do not have. On November 1, the membership of F.A.S. was 1700. A record.

The Florida Audubon Society is giving strong leadership to the Audubon Societies of the state and are our representative in cooperating with the several state agencies dealing with wild life. Its efforts in saving the nesting and feeding grounds of our wading birds by the establishment of many state bird sanctuaries has placed our state in the lead in bird conservation activities in the last few years and since this is only one of their many worthwhile programs that benefit us all, they deserve full support.

Basic membership is \$5.00 a year which includes a subscription to THE FLORIDA NATURALIST which keeps us all informed on birding in Florida.

THE FIRST AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR LECTURE was a sell out and if this is any indication of public interest for the rest of the season, there may be a serious seating problem for the rest of the programs.

Safety regulations, enforced by the city fire marshal, limit the number who may be admitted to the auditorium. Since the sale of season tickets never equals the capacity of the hall and all holders of season tickets never come to any given meeting, it is impossible to tell how many single admissions may be sold without having to turn some away.

Since a season ticket only guarantees holder a lower rate per program and not a seat, we will have to continue to sell tickets at the door and welcome all on first come, first served basis. The doors open at 6:30 P.M. and those who wish to be sure of a good seat usually come early.

Undoubtedly we could use a larger place but the next larger available is Peabody Auditorium which seats about 2500 persons.

The executive committee has authorized the Screen Tour Committee to investigate the possibilities of moving to the Auditorium but nothing can be done to relieve the pressure this year.

OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, Jr., one of America's best known authors and lecturers on birds will speak and show exceptionally fine full color motion pictures at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, January 30.

He is famous for his work in teaching ornithology, as author of the east and west editions of "A Guide to Bird Finding" and many other outstanding achievements in this field. Be sure to come, and invite your friends, but come early.

The Duval Observer and Naturalist published monthly by the Jacksonville society suggests the following dimensions for bird houses intended to attract the birds named to your garden. Birds are getting ready to nest now so "sooner the better" for getting them up.

<u>Bird</u>	<u>Size of box</u>	<u>Diameter of hole</u>	<u>Height of hole above floor</u>	<u>Height above ground</u>
Crested Flycatcher	6 x 6 x 6 in.	1 inch	2 inches	6 to 10 ft.
Florida Wren	4 x 4 x 6 in.	2 inches	4 inches	8 to 20 ft.
Flicker	7 x 7 x 16 in.	2½ inches	14 inches	6 to 20 ft.
Screech Owl	8 x 8 x 12 in.	3 inches	9 inches	10 to 30 ft.

Starlings or House Sparrows may take them over but it is common practice to throw them out as soon as they start to build and keep it up until they get discouraged, if ever.

Do not be surprised if you do not get birds the first year. Birds seem to prefer boxes that are somewhat weathered.

The following very interesting article has been published by my father and with migration about to start it is very timely.

SEA-BIRD MIGRATIONS GUIDE EARLY EXPLORERS

In a recent book by Harold Gatty, "Nature is Your Guide", the author points out that the primitive races, without any of the technical aids of the present day, had lived on and travelled between islands of the North Atlantic and South Pacific many hundreds of years before the islands were "discovered" by the explorers of our history books. He explains in great detail why it is evident that these early masters of the sea-routes learned the location of minute islands in the vast expanse of oceans by following the migrating sea birds.

Not all migration routes run north and south. A score or more species of birds fly from South Greenland direct to Europe in autumn, on the prevailing westerlies, but in spring they island-hop from Britain to Iceland to Greenland on the prevailing southerly winds. Erik the Red, an early Viking, following these exact routes, was ashore on Greenland in 982, over 500 years before Columbus.

The greatest pathfinders of history were the Polynesians, more daring and travelling far greater distances than even the Vikings. They sailed without aid of compass or any known chart, distances of 2,500 miles or more, over the world's greatest ocean, between a fantastic scatter of islands. The whole area of Polynesia, a great triangle with sides of over 4,000 miles, with one apex at Hawaii, one at Easter Island, and the third at New Zealand, was settled by this one people with one language and culture.

There is no doubt whatever that season after season the Polynesians watched the bird migrations and when they were confident that they had found a constant flyway, they set out to follow it. Their voyage from Tahiti to the Hawaiian Islands was on the same track as is used every year by the Pacific golden plover and the bristle-thighed curlew. Both of these species follow the same routes to this day.

