

Vol. 8 No. 1

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1963

THE SOCIETY'S MEETING will be held at Tourist Church on Monday, January 21st, at 7:30 PM. A real treat is in store for those who wish to be on hand at 7:00 PM. Dr. George Rawson of New Smyrna Beach will show slides and give an informative talk on butterflies. Dr. Rawson is an entomologist of note, having catalogued and presented to the Smithsonian Institute a display of butterflies. We look forward to his presentation with keen anticipation.

Following the business meeting three National Audubon Society films will be shown; "A Nature Walk", "Migration" and "Birds of Swamp and Shore".

MEMBERSHIP. For those who have not yet renewed their membership in the Society for the 62-63 season, a membership renewal application blank is enclosed. Please fill out and mail to our membership secretary. For those who fail to renew, this will be the last issue of the Pelican. As of this issue membership totals 195. We extend a warm welcome to the following NEW members:

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Davis,	New Smyrna Beach
Mr. Leo Rissi	Daytona Beach
Mr. & Mrs. Geo. R. Ingleson	Canada
Mrs. A. L. Patton	Toronto
Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Steeves	New Brunswick
Mrs. Margot St. Onge	Quebec
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Kelley	Ormond Beach
Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Smith	Daytona Beach

FIELD TRIPS: George Williams advises that the last three field trips record progressive totals of species identified as follows: December 23th, 92; January 4th, 100; January 11th, 116. All trips were in the South S W areas of Volusia Co. The Jan. 11th trip was made up of four groups with a total of 40 birders.

The next three trips, Jan. 18th, - 25th, and Feb. 1st, are scheduled as half day due to the possibility of cold weather. The all day trip Feb. 8th to Welaka Fish Hatcheries should provide good birding on the way, and the possibility of ducks and pipits at the hatchery. Facilities exist for lunch inside in case it is chilly.

THE 63RD ANNUAL MEETING of the Florida Audubon Society is scheduled for Feb. 1 - 3 at Maitland and Winter Park, Fla. President Childs has appointed Ralph and Margaret Branch to officially represent our Society. Others who may be interested in attending the Luncheon (12 noon Feb. 2nd) or the Banquet (7:00 PM Feb. 2nd) must make reservations not later than Jan. 28th, by mail to P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Fla. The luncheon is \$3.00 - the banquet \$4.50. Both prices include tax and gratuities and both will be held in the Hotel Langford, Winter Park, Fla.

UNUSUAL VISITORS

At dawn on New Year's Day we spread food bountifully, to bring to feeders near our windows the first comers to head our 1963^{annual} list of species. Number 1, bright in the dim light, was a cardinal. Number 2, and we doubted our eyes, seemed to be a northern bird unheard of at our place, The Slate Colored Junco. Junco has been on hand in the same spot every day, Jan. 1st, thro 9th, and with him, but slightly apart, a female Painted Bunting. They fly down when the two dozen Mourning doves, the Blue Jays and Redbellied woodpecker and most of the English Sparrows are temporarily out of the way.

The Bird Watcher's Guide, by H. H. Collins is a 1961 title at the Cornelia Young Library which is well worth scanning. Lovely color photographs by Helen Cruickshank are included, for example the White Ibis and the Painted Bunting. You might care to study some portions, such as the one on bird baths, or feeders, or field trips, or life-lists.

This book tells of the R.B.A. (Rare Bird Alert) system, which might be useful right here. This should involve no burdens more than to reach one other person on the list, by phone, before dashing off to see the rarity about which the news is being circulated - or ignoring it. Would you like to be on such a list? Speak to Margaret Branch, who is collecting names for one, to keep near your phone.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE has decided that the interest shown in group instruction in bird identification was insufficient to warrant holding regularly scheduled classes, as outlined in the December Pelican and that plan has been abandoned.

However, it was decided that individual instruction to interested beginners would be offered in connection with the weekly field trips by arranging to have experienced birders ride in the cars with those who desire help in learning to identify the birds seen. Each candidate should be equipped with binoculars and Peterson's Field Guide.

