

Volume 7 - No. 1

January

1962

SOCIETY MEETING - Monday, January 15, at 7:30 P.M. at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach. The usual pre-meeting short illustrated talk on bird identification will be given by Roy D. Hudson at 7:00 P.M.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE. The entire program, after a short business session at 7:30, will feature the bald eagle. Mr. C. Russell Mason, Executive Secretary of the Florida Audubon Society, will tell of results of the special survey and other efforts being made by the state society in the eagle's behalf and will show the new film motion picture "THE BALD EAGLE -- Our National Bird" just issued, recently purchased by the Florida Audubon Society. In describing the new film, the National Audubon Society says:

"The first good picture ever produced on the natural history of the bald eagle is now available for print, sale or rental through the National Audubon Society.

"The film was produced by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology under the joint direction of Dr. Arthur A. Allen and Bayard W. Reed. It is in full color with sound. The narration and most of the photography are by Mr. Reed, a member of the Cornell Laboratory which Dr. Allen heads. A retired banker and business man of Rye, N. Y., Mr. Reed pursues a twin hobby of ornithology and photography and has become recognized nationally as an authority on eagles. He traveled personally to Alaska and Florida in the extremes of their geographical range.

"Some of the footage was contributed by Dr. Allen, some by Dr. Walter R. Spofford, eagle authority of Syracuse, N. Y. and Ivan D. Sutton. One important sequence came from motion pictures taken by the late Charles L. Broley, the famous "eagle Man" who pioneered in the banding of bald eagles and laid substantial ground work for present research efforts.

"The National Audubon Society, The National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service were cooperators in production of the film.

FIELD TRIPS COMING UP:

14th Trip: All-day trip to M. Q. Ranch and Osteen Marsh, Oak Hill and Lake Ashby. This is the trip announced last month for December 30. It should be a good one. Saturday, January 13.

15th Trip: Half-day trip is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 19.

16th Trip: Half-day trip on Saturday, January 27.

17th Trip: All-day trip to De Leon Springs. Saturday, February 2.

18th Trip: Half-day trip, Friday, February 9.

19th Trip: All-day trip to Salt Springs and Gainesville. This is the trip that sometimes turns up the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. It cannot be promised but is a possibility. Saturday, February 17.

FIELD NOTES: Mrs. Margaret Branch, Associate Editor.

The holidays, Christmas counts, and unusually cold weather, all combined to interfere with the regularly scheduled field trips but it turned out to be good birding with some notable finds.

The all-day trip to the Titusville area on December 16 was perfect. The weather was just right and the 43 persons who took part recorded 94 species, which is a goodly number for mid-winter.

Only four days later came the Christmas Count for this area. It was clear though cold and the teams who made the count knew they had had a day's work. The count ran to 116 species with two unlooked for rarities for this time of year. A Scarlet Tanager in the greenish winter plumage and a small flock of Baltimore Orioles gave real thrills to those who found them. A more extensive report on the count will be given in the February issue when numbers of different species compared with other years, will prove interesting.

The December 22 half-day trip brought a smaller than usual crowd but reported the Orioles again. Perhaps this is too close to Christmas to expect a real turn out.

December 30th weather was below freezing and the group was small again. Most of the gorgeous poinsettias and the banana trees were ruined that night and enthusiasm for birding was below normal. Plans were changed and the trip to M. Q. Ranch was postponed until January 13.

On that same day, in spite of the cold, two teams of Halifax River members started long before daylight to help the Florida Audubon Society make the Christmas count in the Titusville area. Fingers and toes and noses were numb for the first hour in the field after it was light enough to climb out of the warm cars and get to work afoot, but the day developed into a beautiful one for birding and the count was very successful. The H.F.R. crews recorded 74 species which added to the reports from the other teams from the Orlando Winter Park areas brought the total count for the day up to 142.

Mr. C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, who acted as trip director, declared it the "best ever".

Those who belong to the Florida Audubon Society and get the Florida Naturalist will undoubtedly see a report for this day printed in a coming issue.

Though the January half-day trip brought out only a small number, it was a very good trip with 75 species recorded.

The recent very low tides have exposed large oyster beds and bars in the river making observation of Oystercatchers and rails easier to see. Rails are especially hard to find in winter but are very interesting to watch.

GUIDED TOURS IN SOUTH FLORIDA are run regularly by the National Audubon Society and are very worthwhile, especially for those who do not take many trips in the Halifax River area through the year. Full information can be obtained by writing to the National Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

After der field trip ben ober
Und after das crowd ist vamoosen
Meinselfen ben speedischer rushen
Mit letten Mein girdle geloosen.

Anon

The Jays are not a bit like our Jays. They have a pinkish brown body with black tail, bold white patch on wings and just a small patch of blue on the wing.

Around the lake in the park can be found the Swifts. Not quite the same as ours. They are a little larger and have a bit of white on the neck and a forked tail. The House Martins skim back and forth across the lake and are a little smaller than our Purple Martin. They have a very white patch on the throat and rump. The Swallow flitting here and there is the same as our Barn Swallow.

The Moorhen is the same as our Florida Gallinule. The Pochard found swimming in the lake is grey, has a black chest and a rufous head. Mallards divide their time between the lake and the Thames. A few Barnacle Geese and Canada Geese are around the edge of the lake along with the Grey Log Goose. The familiar Coots are found on the lake with their baby chicks.

Across the Thames River there is a Heronry where the only type of Heron known to be found in England is protected. It is much like our Great Blue Heron. You always can see Mute Swans sailing up and down the Thames with their cygnets. Herring Gulls are wheeling overhead, and the Black Header Gulls are really abundant all over England. The head is not black but is a dark chocolate color. This bird has a crimson bill and legs, and is also found in the States. The Arctic Tern can be found flying up and down the Thames River, distinguished by its blood red bill. By train you can go to Seven Oaks where the Sackville-West Estate is located. This, to me, is the typical old English town. The castle known as Knole House has about 365 rooms and vast acreage. Being connected with nobility it has quite a herd of deer on the premises for hunting purposes.

On this estate I located the Great Spotted Woodpecker. This bird has a black back with large white shoulder patches and crimson undertail coverts and a small red patch at the nape. I ran into quite a variety of crows on the estate. The Jackdaw is black with grey nape, underparts dark grey and the eye is pale grey. He is 13 inches in length. The Rook is 18 inches in length and has the bare whitish face and more pointed greyish-black bill and appears to be wearing shaggy trousers. The Carrion Crow is much like our Fish Crow.

The first bird I saw as I entered this estate was the Spotted Flycatcher. He has all the characteristics of our Phoebe but not as handsome. Ashy brown plumage spotted crown and lightly streaked whitish breast.

The Sky Lark, the favorite bird of the poets, can be seen here and many other places in Europe, hovering over the meadows. He is slightly crested, has a streaked breast, white outer tail feathers and when on the ground he walks like our Pippit and can be heard singing while hovering in the air.

The Song Thrush can be heard and seen in the woods all over Europe - brown-backed bird with spotted breast and his song is loud and musical like our Wood Thrush. You can go down to Hampton Court by train or boat. I went both ways. It took me one day to go through 24 state rooms they had open to the public. The palace has about 1,000 rooms in all. Cardinal Wolsey remodeled much of the palace when he was through King Henry VIII came along and had him decapitated so he could take over the palace. The formal gardens are beyond description. The grounds around the palace are teeming with deer. I found the Magpie here. He is the same as the one in the States. The last bird I saw here and the best was the Green Woodpecker. This woodpecker has most of the characteristics of our Yellow Shafted Flicker including size. Greenish back, yellow rump, dark face with broad pointed "moustaches" are the principal markings.

While sitting in a churchyard on the outskirts of Epping Forest I saw quite a few Goldfinches. Their Goldfinch is known in the States as the European Goldfinch. He is a little more colorful than our American Goldfinch. He has boldly marked black and yellow wings, black and white tail, scarlet, black and white head and brown back. While Epping Forest itself was at one time one of the largest forests in England, it has now dwindled down to half its former size. The suburbanites are moving slowly in. The tract that is left seems to be devoid of sunshine, and the ancient oak trees do not seem to attract the birds.

THE BALD EAGLE NEEDS MORE CARE AND PROTECTION
by Mrs. Ethel Monroe, Associate Editor

The thrilling sight of a bald eagle soaring gracefully high up in the blue, or of downy young eagle heads barely visible above the sticks of a bulky eagle nest, with a parent bird on guard in a nearby tree, has probably been experienced by most of the members of the Halifax River Audubon Society who participate in its field trips. This sight, however, has become much rarer in the past few years, for surveys show that the bald eagle has definitely been decreasing in numbers during the past two decades, not only in Florida but throughout the nation, and it is feared its very existence is threatened. Although it nests, but in declining numbers, in certain other regions of the country, Alaska and Florida are becoming the last refuge of this majestic bird.

The bald eagle, which was adopted as our national emblem by the founders of our nation as its living symbol of freedom and strength, is a real American. It breeds only in the United States except for a small area outside our boundaries adjacent to Alaska.

Its favorite nesting site is a tall tree near water. A pine or a cypress is preferred in Florida. Being near water is essential as by far the greater part of the eagle's diet is composed of fish, caught alive or picked up dead along the shore. It mates for life and builds its nest of sticks in a sturdy tree crotch. Once established, this same nest is often used for years on end, material being added each year until it may attain gigantic proportions. If the birds are disturbed while nest building or repairing is going on, they may be driven away and several breeding seasons may be lost before another tree that satisfies them is found and another nest started.