The long-tailed cuckoo breeds in New Zealand and on migration is found throughout Polynesia. In September this migrant cuckoo flies south to New Zealand, and it seems more than a coincidence that its flyway is the route used by the early Maori fleet which colonized New Zealand from Tahiti about 1350 A.D. The long-tailed cuckoos do not all set out at once, but straggle over a period of two or three weeks. Once enroute, they never fly high over the sea, and the following voyager could doubtless see some of the migrating flock nearly every day, and perhaps hear them at night.

As did countless navigators even from times several thousands of years before Christ, they used captive birds as an aid to the final landfall. And on setting out to follow a flyway, they took careful departure by lining up range markers on the shore, sighted on the observed bird flights. Some of these range marks, pointing to distant lands, are still known in the South Pacific.

Even after charts and maps and the compass came into general use, birds were still an aid to navigation. Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the Bahamas in 1492 by his decision to alter course to the southwest because of the great number of small land birds flying in that direction.

The author, Harold Gatty, an Australian, was such an outstanding authority on navigation that he was placed in charge of Air Navigation Research and Training for the U. S. Army Air Corps and served as director of Air Transport at General MacArthur's headquarters.

ANOTHER HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY SERVICE. A branch of the ~~fine service department~~ of the Florida Audubon Society has been opened to ~~make books and equipment of~~ interest to birders easily available in the Halifax area. ~~Items most often wanted~~ will be kept in stock, for cash sale while others ~~will be obtained on a few days~~ notice. For the time being, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Henderson ~~will handle this de-~~partment. The Following items are now on hand and available at society meetings or by phone - CL 3-7398.

FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS - Roger Tory Peterson. \$3.95
Standard guide to identification marks for both land and water birds of the eastern United States.

HOW TO KNOW THE BIRDS - Roger Tory Peterson \$.50
A simple guide to the principles of bird identification. Excellent illustrations in color and sketches. A wonderful adjunct to the complete bird guide. Indispensable to beginners.

NATIONAL AUDUBON LAND BIRD GUIDE - Richard H. Pough \$3.95
Extensive description and fine illustrations of the land birds of the whole country. Widely used as a companion book for the Peterson Guides.

NATIONAL AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE - Richard H. Pough. \$3.95
A country-wide book on the water birds of our country.

1001 QUESTIONS ABOUT BIRDS ANSWERED - Allan & Helen Cruickshank. . . . \$5.00
Authentic answers to important questions not covered by the bird guide. Information that one could acquire only by years of study and a large bird library.

500 ANSWERS TO FLORIDA GARDEN QUESTIONS - \$2.75
by Herbert S. Wolfe, John V. Watkins and Thomas B. Mack. Will save many dollars and hours for the serious gardener who wonders why southern and northern gardening are so different.

NATIVE TREES OF FLORIDA.- by Erdman West and Lillian E. Arnold. . . . \$4.50
At long last, a tree guide that makes identification of Florida trees certain and easy. Excellent illustrations and descriptions.

PLASTIC COVERS for Peterson Guides. Protect your field guide. . . . \$1.00

INDEX TABS to the colored plates in Peterson's Eastern Guide. . . . \$.50
Easily applied. A great time saver in the field.

NEW LIFE LIST INDEX. Heavy duty (3 x 5) card index guides for filing a card index of your life list. By Florida Audubon Society.

File box, printed guides and 100 blank cards for species. \$1.50
Index cards only, printed tabs for all American species.65
Blank index cards (3 x 5) per 100.20

Boxes and blank cards are available in 5&10¢ stores or stationers.

Ask about other items and books not listed here.

Volume 5 - No. 3

March

1960

DINNER AND 36th ANNUAL MEETING 6 P.M. Monday, March 21. Tourist Church.

The Halifax River Society has enjoyed one of its best years as will be shown by the reports given at this meeting. Officers for the season of 1960-1961 will be elected and we will hear a fine address by C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, who will tell of the great progress made in establishing sanctuaries for the preservation of our wading birds, including our own new one at Port Orange. Bring your friends. This meeting is open to the public.

Reservations are required by Saturday, March 19. Get tickets at \$1.25 from Activities Chairman George Williams, 106 Salvador Place, Ormond Beach. Send self-addressed envelope and payment to him or phone him OR 7-0907 and pay at the door.

Friday, March 25. The second boat trip to Turtle Mound and return on the SEABREEZE II. \$2.00 per person. Start at 9 A.M. City Dock, return about 3:30 P.M. Bring lunch or buy sandwiches and coffee on the boat. Only a few tickets left. George Williams sells these too.

Our joint field trip with the Jacksonville society and the new St. Augustine society on March 5 was a great success even tho the wind was cold. The cheery fireplace and hot coffee at the home of Mrs. Victor Rahner of the St. Augustine society, was very welcome.