If interested in such instruction, call Mrs. Monroe, CL 2-5017 a day or so before the field trip so that necessary arrangements may be made with the instructor and the Field Trip Director.

THE PURPLE SANDPIPER COMES TO DAYTONA

John B. May

When a man bites a dog, that is "news" and it is news when a strange bird visits a group of bird watchers of its own initiative.

Some years ago when the American Ornithologists' Union held its annual meeting in Boston, one of its field trips was to the rocky coast near my Cohasset home, to see the Purple Sandpipers which winter there every year. I was able to show the visiting scientists several hundred of these hardy birds, life birds for most of the members of the party.

And now the routine has been reversed and the Purple Sandpiper has come to Florida to see the bird watchers, especially the favored members of the Halifax River Audubon Society. A single bird of this species was studied at close range by the members of a field trip on January 4, 1963, at City Island, Daytona, the starting point for the club's many field trips, and where it was first discovered and identified by Conrad Ekdahl.

"The Purple Sandpiper winters farther north than any other member of the shorebird family. It nests in Greenland and from Melville Island to Baffin Land, and journeys only a few hundred miles southward to its winter habitat, while many other sandpipers travel thousands of miles to South America at the same season. . . From Nova Scotia and New Brunswick along the rocky coast of Maine, to the ledges of Cape Ann and the Scituate and Cohasset rocks in Massachusetts, the Purple Sandpiper is a fairly common winter resident from November or December to March or April. South of that the birds are rarely seen, the sandy stretches of Cape Cod and Long Island offering little attraction to a bird of the specialized feeding habits of the Purple Sandpiper." (A Natural History of American Birds, Forbush and May.)

With the building of rock or concrete seawalls and breakwaters in recent years, the Purple Sandpiper has apparently found that these man-made "rock-bound coasts" furnish its favorite food, the snails and other small marine creatures which inhabit the seaweeds growing from their rocky surfaces. Howell (1932) gives only two Florida records; Sprunt (1954) gives about four more; and we of the Halifax River Audubon Society can add several from Matanzas Inlet to Daytona in more recent years.

REMEMBER to bring your commemorative stamps to the meeting. Give them to Mrs. Whiteman.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

By Ethel Monroe

Our 1962 bird count, made between daylight and dusk on December 19th, was highly successful and resulted in the identification of 126 species in an area within a radius of 15 miles of Daytona Beach. This compares favorably with our best year's record 1959 - and exceeds the average count by about 15 species. A total of 12,790 birds was reported.

Twenty-four birders participated in the census divided into six teams covering different sections of the area. An estimated 300 miles were covered by car and 2½ miles, per observer, on foot.

One notable feature of this year's count was the smaller number of individual birds and the fewer large flocks seen. Rarities as to location or date, noted this year, were the Common Eiderduck, Fulvous Tree Duck, Common Merganser, Grasshopper Sparrow, Gull-Billed Tern and Bay-breasted Warbler.

SPECIES RECORDED WERE: Ring-Billed Gull, (4188) far outnumbered all other species. Next were Laughing Gull (1348), Robin (890), Myrtle Warbler (545) and Sanderling (523).

200 to 500: Red-Winged Blackbird, Herring Gull, Mocking Bird, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow.

100 to 200: House Sparrow, Black Skimmer, Brown Pelican, Chipping Sparrow, Common Egret, Palm Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Ground Dove, Mourning Dove, Cardinal, Cowbird.

50 to 100: Tree Swallow, Meadowlark, Royal Tern, Goldfinch, Little Blue Heron, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Merganser, Starling, Louisiana heron, Forster's Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Cedar Waxwing, White Ibis, Killdeer.

25 to 50: Cormorant, Bonaparte's Gull, Kingfisher, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Shrike, Lesser Scaup, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cattle Egret, Carolina Wren, Snowy Egret, Wood Sock, Sparrow Hawk, Common Grackle, Black-Bellied Plover, Phoebe, Common Loon, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Great Blue Heron, Horned Grebe, Pied-Bill Grebe, Coot.