Alaska's isolated areas and the still-existing suitable nesting areas of timber, marsh and swamp land in Florida have favored the bald eagle in these regions. However, the rapid expansion of the population in Florida is creating conditions which pose a real threat to the eagle population. As lands are cleared, trees cut down, swamps drained, roads built and housing developments spring up, the eagle is being crowded out. Wild life management areas and state and national parks, such as Everglades National Park, still provide refuge in our state, but a cruel blow was dealt the eagle population last year by Hurricane Donna, which destroyed an estimated 90 per cent of its eagle nests or nesting trees. Still other factors, such as diseases or the effects of spraying poisonous insecticides by airplane, are suspected of contributing to the decline of the eagle. However, this has not been definitely determined and is being investigated. the extent of

Federal law has given the bald eagle protection since 1940 and Florida state law protects the eagle as well as all other birds except crows, vultures, starlings and English sparrows. Further protection by state law is being sought.

The National Audubon Society has initiated and is carrying on a nation-wide bald eagle project to determine numbers and distribution of the species as a first step in a five-year program of research and study leading to future conservation efforts. Cooperation in this study is being given by federal and state wild life agencies, the National Park Service, and many state and local Audubon groups and ornithological societies.

The Florida Audubon Society has been engaged in an active campaign to save the bald eagle for the past three years. Surveys of nests are being made, educational programs are being carried on, eagle sanctuaries are being set up, and

assistance is being given to a student at Florida State University who is doing research on the eagle in northwest Florida. To date, the nest surveys show that only about 200 active nests remain in Florida of an estimated 500 a few years ago.

The Halifax River Audubon Society is cooperating in the program of both national and state societies. Roy Hudson represents the society as a member of the National Audubon Society's special committee on bald eagle research, and has devoted much time during the past year to searching for and reporting on the existing active eagle nests in Volusia and Flagler Counties. He will revisit these nests this season to see whether they are still producing young. He will be glad to have news of observations made by others, and emphasizes our society's policy that no publicity be given to the location of nests that may increase the number of people who may visit them.

Mr. George Heinzman, Chairman of the Bald Eagle Project of the Florida Audubon Society, has recently sent its chapters and affiliated groups the following valuable suggestions that will help avoid actions that might interfere with eagles who might otherwise succeed in raising young:

"The eagle nesting season in Florida begins around September and is in full swing by December. The young fly around March to June. Of the six-month season at any one nest, the first month (approximately) is spent in rebuilding the old nest. Two eggs are then deposited and approximately another month is required to hatch them. The young then need around twelve weeks to reach 'flight age', after which the birds usually remain in the vicinity of the nest for about another month, with the young returning to the nest to be fed by the parent birds.

"Different times of this 'fall to spring' season require different precautionary measures to avoid danger to the full development of the young eagles. During the nest rebuilding stage, it is quite easy to disturb the eagles enough to cause them to completely desert the nest. Visitors should never approach too closely, too often, or stay more than two or three minutes at that time. This holds true also for the month of incubation during which the eggs may become sterile if they are left unattended for more than a few minutes at a time, especially in bad weather. Eagles are very individualistic and do not always follow a pattern. While most will return to the nest very shortly after visitors leave, some may stay away for hours, which usually means death to eggs or extremely young birds.

"Once the eggs are hatched, the parent birds lose much of their willingness to completely desert which is apparent earlier. It becomes almost impossible, in most cases, to cause them to completely desert, although they will fly away while any one is around the nest. This can be very serious during their first five to eight weeks of life when the young are still highly susceptible to extremes in weather. A few minutes of hot sun or exposure to cold can kill. At birth they are covered with a light down, which changes to a gray wool. Not until the dark feather plumage begins to appear around the sixth to eighth week can the parent birds safely leave them for more than a few minutes. A safe rule to follow would be not to disturb the old birds by approaching too closely until one can see that the young have their dark new feather plumage.

"During the latter half of the season, they can be approached much closer without causing harm. However, too frequent or prolonged visits may cause the eagles to find a new location the next season.

"To say how close is 'too close' is difficult. That depends not only on season, but on individual birds. For example, one pair may 'hold' in the nest or on the tree when any one is approaching to less than one hundred yards. The following distances are general and depend on how the old birds react:

"First thirty days (nest building): Observe only from a distance with glasses. If the old birds become disturbed, leave the area at once.

"Second thirty days (incubation): Do not approach closer than during the first month, except perhaps on a day that is cloudy and is neither too hot nor cold. If birds become disturbed, either in actions or by flight, leave at once. Never approach closer than 200 yards.

"Third and Fourth months (first 8 weeks of young): Approach with extreme caution as in the incubation period. Never remain in the nest area long enough to disturb birds, and if both adults leave the nest, lose no time getting out of the area! This is an extremely crucial period.

"Fifth month (last 4 or 5 weeks of nest-bound young): This is the ideal time for observation. The young have protective dark plumage and usually are big enough to be seen over the brim of ^{the} nest. If anyone has been watching the nest regularly, the parent birds may have become accustomed to him as an individual, and if he hasn't unduly disturbed them, will allow him to approach much closer before they fly. Now he may remain somewhat longer without fear of harming the young. At all times avoid sudden movements, loud noises, or other disturbing factors."

Those taking part in the nest survey may at times have reason to come right under the tree and may want to check the ground for droppings, feathers, remains of fish, etc. as evidence that the nest is in use. This can be done at any time during the season, but should be avoided after the eagles have been seen about the nest.

Mr. Kenneth Morrison, noted ornithologist, who is Director of the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower at Lakes Wales, ^{Fla} and is also a Vice President of the Florida Audubon Society and who has conducted a campaign for better protection of eagles and all other birds of prey, for many years, said in the Florida Naturalist of July, 1960:

"HERE ARE SEVEN THINGS YOU CAN DO:

"1. FIND OUT IF THERE ARE EAGLES IN YOUR AREA. Ask bird watchers, wildlife officers, outdoorsmen. Try to determine the location of active nests and then go to the owners of the property to enlist their cooperation in protecting the nest trees and the birds themselves. Perhaps the properties can be posted as Audubon Sanctuaries to minimize possible molestation of the eagles. Official metal posting signs are available for fifty cents each from the Florida Audubon Society. Garden clubs, local Audubon societies, or other groups might wish to shoulder the cost of such posting.

"2. SEND YOUR LOCAL EAGLE DATA TO THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY AND THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. They will treat this information confidentially. Eagle nest locations should not be publicized for fear of attracting the attention of egg collectors or other vandals.

"3. PUBLICIZE EAGLE PROTECTION LAWS. Federal law provides a maximum penalty of \$500.00 or six-months' imprisonment for killing or molesting bald eagles, including their nests and young. Eagles (as well as all other birds except

crows, vultures, starlings and English Sparrows) are protected by state regulations in Florida. Violations should be reported to the nearest wildlife officer. His name and phone number can be obtained from your police department. It is hoped that the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will soon extend protection to the vultures so that no shooter can give the excuse that he mistook an eagle for a vulture.

"4. USE THE SLOGAN 'DO NOT SHOOT ANY LARGE BIRDS'. Too many hunters, young and old, cannot - or do not bother to - distinguish an eagle from a vulture or large hawk; hence an all-inclusive admonition seems best. Also, the large birds present such imposing targets that they especially need protection. Talk to schools, Scouts, 4-H groups, etc. Appoint every youngster as an 'Eagle Guardian'. Talk to your local newspaper and radio-TV people. Ask them to help save the eagles.

"5. KEEP SPRAY PLANES AWAY FROM EAGLE NESTS. Eagles sometimes have deserted their nests after spray planes have flown low over them. Contact local authorities and ask that pilots be instructed to avoid eagle nests.

"6. JOIN THE BALD EAGLE CLUB. Send \$1.00 to the Florida Audubon Society and you will receive a life membership card. The funds will be used for research and education on behalf of the eagles. Get your friends to join too - especially those who are bald!

"7. ENLIST THE AID OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. Saving the living symbol of our liberty is a patriotic duty! Let's get everybody 'into the act'. They can all help in some of the ways outlined above."

To be appointed an "Eagle Guardian", any youngster needs only send a dime to the Florida Audubon Society, Box 825, Maitland, Fla., for which he will receive an Eagle Button and a Wallet membership card.

A simple and easy way, not outlined above, in which every one can participate is by saving any commemorative postage stamps received on letters and sending them to the Florida Audubon Society. They are sold to stamp dealers and do their bit toward helping swell the eagle research funds. Send them to the Florida Audubon Society or hand them to the writer, who will see that they are sent on."

Bird Banding Results. Roy D. Hudson

November 11, 1961, Jean and I found a dead ring-billed gull (with Fred Ackerman) on the beach near the Inlet. It had a band #565 - 88110, which was sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information came back that the bird was banded near Alpena, Michigan (Lake Huron) June 28, 1961. Another banded gull was found more recently at Villano Marsh at St. Augustine. The U. S. and Canadian Wildlife Services cooperate in banding birds, to study migration routes, distribution to wintering and breeding grounds, mortality and other phases of bird life. In the past, over eleven million birds have been banded, and a half million more are being added each year. About one million recovery and return records are now available for study. Members are urged, when they see a dead bird, to examine its legs for a possible band, and to return it as directed on the band.

Volume 6- No. 2

FEBRUARY

1962

FIELD TRIPS AHEAD

19th field trip. All day Saturday, February 17. The route has been changed slightly. After looking for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker near Salt Springs, the group will go to Juniper Springs for lunch rather than to Gainesville.

20th Trip. Half day, Friday, February 23.

21st Trip. All day Saturday, March 3. To Canaveral Harbor near Cocoa. This is always a standout experience.

22nd. Trip. Half day, Friday, March 9.

THE FEBRUARY SOCIETY MEETING will be held at the usual place, Tourist Church, 301 N. Wild Olive Ave., Monday, February 19, at 7 P.M.

You Name It.

Mr. John B. May will conduct an unusual feature at the opening by presenting a motion picture film which shows about seventy bird species without titles. He may give a fact or two that may serve as a clue and members may see how many they can identify. Cards with numbered spaces will be provided to help make quick notes.

Birds of the West.

After the business meeting Mr. Fenn Holden who presented the society with most of the beautiful slides in its well known slide library will show slides of and speak on Birds of California. These two special features should attract a large audience.