About 40 from the Halifax River society recorded 101 species including the American Oystercatcher and the White Pelican.

Remaining field trips for this area will all be important as the migration season is starting. The following will complete one of the most successful seasons in the history of the society.

Friday, March 18 - Full day trip to Canaveral Harbor and St. John River marshes at Cocoa. This is always an outstanding trip.

Friday, March 25 - The usual half day trip for those who do not take the boat trip. Start at 7:30 and 8 A.M. as usual.

Friday, April 1 (No foolin') All day trip to Rock Springs Park. This trip usually records Limpkins and warblers.

Friday, April 8 - The usual half-day trips. Good warbler time.

Saturday, Apr. 16 - Full day trip to Persimmon Hammock will take the place of the New Smyrna area trip which will be held on April 29.

Friday, April 22 - The usual half-day trips. Still good warbler time.

Friday, April 29 - All day via Tomoka Farms Rd., Pioneer Trail and the New Smyrna Beach area. This will be the last scheduled trip.

Bethune Point has been leased by the city to an industrial firm for a factory site. Society members going there recently have learned that the new leasees wish to discourage traffic thru the area though access to the point has not as yet been completely shut off. They expect to rearrange the area that the birds like so they will probably find a new resting place. We'll find them.

The Screen Tour Committee announces that the contract has been signed for next year's Screen Tour programs to be held in Peabody Auditorium. All five dates will be in January, February and March. Details will be announced at the annual dinner.

Our next program Saturday April 9 will, therefore, be the last to be held in the Seabreeze High School Auditorium. Our thanks go to the School Board and the Seabreeze High School people who have done so much to make it possible for us to out-grow the space there. This last program for this year will feature the wildlife of Australia which most of us will never have a chance to see for ourselves.

Robert Hermes, our speaker on February 13, said our fourteen year consecutive screen tour record is about the longest in the country.

It will be necessary to sell many more season tickets to enable us to make up the greatly added cost of using the Peabody Auditorium but "what are you gonna do?" when more come than you can seat as has been the case recently. Let's all "get with" the Screen Tour Committee and help them make this big gamble a great success.

Our Library Committee reports that City Library now has the Audubon Water Bird Book by Richard H. Pough which is used by so many as a fine companion book for the Peterson Field Guide and that the book "1001 Questions about birds answered" by Allan and Helen Cruickshank has been ordered.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY still has a few copies of "Florida Bird Life" by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. left from a special purchase they made at a price which enables them to offer these at \$9.75. When these are sold the price will go back up to the regular \$12.50. The Service Department of our society will be glad to obtain one for you. See Mr. or Mrs. Henderson who are directing the department at this time.

The society's service Department is now able to offer a real service to anyone contemplating the purchase of binoculars or field glasses. The enclosed separate sheet gives pertinent facts that can be used in making a good selection from the many confusing types, sizes and prices that are being offered in almost every corner store. If you are well fixed with your present binoculars keep this for reference or to pass along to some friend who may be interested. You may save them from making a costly error when they buy.

An interesting small booklet "Common Forest Trees of Florida - How to Know Them" has recently come to the editor with the information that they can be obtained free by writing to the Florida Forest and Park Service, Tallahassee, Fla. It is illustrated and instructive.

The Broward Warbler, published by the Ft. Lauderdale society, says, "Miss Nancy Wilson of Pompano Beach recently reported an interesting migration of Snow-birds that moved in during the recent cold spell. She reports seeing Virus-laden Slush Dwellers, Sun-tanned Storm Shirker, Plaster-casted Snifter-lifters and Icy-veined Snow Strollers. The Storm-stalled car Cusser is the most common of all northern winter birds. Birdwatchers may see them in great profusion hopping up and down in driveways any morning of the week, but on Monday mornings the cries of these birds are particularly strident and colorful. These birds come from the tundra regions of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey and can be observed in migration on U.S. 1 highway."

"DON'T BUY BINOCULARS IN THE DARK."

A pair of good binoculars is usually a long-time investment and with so many makes, types and qualities to select from, any one who is not familiar with the things that make them good or poor can make a selection that is not in keeping with the use he wishes the instrument to fill and be disappointed in it or may obtain one of poorer quality than he desires.

Binoculars come in two types: those on which the two eye pieces are focused with the central screw, which changes the focus of both eyes at once which are best for bird work, or the individual focusing type on which each eye piece is focused separately. The later are mostly used for marine work where there is no occasion to focus close up.

