

years so something undoubtedly affected the count. It was an unusually fine warm day in this section which might have been true in other localities, though all of the counts were not taken on the same day.

THE NEXT SCREEN TOUR PROGRAM, Saturday, January 21st, will feature "THE HEART OF THE WILD" by Cleveland P. Grant who has delighted us in other years.

The attendance at the first program on January 7th was double any previous audience in the 14 years the Halifax Society has been sponsoring this series. This is, without question, partly due to moving into Peabody Auditorium which enabled the society to offer better facilities and free admission for children accompanied by adult season ticket holders.

A check count at the door disclosed that the audience was composed of nearly 800 adults and 100 children. The society hopes that the attendance by children will grow even larger. Season tickets are still on sale at the low rate of \$2.50 for the remaining 4 programs. Single admissions will still be available at 80¢ for adults and 40¢ for children.

Every year the society receives suggestions that with its full program and special opportunities we offer, it should charge more for screen tour programs and membership dues which are about the lowest in the state and perhaps the country. The policy of keeping the costs low and the attractions first-class has resulted in a record continuous run in screen tours and its very large membership in proportion to population. Only the Miami society outnumbers it in Florida.

MEMBERSHIP in the society now stands at 167 and will grow larger as usual, when more spring tourist birders arrive. Three free issues of this season's PELICAN and membership renewal forms have been sent to all of last season's members during the fall months. Those who have not re-enrolled will now be dropped from the active list but will be replaced in good standing if they renew with the annual membership fee of \$1.00 for those who do not expect to take an active part in society's programs and \$2.00 for active membership. Send applications to Mrs. Conrad Ekdahl, Box 1246, Daytona Beach, Fla.

SPECIAL TRAINING IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION is being given again every Monday and Thursday morning, 9 to 12. Group meets at the Tourist Church on a come when you can basis and is open to all with no reservations necessary.

This is a short cut to learning to know the birds and, with the best of the season just coming, is an unusual opportunity for all those who enjoy identifying birds for themselves.

THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, which is a branch of the similar department of the Florida Audubon Society, will, from now on, have displays of books and pamphlets not usually found in book stores, at Screen Tour programs and society meetings. Consult them also if you or your friends contemplate buying binoculars. It is very easy to pay too much for cheap and unsatisfactory instruments that look all right to the inexperienced. Find out about the high grade, fully tested, life time guaranteed models offered by the service department at special low prices.

NATIONAL BALD EAGLE SURVEY: Associate Pelican Editor Roy M. Hudson has been appointed to give leadership to the Halifax River Society's participation in a nation-wide survey of the Bald Eagle population that has been undertaken by the National Audubon Society. He has already located one nest with young several miles south of Port Orange and should be notified regarding any other active nests. A special appeal from Carl W. Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society says:

"The National Audubon Society has started a continental Bald Eagle Project to determine the numbers and distribution of the bird that serves, by act of Congress, as the national emblem of the United States. In recent years there have been disquieting reports from Florida, Chesapeake Bay, New Jersey and other areas of a serious decline in eagle numbers. Yet no one is able to say what is happening to the species throughout its North American range, or even to guess how many bald eagles survive.

"Inventory is the essential first step in keeping the eagle from becoming an endangered species, or to bring it back if indeed it has already crossed the danger line. Once its numbers have been closely estimated, its reproductive success measured, and its nesting and wintering concentrations and migration patterns mapped, future checks will then disclose population trends.

"Intensive research into the eagle's ecology and habitat requirements will follow the extensive survey. These studies should point a sound course for future conservation efforts, just as the National Audubon Society's research under Robert Porter Allen laid the groundwork for the present broad effort, involving many agencies, to save the whooping crane.

"As announced at our recent convention, we are prepared to spend up to \$50,000 in a five-year study. The money will have to be raised, of course, but we are confident support will be forthcoming for research that is necessary to keep our national emblem from becoming a dead bird.

"The continent-wide survey is now being organized under the direction of NAS Research Director Alexander (Sandy) Sprunt IV. We have no illusions about the magnitude of the undertaking; to succeed we shall need the cooperation of federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies throughout the United States and Canada, as well as state and local Audubon groups and ornithological societies. We shall also need public understanding and support.

"We now earnestly solicit the assistance of all Branches and Affiliates of the National Audubon Society."

The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands,
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunder bolt he falls.

- Alfred Lord Tennyson -

Next Society Meeting: Monday, February 27th, at Tourist Church.

7:00 P.M. The usual early meeting illustrated talk will be about BIRDS THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE IN MARCH.

7:30 P.M. The regular society business meeting and announcement of plans for the society's 37th annual meeting and dinner which will be held on Monday March 27th. Ticket Chairman Willard Whiteman says, "Tickets will be on sale at \$1.25 for a good chicken dinner. Buy for yourself and friends. First come first served."

Program Chairman Harvey Funk says, "We will have two films, a prize-winning 20-minute special 'Between the Tides' which has been most highly recommended to us and 'White Splendor' about our own beloved Egrets."

Coming Field Trips: Saturday, March 4- The spring all-day trip to Canaveral Harbor. This is the last chance to see the ducks and shore birds before they go north. It is one of the prize trips of the season. Bring lunch.

Friday, March 10. A double header. No 7:30 A.M. party, but at 8 A.M. those wishing to make an all-day try to find the Red Cockaded Woodpecker will go off under the leadership of Conrad Ekdahl, and those who prefer the regularly scheduled half-day trip will go under Trip Director George Williams.