THE NATURE THEATRE (Screen Tour) programs have been thoroughly enjoyed by large audiences, more than 1000 February 10th. There are still two to go on February 24th and March 17th. Don't miss any and urge others to come.

THE SOCIETY'S 39th ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER will be held in the Tourist Church hall at 6 P.M. Monday, March 19th. Mrs. Harvey Funk and her committee have arranged to have a fine dinner catered by the S. & S. Cafeteria for \$1.50 per person.

Following a brief business meeting and election of officers for the coming year, Mr. Burton G. Hubbard, noted wildlife photographer and conservationist, will personally present a color film entitled "From Here to Yonder". This will be like having an extra Nature Theatre program.

TICKET SALES. For the past two years the demand for dinner tickets has exceeded the seating space, creating a difficult situation for both the applicants and the ticket chairman. In order that members may be served first the following procedure has been established:

- 1 - First priority will be given to members and their non-member husbands or wives. Tickets will be placed on sale at the close of the society meeting next Monday, February 19. Members present may purchase their first priority tickets then for \$1.50 each. They may also make application for Second Priority tickets for guests and make payment.

Members who are not present for this opening sale may use the application form attached and send payment and a stamped return envelope to the ticket chairman. Those received by February 28th will be honored before any second priority tickets are sold.

- 2 - Second priority will be given to applications made by members for house guests, other members of their families and friends, and other non-members. Applications will be accepted and honored in the order received up to March 13th as long as tickets are available. Any tickets remaining (if any) will then be sold as applications with payment are received.

All applications for second priority tickets must be accompanied by full payment and return stamped envelope.

- 3 - Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Halifax River Audubon Society and mailed to Willard Whiteman, 222 N. Hollywood Ave., Daytona Beach.

- 4 - When available tickets have been sold, full refund will be made to applicants whose requests could not be filled.

- 5 - Money paid for tickets that the purchasers cannot use will be refunded if the tickets are returned to the ticket chairman not later than March 13th. Such tickets will then be offered to second priority applicants whose orders could not be filled.

FIELD NOTES

Mrs. Margaret Branch

This has been a good birding month although it is in between migration seasons and the total list of species for the field trip season has not grown as fast as it will when the spring migration really gets underway. Every one of the trips from January 13 thru February 9 have been very satisfactory both from the standpoint of birds seen and good member attendance.

Official field trips have recorded 184 species since starting in October and it looks as though we might have a record year.

On the January 13th all day trip to M.Q. Ranch, 26 people saw a total of 90 species. The half day trip on the 19th, recorded 71 and the 27 who went on the January 27th trip saw 87.

The February 2nd trip to Welaka not only had a beautiful day but came home with an outstanding total of 100 species. February 9th was another beautiful day with the usual several half day groups going to different places. Nothing unusually exciting was reported but one group saw more than 70 different species. Not bad for winter.

The most exciting event of the month was the first official stop at what we now call the "Route 4 stop" on a completed section of the new Federal Interstate highway that will eventually run to Tampa.

February 2nd was a beautiful day and outstandingly enjoyable for the 42 participants who lunched at the Welaka Fish Hatchery. Between them all on their separate way they saw 110 species.

February 9th on only a half day trip, most of which was inland, one group alone checked over 70 species in four hours. From now on the weekly lists should grow larger as the spring migration gets underway.

Some of our members who forage farther afield, generally southward, in these cool months, to the everglades or beyond, often report on current conditions that can help others plan such jaunts. Here is a good example. General Edward Panet from Montreal, Quebec, who spent a month here two years ago and was in Bob Henderson's instruction class, recently wrote:

"We promised to write to tell you about Stem's fishing camp. It is a comfortable camp. There is a fairly new motel with about six efficiency units for which we paid \$8. The meals were very reasonable (\$2 dinner) family style and very good. Mrs. Stem is a splendid cook and they were both very entertaining. The birding was superb. We ran after wild turkeys with the car and caught up with them. We saw 16 Sandhill Cranes, 4 Burrowing Owls, 3 Everglade Kites, 2 Caracaras, one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, about 30 White Pelicans, at least 4 hundred Limpkins, 4 Wild Turkeys and many other more usual birds.

"It took three hours in the boat to see the kites. We were delighted with our stay. Mr. Stem says there are only 3 kites and he is afraid they are going to starve, the water is so low."

If anyone is interested in finding this good place to stay and be guided to see these birds:- Phone Whitehall 62326 or write Stem's Fishing Camp - Florida Rt. 78- R.D. 2, Moore Haven, Fla. Advance reservations are recommended.

THE ROUTE 4 SPOT referred to in Field Notes is a thrilling new section of the partly completed Interstate Turnpike System that runs thru a fine birding swamp at the west end of Lake Monroe not hitherto accessible. When it is finally made a part of the road from Daytona Beach to Tampa and is officially open to travel, stopping along it for anything except an emergency will probably be prohibited. Quite a number of cars use it now but it is four-laned and has wide gravelled shoulders that make it easy and safe to park entirely off of the paved surface.

HOW TO REACH IT. From Daytona Beach Follow Rt. 92 west to the end of the four lane section. Turn left (south) on Tomoka Farms Rd. to where it ends at Pioneer Trail. Turn right and go until the Trail merges with Rt. 44 that runs from New Smyrna Beach to Deland. Take Rt. 44 to the new overhead bridge of new Rt. 4. Go under the bridge and immediately turn right on a cloverleaf access road that goes up onto the southbound lanes of the new road. Go south until you come to the marshes.

When ready to return, go south over the end of the lake. Then turn right immediately on a cloverleaf exit road that will take you around and down under the bridge on Rt. 17. Immediately after going under the bridge, turn right again on the cloverleaf access road that will take you up onto the northbound lanes. Go to the end of the completed part and turn right on another cloverleaf exit road that puts you back on Rt. 44. The trip is about 40 miles each way all paved and is worth it.

President Chester Childs who has been there at several different times of day says: "It is best to go in the forenoon when the sun will be behind you and from Daytona Beach leave at least by 9 a.m. It is an easy four-hour trip with plenty of time to bird at the marshes if you do not stop along the way for less interesting birding."

The last group to report saw a large flock of Glossy Ibises, White and Wood Ibises, Common and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue, Little Blue Herons and Green Herons, Several kinds of ducks, many Boat-tailed Grackles, two hawks and many other species. Bald Eagles nest in adjacent wooded section and might be seen also.

A MAGNIFICENT SHOW OF GANNETS.

by Mrs. Millard Kent

I think we shall designate the week of January 26 to February 2 as Gannet Week at least, as far as the Kent household is concerned. We went down to the Inlet on Friday, January 26 to see the moon shot, and were delighted to see many Gannets. We stopped several times on the way home to watch them and were content to see 8 to 20 and once as many as 50. We put it down as a very satisfactory Gannet day.

On Saturday we again saw a goodly number. On Sunday we went to St. Augustine and noticed that one shrimp boat was so close in that at first glance we thought it might be aground but soon found that the high tide had allowed it to come in over the bar. There, about a thousand yards off-shore, the shrimper was virtually smothered in the usual canopy of feeding birds, only most unusual in that the birds were mostly all Gannets, in all stages of plumage, great dark immature birds almost black against the sky, through salt and pepper stages and some looking like eagles with white heads and tails, the beautiful black and white of maturity. They were accompanied by a great concentration of porpoises.

There were similar large concentrations every mile or so all the way to Flagler and again at Matanzas. At one place near Flagler we had the rare joy of watching a Parasitic Jaeger waging a battle with a Royal Tern and finally settling on the water with his booty. We watched sometime after that but he made no attempt to molest the Gannets. The Jaeger-Tern battle was magnificent. Our last Jaeger had been a beautiful "Pomarine" in the Carribean two years ago.

The Gannet concentration seemed to climax on February 2 when we again saw a shrimper with porpoises playing about and at least three or four hundred Gannets in the air and on the water. The ocean was black and white with them. We hope many of our Audubon Society members have been aware of the magnificent display the cold weather in the north has sent us, a truly wonderful show. We used to drive two hundred miles in Maryland each May just to see a few and we are delighted to have have this grand Gannet ballet.

Editor's note: At the time of writing the Gannets had not left. It will thrill any birder to see them.

GULLS ON AIRPORTS. Daytona Beach is not the only place where gulls have been a menace to landing planes. Probably every member of the Halifax River Society was concerned about recent news stories that gulls that sometimes rest on the runways at the Daytona Beach Airport were to be poisoned.

Dr. John B. May of this society, who has wide experience in all branches of ornithology, commenting on the recent reports of fantastically colored gulls on Halifax beaches explains that these gulls have been marked by different colors at various places in the north in an attempt to find out where the offending gulls come from. No one seems as yet to have discovered what will keep gulls from resting on the runways when they are tired.

Gulls cannot fly all the time and so must rest. When the winds are strong they must put out greater effort to combat it and instinctively seek sheltered places to relax. Large groups of them can often be seen on the grassed area near the west end of the Orange Ave. bridge. When it is very windy and the sea is turbulent it is more difficult for them to find sufficient food along the beaches and what is more natural than for them to go to the city refuse disposal area next to the airport where they have often found good feeding. Birds are controlled more by their instincts than by their limited reasoning power and it is doubtful poisoning any number of them will scare others away.

Volume 6, No. 3

March

1962

THE SOCIETY'S 39th ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER will be held in the dining hall at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., at 6 P.M. on Monday, March 19th.

The dinner, catered by the S & S Cafeteria which noted for its good food and quick service, will be followed by the annual meeting which will include condensed reports from committees and election of officers for the next society year (October 30, '62 to September 30, '63.)

The main program feature will be a colored film entitled "From Here to Yonder" personally presented by the noted wildlife photographer and conservationist, Burton G. Hubbard. This program and a good dinner for \$1.50 is an outstanding bargain.