5 to 25: Bluebird, Ring-Necked Duck, House Wren, Flicker, Water Pipit, Pine Warbler, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Black Duck, Catbird, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Caspian Tern, Snipe, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Yellowthroat, White-Throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Scrub Jay, Bobwhite, Common Gallinule, Clapper Rail, Tufted Titmouse, White-Eyed Vireo, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Red-Neck Duck, Song Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper.

Less than 5: (4 each) Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Black and White Warbler, (3 each) Anhinga, Boat-Tailed Grackle, Great Black-Backed Gull, Marsh Hawk, Field Sparrow, Yellow-Throated Warbler. (2 each) Common Merganser, Longbilled March Wren, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Prairie Warbler, Sandwich Tern, King Rail. (1 each) American Bittern, Carolina Chickadee, Pintail Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Osprey, Screech Owl, Sora Rail, Greenwinged Teal, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Eider Duck, Fulvous Tree Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, Gull-Billed Tern, Bay-Breasted Warbler.

This activity is a part of the Annual Bird Census conducted by Audubon Societies and Clubs in the 50 states and is made in cooperation with the National Audubon Society. From the combined reports, ornithologists and conservationists are able to note increases or decreases in different bird species, changing migration patterns, effect of hard winters or especially good breeding seasons and many other facts of great value in their work.

HELP FOR STATE COUNT: On Sunday, December 30th, 1962 we took part in the "Titusville Count" and covered part of the area soon to be barred off from the public, because of the Moon Shot project.

The count was hampered by numerous Sunday drivers, and undisciplined hunters, who haunt these canals and backroads and scare away the ducks. One hunter deliberately fired a rifle from his car, at coots and ducks being observed through a scope, having parked almost touching the observer. We took his license number if anyone cares to report this. The man with him shot too. Far off the water splashed, shot peppered, and the birds flew. We saw clearly how it comes about that numbers of ducks travel handicapped by numerous shotgun pellets which reach them from such a distance that they do not penetrate very far, but in time, kill from lead poisoning. Even if killed, game at such distance could not be retrieved.

A few highlights were: 9 White Pelicans in a huddle from the brisk wind, and 3 more soaring above them. A clear view of one Sora and of 1 Clapper Rail. A pair of Hooded Mergansers in one narrow hidden waterway close to our car; 15 Caspian Terns together on a sheltered sandbar. In a secluded bay the lee shore had a variety of smaller shore birds and in another - spaced out in fishing positions in the shallow water, were 8 Great Blue Herons.

The rare sparrows that we had hoped to find, were hiding from the wind in thick grass and bushes. Many broke cover, only to vanish quickly as we drew near.

Margaret Branch.

WHAT'S IN A NAME: Some kind of magic seems to be at work in names, or odors or sounds and if you can let them bring you a remembered pleasure, there are many names you cannot forget. Two such names of books bring me that kind of pleasure. Both were written by Theodora Stanwell-Fletcher and both about the sub-arctic, which so many of us can not visit in person - but must board our frigate book to take us "lands away."

Our next Two Screen Tours will deal with country which contains similar flora and fauna described in these two books. And the first one I shall mention, "The Tundra World" has the locale of country around Churchill, Canada. Our feathered guest The American Eider, wintering at Matanzas inlet, could fashion a nest there next summer. The second book, "Driftwood Valley" is laid in north central British Columbia. When I mentioned the magic of a name, I was trying to tell what these two book titles do for me. They are so well-written that when I hear them mentioned I can "see" the town of Churchill as it may have been in the 1930s, and I feel as if I helped to build the cabin in Driftwood Valley close by Lake Tetana.