These woodpeckers are very local in their habits and are not always found one year where they were nesting the year before, so no guarantee can be given that the search will be successful in this respect but good birding can be expected even if the woodpeckers fail to cooperate.

All members are welcome on either trip. Bring lunch for the all-day trip.

Present plans call for our spring all-day trip to St. Augustine and vicinity on Friday, March 31. The half-day trip scheduled for March 24 can be counted upon.

No Boat Trip is scheduled as a regular event this season because the capacity of the only boat available is not large enough to guarantee space for all society members who usually wish to go and because the work of arranging it and handling the ticket sale is too much to expect of an already overloaded field trip director. Any one wishing to volunteer for this service will have a chance to do so at the next society meeting.

The Special Training Class going out at 9 A.M. Mondays and Thursdays has had some especially fine experiences thru January and February but has been attended largely by those who have taken the elementary work in bird identification other seasons. Most of these prefer to go on Monday so they can go on the regular society field trips on Friday or Saturday. Class instructor R. S. Henderson finds it difficult to give these fairly experienced birders what they are ready for and still give the fundamentals of bird identification to those who are just starting.

As a result, he announces that beginning with February 27th, the program for Mondays will be arranged to meet the needs of those who enjoy these short instruction trips so much that they want to continue taking them and beginning March 2nd the program on Thursdays will be planned for those who want more elementary instruction.

All other aspects of the courses remain unchanged. They are still conducted on the "come when you can" basis and any one may join either the Monday or Thursday group or come both days as long as they understand the change in emphasis in the instruction.

Purple Martin time is here. Fred Ackermann former trip director who has kept careful records of the arrival of the Martins gives the following arrival dates for Daytona Beach:

1952- Feb. 16	1954- Mar. 1	1956- Feb. 11	1958- Feb. 9
1953- Feb. 16	1955- Mar. 5	1957- Jan. 29	1959- Feb. 14

In 1960 they came on February 9. No one has reported them so they must be late this season. Watch for them at the two Martin houses Fred has erected at the Daytona Beach Yacht Basin.

Early and unusual records have continued to come in although not quite as spectacularly as last month.

February 14 The Ekdahls saw the first Baltimore Oriole in their yard.

February 18 Dr. May, Fred Ackermann and C. Ekdahl found a Glaucous Gull at the airport. This is the first record here since Mrs. Rose Block found one near the south bridge on February 5, 1956. It has wandered far south of its usual range like the Purple Sandpipers, Ipswich Sparrow and Dovekie found last month. It really has been a very tough winter up north. Who are we to complain? Mr. Ackermann also reported the Grasshopper and Bachman's sparrows. These are known to winter here but are not often seen.

Our society membership now stands at 180 which is about the same as last year at this time. It eventually reached 200. Let's look around for some birders to bring this up to par. Memberships received after March 1 are credited for the balance of this membership year (to September 30) and for the new year beginning then. This is a real bargain.

A. J. Hanna, Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla. is very anxious to obtain a copy of Vol. 12 No. 1, October 1938 of THE FLORIDA NATURALIST. Any one having a copy can do a good turn by selling or giving it to Mr. Hanna.

THE CONSERVATION SCENE published by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission reports that on the Christmas Bird Count of a year ago more than 8,000 persons in the U. S. and Canada from Alaska to Florida covered over 600 local areas and reported more than 33,000,000 birds seen. This year's figures have not been announced as yet but they are sure to be as impressive. The National Audubon Society has managed this annual count since 1900.

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MARCH

1961

Monday, March 27th - The 37th annual meeting and society dinner. Tourist Church, 6 P.M. Tickets \$1.25.

Dr. John B. May, noted naturalist and former Ornithologist for Massachusetts, will give a talk on wild flowers and illustrate it with an exceptionally good motion picture taken by himself. Those who have seen a preview rate its quality as equal to the fine Screen Tour programs produced by the National Audubon Society.

As announced in the February issue, dinner tickets were placed on sale at the February society meeting. Chairman Willard Whiteman reports many reservations, but tickets still on sale. The meeting is open to all interested. Mail your ticket order to Mr. Whiteman, 222 N. Hollywood Ave., Daytona Beach with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and check or money order made payable to the Halifax River Audubon Society or see him personally.

The program will also include short reports from committees and election of officers for the new year.

Field Trips have been rescheduled for some of the remaining dates. Be sure to note the following:

~~Friday~~ ¹⁷ Saturday, March 18 - (This week), The half-day trip planned has been changed to an all-day trip to Rock Springs.

Friday, March 31 being Good Friday, the all-day trip has been cancelled. It will be held the next day.

Saturday, April 1 will be an all-day trip to St. Augustine's Villano Marsh, Conch Is. and other good birding areas enroute.

The rest of the April schedule has not been changed.

Trips for the past month have been very successful. The all-day trip to Canaveral Harbor was long and HOT but turned up three exciting records. The Magnificent Frigate Bird, The Glaucous Gull, and the Red Throated Loon in breeding plumage showing the red throat. Dr. J. B. May, C. Ekdahl and several others of the society's best ornithologists vouch for this unexpected find in this plumage. The combined lists of the several trip groups totaled 116 species.

The Red-cockaded Woodpeckers failed to cooperate on the special trip to find them but those who went report a fine day with more than 80 species.

The Iceland Gull another rare find for this area was found by a group composed of Dr. May, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hudson and Fred Ackermann on one of those lucky days that so often come to those who go birding on their own special outings. It was found near the Flagler Beach Fishing Pier with a large flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Dr. May identified it as an immature bird. The word spread quickly and many other members of the society have seen them since. It's all white plumage makes it show up prominently among the other gulls. It is about the size of a Herring Gull.