A limited number of dinner tickets are still available at \$1.50 each. These may be purchased by any one interested. The ticket sale closes Thursday, March, 15th. Send check or money order made out to the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY to ticket chairman Willard Whiteman, 222 N. Hollywood Ave., Daytona Beach, for as many extra tickets as you may desire, together with a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. He will send out tickets as long as they last and then start sending back checks for orders that he cannot fill. Don't wait.

FIELD NOTES

Mrs. Margaret Branch, Associate Editor.

Unusual birds recorded here for the past month show how careless it is for a birder to start off even on a ride of limited scope without taking binoculars and a bird book.

How many of us, except our most experienced member noted ornithologist Dr. John B. May, could have identified the AUDUBON'S SHEEPWATER that the recent storm blew onto our south beach without the authority of Roger Tory Peterson's dependable guide book?

The FULVOUS TREE DUCK, also a most unexpected "find", turned up at the Ormond Beach marl pits on the field trip of February 23rd.

Each of our weekly field trip groups, spreading their efforts in several different areas as directed by Field Trip Director, George Williams, contribute to combined totals of 100 or more species per trip.

The trips of February 23rd had a grand total of 104 and the March 3rd trip to Canaveral Harbor reached 111 species even though the high wind sent many birds to cover. It is remarkable that such a high total could be found so soon after the crowding of that section by those who attended the orbit flight of Col. John Glenn, Jr. on February 20th. Going and coming from the Cape the breeze gave us great wafts of orange blossom perfume from groves on both sides.

It was one more of those days that look rather dark and discouraging, even damp, by the dawn's early light but turn out to be delightful for those who don suitable clothing and are on hand and eager for the start.

Long-billed Curlews and Avocets were our rarest finds at Canaveral but the most spectacular were dozens of White, Glossy and Wood Ibises in one marsh.

The recent high tides have left a smooth but treacherous stretch of sands in the Inlet area. Do not drive heedlessly beyond tracks that show safe going since the last smoothing of the waves. A frail old couple in a bright red open convertible (rented) did this on Thursday afternoon, March 8th, sank to the hubs and had eight husky helpers to thank for being extricated. That was the day that, according to the newspapers, the gulls had the beach to themselves, but we saw Dowitchers, Dunlins and Willets close up on the beach at the Inlet and found the rare visitor, the stranded but still alert Audubon's Shearwater on the south beach.

Spring birds are migrating thru again as evidenced by recent reports of the Swallow-tailed Kites, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Blue Grosbeak.

Migrating Barn Swallows, Great Crested Flycatchers, cannot be far behind; in fact, the Least Terns have arrived for their summer nesting much earlier than usual. From now until the end of May is the time for birders to meet their contemporaries at the parking place where the weekly field trips start (West end of Orange Ave. bridge) at 7:30 or 8:00 A.M. on the scheduled field trip days. Our indoor Audubon Society meetings are fine but the field trips are super-fine.

FRED ACKERMANN, former Field trip director, who made and erected the large Purple Martin house at the city boat basin and keeps special records of their arrival, reports that the first Martin Scout to be seen there this year arrived to look over the lay of the land on February 9th. This happened on this same date in 1958 and 1960. While Fred has been keeping records he has noted their earliest arrival on January 7, 1957 and the latest on March 5, 1955. In his recent book "Stalking Birds with a Color Camera" published by The National Geographic Society, Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University explains that the instincts which regulate the habits of birds are so exact that were it not for weather conditions that vary, our birds would probably all arrive at a given point in their migrations on the same day every year, start nesting, egg laying and brooding on such tight schedules that much of the fun of making unexpected "finds" would be taken out of birding.

Coming Field Trips for the balance of the spring season:

23rd Trip: Friday, March 16, all day, to Rock Springs Park and very likely also to the fabulous Route 4 Spot mentioned in the February issue of the Pelican.

24th Trip: Half-day, Friday, March 23rd.

25th Trip: All day, Saturday, March 31st to Titusville. This is always one of the high spot trips of the season.

26th Trip: Half-day, Friday, April 6th.

27th Trip: All day, Saturday, April 14th. Oak Hill and M.Q. Ranch.

28th Trip: Half-day, Friday, April 20th.

29th Trip: All day, Saturday, April 28th. Matanzas Park and St. Augustine.

30th Trip. Half-day, Friday, May 4th. The last scheduled trip of the season.

Vol. 7 No. 4

APRIL

1962

MONDAY, APRIL 16 is the date of the last meeting of the '61-'62 season, 7:30 P.M., Tourist Church social hall. The usual short pre-meeting slide talk will be made by Mr. Fenn Holden on "Migratory Birds of the Halifax Area" at 7:00 P.M.

FIELD TRIP DIRECTOR George Williams wishes to thank all active members for their fine cooperation on our many field trips. He is especially appreciative of the service rendered by those who acted as group leaders, thereby making our present system of small sections over different routes so satisfactory. Since dates and types of trips for next season's printed schedule must be determined during the month of May, a questionnaire has been prepared to help members register ideas or suggestions. Please take time to fill it out and mail it back to Mr. Williams promptly.

EDITOR RESIGNS. In a letter to President Childs dated March 19th, Robert Henderson resigned his duties as Editor in Chief of the PELICAN. Reduced energy due to ill health made the move necessary. In conclusion Bob said: "I will never lose my interest in the Society and its many activities. As opportunity offers and strength is available, I will be glad to accept temporary assignments for Society work that seem within my physical reach."

FIELD NOTES By Mrs. Margaret Branch, Associate Editor

In the migration now on, our rarest find was an olive-sided flycatcher, studied closely by Fenn Holden at Matanzas State Park, on March 22nd, near St. Augustine. An unusually early record was one black-throated blue warbler that the Ekdahls saw on March 24th, and about forty people watched a rare blue grosbeak on the Thomas feeder in Ormond, outside a convenient window. He lingered for three days in mid-March. It would be fun, next season, to organize a telephone alerting system, such as is used in some communities in Massachusetts, for cases like this.

It was windy on those high old oyster shell roads through the Titusville marshes on our last southward all-day HRAS trip of the season. But the wind was warm, and the sun just bright enough. Leaving our parked cars, small groups of us happily wandered here and there, meeting now and then - watching bitterns, rails, the rare dusky seaside sparrow, various herons, and ibis of three sorts, in the wide marshes, ditches and bushes. Once a line of black-necked stilts yelped past overhead, and a flock in the distance was estimated at fifty. We saw white pelicans also, the 33 of us on that trip.

Summer Birding Hints Choose an evening, take a sandwich and a thermos along, park on the Port Orange Causeway, watch the sunset and the thousands of herons and ibis, pelicans and crows, flying in to roost on the islets near the draw.

The ponds on McDonald's Farm, at Port Orange, will continue to be interesting this summer. The long ditch there along the lane is often a show of wildflowers and handsome butterflies.

The Beach in the hottest hours, is breezy and cool. The long lines of soaring pelicans and the occasional pretty trustful least terns, hovering to come up with silvery minnows, are always to be seen after our winter terns and gulls have gone farther north.

Meantime, beginning now, we should look for summer tanagers, painted buntings, kingbirds, cockoos, vireos, (both white-eyed and red-eyed), for barn swallows and for warblers. Listen for the soft purring song of the gray kingbird from an overhead wire. Look a little higher for chimney swifts. Watch for nighthawks about sunset.

More than half of the annual rainfall of our state (which is over 59 inches) can be expected to fall in the four warmest months, by daylight. Early morning birding, 6 - 10 A.M. is best and safest because plans for the cool of the afternoon are many times disrupted by black clouds and heavy thundershowers.

Farewell for this season; coming to you all through the PELICAN has been a pleasure.

SOCIETY'S 38th ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The annual meeting and dinner held Monday, March 19th, 1962 was well attended (150 dinners served) and was a most enjoyable occasion.

Mrs. Harvey Funk the general chairman, and members of her committee who planned and carried out the arrangements, decorations and other details are to be congratulated on a job "well done".

Reports of committees and officers indicate an effective season with progressive accomplishments in all departments. Following is a summary of the reports:

FIELD TRIPS George L. Williams, Director

Including March 31, 1962 - 24 trips have been conducted (plus one cancelled 32° F. temp.) Average number of species identified per trip 90.13. Maximum 114. Minimum 61. Average number birders per trip 29.5, Maximum 44, Minimum 7.

There were 13 half day trips and 11 all day trips.

Our trip director believes active field trippers have increased their identification abilities as records so far are consistently above those of the past two seasons.

March 31, 1960 - 178	Seasons 159-160	202
totals 1961 - 182	totals 160-161	212
1962 - 201	161-162	?

MEMBERSHIP Mrs. C. H. Ekdahl

	1962	1961
49 New members	Total membership 206	193

11 Honorary members not included above

SCREEN TOURS Conrad H. Ekdahl, Director.

Screen Tour attendance set an all time record this season. All members who worked so faithfully to sell season tickets are to be congratulated upon the success of their efforts as are those who distributed posters to stimulate box office ticket sales.

1962

1962

4599
588
5187

adults
children
totals

4245
422
4667

Screen Tour Schedule 1962-1963

The Bear River	Allen Cruikshank
Pika Country	Emerson Scott
Jungle Trek in India	John Moyer
Nova Scotia, Land of the Sea	Robert Hermes
Wild Europe	Roger Tory Peterson.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE Isaac Merrill, Chairman

Programs of the Society, following the business session at each monthly meeting, included some outstanding educational features. Following his trip to Texas and points west, Roy Hudson showed us his slides and gave an enjoyable talk on "Western Birds". We traveled with Fenn Holden on his tour of the far west via his colored slides on "Birds of California". Dr. John B. Mays tested our bird identification ability with an untitled movie of seventy different species. Mr. C. Russell Mason, Executive Secretary of the Florida Audubon Society presented a fine motion picture on "Spectacular Florida Birds" which had some unusually good sequences on the Bald Eagle. At our annual meeting and dinner we enjoyed colored movies taken by Mr. Burton K. Hubbard of Jacksonville. To many of us Mr. Hubbard's photography and lecture seemed comparable to any of our Audubon Screen Tour presentations.