Magnification, or the number of times the bird or other image is brought closer, should be limited to 6, 7 or not over 8 times for holding by hand. Anything stronger will require a tripod or other solid support for most people.

Width of field, or the size of the area that can be seen without moving the glass, depends on the size of the large lense. These usually run from 30 to 40 millimeters in diameter and the magnification and field are usually expressed together as 6 x 30, 7 x 35, 8 x 40 etc. Special telescopes are available for use when it is desirable to use higher magnification on distant birds.

Good service for many years can only be obtained with binoculars in which good materials and good workman ship have been combined. It is impossible to see these qualities except by most careful inspection which the individual purchaser is unable to make. It is important, therefore, that binoculars be purchased only thru dealers who can be depended upon to make these careful inspections for you.

Good optical glass is required for good binoculars. Both the lenses and the prisms must be carefully ground and fastened securely in place. In the better makes, the "glass to air" surfaces are coated with a chemical that reduces loss of light thru reflecting light rays away instead of permitting them to come thru to your eye.

Metal in the frames must be both strong and light weight to prevent breakage due to dropping or other shock without undue heaviness.

Close Alignment of the passage of light rays thru both sides of the binoculars is required to bring but one image to both eyes. The least bit of movement in one prism will make you "see double" so it is most important that the prisms be securely fastened in clamps that can be adjusted if accidental shock jars one of them out of line. In many cheaper binoculars the prisms are merely cemented in and if they are jarred loose nothing can be done to readjust them.

Good workmanship is necessary to insure that all working parts will move smoothly together without undue wear and yet will be fitted tightly enough to keep out moisture and dust.

Good design is also important. Frames cast in one piece are stronger and tighter than those made in several parts. Most all of the highest quality makes use the one piece design.

A good carrying case will be strong and fit the binoculars snugly. Since it is used for protection when the binoculars are not in use it should be of good materials that can stand hard knocks.

Prices vary greatly according to the quality of the materials and workmanship and the labor costs where the binoculars were made. The best are made in American and German optical factories of best grade materials. Hence they cost much more than those made in Japan where labor costs are much lower. Some Japanese manufacturers insist on high grade workmanship while others are less demanding. As a result, the quality of Japanese binoculars vary greatly. Some importers are not too particular about the quality or are not equipped to test for defects, but the best American dealers test all Japanese binoculars delivered to them and return to the importers all that cannot pass rigid tests established by the American armed forces. Those that are rejected reach the American market at slightly lower prices thru stores that usually have little knowledge of the real quality of the binoculars they sell.

Store prices do not usually include the Federal excise tax of 10% or any state sales taxes. In Florida, 13% in taxes must be added to quoted prices. Many stores cannot guarantee that binoculars they sell can be repaired in America nor tell you where to send them for servicing.

The Service Department of the Halifax River Audubon Society handles only makes and models that are suited for bird study and have been fully tested for alignment, strength and good workmanship by high grade dependable American firms in their own laboratories, are willing to guarantee them against defects in these respects and are equipped to give good repair service if it should be needed.

The most commonly called for, of the following models, are kept on hand and others can be obtained on short notice. Prices include all taxes.

<u>Magnification and field</u>	<u>Coated surfaces</u>	<u>Approx. weight glasses only</u>	<u>Delivered Price</u>	<u>Make</u>
6 x 30	100%	Zephyr Light	\$192.50	American (Bausch & Lomb)
7 x 35	100%	" "	\$209.00	" "
8 x 40	100%	24 oz.	\$98.45	Bushnell-Japan
7 x 35	100%	17 oz.	\$81.95	" "
6 x 30	100%	17 oz.	\$65.45	" "
4 x 30	Excellent field glass	6 oz.	\$13.75	" "
8 x 40	100%	24 oz.	\$45.00	Swift - Japan
7 x 35	100%	22 oz.	\$39.50	" "
6 x 30	100%	19 oz.	\$31.00	" "
* 8 x 40	100%	24 oz.	\$42.50	Mirakel - "
* 7 x 35	100%	23 oz.	\$38.50	" "
* 7 x 35	60%	23 oz.	\$30.50	" "

All of the above come with strong leather carrying case with straps.

* - Shallow eye caps for use with eyeglasses can be had for \$2.00 extra with no added tax.

For full information on other binocular models or "Scopes" see Robert S. Henderson, Director, Service Department, HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, Daytona Beach, Florida. 431 N. Halifax Ave. Phone CL 3-7398.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 5 - No. 4

April

1960

FINAL SOCIETY MEETING of the 1960 spring season.