The Glaucus Gull, reported last month as an unusual find, is larger (the size of the Great Black-backed Gull) but all white like the Iceland. This has been seen in several different areas on the same day and was reported from Canaveral Harbor indicating that the bird reported last month was not a stray but one of several in this area.

The Purple Martins finally arrived on February 20, a little later than usual, at the house erected at the yacht basin by Fred Ackermann. Another fine colony has taken a house at Wilbur-by-the-Sea on the south peninsula where the Monday Bird Class found them feeding with Tree Swallows giving a good comparison of the difference in wing, tail and size differences.

The rare PURPLE SANDPIPERS were still on and about the rocks just south of Matanzas Inlet bridge March 7th according to Fred Ackermann. Perhaps they will wait for the April 1st field trip.

The Laughing Gulls, with us all winter, are taking on their black heads for summer, earlier than usual. They frequent to south beach.

The society has been most fortunate in having Dr. May with us so long this season and some of the more ardent birders have seen to it that he did not lack transportation for frequent field trips. This has been reflected in the unusually large number of unexpected records some of which many of our members would have hesitated to report and perhaps would not even have noticed without his special skill and long experience.

Due to the untiring efforts of Chairman Connie Ekdahl and his committee, the experiment of moving the Screen Tour programs to Peabody Auditorium has been very successful. Arrangements have been made to continue the programs there next season.

The Training Classes have grown in size and their division into two groups with more experienced birders going Mondays and the less experienced, Thursdays has proved to be popular and will be continued for the balance of the spring season. Both groups start from Tourist Church at 9 A.M. and are back by 12 noon or soon after.

The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University announces that Jean Broley Patrie, daughter of the late world known "Eagle Man" Charles Broley has donated all of her father's records and films to the laboratory which is collaborating with the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, Florida Audubon Society and the American Museum of Natural History in the making of a motion picture covering the habits, behavior, and present predicament of the Bald Eagle. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Honorary President and Bayard W. Read a member of the laboratory have contributed film and will collaborate in editing the completed film.

It is expected the film will be available for rental next Autumn and this society may well plan to use it for one of its programs.

Your editor is sorry to announce that due to health limitations resulting from his illness of last November, he must discontinue any plans for special long trips to be known as HALIFAX AUDUBON TOURS, a preliminary announcement of which appeared in the October 1960 issue.

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APRIL

1961

Monday, April 24 - The last society meeting of the spring season. 7:30 P.M. at Tourist Church. The usual short pre-meeting slide talk on "Summer Birds of the Halifax Area" at 7 P.M.

Mr. C. Russell Mason, Executive Secretary of the Florida Audubon Society, will present a fine motion picture on "Spectacular Florida Birds" which has some unusually good sequences on the Bald Eagle.

Vice-president George Williams will lead a short discussion regarding next season's field trip schedule. Since the dates and types of trips must be determined during the summer so the printed program can be issued with the call for the first fall meeting, it is necessary that any ideas that members wish to have considered be registered soon.

Some things he specially wants to hear discussed are:

This year all trips were scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays with about an equal number of half-day and all-day trips. Did you like this balance? If you want to be sure that your suggestions for changes are to get full consideration, write them to George L. Williams, 136 Salvador Place, Ormond Beach, Fla.

If you liked this year's schedule, a post card saying so will help in this study.

Saturday, April 22 - the last half-day trip and

Friday, April 28 - the final all-day trip in the New Smyrna Beach area. Lunch at the Riverside Park on the causeway.

Field trips in early April have produced excellent results. A few of the more noted reports include the Swallow-tailed Kite, Summer Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler and the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles seen together.

A Correction - The editor has a red face because he stated in the last issue that the Red-throated Loon seen on the Canaveral trip had its "spring" red throat. That's the way he understood the telephone report but knowing how unusual this was, he should have checked with Conrad Ekdal and Dr. John B. May before publishing that they vouched for it. They say, "the report was correct except there was "no" red throat.

The 37th Annual Meeting and dinner was a most enjoyable occasion.

Mrs. Harvey Funk, the general chairman, and the many sub-committee chairmen and their "helpers" arranged for and served a very fine dinner which drew much praise.

Dr. John B. May's motion pictures on Wild Flowers and his accompanying talk was all that could be desired and was thoroughly enjoyed.

President Chester Childs kept the program moving and received many congratulations for both the year's work and the enjoyable meeting. He passed these "good words" along to the executive committee at its April 3rd meeting and hereby includes all others who have helped.

April 1961

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Reports of committees and officers indicated the wide scope of the society's program and the effectiveness of its organization. Space will not permit reporting more than the following few highlights:

Activities Division - George L. Williams, Vice-president and trip director:

Field trips - 22 of the 27 scheduled trips have been held. Species reported on these trips to date - 186. Five more than for a comparable date in 1960. Special credit should go to the group directors and the many who have furnished transportation. With five trips still to be held, total species listed should equal or exceed 1960's list of 201. *Last year we missed trips thru among this year missed Apr. 15/24*

Meeting Programs - Program Chairman Harvey Funk and his committee provided seven excellent meeting programs which included several very enjoyable moving pictures on bird life and reports on unusual "birding" trips by members who travelled extensively.

Educational Division - Miss Lydia Hamilton, Vice President.

The Society's Slide Library, based on the fine gift of former vice president Fenn M. Holden, has been expanded and now numbers nearly 600 slides, all card indexed and marked. Having this fine collection has enabled the society to enrich its monthly meetings and provide 10 programs for Garden Clubs, Schools and other groups.