We are looking forward to Mr. Jerome Burgman's "Spring Flowers" which will be a feature of our last meeting on Monday evening, April 16th.

TREASURER Conrad H. Ekdahl

Balance on hand March 24, 1961	\$2679.49
--------------------------------	-----------

Receipts:

Balance Annual Dinner (1961)	\$ 92.25	
Screen Tour	3105.30	
Membership Dues (206 members)	356.00	
Sale of Check lists	1.10	
Annual Dinner 1962	220.50	
Interest	63.22	<u>3838.37</u>

Total receipts	6517.86
----------------	---------

Disbursements:

Screen Tour expenses	\$ 1697.01	
Balance Annual Dinner '61	100.75	
"Pelican"	131.46	
Printing	150.39	
Donation to Florida Audubon Society	400.00	
Eastman Projector and stand	460.46	
Refinishing 2 screens	50.76	
Florida workshop expense	60.00	
Annual Dinner, 1962	225.00	
Miscellaneous	117.26	<u>3393.09</u>

Total disbursements	3393.09
---------------------	---------

Balance on hand	\$ 3124.77
-----------------	------------

OFFICERS ELECTED for the 1962-1963 fiscal year are as follows:

- President: Chester H. Childs
- Vice Pres.: Isaac L. Merrill, Jr.
- Mrs. Herbert B. Monroe
- George L. Williams
- Recording secy: Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless
- Membership " : Mrs. C. H. Ekdahl
- Treasurer: Conrad H. Ekdahl
- Ex. Committee Members at-large: George Murray, Leo M. Sandefur,
Willard S. Whiteman

ROBERT S. HENDERSON Honored

The Society's highest award, that of Honorary Life Membership, was bestowed upon Robert Henderson at the annual meeting. All who know Bob, join in approving this recognition of devoted service. For seven years, ever since its inception, he has served as editor of the PELICAN. He has taught bird identification courses and conducted field trips of instruction which have been especially helpful to beginners and in many cases have developed new memberships. As custodian of the Society's valuable slide library, much of it given by Mr. Fern Holden, his meticulous care and use of this property makes possible the educational features preceding our monthly business meetings, as well as its expanded use with Garden Clubs, Schools, and other civic groups. In addition he has headed the Service Department which makes available to our members books, pamphlets and other birding material not usually found in book stores. All this is service of the highest order and we salute Robert S. Henderson, our newest Honorary Life Member and wish him well.

AUDUBON TO TEXAS The National Audubon Society will hold its 58th Annual convention Nov. 10-13 at the Robert Driscoll Hotel in Corpus Christi. The society is endeavoring to hold meetings in all parts of the nation according to President Carl W. Buchheister.

BALD EAGLE FILM A new film, "The Bald Eagle, Our National Bird" has been produced by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology under the joint direction of Dr. Arthur A. Allen and Bayard W. Read. It runs 33 minutes.

In keeping with the current fight for survival of the eagles in the United States, the film will be available for rental showings from the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y. for \$7.50 Sale price for a print is \$210.

..... DETACH HERE

FIELD TRIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Active birders who have suggestions for improving Field trips please fill out below:

More half day trips yes no

" All " " yes no

Trips on Mon. Tues. Wed.

Special overnight trips to more distant areas yes no

Other ideas: (use other side)

Please mail at once to:
George Williams, 136 Salvador
Place, Ormond Beach, Florida

Vol. 7 No. 5

OCTOBER

1962

SEASON'S FIRST SOCIETY MEETING will be held at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave. at 7:30 PM, Monday, October 15th. Guests are always welcome. The program will feature a fine color film, on "Migration". At 7:00 PM a slide lecture from our own excellent library, on bird identification of October and November arrivals, will be given by Ike Merrill.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM. Enclosed with this issue of THE PELICAN is a membership application for 1962-63 and the society's printed Program for the same period. The former should be filled out (both sides) and mailed to Membership Secretary, Mrs. C. H. Ekdahl as soon as possible. The program, we trust you will read carefully and preserve for reference throughout the Season. As the result of requests for more all day trips, the number of such trips is increased in the new schedule. Please note that the first half day field trip is Oct. 12th and the first all day trip Oct. 20th.

BIRDING BY BOAT. For an adventure in "Birding by Boat" your officers have chartered the DAVE G. Jr., a converted diesel-powered shrimp trawler, for a cruise on the Intracoastal Waterways between Marineland and St. Augustine. The DAVE G. Jr. is a 48 foot by 14 foot radio telephone equipped boat, Coast Guard approved, which carries 22 passengers comfortably. Our charter date is Wednesday, November 7th, and will cover a six hour period from 9 AM to 3 PM. The cost will be \$1.50 per person, each birder to bring his or her lunch and beverages, which we will eat aboard. Reservations for the trip should be made with our Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless at CL 3-3450, who will provide all details. Only 22 can be accepted for this first trip, consequently places will be reserved in order of their receipt. Tickets will be available at our first meeting on October 15th.

THE ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE OF the Florida Audubon Societies, will be held at Camp Wingmann, Avon Park, October 12th - 14th. The Agenda will include questions relating to programming, memberships, conservation issues and field trips. The chief purpose of the meeting is to strengthen the work of local groups. Halifax River Society will be represented by two executive committee members, Willard Whiteman and Leo Sandefur and their wives.

LITTLE DAMAGE TO CORKSCREW: The virgin forest of ancient bald cypress in the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, which was besieged by wildfires for three weeks during late May and early June, escaped virtually unscathed.

The fires were finally extinguished when drought-breaking rains began falling June 11th.

Approximately 1,800 acres of the 6,080 acre reservation were burned over, but the scorched parts were mostly grasslands with stands of pine, palmetto and pond cypress. Very few of the great bald cypress trees, some of which have been growing there for 700 years, were affected. The last virgin sample of its kind left in America, the cypress forest, is one of the Sanctuary's principal natural treasures. (Conservation Scene)

October 1962

page 2

TO ZELWIN WITH MR. CALVERT

By Elizabeth E. McCandless

One day last August a few of us who were available, were hastily summoned to ride with Mr. Calvert of the University of Eastern Alabama, to Zelwin Farm for a bit of summer birding. It is a rare treat to bird with Mr. Calvert.

The day was clear and hot. We prayed for birds and got them in profusion at the edge of a flooded side road on the farm. The road and field edge looked like a bird convention. The men at Zelwin protect the birds, so they are not unduly alarmed by visitors. Right away a Purple Gallinule and several Floridas greeted us hurriedly and retreated noisily telling friends about us, at which a King Rail took a quick look from behind a grass clump. Nearest to us on the road many little White-rumped Sandpipers darted about, and to dispel any doubts as to their identity, some flew overhead showing off their white rears. Walking about among them more slowly were any number of Pectoral Sandpipers and Dunlins, rather hard to distinguish apart at this time of year.

There must have been 1,000 water birds in this particular group. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were in profusion and the usual propinquity. It was a great moment when a Marbled Godwit did a real pose, contrasted with a fleeting glimpse of a shy dark Sora and another King Rail, and many Clapper cackles and Gallinule gobbles from grass clumps. Kildeer were on all sides as well as many Semi Palms and Wilson's Plovers. The enchanting Black-necked Stilts were all around, both feeding and flying overhead giving us the eye. At one place, as we slowly drove along, they ran before us in the road as chickens sometimes do.

In the afternoon, after a most efficient cloudburst, the Black Terns came out in the ensuing mist. They wheeled before us in fairly large numbers about four feet above the swampy ground. Some heads were still black, while others were black and white, all quite silent, seemingly catching flies. The rain seemed to encourage flights of ducks, Black ones and Blue-winged Teal, who flew toward us in small formations and landed nearby in the long grass.

The friendly farm workers volunteered to locate Sandhill Cranes for us, for by that time the roads were quite mucky and we were wary of sliding into a ditch. Seems as if cranes like the feel of newly cut soft grass, for they were found on a nearby sod farm. We got to within about 200 feet of six of them, as our car crept up behind a hedgerow. All six turned their lovely red-topped heads in unison, then took off.

The count for the day was 67, not bad for a hot day. This included a close view of a Chuck-Will's Widow asleep on a low pine branch near the road, discovered by the sharp eyes of George William's grandson. At lunch in Mt. Dora we had a good view of a female Yellow Warbler sitting like a tiny prima donna on a wire, and a good look at a Red-tailed Hawk along the road on the way over. We are surely grateful to the kindly Mr. Calvert for prodding us out of our summer lethargy.

EDUCATIONAL DIVISION: Mrs. Herbert B. Monroe, Vice President in charge of the division, announces that Robert Henderson will serve as Chairman Emeritus of the Educational Committee. Additional members who will take turns at conducting field trips for training in bird identification are: Lydia Hamilton, Fred Ackerman, Fern Holden, Roy Hudson, Ike Merrill and George Murray. Margaret Branch will serve as chairman of the division's Library Committee.

A SERVICE SUGGESTION: George Williams offers our membership a new type of service this season. In the past a few active birders have phoned him on occasion when they have seen unusual species or large concentrations, giving time and place of the identification. Those who wish to share in giving and receiving such information may list their names and telephone numbers with Mr. Williams at the October meeting, if they wish to be registered for this service.

FIELD TRIP PERSONNEL: Director: George Williams. Asst. Director: Ike Merrill.
Group Leaders: Conrad Ekdahl, Chester Childs, Willard Whiteman, Roy Hudson,
 John Lahart, Col. O. E. Thomas.

Identification Helpers:

George Murray, Lydia Hamilton, Velma Hayes, Connie Eggleston,
 Fred Ackerman, Margaret Branch, Elizabeth McCandless.

MIGRATION. By Nell Kent.