Mrs. Stanwell-Fletcher is a person interested in many things - people - places - Nature with a Capital N and writes interestingly about them. There are magnificent descriptions of birds and animals and glorious country; and she makes you see these things as if it were You who could be in the Churchill of "The Tundra World" and on Lake Tetana in the Driftwood Valley. To quote a few words can give you a hint of my meaning --

"Around dusk each evening (in June) some small bats appear and nighthawks begin their zooming in the pine woods and around the cabin. The peculiar buzzing noise made by the males as they dive down is said to be part of the courtship display. It sounds rather like the deep, stertorian breathing of some large animal. At first, before we learned to associate it with the Nighthawks, J and I spent some hours trying to locate the bear or moose that we thought must be wandering in our woods. And Dad after he came, refused to be convinced that it was not a bear, until he actually saw the birds diving, and heard the noise simultaneously." Mr. Peterson calls this noise a Bronx Cheer, and it is quite an apt description - these books are both truly entertaining and informative, and are on the shelves of the Cornelia Young Library. Hope another armchair trip can bring some pleasant memories.

Nell Kent.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE HUNTERS?

By Roy D. Hudson

While most readers of Audubon publications are interested in conversation and protection of wildlife, many take a rather dime view of anyone or anything that threatens it, and consider that any living creature that destroys another living thing should be classed as a predator and be suppressed. Probably the greatest predator of all is man, who usually fishes and hunts for fun rather than for food. But like most hunters who pursue the hunted, whether they be hawks that live on smaller birds, insects and mammals, or animals like foxes, coyotes or the cat tribe, man as a so-called predator is deserving of some sympathetic understanding.

It has always interested me that rarely does anyone object to fish being caught, individually or commercially, or hogs or cattle being slaughtered, any more than to harvesting wheat, corn or oranges, but this tolerance does not often extend to such a beautiful creature as a wood duck. Yet within one year sportsmen in North Carolina "harvested" 8,394 wood ducks, as allowed by law, from a total estimated population within the state of 175,000.

A recent report of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has many facts that should be of interest to all of us. First, the annual budget of \$2,876,764.46 was mostly provided by license fees for hunting and fishing, and not one thin dime was secured by taxes or contributions. Patrolmen arrested over 9,000 individuals for violations ranging from no license, illegal limits, to violations of safety regulations in boating and water skiing. But the fines went to schools, none to the commission for "trapping" hunters and fisherman.

Thousands of acres of otherwise useless wetlands are managed to provide preferred food for over half a million waterfowl within the state, including corn, millet, clover, smartweeds, and other grains and foods. Landowners and individual hunters cooperating, asked for and were given without cost 6,870 pounds of browntop millet seed which was planted by them outside the wildlife refuges. And during the year over 12,000 individuals asked for food and cover plants which they set out for the benefit of small game such as quail, rabbit, grouse, doves and raccoons. Over 2,000 boxes were put up for squirrel nests.

Fish management included reclamation of many streams and lakes, eliminating trash fish and substituting better kinds through hatcheries, and working with sanitation engineers to eliminate pollution.

Over 200 miles of foot trails and 22 miles of roads were built. They are open to those with binoculars as well as to those with guns, or fishing rods.

Big game like bear, deer and wild board constitute a large part of wildlife management. Over 17,000 acres were planted to maintain good pasture for deer and other game. Experts pursue sound scientific methods to provide increase of healthy animals and to keep the population within limits to preclude damage to forests and agriculture, and to prevent loss of animals through starvation and disease. Under strict regulations and considering population in various areas, over 2,000 deer were permitted to be taken by licensed hunters. At the same time, in addition to arrests for law violations, 1827 predators, such as wild cats and stray dogs, were either impounded or destroyed.

The Commission operates under the governor and legislature, in nine districts with resident commissioners, executive director and assistant. And in addition to office, management, research, education and publication personnel, there are a hundred and fifty carefully selected and trained patrolmen and wildlife protectors in the field, equipped with automobiles, boats and airplanes. Considering the thousands of sportsmen with fishing rods, guns and traps, this may seem like a small staff, but it is just that many more than our type of organization can recruit, train, finance and place in the field to accomplish many of the same objectives which we cherish.