A Special Training Course in bird identification led by Education Chairman, R. S. Henderson, has conducted 20 field classes with a total attendance of 120.

THE PELICAN, the society's monthly information bulletin, has published 7 issues keeping the society appraised of coming events, program changes, unusual birds seen, etc.

A bulletin "The Audubon Nature Theatre News" was prepared for distribution at the five screen tour programs, to give information concerning the speakers and other items of interest to the screen tour audiences.

A service department has made books and other materials related to the society's activities easily available to local members.

Public Relations Division. Mrs. Harvey Funk, Vice-president.

Membership Chairman, Issac L. Merrill, Jr. and Membership Secretary, Mrs. Norma Eckdahl have received 193 memberships to date. This will probably by the end of the spring season, equal or exceed the total of 201 reached in 1960. *(cf. species total, 1959/60 same)*

The committee on public meetings which handles the screen tour programs has enjoyed its most outstanding year. Chairman Conrad H. Eckdahl's report shows that moving the programs to the much larger Peabody Auditorium attracted 4241 adults, more than twice the record for any previous year and permitted the society to admit 442 children free.

Pre-season sales of season tickets by members totaled \$1140.00. Box office sales totaled \$1555.60 making total sales \$2695.60.

Meeting dates for the 1961-1962 season have already been reserved.

April 1960

- 3 -

A Summary of the report of Treasurer Conrad H. Ekdahl follows:

Balance March 21, 1960 \$1881.58

Receipts

Membership fees	333.00	
Screen Tour Ticket Sales	2695.60	
Interest (savings acc't)	47.61	
Sales - Check lists, etc.	9.50	
Tickets 1961 Annual Dinner Acc't	100.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>12.00</u>	<u>3197.71</u>
Total		\$5079.29

Disbursements

Screen Tour expenses	1579.21	
Donations & dues	430.00	
Slide Library supplies & additions	58.61	
Meeting program features	19.15	
THE PELICAN (publishing costs)	102.77	
Printing-annual programs	43.87	
Expenses - 1960 annual dinner	80.82	
Conference expenses	39.25	
Miscellaneous	<u>46.12</u>	<u>2399.80</u>
Balance on hand 3-24-1961		\$2679.49

The officers elected for the coming year are: President Chester H. Childs, Vice-presidents Mrs. Harvey W. Funk, I. L. Merrill, Jr. and George L. Williams. Membership Secretary Mrs. C. H. Ekdahl, Recording Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless, Treasurer Conrad H. Ekdahl and Members at large to the Executive Committee - A. J. Fairbank and Willard Whiteman.

Mr. Fred J. Ackermann, who developed the society's field study program and gave it untiring leadership for five years (1954-1959), was elected to Honorary Life Membership. Everyone who was active in the society during Fred's field trip administration, joins in awarding this recognition of good service which is the highest honor the society is able to give.

The editor wishes to thank all who have helped by providing information of suggesting features for THE PELICAN during the year with special appreciation to Membership Secretary Norma Ekdahl who has so ably handled all mailing problems and to associate editor Roy D. Hudson for his valuable help.

That's all until October and a good birding summer to you. Editor Robert S. Henderson.

Vol. 6 No. 5

OCTOBER

1961

WELL, HERE WE GO AGAIN. Summer is over and many who have been birding far and wide have returned or will soon be back to enjoy the birds of the Halifax River area. President Chester Childs and others who spent the summer at home have been busy making plans for an active 1961-62 season which is opened with this issue.

THE FIRST SOCIETY MEETING will be held at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave. at 7:30 P.M. Monday, October 23. The main feature was to have been a talk by Mr. Jerome Burgman celebrated photographer, illustrated with his excellent colored slides showing flowers, fall coloring in the Smoky Mt. National Park and other very beautiful natural scenes that have attracted his attention. However, just before going to press word has been passed that Mr. Burgman has been forced to cancel his plans. The program committee will make necessary adjustments to insure an interesting substitute program.

FIELD TRIPS start next Saturday, October 14. Half-day trip.

The printed schedule for the entire season is enclosed. This was prepared by Field Trip Director George Williams and is based on preferences expressed by those who attended the last spring meeting of the society in April. Other programs are also noted.

THE SECOND FIELD TRIP, an all day (take lunch) jaunt, will go to the St. Augustine area Friday, October 20.

THE THIRD FIELD TRIP, half a day, on Saturday, October 28.

THE FOURTH FIELD TRIP, another for all day, Friday, November 3.

Details of these trips are given in the printed schedule. Be sure to keep it safe for ready reference throughout the season.

DURING THE SUMMER, birding was, as is usual, not as exciting as it is during the cool months that bring the migrations except for the "discovery" by Mrs. H. B. (Ethel) Monroe of an excellent place to see water and shore birds near Mt. Dora. Zellwood Farms of more than 2000 acres occupies part of the bed of a former lake, now an immense level muck farm cut into large square fields by good (in dry weather) roads.

During July, August and the first part of September, a number of society birders saw large flocks of summering nesters, including Black-necked Stilts, Gallinules, Pied-billed Grebes and Coots and many thousands of both species of Yellow-legs, Black Terns and some not so often seen near the salt water, such as the Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers and on one occasion a dozen or more Upland Plovers.

The manager of the farm explained that while our birders would always be welcomed, there are times when all or most of the area will be under cultivation with little or no flooded ground. He agreed to notify Trip Director Williams when water was available for ducks and many other species of migrating birds. Field trips scheduled for this area will, therefore, be subject to change.