The great procession has started and it is always an intense, engrossing experience for a "bird-watcher" - this miracle of migration. I hope most of our members heard Dr. Clement on the Today Program last week, when he said there will have been some two billion birds crossing the ancestral paths before the winter season sets in. The old timers in the Halifax Area will remember my enthusiasm for the great spectacle, on several occasions, so I must cut short my tendency to wander about among the flyways.

The Bobolinks are flying over now; I hear them after I retire and very early in the morning - sailing over Florida on their way to their wintering grounds in central South America. As traveling companions, according to banding records, the Bobolinks may have "Vireos, Kingbirds, and Night Hawks from Florida; Chuck-Will's Widows from the Southeastern states; Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos from New England; Gray-cheeked Thrushes from Quebec; Bank Swallows from Labrador, and Black-poll Warblers from Alaska. Sometimes, this varied assemblage may be joined by a Tanager or a Woodthrush." That quotation is from Frederick Lincoln's wonderful old book - out of print now - but still accurate enough to give the ornithological amateur a big thrill. This writer has not had a Carribean trip in the fall, but once in April has seen tiny warblers flying among the waves on their way north. This past Spring we stood on the southern tip of Florida at Flamingo and welcomed them as they landed.

Shore birds are returning. The first Gannets were seen on September 14th, during a swim at Ormond, and Black-bellied Plovers and Sanderlings, which I am sure, nested in the Tundra World, were welcomed as they wended their way to Tierra del Fuego. Spring and Fall are the most exciting times in the Bird World.

UNUSUAL VISITOR: Vice President Isaac Merrill, who is a golfer as well as a birder, reports finding a male Blackburnian Warbler on the Daytona Beach golf course last week. The specimen found was dead and identification was corroborated by Frank Berger. While this is not considered a rare species, very few have been seen in this area, in the past few years.

POOR IDENTIFICATION: In one of the Western states, a visiting neophyte Eastern hunter proudly and innocently attempted to check out a very dead burro as a "cow elk", even though the animal was wearing shoes! (Florida Wildlife)

The Cattle Egret was first noted in the New World between 1877 and 1882 on the Courentyne River, Suranam and in 1911-12 on the Essequilo Coast, British Guiana. In 1930 it was discovered in British Guiana by the naturalist, Emmet R. Blake, who later collected a specimen. Since then the cattle egret has spread rapidly in South America from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and from Venezuela south to Bolivia, also northward through the Caribbean Islands.

The first cattle egret found in Florida was seen by Willard Dilley at Clewiston in May 1948; but he did not report it because he assumed that it had escaped from captivity. Richard Borden photographed herons he thought were snowy egrets on May 12, 1952 in Florida but in July of the same year they were identified as cattle egrets.

However, the news that the cattle egret was on American soil did not first come from Florida, but from Massachusetts. On April 23, 1952 William Drury, Jr. and companions were making a check of spring migrants in the Sudbury Valley at Wayland, Massachusetts when one of his companions, Allan Morgan, noticed a white bird fly in which they at first thought might be a snowy egret. But Drury, who had seen the cattle egret in the Netherlands, West Indies, scarcely crediting his eyes, correctly identified it as a cattle egret.

Scientific ornithological tradition demands that the first record of a new species for a region be substantiated by a specimen. This was a "first" for the continent. Morgan possessed a federal collecting permit and after chasing the bird around the country side it was collected. Naturally the first reaction was that it had escaped from some nearby zoo but a quick check revealed no clues. Then came astounding news from New Jersey. A few days after the Massachusetts discovery a cattle egret was found on a farm near Cape May. This bird was later joined by a second and they remained for several months. Before the year was over cattle egrets had been recorded from Florida to Newfoundland.

The cattle egret was first recorded in Florida in 1948 but the official record was in May of 1952. In 1953 they were found nesting at Lake Okeechobee and by 1956 there were 1,080 cattle egret nests there. That the cattle egret is rapidly increasing as a Florida resident is shown by the Christmas Bird Counts of Florida from 1956 to 1958, as follows:

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Bradenton			23
Clewiston			37
Cocoa	57	38	130
Coot Bay - Everglades Nat'l Park		1	1
Corkscrew - Immokalee			20
Daytona Beach			12
Fort Lauderdale			770
Fort Myers		3	5
Fort Pierce		30	24
Jacksonville			1
Key Largo - Plantation Key		3	
Key West		7	1
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge	16	30	
Marathon		6	
Myakka River State Park		4	
St. Petersburg		2	2
Sarasota		7	42
West Palm Beach	<u>14</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>209</u>
Totals	87	250	1,277

Vol. 7 No. 6

November

1962

NOVEMBER SOCIETY MEETING will be held at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., at 8:30 PM, Monday, November 19th. Following the business meeting, the program will feature two films on birds, "How They Fly" and "How They Swim." This is a new approach to bird study and should prove to be of considerable interest. At 7:00 PM Ike Merrill will give a slide lecture on bird identification using color slides from our own excellent library. We enjoyed Ike's presentation last month and look forward to his second appearance with keen anticipation.

OPERATION BALD EAGLE is a project which offers you an opportunity to help save our "National" bird from the threat of extinction. You can help by saving all cancelled "commemorative" stamps and bringing them to the meeting each month. Bring your stamps Monday the 19th and give them to Mrs. Willard Whiteman who is in charge of the project. The collected stamps are sold by the Florida Audubon Society and the money used to buy sanctuary posting signs for THE KISSIMMEE COOPERATIVE BALD EAGLE SANCTUARY. As reported last month, this sanctuary, comprising 1,000 square miles is made up of adjacent lands on which are located sixty-five known eagle nests. The land owners, fifty-nine in all, have signed agreements with the Florida Audubon Society to protect the nesting eagles, permit periodic inspection by the F.A.S. and to post their lands with Audubon signs to be furnished by the Society. Such a huge area requires large numbers of posting signs. Your help is needed to provide them. Save your stamps and bring them to the meetings.

THE BOAT TRIPS reported elsewhere, were so well received that tentative plans have been made for two more. Monday November 26th and Tuesday November 27th are the dates proposed. If enough birders are interested the trips will leave at 9:30 AM from the public boat dock in St. Augustine and go north on the Intra-coastal Waterway. If you wish to take one of these trips make your reservations with Marjorie Van Buren at CL 3-5051. Each trip is limited to twenty-two passengers. Reservations must be made not later than our next meeting night, November 19th, at which time final plans will be announced.

FIELD TRIPS will be conducted as listed on your program schedule with the possible exception of the all day trip on November 24th. If this date is immediately preceded by rain, the roads in Zellwin Farm will be impassable and a substitute destination will be selected.

UNUSUAL VISITORS on November 3rd, Roy and Jean Hudson, Conrad and Norma Ekdahl, and Fred Ackermann were on the road that leads back to a cypress swamp about 12 miles west of Daytona Beach, off Route 92. Fred Ackermann saw first a slate colored junco on the old road, and the bird was observed by all of the party for several minutes, on the ground and in flight. All of the field marks were clearly seen. This is the second record for this area, the first having been by Ackerman and Mrs. Rose Block on January 15, 1955 on the road to Bulow Ruins. The bird is listed as a rare and irregular winter visitant in the northern parts of Florida. November 5th, Jean Hudson spotted a dead bird on the beach at the head of Essex Drive, Ormond Beach. It had been in oil, but was in quite good condition. Careful measurements, color markings, and the yellow hooked bill clearly identified it as a Cory's Shearwater.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR director Conrad Ekdahl advises that season tickets for the coming Screen Tour Programs are printed and ready for distribution. This is our Seventeenth season and this series of five Audubon Wildlife Films and lectures will be presented at Peabody Auditorium - the first on Saturday evening, January 5th, 1963. Tickets for adults are \$3.00 for the five tours. The entertainment and educational values provided in this series are a bargain at the low cost of a season ticket. We who are members of the Society know this. But do our friends and neighbors? Why not share this knowledge with them. When you get your own ticket take along a few extras and sell them to these folk. Let's share these worthwhile things with our friends and neighbors.

OUR SLIDE LIBRARY of birds in living color, which is perhaps the finest in the state of Florida, was largely established by one of our own members, Mr. Fenn Holden. This past week he gave us another quantity of slides numbering more than one hundred. We are most grateful to you Mr. Holden for your willingness to share with us the products of your camera. Each and every member of the Society joins our Executive Committee in an expression of sincere thanks.

BIRDING BY BOAT By Florence Robinson. The day - November 7th - was bright, sunny and pleasantly warm after so many cold days, as twenty-three eager birders boarded the Dave G. Jr. at the Marineland dock for a cruise on the Inland waterway, and the Matanzas river to St. Augustine.

Thousands of Tree Swallows, swarming like bees, welcomed us at the dock and darted over the saw grass in graceful formations. At times they were present in such numbers that they swirled about in what resembled a cloud.

Gulls - the ringbilled, the laughing, the herring, Bonaparte's and even a great Black-Backed Gull, spotted by Mr. Holden and Mr. Murray - were eagerly grabbing their breakfasts. We were happy to see so many gulls after their long summer vacation up north.

As the river widened and narrowed and twisted along its course many familiar birds appeared on the sand bars - black bellied and semi-palmated Plovers, Sand-erlings, a Spotted Sandpiper, Black Skimmers, Herons, Turnstones, Willets, Terns, Egrets and Dowitchers - and in their midst two beautiful dark headed, red-billed Oyster Catchers. Brown Pelicans soared overhead as we spied, asleep on a sandbar a lazy White Pelican. Floating majestically on the river was a gleaming, white throated Loon followed by five Cormorants. A "V" of about forty Cormorants flew south. Most decorative were the females standing guard on the channel markers.

Gliding low over the marshes and accompanying the boat for some distance was a Marsh Hawk with its white rump patch. A Bald Eagle, waiting for its favorite fish, perched on a branch. Ospreys and Red Shouldered Hawks were hunting too. Our count for the day was 49. All agreed that our cruise on the Dave G. Jr. was delightful and should be repeated.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION this year is being held at Corpus Christi, Texas, November 10 - 14th. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Branch are attending and doubtless will bring us a comprehensive report of the proceedings upon their return to Daytona.