Tourist Church, Monday April 25, 7:30 P.M. Plans for field trips for the 1960-61 season will be discussed, after which slides will be accompanied by discussion of birds that have come the past month and what to expect during the summer by Robert S. Henderson.

REMAINING FIELD TRIPS.

Friday, April 22 - Half-day trip. Should catch current spring warbler migration. Usual starting times and place.

Friday, April 29 - Full day trip. To St. Augustine area. Water still too high from rains has closed the road to Persimmon Hammock. This is the last field trip of this season and is always good. Some chance that the Oyster-catcher, Gull-billed Tern and Wilson Plover may be nesting on Conch Island.

The 36th Annual meeting and dinner brought out 124 to hear C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, describe the state-wide program to establish new sanctuaries. It was the first dinner meeting of the society since its early days and was a good demonstration of the society's growing strength.

The following brief summaries of reports presented indicate that this has been a very successful year for the society and that even greater things can be expected for the 1960-61 season.

Treasurer's Report Conrad H. Ekdahl.

Cash balance April 1, 1959 1757.34

<u>Receipts</u> - Membership dues	358.00	
Screen Tour Program admissions	1548.80	
Special events - Boat trips, etc.	288.10	
Interest - Savings account	46.21	
Miscellaneous, including net sales	19.33	2260.44
Total		<u>4017.78</u>

Disbursements -

Screen Tour Program costs	1129.41	
Special events	277.59	
The Pelican	187.19	
Printing	50.27	
Films, projection supplies, etc.	62.01	
Rent - Y.M.C.A.	60.00	
Contributions & dues, etc.	325.00	
Miscellaneous operations	44.73	2136.20

Cash balance - April 11, 1960 1881.58

Total 4017.78

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 5 - No. 5

October

1960

FIRST SOCIETY MEETING of the 1960 fall season, Monday, October 24, Tourist Church social hall, 7:30 P.M. Lots of free parking in the church parking area or in the parking area of the First Federal Savings and Loan Co. across the street from the church.

Dr. Harvey Funk, Program Chairman, promises a short business meeting, a showing of some new slides and the always popular member reports on their summer birding. He asks that members limit their reports to two minutes so that all can be heard. Just hit the highlights.

FIRST FALL FIELD TRIP - Friday, October 21. The second trip will be on Saturday, October 29. Both are half day trips, with groups starting at 7:30 A.M. and again at 8 A.M. See enclosed program.

The first full day trip will be Friday, November 4, to St. Augustine Beach, Conch Is. and Villano Marshes. Bring lunch.

It has been customary for some years for guest riders to offer the car driver 50¢ for half days and \$1.00 for all day trips, to help "share the costs". With increased cost of gas, oil and repairs, this has usually left the driver "holding the bag". A study has been made of the mileage covered on the average trip as a result of which the Executive Committee has voted to suggest that a more fair rate will be 75¢ and \$1.50 respectively. This is not a requirement and some drivers prefer not to accept it; but it is customary to offer it so that the cost per person can be more evenly spread.

RENEWAL OF ALL MEMBERSHIPS is in order and an application form is enclosed. See page 4 of your new program for details. DON'T WAIT.

THE NEW SOCIETY PROGRAM for the fall, winter and spring is enclosed. These cost 7 1/3 cents each so put yours where you can refer to it for activity dates, etc. A limited number are held in reserve for new members and other mid-season needs. If you really need another, ask for it.

President Chester Childs and Educational Chairman R. S. Henderson represented the Halifax River Society at a state-wide work shop Audubon conference recently held at Avon Park. It was the first of its kind in Florida and was well attended by delegations from most of the Audubon Societies in the state. Many useful ideas were batted about and every group benefited. Some of the things to pass on now are suggested in the conference report just received such as:

Attention Florida Voters: Amendment 3 to the state constitution to be voted on Nov. 8th will, if adopted, tend to throw the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission which handles many conservation matters back under political control from which it was rescued in 1941. This commission is supported by fishing and hunting license fees which can now all be spent for conservation measures. The Florida Wildlife Federation, the Isaac Walton League, the Florida Conservation Council and many other groups that want to keep this license money available for conservation work, urge that every one who wants to see Florida kept in the forefront in this field - VOTE NO on Amendment #3 in the November 8 election.

HURRICANE DONNA was a thrilling experience and since so many of the society's members were not here, it seems appropriate to include a short article "Donna - Blow by Blow" written by Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless, one of our members. Anyone desiring an extra copy may obtain it from her for 10¢. (425 Zelda Blvd. D.Bch.)