At the April meeting of the society's executive committee, a special committee was authorized to revise the society's check list for birds likely to be seen on its field trips or in the summer. These lists are now available at one cent per copy and will be on sale on all field trips. Buy a supply and have them ready for use whenever you go in the field. They are offered below cost to promote wide use and to simplify change making. A limited number of the old style cards are still available at a special rate.

THE SECOND ANNUAL STATE AUDUBON CONFERENCE will be held October 13-15 at Avon Park, Fla. Field Trip Director Williams will head a delegation from the Halifax River society accompanied by Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless, Mrs. H. B. Monroe and Mr. George Murray. They will report to the society at the October 23rd meeting.

President Childs has appointed Mr. I. L. Merrill, Associate Director of field trips. He will be in charge of the October 14 half-day trip while George Williams is at the state conference.

POST OFFICE BOX 1732 is now the official address of the Halifax River Audubon Society. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Ekdahl, who serve as Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively, and receive most of the society's mail, will take care of the picking up of the mail. Anything addressed to an individual thru this box number should have that individual's name on the envelope.

WELCOME BACK.

It is reported that Mr. and Mrs. Fenn Holden, formerly very active in the society and the donors of most of the excellent colored bird slides that have been enjoyed so much during the last few years, will spend the winter in the Halifax area instead of going back to California. The many members who knew them "back when" and have sorely missed them in recent years, look forward with great anticipation to their return.

THE AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE (formerly known as the Audubon Screen Tours) will be held again this season in Peabody Auditorium starting January 6. See the printed schedule. Last season's experiment in admitting up to four children with adult season ticket holders was so successful that it will be offered again this season. More than 1000 children were benefitted in this way during the 1960-61 series.

Full information on the 1961-62 series will be given in a later issue.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS which usually go out with the October issue, will be included in the November issue. The application form now part of a new information folder concerning the society's plans, history, and other material that should go to new members, made this issue overweight for the 4¢ postage. Please wait for the new form before sending in your membership renewal.

PRIVATE BIRD SANCTUARIES in all sizes, from vacant city lots or home sites, to large ranches, may now be established by owners. All that is required is for the owner to become a member of the Florida Audubon Society, register his property by making an application for sanctuary status and post inexpensive metal signs required by state law. Information, application forms and an estimate of the cost of signs depending on the size and description of the property can be obtained from

Florida Audubon Society, - Box 825 - Maitland, Fla.

FALL COLORING of foliage is mild in Florida compared with the brilliant displays farther north. This is largely due to the fact that the coming on of the cool season is less abrupt than it is where the coming of fall frosts often turns the leaves almost overnight. Florida has few maples which play such a prominent part in the forests of New England and other states so noted for their fall coloring, but a great majority of the society's members have come from states where the colors are bright at this time of year and will remember how they flame.

There are many misconceptions about the reasons why leaves change color and why some trees are orange, some red, purple, yellow or combinations of them all. Your editor reasons that a little information on these questions may not be amiss.

It may surprise some to know that bright fall colors are not prevalent in all parts of the world but occur mostly in broad-leaved trees in Eastern North America, the British Isles, Western Europe, Eastern China and Korea.

In "ITS JUST CHEMISTRY" by John Lamoureaux the following brief explanations are given:

Autumn coloration is the result of the slow deterioration of sugar and starch-producing chemical compounds in the cells of the leaves. We can liken the cell of a leaf to a glass jar filled with beads, most of which are green, and a few of which are shades of red and yellow. From a distance the jar looks green, despite the fact that there are other colors present because the green is dominant. This is the situation in summer when the green chlorophyll capsules far outnumber the bright colored carotenoids. By the middle of September the chlorophyll capsules deteriorate more rapidly than they are replaced, while the carotenoids that carry the yellow, red and scarlet pigment continue to be reproduced. As fall progresses the green chlorophyll fades and the remaining bright-colored pigments can be more readily seen. It is at this time that coloration is at its peak.

The chemicals which make beet juice purple and violets blue are called anthocyanins which being present in the thin skin-like cuticle of leaves, range in color from red to blue, giving the deep red of the Oaks in spring and the purple of the Ash in fall.

Autumn coloration varies from year to year depending on local weather conditions. Temperature just above freezing is best for good colors; poor soil with less nitrogen also contributes to bright coloration. In a nutshell, the formula for a good fall color is a dry sunny summer followed by a rainy period, then moderately low temperatures at night and crisp bright days.

Autumn coloration is a chemical accident which carries no particular benefit to the trees. The colors are simply evidence of an early stage of decomposition.

Wherever we are with bright or dull coloration let's enjoy them while we may, for winter is close at hand.

BIRD TEMPERATURES

"Regardless of outside temperatures, the human body maintains a temperature level of approximately 98.6 degrees, though that varies somewhat from one individual to another . . . The normal temperature of a horse, is 100 degrees, that of a dog is 101.5, that of a sheep 102.3, that of a rabbit is 103.1. In birds the temperature is consistently higher, as high as 108 degrees in some species.

Bird temperatures fluctuate from day to night and to some extent throughout the day. Birds are so active and have such a high metabolism that they have to stoke their inner fires almost constantly. At night, when they are at rest, the temperature may drop four or five degrees, and in the hummingbird, which is so small and so active, there is even a kind of hibernation at night, when the fires burn low and all the bodily processes go into low gear. Whippoorwills and some other birds that live entirely on flying insects also have the ability to go into semi-hibernation where the fire of life are dampered, the body temperature drops, and they can live for days on a minimum of stored fat.