MEMBERSHIP As of this issue of the PELICAN our membership reached an all time high of 212, plus 13 Honorary Members. The membership committee headed by Norma Ekdahl, has done a fine piece of work. Congratulations.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mrs. Hannah Hayell	Ormond Beach
Miss Helen M. Cole	Schenectady, N.Y.
Miss Bertha Morgan	"
Miss Dorothy Wilson	Quebec, Canada
Mr. George Bell	Daytona Beach,
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Robertson	Nova Scotia
Dr. Mildred F. Baxter	Springfield, Mass.
Miss Helen E. Merriam	"
Mrs. Frank Benford	Schenectady, N.Y.
Mrs. Helen Scott	Petersburg, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert R. Moore	Ormond Beach

ANOTHER RARE BIRD VISITS THE HALIFAX RIVER AREA

JOHN B. MAY

Another man has bitten a dog! Or, to be more exact, another rare northern bird has paid its respects to the members of the Halifax River Audubon Society, following the example set by the Purple Sandpiper as reported in the January PELICAN.

The Society's field trip for Jan. 25th, 1963, was cancelled because of the unusually cold weather that morning, but at ten o'clock I visited our usual starting point, the City Island parking place, hoping for another view of the Purple Sandpiper, in which I was disappointed, but across the narrow boat channel was a large waterfowl floating quietly. The sun glare on the water made its colors indistinguishable, but its long slender neck, its size between that of any duck and a goose, and especially its comparatively small head and beak, identified it as an American Brant. A little later a motorboat passed and the bird flew, showing its characteristic back pattern with much white at the base of the tail.

Howell (1932) gives five records for Florida and Sprunt (1954) adds only two more. Word was quickly passed along and several members of the HRAS added the species to their life lists. On Jan. 27th I again visited City Island and found four carloads of birders watching the distant bird, which very accommodatingly swam steadily nearer and finally climbed out on the rocks near where I had first seen it. Here it turned about and displayed every detail of its markings, except those seen only when the bird is in flight.

What will our next rare northern visitor be?

RING OF BRIGHT WATER written by Gavin Maxwell, is an enthralling story of his life in a lonely cottage on the northwest coast of Scotland, called Camusfearna and how he furnished it for the most part, with the pieces of flotsam and jetsam cast up by the sea.

In this isolated spot lived wild cats, stags, seals, red deer, foxes, badgers pine martens while in the air were eagles, buzzards falcons, ravens, and hooded crows. He tells of bird migrations - wild swan (or wheepers), wild geese, sand martins, wheatears, black guillemots and gulls - how eels migrate from the sea in uncounted numbers journeying in larval form for two whole years from their breeding grounds near Bermuda, until they come ashore on this Scottish coast to ascend the falls near the author's home. From his doorstep he observed the Blue Whales, the dolphins, porpoises, killer whales, and occasionally sharks.

The cream of the book is the story of Maxwell's two pet otters, Mijbil and Edal. Mij, his first otter brought to England from Iraq - as exciting a story

as any suspense story. Lovable, affectionate, intelligent and beautiful, Mij became a part of his surroundings, reveling in the sea and the deep pools of the waterfall, where he chased trout and caught eels.

How Maxwell found Edal by the merest chance after an accident killed Mij, and how she proved to be just as intelligent and affectionate as Mij, is delightful reading. If you have not yet read the book, you have a great treat in store for you.

Florence Robinson

FILED NOTES Our schedule has most luckily skipped some awful weather. For our area, at present, our half-day trips are giving a single car-load up to 70 species and our combined lists for a full-day climb to 125. This is before the many migrants soon due to be seen on their way northward, or returned for a stay. A typical half-day was Feb. 1st, and full-day Feb. 8th, both lovely days to be in the field. Three or four cars at a time, starting at 7:30 AM, five or six groups of us are despatched each for browsing of great enjoyment. For the season to date 197 species seen.