DID YOU KNOW? That November 1st-7th, 1962 was proclaimed by Governor Bryant of Florida, as

SAVE THE BALD EAGLE WEEK

NEW MEMBERS:	Mr. and Mrs. Carl Springstead	South Daytona Beach
	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Gunning	Daytona Beach
	Mrs. Jane M. Follett	"
	Mr. Blair Coursen	Chicago, Ill.

November 1962

page 3

ASTOR FARM VISIT By Elizabeth McCandless. Recently several of us went out the Barberville Road to check Astor Farm for winter bird arrivals and saw some things of special interest. Midway into the farm (to which a trip is scheduled in April) on the left side of the road, there was a rough plowed field semi-overgrown with low weeds that was alive with Bluebirds. Happily hopping from one clod to another, then into low weeds or clutching dead weed stems, they were too numerous to count.

Farther into the farm and near the St. Johns River we are fairly sure that we heard the mating call of the Bald Eagle. At first it sounded like the high sweet cry, followed by musical chirps, of a small bird nearby, but we could not find the bird. Tracing the sound we finally located a Bald Eagle circling very high overhead and repeating the call many times. Then his mate slowly rose from a nearby woods several hundred feet away and joined him in graceful swoops of great and smaller circles right over our heads and very high, but no more calls were heard after she joined him.

They continued the circling for several minutes when we were surprised to see another pair of Eagles fly toward them from the north, whereupon our two Eagles joined them and all four disappeared into the southern sky.

On the way home on route 42, we came suddenly upon a marshy area close to the road and surprised two sandhill cranes standing in the marsh within 50 feet of us. Upon stopping our cars they flew gracefully away. In that area also there were numbers of Scrub Jays and Bluebirds, - startlingly blue in the bright sun. We also heard wild turkeys but failed to see them.

BIRDING IN ENGLAND By George S. Murray. The parks and forests of England and the Continent are something to behold. Kew Gardens, one of the larger botanical gardens near London, is bordered on one side by the Thames river and has on its grounds 25,000 different species and varieties of trees, shrubs and plants from all over the world. I found the English people are determined to keep these green belts free for the use of the public. Another point I noticed is the lack of spraying for insects in England and Europe.

The Rhododendron, purple and red, were in bloom while I was there, bushes twelve feet high and twenty feet in circumference on each side of a pedestrian road in the park. Pine trees, oak trees and holly bushes grow to immense size.

Among the trees you will find the English Robin, hopping around in the low branches. He has an orange face and breast and olive brown back and is smaller than our Robin. Quite a few people feed them and they are not a bit shy.

The Dunnock or Hedge Sparrow is found mostly on the ground and has a combination of grey breast, brown back and thin bill. Sometimes in the same vicinity you will find the Tree Sparrow which is the European Tree Sparrow found in the States. He has a black cheek-spot and a chocolate crown and a very small bill. *Passer domesticus* and *Sturnus vulgaris* are found in large quantities.

The English Blackbird the sweetest singer I have ever heard is quite abundant, and when these birds come in to roost by the thousands, on the ledges of Charing Cross Station, bedlam really lets loose. His distinguishing mark is his bright yellow bill.

At the outdoor cafeteria in the park you are apt to find yourself sitting at a table with a Chaffinch. He will share lunch with you. This Finch has double white wing bars, white sides on the tail, blue gray crown, pinkish cheeks, and is quite melodic.

The Wood Pigeon or Ring Dove is found all over Europe. He is sixteen inches long and twice as clumsy. They make quite a racket landing and taking off from a tree limb. The white wing patches and the white neck patches are distinguishing marks.

The Great Tit is another moocher at lunchtime. He is the largest one found in Britain, and is more colorful than our Chickadees. He has a glossy blue-black head and neck, with white cheeks, yellow under-parts, with black band down the center of the breast. Another Paridae, the Blue Tit is much smaller and has a cobalt blue head, wings and tail. I liked him a little better, - he didn't eat as much as his big brother.

The Jays are not a bit like our Jays. They have a pinkish brown body with black tail, bold white patch on wings and just a small patch of blue on the wing.

Around the lake in the park can be found the Swifts. Not quite the same as ours. They are a little larger and have a bit of white on the neck and a forked tail. The House Martins skim back and forth across the lake and are a little smaller than our Purple Martin. They have a very white patch on the throat and rump. The Swallow flitting here and there is the same as our Barn Swallow.

The Moorhen is the same as our Florida Gallinule. The Pochard found swimming in the lake is grey, has a black chest and a rufous head. Mallards divide their time between the lake and the Thames. A few Barnacle Geese and Canada Geese are around the edge of the lake along with the Grey Log Goose. The familiar Coots are found on the lake with their baby chicks.

Across the Thames River there is a Heronry where the only type of Heron known to be found in England is protected. It is much like our Great Blue Heron. You always can see Mute Swans sailing up and down the Thames with their cygnets. Herring Gulls are wheeling overhead, and the Black Header Gulls are really abundant all over England. The head is not black but is a dark chocolate color. This bird has a crimson bill and legs, and is also found in the States. The Arctic Tern can be found flying up and down the Thames River, distinguished by its blood red bill. By train you can go to Seven Oaks where the Sackville-West Estate is located. This, to me, is the typical old English town. The castle known as Knole House has about 365 rooms and vast acreage. Being connected with nobility it has quite a herd of deer on the premises for hunting purposes.

On this estate I located the Great Spotted Woodpecker. This bird has a black back with large white shoulder patches and crimson undertail coverts and a small red patch at the nape. I ran into quite a variety of crows on the estate. The Jackdaw is black with grey nape, underparts dark grey and the eye is pale grey. He is 13 inches in length. The Rook is 18 inches in length and has the bare whitish face and more pointed greyish-black bill and appears to be wearing shaggy trousers. The Carrion Crow is much like our Fish Crow.

The first bird I saw as I entered this estate was the Spotted Flycatcher. He has all the characteristics of our Phoebe but not as handsome. Ashy brown plumage spotted crown and lightly streaked whitish breast.

The Sky Lark, the favorite bird of the poets, can be seen here and many other places in Europe, hovering over the meadows. He is slightly crested, has a streaked breast, white outer tail feathers and when on the ground he walks like our Pippit and can be heard singing while hovering in the air.

The Song Thrush can be heard and seen in the woods all over Europe - brown-backed bird with spotted breast and his song is loud and musical like our Wood Thrush. You can go down to Hampton Court by train or boat. I went both ways. It took me one day to go through 24 state rooms they had open to the public. The palace has about 1,000 rooms in all. Cardinal Wolsey remodeled much of the palace when he was through King Henry VIII came along and had him decapitated so he could take over the palace. The formal gardens are beyond description. The grounds around the palace are teeming with deer. I found the Magpie here. He is the same as the one in the States. The last bird I saw here and the best was the Green Woodpecker. This woodpecker has most of the characteristics of our Yellow Shafted Flicker including size. Greenish back, yellow rump, dark face with broad pointed "moustachés" are the principal markings.

While sitting in a churchyard on the outskirts of Epping Forest I saw quite a few Goldfinches. Their Goldfinch is known in the States as the European Goldfinch. He is a little more colorful than our American Goldfinch. He has boldly marked black and yellow wings, black and white tail, scarlet, black and white head and brown back. While Epping Forest itself was at one time one of the largest forests in England, it has now dwindled down to half its former size. The suburbanites are moving slowly in. The tract that is left seems to be devoid of sunshine, and the ancient oak trees do not seem to attract the birds.

Vol. 7 No. 7

December

1962

THE DECEMBER MEETING of the Society will be held at Tourist Church at 7:30 p.m. Monday December 17th. As usual preceding the business meeting, there will be a slide lecture on bird identification at 7:00 P.M. The program, following the business meeting, will feature films from the Canadian Travel Film Library; "Birds of the Sea Shore" - "Newfoundland Sea Birds", and "Point Pelee - Nature Sanctuary."

REMEMBER to bring your cancelled "commemorative" stamps to the meeting. Give them to Mrs. Willard Whiteman who is in charge of "Operation Bald Eagle."

FIELD TRIPS: George Williams, Field Trip Director, advises that the first eight trips of the season have produced a total of 167 different species identified, with a composite average of 91, which is good for this area. Unusual species seen were: Wood pewee, brown creeper, golden crowned kinglet, violet-green swallow, blue goose, yellow-throated vireo, short-billed wren, purple sandpiper and fulvous tree duck.

On December 8th, fifty-three birders in fourteen cars, made the all day trip to Cape Canaveral (the season's ninth), and reported 116 species identified. Fourteen were new, which raised the season's total to 181, a count two weeks ahead of last year's figure. A western sandpiper (rare in this area) was identified. Unusual species seen were: avocet, marbled godwit, American bittern, least bittern, long-billed curlew, and nine species of duck (outstanding). The trip was considered a huge success by all who took part.

SCREEN TOUR TICKETS: Members who have extra Screen Tour Tickets to sell should wind up their transactions this month and get returns to Conrad Ek Dahl before January 5th, 1963. Remember - if you sell nine tickets, the tenth ticket is free for your use!

BIRD PERSONALITIES OBSERVED C.McC

A really large coreopsis plant has grown high on the spoil bank of a ditch on the north side of the Dupont Road. Recently this plant contained a dozen gold-finches so busy gobbling coreopsis seeds that they were hardly disturbed by the stopping car, their wing bars flashing brightly against the dark greenish gold of their bodies.

For several weeks about 50 wood storks have made their home on the swampy plain just north of High Bridge. During the recent chilly windy storm, when not soaring, these great birds could be seen huddling, - really pressing their bodies on the ground, - behind slim grass clumps that offered almost no shelter, while several hundred yards west there was a fine shelter of heavy woodland. Why?