The hibernating woodchuck's temperature may drop to 43 degrees and he will survive and resume his full activity, but man and nearly all other warm-blooded creatures could not long tolerate even a small fraction of such a bodily chilling."

From "The Enduring Pattern" by Hall Borland suggested by Associate Editor, Roy D. Hudson.

BALD EAGLE FILM IN PRODUCTION

The Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University has announced it has in the making a motion picture covering the habits, behavior, and present predicament of this magnificent bird. Cooperating in production of the film, to be in color and with sound, are the Natinal Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, Florida Audubon Society, and the American Museum of Natural History.

The new film will be a memorial to the late Charles Broley, known the world over as the "Eagle Man". His banding and studies of the eagle over 25 years contributed greatly to our knowledge of the species and provided a fund of facts that will be drawn upon heavily in the continental bald eagle project recently launched by the National Audubon Society.

His daughter, Jean Broley Patric, donated to the Laboratory all her father's films and records. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, honorary Director, and Bayard W. Read, a member of the Laboratory, have contributed film and will collaborate in editing the motion picture. Mr. Read has recently been in Alaska photographing the concentrations of bald eagles in that area.

It is expected the film will be ready for distribution on a rental or sale basis this autumn.

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1961

SOCIETY MEETING - Monday, December 18, at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach, 7:30 P.M. Following the business meeting two sound and color motion pictures: Audubon and Birds of America and Birds of the Countryside.

There will be the usual short slide program by the Educational Committee at 7:00 P.M. for those who wish to come that early.

FIELD TRIPS coming up:

10th Trip: All day to Titusville, Saturday, Dec. 16. This is always a productive trip. Please excuse the editor's "goof" last issue saying this would be the last trip before Christmas because:-

11th Trip: Half day is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 22.

12th Trip: All day Saturday, Dec. 30. To the M. Q. Ranch near Osteen. This is a new place discovered by Director George Williams during the summer and appears to be well worth looking over.

13th Trip: Half a day, Friday, January 5.

FIELD NOTES: Mrs. Margaret Branch

The November issue covered our report on the first four trips and the next four raised the number of species seen this year still higher. After the Nov. 11 half day we had 122 species. The Nov. 17 Canaveral trip jumped this to 145. The Nov. 25th half day moved it up to 157 and the second "Duda Farm" day, Dec. 1, brought it to 166.

The Canaveral trip started in a slight drizzle but turned into the best sort of a birding day, not too hot and bright. As usual, Canaveral Basin provided a number of less often seen species including AVOCETS, WEIMERELS, DOWITCHERS, and MARBLED GODWITS on the mud flats, while WHITE PELICANS with their seven foot wing spreads and WOOD IBIS soared aloft. The day's total of 107 species was almost a society record this early.

A large rocket whooshed up from underground at the nearby missile base in clear sight of our whole party startling into brief flight the hundreds of birds we were observing with binoculars and "scopes".

The last Duda Farm trip scored 105 species with about 30 GLOSSY IBIS and great numbers of COMMON EGRETS, LITTLE BLUE HERONS, COMMON GULLINULES and PIED-BILLED GREBES along and in the drainage ditches. A few SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENS showed in the fresh water marshes which they prefer.

Used shot gun shells explained the absence of ducks in some areas but some others had good duck groups. The farm supervisor came to see that we were not forbidden hunters.

At this season strange as it may seem to many of us northerners, great fields of green truck crops stretched for miles with celery and turnip greens just coming up and radishes harvested by the truckload.

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The average attendance on these trips has been 35 which is very good but it is hoped that many more will decide to join in this most interesting activity during the balance of the season.

Have you visited the Port Orange causeway in late afternoon to see the birds come in to roost? This causeway and bridge is the most southern of the bridges in the Halifax River area, six miles south of Main St. At this season 4 to 5 P.M. is a good time to linger, watch the sunset and see the hundreds of large birds flying in to roost on the mangrove islands just south of the causeway. (Ten cents toll for a car and driver passing the draw).

There is ample room to pull off the road and park near the large sign marking the north end of the Florida Audubon Society's large sanctuary extending southward for more than 900 acres.

Farther west on the causeway there is a fine modern picnic area with tables and benches, fireplaces and good rest rooms. Enjoy a good picnic while watching the birds fly in at sunset.

Even before the big evening flights begin to arrive at dusk, a few fine birds will probably be seen resting up or feeding. On Sunday, December 3, there were four WHITE IBIS, with their long red legs and red down-curved bills feeding on one bar while a pair of handsome AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS in contrasting black and white and their heavy straight bills picked at the oysters on a nearby bar. The nearest island to the south was undotted green with its mangrove cover but before sunset it would be white ibises, herons of several kinds, egrets and a few pelicans settling in to roost for the night.

Look hard for rails just outside the thick cover on muddy edges of marshes or along ditches or ponds. These chicken-like birds are sometimes hard to see but worth looking for. At low to medium tide try the marshes just east of the WOOD radio studio at the south end of Beach Street.

GO OUT AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND.

These are interesting days on our beaches. Whenever strong winds have not blown them inland to feed and rest, large concentrations of gulls and terns gather along the water's edge where they may be easily studied except at high tide. The brownish immature HERRING GULLS and the RING-BILLED GULLS are mixed with the slightly smaller and darker LAUGHING GULLS and many yellow-billed ROYAL TERNS. Now and then there will be one or two of the largest of all, the GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS, the large CASPIAN TERNS and the much smaller SANDWICH TERNS with their black yellow-tipped bill and the still smaller FORSTER TERNS with their all black bills.