THE PORT ORANGE AUDUBON SANCTUARY announced by Director C. Russell Mason when he spoke at our annual meeting last March, is now an actuality. It starts at the Port Orange bridge and extends south to Harbor Oaks, including 975 acres of islands in the Halifax River.

Since the April meeting, a fine large sign has been erected on the Port Orange causeway under direction of President Chester Childs and Conrad Ekdahl of this society acting in conjunction with the Florida Audubon Society under whose leadership the arrangements were made. The sanctuary is being posted with the help of Mr. Thomas J. Wetherell of Port Orange and the Port Orange Scout troop under Scoutmaster Robert Hunter. This work must be done by boat and consists of placing several hundred metal signs provided by the Florida Audubon Society.

Go down to the Port Orange Causeway any pleasant evening just before sunset and you will be amazed to see the great numbers of Heron and Ibis that converge on the sanctuary to roost for the night. The Halifax Society will supervise the sanctuary.

The cooperation of the Florida Inland Navigation District, the Army Engineers Corps and Volusia County thru Commissioner Ucal W. Cunningham, without whose efforts the Florida Audubon Society could not have brought this great sanctuary into being, are entitled to the commendation and appreciation of every nature lover in this county.

Robert S. Henderson, Chairman of the Educational Committee of the Halifax River Society, announced at the Executive Committee meeting that:

THE TRAINING FIELD TRIPS that were so popular last season for those who desire training in bird identification, will start Thursday, October 27, and continue on Monday and Thursday mornings starting at 9 A.M. from the Tourist Church parking lot. No advance arrangements are necessary. Anyone may come. Charge 50¢ per person.

THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT will again make tested binoculars, nature books, etc. available as a branch of the Service Department of the FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY. It will save members money and time.

HALIFAX AUDUBON TOURS, a new venture for those who wish to take more extensive trips than the field trip program provides, will offer its first tour, a three day trip to Sanibel Island for birding and shells early in December. Only a limited number can be accommodated. Details may be obtained from Mr. Henderson, phone CL 3-7398. If this trip works out well, others will be planned.

More details on all three of these activities will appear in the November PELICAN or can be obtained by mail from Mr. Henderson, 431 N. Halifax Ave., Daytona Beach.

The Screen Tour programs will be given in Peabody Auditorium this year. Good seats for all. No increase in prices. Tell your friends.

Vol. 5, No. 6

NOVEMBER

1960

SOCIETY MEETING 7:30 P.M. Monday, November 28th at Tourist Church. One block south of Seabreeze Blvd. on N. Wild Olive Ave. Lots of parking.

Mrs. H. B. Monroe will report on her birding trip to the West Indies with the Florida Audubon Society and Field Trip Director George Williams who spent the summer in Turkey and who nearly wore out the Peterson-Guide to European Birds given him by the Halifax Society, will tell of his birding in Asia-Minor and en route. A good program.

A short pre-meeting slide illustrated talk on bird identification will start at 7 P.M. All interested are invited to attend.

FIELD TRIPS will be held as announced in the printed program for the season which has been mailed to all members and can be obtained on field trips, at all meetings, or on request from the secretary. As in the last season, half-day routes are not announced in advance but go where the birding is best at the time.

The next all-day trip Saturday, November 26, to Cape Canaveral Harbor. This is always one of the most productive trips of the year. Bring lunch.

All-day trip, Friday, December 16, to Persimmon Hammock if water permits. If not, new plans will be announced at the November 28th society meeting.

Field trips taken to date have been exceptionally satisfactory. Some of the most unusual birds seen include: Dowitchers, Oystercatchers, Dunlins, Sandwich and Forster Terns, Black-bellied and Piping Plovers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Western Kingbird.

Summer brought a number of very interesting visitors among which were: Black and Common Terns, Snowy Plovers, Gull-billed Terns, Roseate Spoonbills, Backman's Sparrow, Reddish Egret, Great White Heron and most unusual, a Western Tanager (young first season male) near the Inlet. A mature male of this wanderer was found near Orlando in April. These are the first record of males for this part of the state. Heavy white wing bars and brilliant red on face are definite.

The usual winter visitants are returning daily and this is one of the best seasons to be birding in Florida. Get outside whenever you can.

Plans announced by the Educational Committee for special training classes in identification and a new project, Halifax Audubon Tours, to organize longer trips such as the proposed weekend visit to Sanibel Island will have to be postponed while Mr. Henderson, who was to direct them, undergoes an operation and recuperates therefrom. As soon as he is able to continue with them notice will appear here.

WE CAN BREATHE EASY AGAIN. Florida voters defeated the proposed amendment to the state constitution that would have put control of the State Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission back under political pressures. Congratulations to all who helped organize the NO vote.