At Duda Farm recently two pied billed grebes swam in a small roadend pond. On seeing the birders, they both suddenly sank straight down, totally disappearing, into the water body first, head last. We do not often see this, but it seems as if they come equipped with air ducts that they can deflate at will.

Also at Duda, a young red-shouldered hawk was seen sitting on a piece of farm machinery about 15 feet away and was so intent on gazing into the clover 8 feet below him that he paid no attention to the stopping car. Suddenly he dropped to the ground, struggled a bit, and returned to his perch with a wiggling field mouse in his beak. A raised claw and a squeeze took care of the mouse's struggles, whereupon he carefully rearranged the mouse's position, daintily placed the center of the mouse's back in his mouth first, then started swallowing. Soon just 4 feet and the tail were protruding from his beak, then there was just the tail, then there was nothing. Elapsed time for lunch - 30 seconds.

A CARIBBEAN TRIP

By Velma Hayes

On November 4th a party of eleven birders, under the leadership of Mr. Mason and Mrs. Hundley of the Florida Audubon Society, left West Palm Beach by air for a trip to Eleuthera and Harbour Islands of the Netherlands Antilles. As a result of an unexpected delay at Nassau, a local ornithologist provided cars and took us for an unscheduled field trip to an area where we saw many birds. Some were like old friends such as coots, gallinules and sanderlings. More exciting however was my first view of several birds not seen at home - one in particular - the bahama woodstar, a humming bird the local name for which is "gad-bird". It is green mostly with a garget of reddish violet, white chest and rufous under parts. We saw the red legged thrush and the thick billed vireo, which is similar to the white eyed vireo, but has a thicker bill and a dark iris, and underneath is pale yellow. Also the American bittern and black faced grassquit which is greenish above with black underparts, and is about the size of a sparrow.

Mid afternoon we flew on to Eleuthera and were taken across the island in cars to a boat for a ten minute jaunt to Harbour Island. We were met by Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm and taken to "Pink Sands" where we stayed for the three nights on Harbour. This is an idyllic spot, the cottages are scattered among the trees in such a way as to give the utmost privacy and each cottage has some view of the ocean.

In the dining room - incidently the meals were excellent - a Bahaman yellow throated warbler was very much at home flying about most of the time. Outside on the ground many woodstars played around and it was interesting to watch them pierce the hibiscus from beneath to sip the nectar. Grassquits were busily building a nest, the male hurriedly picking up sticks and rapidly flying back to the nest with them, while the perfectionist female would pick up a stick and discard it quickly for a better one.

The Tropical mocking bird is not so good looking as ours, having no white on the wings and much less on the tail. The great Antillean bullfinch was another newcomer to me. It is black with chin throat and undertail coverts rufous. It has a very heavy thick bill. Seeing the mangrove cuckoo was a most exciting and satisfying experience to everyone and it was extremely gracious in posing for us. It is a lovely bird. Local name is "rain Bird", "coffin bird", etc. It is grey with underparts yellowish. Lower mandible is orange tipped with black. 68 species were seen but not all by me, but I was very happy to see as many as I did.

The whole trip was a delight. The colors of the Caribbean were a constant enchantment, the sunsets superb. Returning on the plane watching the sun sink below the horizon remains a vivid picture I shall cherish always.

 BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Classes in the fundamentals of bird identification will be offered by the Society to beginners and other less experienced birders, beginning after the 1st of the year.

It is planned to hold nine sessions, three to be talks illustrated with slides and six to be half-day field trips.

The group will meet at Tourist Church at 9:00 A.M. on Monday mornings and anyone is welcome to attend one or all meetings.

There will be the customary sharing of car expenses on field trips.

The first session is scheduled for Monday, January 7th, 1963. Those interested should contact Ethel Monroe, CL 2-5017.

MEMBERSHIP in the Society, on December 3d, was 160 - a new high for this time of year and well on the way to exceed last year's total of 206. We trust that those who have overlooked renewal of membership, but plan to take action soon, will send checks to Mrs. C. H. Eckert, Box 1246, Daytona Beach, without delay.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Bryant	New Jersey
" " Frank Alder	Quebec, Canada
" " Henry Dearborn	Maine
" " Henry Bechem	Michigan
Mr. C. Vernon Hall	Daytona Beach

ARM CHAIR TOURS

by Nell Kent

"There is no frigate like a book to take you lands away." I have forgotten where I first read those lines and who authored them, but I know them to be true. I have just finished a trip to the Falkland Islands with Eleanor and Sewall Pettingill in "Penguin Summer." Those of us who were fortunate enough to have heard the Audubon lecture on P.S. several years ago, can remember what a charmer it was; for the ones who missed it, and our new members - the vicarious trip will make you feel that you know both Mr. and Mrs. Pettingill intimately when you return to reality. I knew the cold and the wind and the rough seas and the courage with which Eleanor awaited some response to her S O S the night Sewall had broken his arm . . . "he told me what had happened; he was on a rocky ledge; he thought he'd get one more picture of the kelp goose; then he slipped on a bit of spray-dampened lichen. As he bent his arm to save a camera, all the weight crashed down on his elbow; and 'now would I please just leave him alone - would I go for the camera on the ledge just opposite the kelp goose's nest on the eastern end of the island. And while you are there, 'he added, 'you might as well finish off the film. It's probably ruined anyway.' Then he said, gently, 'I'm sorry I had to leave it. I tried . . .'"

Needless to say, the book is moving - enchanting - and I agree with Robert Cushman Murphy, who said of it. "I believe that it is the liveliest and most intimate description of the environment, the people, and the plant and animal life of that remote archipelago that has ever appeared in print. Despite its rich color and whimsicality, it sacrifices nothing of objective scientific observation."

The other book I want to mention is equally engrossing and informative and you travel each mile of "The Flight Into Sunshine" written by Helen G. Cruickshank (photographs by the master, Alan D. Cruickshank) with utmost delight. The book covers such intriguing subjects as brown pelicans at Daytona - Florida cranes on the Kissimmee Prairie - an unforgettable chapter called Vultures - white ibis, wood ibis - snowy and American egrets - anhingas and the great white herons in Florida Bay.

These books are on the shelves of the Cornelia Young library - part of an excellent list prepared by Mr. Robert Henderson and Miss Anne Osted some time ago. We thought the new members and some of the old ones may enjoy hearing about such wonders from time to time.

Come aboard mateys, - for a "rum go" on the Fitzroy, out of Montevideo, Uruguay. Come early spring (October down there) for a view of a "Penguin Summer" with the Pettingills or try a "Flight Into Sunshine" with the Cruickshanks. You will not regret it.

BOB HENDERSON continues to improve slowly and will enjoy a visit from any of his Audubon friends. Better telephone Mrs. Henderson before your visit.

58th ANNUAL MEETING NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. by Margaret Branch

Your reporter, hastening to leave cold and leafless Michigan and its first snowstorm behind arrived early on the warm Texas coast for the Corpus Christi meeting. The days of the meeting always alternate indoor programs, one long day, with field trips on the next, led by experts of the area. The first and outstanding field trip was to be on Nov. 11th, to Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge where the famous Whooping Cranes had already arrived. As we arrived on November 9th, we did our delighted crane-watching on that date, seeing numberless other shore and water-birds such as Canada geese, sandhill cranes, snow geese and long-billed curlews on our way to Corpus, ahead of the mob. For mob it was, however well ordered. "National" expected attendance of about 200, judging by recent meetings held in New York City. Apparently the drastic change to pastures new stirred the large and far-flung membership into action. Early registration ran over 500 and by Nov. 10th, it was 1,000, with 48 states and Canada represented. The largest attendance figure we heard was 1,200. There were many from California and at least 20 from Florida.

Nov. 10th was a long first day at the Driscoll Hotel getting everything started, many notables introduced, messages from the governor read, a good speech by a Texas Senator who works hard for Audubon's aims in Washington, D.C., Audubon Wardens, including Florida ones, presented and praised. That first afternoon Allan Cruickshank showed his movies of the various National Audubon Sanctuaries. That evening John Henry Dick was the excellent speaker - author of "Our Fat Warblers" and "Florida Bird Life."

Our field trips were always by chartered bus, a whole string of busses starting at intervals, or else leaving Corpus with police escort. At the last moment a whole load from Oklahoma arrived in their own chartered bus, unexpectedly, to complicate arrangements. We were all fitted into various chartered busses, for all the side trips, but the "Oklahoma bus" was with us to the end of the last extra day, including the post conference trip, a week later. A mere 220 signed up for that jaunt into Mexico and "The Valley" (Rio Grande Valley, back in Texas being always called "The Valley" cut there, as we say "The Inlet"). Forty or fifty had been the number expected for Mexico.

Sunday morning Nov. 11th, the Hotel had a buffet breakfast ready at six, for the thousand or so to start by bus at 7:30 for the field trip to Aransas. At Rockport, about 30 miles on the way, half boarded boats for a three hour trip on the inland waterway that goes through that vast refuge. The other half, having gone straight on by bus, had that water trip on the return in the late afternoon. They saw at least 18 of the whooping cranes. We and others who had known Aransas chose to make up three busloads starting 2 hours later, for "Welder" an interesting Research Foundation bequeathed, for wildlife study, by a wealthy ranchman named Welder, who not only left a thousand acres but a few oil wells on some of them, which handsomely maintain and enlarge the laboratory, library and small museum recently dedicated. Drought there, had dried up their ponds, and changed our day's total considerably, but the visit was interesting and worthwhile.

Two items of special interest came out of the business sessions. The first - the 1963 meeting is to be in Miami. Second, National Audubon is opening a new camp next year to operate June through August in Wyoming. Sessions will accommodate 50 adults for periods of two weeks each. Bill Goodall of the recent California Camp will be its director. The new camp will be in reaching distance of Yellowstone Park, and the Grand Tetons.

(This article to be continued in Jan. issue, Ed)