When the gulls leave the beaches they may often be found at the city refuse dump near the airport along Bellevue Ave. (Old Deland) road. Watch closely there for small brown sparrow-sized birds feeding on the ground in flocks. They are probably WATER PIPITS that walk instead of hop as sparrows usually do.

The large goose-sized COMMON LOONS are back and may be found in both the river and the ocean. These very primitive type birds dive and swim long distances under water and might be mistaken for the more numerous cormorants except that they carry their heavy sharp bills level instead of slightly tipped up as cormorants do.

Loons have their feet placed so far back on their bodies that they cannot walk

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on land as the ducks and geese do but they seem to like to come on shore occasionally and are found at times just above the water line when the tide is part way out. Beach drivers, unfamiliar with their habits, not knowing that they can push themselves out of the water by sliding along on their smooth breasts and can, as easily, go back into the ocean whenever they wish, often try to help them, thinking they are ill or have been stranded by the outgoing tide. However, Loons are seldom injured by cars and should be LET ALONE.

Handling a live loon is dangerous for when frightened they can strike hard and quickly with the heavy sharp bills and inflict severe and painful injuries to faces or hands.

Birders who go afield often, even if they question their own ability to make good identifications, sometimes discover "finds" that thrill the ones whom they "look up" to as experts. For example: The Leo Sandefurs, ardent birders but anxious to know birding in Florida, reported on December 6 that very large flocks of ducks had gathered in the Halifax River north of Ormond Beach. They thought they were scaups but were uncertain of the species. Fred Ackermann, one of our most skilled birders, looked them over carefully with his strong "scope" and concluded that they were probably all of the LESSER SCAUP species.

Roy Hudson also studied the flock and estimated that there were at least 12,000 birds scattered all across the river for more than three miles. Of course, no one can be certain that there were no GREATER SCAUPS or the similar RING-NECKED ducks mixed in this tremendous concentration but none could be seen by quite a number of our society's most experienced observers who looked them over very carefully. It is extremely difficult to tell the difference by the head sheen unless they are in the best of light and close by and it is unlikely that any ring-necks were present because they prefer fresh water and are seldom seen in the brackish river.

By reporting what looked to them like something unusual, the Sandefurs not only did other society members a "good turn" by calling attention to this very large flock which in the memory of several birders who are experienced breaks all records for this area, but they now know, too, about the ones with which the lesser scaup may be so easily confused.

Other notable recent reports include a PURPLE SANDPIPER seen by Roy Hudson and party feeding along the rocks at the S.E. corner of the Matanzas Inlet bridge. A few of this unusual species stayed in that location for a few weeks last year and one was reported by Rose Block and Margaret Branch from the beach at the inlet.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard Kent reported a MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE BIRD at Edgewater on Thanksgiving Day and the Branches saw a fine adult male at the inlet lighthouse on December 10. This species is very rare this far north even in the summer.

The Ekdahls had an eye opener too when they recently found a very late group of warblers in a small tree in their yard right close to the center of Daytona Beach. Their "find" included PRAIRIE, PARULA, PALM, BLACK & WHITE, YELLOW-THROATED and ORANGE-CROWNED warblers and a TUFTED TITMOUSE and a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Sharp-eyed Mrs. Ekdahl spotted them and had her "expert" husband check them. They were gone in ten minutes. How's that for luck?

THE AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE (Formerly the Audubon Screen Tours)

The first program is set for January 6 which is a bit earlier than usual making it most urgent that we push our ticket sales without delay.

In spite of much greater expense connected with holding these programs in Peabody Auditorium where we have more seats and more comfort, the ticket prices have not been increased. The full price for the five program season is still only \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for Jr. College and high school students. This is from one to two dollars less than is usually charged for the same series in other Florida cities where these fine programs are shown.

Last year's experiment in providing special rates for families was such a great success that it will be used again this year. So, to promote attendance by families with children and to eliminate the expense of their having to hire baby sitters, any adult season ticket holder will be permitted to bring up to FOUR children under high school age in free. It is not required that they be sons or daughters of the adult who accompanies them but they must sit with the adult they came with.

Special arrangements may be made by leaders of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sunday School classes or similar character-building groups to bring more per leader. Advance arrangements must be made thru Chairman Conrad H. Ekdahl of the committee in charge, preferably by letter, c/o The Halifax River Audubon Society, Box 1732, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Every society member should feel the responsibility of selling as many season tickets as possible. The bonus ticket plan used in 1960 is still in force: that is, every person who sells nine \$3.00 season tickets, gets one free which they may use, give away or sell and keep the money. Anyone who wishes to sell tickets will be supplied if they call Chairman Conrad Ekdahl or his wife at GL 2-1051.

Fred Ackermann who has been champion ticket seller for many years, is shooting to sell 100 this year and will undoubtedly make it. Others report that the tickets sell more easily since the programs are held in Peabody Auditorium. Almost every member knows nine people who do or will enjoy these celebrated programs and as couples usually buy two it is not long before nine tickets are gone.

Mr. Anderson who gave the last program in 1960 had a new experimental Eastman Kodak projector specially made for projecting in large auditoriums. Everyone who saw this film was so pleased with the increased brightness and clearness of the pictures, that the Halifax River Audubon Society bought a similar projector, for use in the Peabody Auditorium. Those who attend the society meeting next Monday evening will see this new equipment in action and will realize that even though our Nature Theatre programs have been good, they will now be much more brilliant. This, with the increased comfort and "no waiting" for seats at the Auditorium, are good selling points on tickets.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Norma Ekdahl, reports that about three-fourths of our last year's members have renewed for the 1961-62 season. This is the last issue of THE PELICAN that will be mailed to those who do not renew. If you like to keep in touch with the Halifax Society and have not renewed your membership, get busy.