CORKSCREW SWAMP AND EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK have both recovered from hurricane Donna and are open again for visitors according to the officials in charge of them.

SEE AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR PROGRAMS IN PEABODY AUDITORIUM THIS SEASON.

Use of the fine large auditorium enables the Halifax River Audubon Society to greatly extend the reach of its educational program. With 1900 lower floor seats available, it will no longer be necessary for any one to arrive an hour ahead of time to be sure of a good seat. The large lobby provides a place to wait for friends and ventilation is greatly improved. We shall miss the snug homey family atmosphere of Seabreeze Auditorium but can now take care of all comers.

The Halifax River Audubon Society will still continue to sponsor these programs but has turned full management of them over to The Halifax Screen Tour Club which has been organized to handle them.

Conrad H. Ekdahl former chairman of the society's Screen Tour Committee, is the new club's first president.

All purchasers of season tickets to the full five programs of the Screen Tour season will automatically become members of the club.

To encourage family participation in this unusual educational experience, the club will extend to all adult members, the privilege of bringing children without cost. Because of neighborhood friendships, this will not be limited to actual family groups; but adults bringing children must assume responsibility for them at all times and the number shall not exceed four children to one adult member.

Special low priced group rates will be available to school classes, Scout Troops and other organized youth groups under the supervision of adequate adult leadership.

As a special inducement to Audubon Society members, Screen Tour Club members, P.T.A.'s, Garden Clubs, and other groups to enrich their coffers, the club will require payment for only nine of every ten memberships sold. Individuals as well, may use this plan for their own profit as organizations. Two youth memberships will count as one adult.

Memberships will cost \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for student or youth tickets (high school age) for admittance to all five programs. Single admissions at 80¢ and 40¢ respectively will be sold at the auditorium prior to each program. Membership tickets will be on sale at the auditorium box office at the usual hours January 3, 4 & 5. Attendance of unaccompanied children (under high school age) is not encouraged.

Those willing to assist in selling membership tickets may make arrangements to do so thru club President C. H. Ekdahl, CL 2-1051 or P. O. Box 1246, Daytona Beach.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP? If you find a membership application with this issue your renewal has not reached the membership secretary. The fee is very small. Why not send it now while you think of it? It is the usual practice to drop from the mailing list all not renewed by mailing time for the December issue.

Mr. Roy D. Hudson, veteran birder and "long time" society member, will serve as associate editor of THE PELICAN. He has contributed many interesting articles for past issues and has some good ones ready for use. His address is 215 Essex Drive, Ormond Beach, CR 7-5379.

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DECEMBER

1960

SOCIETY MEETING 7:30 P.M. Monday, December 19th at Tourist Church, one block S. of Seabreeze Blvd. on N. Wild Olive.. Plenty of parking. Due to Christmas, this meeting is the 3rd Monday, a week earlier than usual.

SPECIAL Dr. George Rawson, Research Biologist (retired), of New Smyrna, will describe his experiences with C. Russell Mason banding birds on the Dry Tortugas. The talk will be illustrated with slides and moving pictures. There will also be a brief report on the Caribbean Tour to Grand Bahama. The pre-meeting program will again be conducted by Mr. Henderson, colored slides of birds to be seen at this time of year, with a talk on identification. This starts promptly at 7:00 o'clock, and runs for 25 minutes. Open to all. Classes in bird study and the related field trips for identification will be resumed early in January. Full announcement will be made at the Screen Tour on January 7th. Those interested may phone Mr. Henderson at CL 3-7398.

SCREEN TOURS. This season's program of Audubon Wildlife films is of very high quality. These wonderful films with eminent speakers give all who attend a deeper appreciation and understanding of the world of nature, and are first class entertainment in addition. At the first program on Saturday January 7, 1961, Alfred G. Etter presents "A Missouri Story". With the central setting of an old farm and homestead and a glimpse of farm life, this striking motion picture in beautiful color features the ancient woods with abundant bird and animal life adding the magic touch. It has to be more than good to rate inclusion as a Screen Tour.

Having outgrown the high school auditorium, the program this year will be in the Peabody Auditorium, with its 1600 seats on the first floor making it certain that anyone (without coming quite so early) will get a comfortable and good seat located at whatever distance from the screen is desired.

The \$3.00 season ticket admits to five dramatic stories of wild life, and presents the need and accomplishment of conservation, an educational bonus that adds to the superb entertainment. Single admission is 80 cents. This year there is a student ticket for half the adult rate. Buy your ticket now from any officer of the Society, or any member selling them. Later they may be obtained at the window in Peabody Auditorium.