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IF YOU HAVE BEEN NORTH FOR THE SUMMER be sure to tell the Membership Secretary when you are or will be back and whether you will be at the same address. If you do not and your PELICAN REACHES YOU LATE from having first been sent to the wrong address "sputter" at yourself and notify her. This is even more true if you have changed address.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

Some of our members know all about this project but so many do not that a word of explanation may interest them.

Every year at Christmas time, Audubon Societies and clubs in all 50 states cooperate with the National Audubon Society in making a census of the birds that they can find in a 15 mile diameter circle in each of their neighborhoods. Each group selects its own day in a specified week. When possible the number of birds of each species seen during the day are counted and tabulated. Groups too large to be counted are carefully estimated.

Field Trip Director George Williams has selected Wednesday, December 20, for our society and has assigned part of the area to be covered to each of six group leaders who have had experience in this project in former years. Each leader has or is organizing a team of workers to help cover his section.

To be really effective, these teams should, as far as possible, be limited to better than average birders who can stay in the field from dawn to dusk regardless of the weather. It is a tedious task especially for the recorder who notes all of the species found by the team's workers and accumulates the total number of each kind seen.

At the end of the day George Williams combines the six local reports into one to be sent to the National Audubon Society. The combined reports from hundreds of local groups in all 50 states are published in one of the quarterly issues of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES (\$3.00 thru the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.)

From these reports ornithologists and conservationists are able to note increases or decreases in different species, changing migration patterns, effects of hard winters or specially good breeding seasons, and many other facts of great value in their work.

The cost of gathering, editing and publishing these reports far exceeds receipts from subscriptions so the National Audubon Society asks each person who takes part in making the census to contribute 50 cents. The Halifax River Audubon Society pays this for local members and is, therefore, interested in getting a good job done without calling on more members than are actually needed. After all it is not a part of the activity program of the society, but a special project conducted under strict National Audubon regulations necessary to insure comparable standards for making uniformly good identifications, counts and reports from all parts of the country.

Last year's Halifax count started on a dark, rainy morning, December 21. Fortunately, the weather improved as the day went on and at dusk the teams reported 112 species identified. For the past seven years, which is as far back as the editor has records easily available, the number has varied from 107 to 112 except in 1959 when for some reason it jumped to 130. This increase also was reported from other areas on the Florida east coast so there must have been some overall reason.

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For the last several years, the count for the Cocoa-Rockledge area, which includes Canaveral Basin, has led the country in total count and has slowly crept up until it exceeded 200 species in 1960. This happened when Alan Cruickshank, veteran ornithologist, moved into that section and took over management of the project. He works over his area days in advance and knows about where to look for each species, then organizes a large group of experts called from far and wide and tells them what to look for in each area. They go out then on the count day hoping that the birds have "stayed put". Birds seen a day ahead or a day late cannot be included in the one day census.

Before Mr. Cruickshank began setting National count records at Cocoa, San Diego, California led the country for some years. With a climate similar to north Florida's and with both ocean and mountain territory, they are still right up there on the heels of the leaders. Perhaps they will win back top honors some day.

Mr. Cruickshank edits the national count and is especially careful to see that unexpected "finds" are fully authenticated before being included.

Since the Titusville area is very good birding and there is no local Audubon group there, the Florida Audubon Society arranges with nearby Audubon Societies to make their count. For a number of years Fred Ackermann has lead a team from the Halifax River society to help. Leaving Daytona Beach long before daylight in order to be ready to go in the field at dawn and the 50 mile trip home after the long hours of field work, makes their day a long one and they are to be highly commended.

Ralph and Margaret Branch who have often helped make the count in Ann Arbor, Mich. tell how hard it is there to get enough able birders who can and will bundle up and trudge thru ice and snow from daylight until noon then gather in some warm place with their sandwiches and thermos bottles, thaw out, talk over the forenoon and go out again with more or less enthusiasm for another cold half day. Certainly, we in Florida may be glad that we do not have to face such weather.

Any local birder who wants to help should phone George Williams at OR 7-0907 who may know of some team not yet filled.

The Florida Audubon Society makes a specialty of making literature on birding and other conservation subjects which few stores carry available to members of Audubon Societies throughout the state. For the past two years the Halifax River Society has maintained a local branch of the state society's service department to help birders obtain books, binoculars and other desired items without having to write or go to Maitland for them. Unfortunately it is not possible to continue this service this season, but our Education Chairman, Robert S. Henderson will serve as agent for the state service department and keep on hand a few samples of the most commonly requested books and samples of the very high grade but reasonably priced binoculars most suitable for birding. He will be glad to consult with anyone regarding making suitable selections and will order items desired. Selecting the right binoculars and judging competing brands and qualities call for special experience which service he will be glad to extend without obligation.

The Pelican Board: Editor Robert S. Henderson, Associate Editors Mrs. Margaret Branch, Mrs. Ethel Monroe and Leo M. Sandefur. Publisher Mrs. Guy Barber (who mimeographs) and Mrs. Conrad Ekdahl who handles the big job of mailing along with her duties as Membership Secretary.

Any of these busy people will be glad to receive suggestions on making the bulletin most interesting and useful to Halifax Society members.