MEMBERSHIP. Some twenty new members to date have more than made up for the normal shrinkage due to some not returning to the Halifax area. Total membership to date is 145, which is well on the way to last year's total of 202. Application blanks have been sent to everyone. If you are still holding yours, will you please mail it to Mrs. C. H. Ekdahl, Box 1246, Daytona Beach, with your dues. If you do not have the blank, or want to send in the membership of a friend, send name, address and phone number, with your payment. The \$1.00 Active Membership is really an "inactive" class, intended for non-residents and those who spend a short time each year in the Halifax area and do not take active part in the membership privileges. The dollar just covers the cost of sending THE PELICAN, which will be sent only to paid-up members after this issue. The \$2.00 Sustaining and \$5.00 Contributing memberships help maintain the Society's programs, and represent an added financial boost to a splendid work in wild life conservation. If you are a member or are now joining, introduce some friend and do him and the Society a real service.

FIELD TRIPS. December 16, Friday, an all day trip to Welaka area, south of Palatka, near the St. John's River and on the border of Ocala National Forest. Ponds formerly used as fish hatcheries attract a variety of wading birds and waterfowl, and thickets provide cover for land species. December 30, Friday, an all day trip to Titusville - always a wonderful day.

Groups for all trips will start at 7:30 and 8:00 o'clock from assembly point at the east end of the City Island parking lot near the Orange Avenue bridge. There will be no half-day trip on the week end preceding Christmas day.

Field trips to date have been very rewarding - with 132 species seen during November. This compares with 106 for the same period last year. While the birds (and birders) are not trying to break records, this increase may be the result of splitting up into smaller groups, covering different areas, and with no car "bringing up the rear" of a long caravan after the lead cars have sent many birds hunting for cover. Most observers have improved ability with more experience. Bob Henderson's classes and the showing of Fern Holden's pictures have produced some new "sharp-eyes" at spotting and identification.

St. Augustine trip on Nov. 4, with 38 birders and 89 species, was a great day. Outstanding were oyster catchers, Parula warblers, solitary sandpipers, sora rail, white breasted nuthatch and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Osteen Marsh on Nov. 19, produced sandhill cranes in a pasture to the north, and a few days later over a thousand white ibis were feeding east of the road. Two bald eagles were seen - and may be new nesters in the area.

Canaveral on Nov. 26 was, as usual, top performance. VERY unusual, and no question as Allan Cruickshank pointed it out, was an American Flamingo (wild) seen by telescope north of Rte 520 from a point west of the bridge near the picnic grounds on the peninsula. Four adult bald eagles, one on a nest, were seen along ALA south of Oak Hill. There was a Canada goose, unusual on the east coast, the elusive Dusky seaside sparrow, a Magnificent frigate bird, the long-billed curlew, white pelicans, immature Great black-backed gulls, pintail and American widgeon ducks, dunlins, whimbrels, dowitchers, marbled godwits. A short-billed marsh wren was seen near a marsh on Rte 50 west of Titusville. Add a yellow-throated vireo, sharp shinned hawk and numerous more common ones, for the day's total of 98 species - and 45 birders had a wonderful day.

Lyle S. Hubbard, ace birder of Fort Pierce, writes that on Dec. 2nd they saw a colossal concentration of tree swallows estimated at 10,000,000 going south in the wake of the cold front. He adds, "I divided it by five and reported two million. It can hardly be believed until one has seen it."

PETERSON'S NEW BOOK "A Field guide to the Birds of Texas" will lure more of us to the best birding state in the Union. Eastern and western birds meet there and overlap, and the northern birds meet those exotic and very colorful species that come across the border from Mexico. Three quarters of all the birds known between Mexico and Canada are found in Texas, some 542 species included in the new guide. Some 400 have been recorded at Rockport, where the staggering total of 204 were listed between dawn and dusk of a single day. The habitat ranges from Gulf beaches, salt flats, coastal prairie and grass lands, to grass plains, desert, forests and mountains ranging over 8,000 feet.

Of the 300 birds commonly seen in Florida, this book includes all except a dozen, and half of these are rare and of very local occurrence. For the Daytona area, there are but three missing - the great black-backed gull, gray kingbird, and dusky seaside sparrow. While it is not adequate for northern birds, it will be useful in Florida as well as Texas, and is up to date in nomenclature and has many new and improved color illustrations.

Bookstores make no profit, and do not stock it. It may be ordered for the low cost of \$3.00 direct from the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Walton Building, Austin, Texas.