The recent wild winds and tides left our beach littered for miles, with debris full of bird feasts, - Starfish and mollusks in broken shells, or stranded naked. Gulls and other beach birds, even pelicans have been too busily eating to notice close approach of cars. When a cloud of wings slowly rose, drifting in one direction through our binoculars, it seemed to indicate that a pedestrian had approached too closely; or perhaps a whole carload of them had just come hurrying to beach-comb. We speculated on how many of the buckets of unusual shells (thrilling to strangers, however pitted and imperfect, or full of their owners, or of hermit crabs) were due to be abandoned by the gatherers who knew nothing of burying for a spell, or exposing (out of smelling range.) to ants.

MBB

WHO'S WHO IN HRAS At our January meeting President Childs asked Fred Ackerman to stand and take a bow - stating that Fred had sold 149 season tickets for our Screen Tour programs. Such an accomplishment represents dedicated interest in nature conservation and raised the question, "Who is Fred Ackerman?" and "What makes him tick?"

All old timers in the Society know Fred. Newer members have heard of him. Those who go on field trips know him as an expert birder. Like most real birders he is anxious and willing to share his knowledge of birds with others, and has the happy faculty of being able to do so in an interesting and effective manner.

Fred's interest in birds dates from his boyhood in Ohio. During his active business life, as a pharmacist in Cleveland, this interest was more or less dormant. Following his wife's death in 1940 and the resulting loneliness he was led to renew his interest in birds through the companionship of birding groups and their weekly field trips in the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks. He soon became an enthusiastic member and group leader on field trips. During this period, Fred started spending his winters in Daytona Beach. It was only a matter of time until he became a member of the Halifax River Bird Club. In 1954 he became Director of Field Trips, and for two years published at his own expense, a calendar of trips from October through April. When the "Bird Club" became the "Audubon Club" this expense was taken over by the club, but Fred continued to serve as editor. It is interesting to note that most of the trips listed are productive to this day. Fred's calendar carried dates of meetings, Audubon Screen Movies, and other items of interest to club members, as well as the schedule of trips. It was the forerunner of the present day PELICAN.

Fred Ackerman has made a fine contribution to the growth and progress of the Halifax River Audubon Society. His interest remains high and his activity constructive. When asked how he was able to sell 149 season tickets for our Screen Tour programs, he replied simply, "Hard Work" - then added "Its for a good cause".

In the fall of 1954 I purchased my present photographic equipment with the express understanding that it would be suitable for photographing birds from my car as I drove up and down the beach at Daytona. My camera is a Practiflex and my lens is a 400 mm Telemegor, F 5.5.

This type of equipment has revolutionized wild-life photography. I can sit in a blind twelve feet from a feeding station, nest, or favorite perch and take picture after picture without disturbing the birds. In the old days with the conventional camera, to get the same size and quality of picture, the lens would have to be eighteen inches from the bird, the shutter tripped by remote control and reset after each exposure, scaring all the birds away. That is why practically all the good photographs of small birds taken formerly were of the adults feeding young at the nest. At this time the old birds cast caution to the winds, and return soon after being scared away.

On one of my first trips to Royal Palm Park, where I have taken many pictures from the Anhinga Trail, I met a gentleman who had almost identically the same equipment as mine. Since it was quite new at that time, we had an interesting hour or two discussing our gadgets. Years later I was reading an article in the National Geographic about Eagles, and when I looked at the picture of the author going up a ladder to his blind I recognized my friend. It was Frederick Kent Truslow. I am told by Allan Cruickshank that Truslow still uses the same old equipment. Truslow has written many fine articles for the Geographic and has had many of his pictures published. But I too, have had fun; I have photographed over two hundred and thirty species of birds and have made over sixteen hundred bird slides good enough to keep.

Bird Photography is an excellent hobby. It satisfies the collecting instinct without harm of any kind to the birds. You never get through; there are always other species to collect on film, or better specimens of the ones you have. You need them in summer plumage, in winter plumage, the young, the nest. It also satisfies the hunting instinct - of which I had more than a touch in my younger days. As a deer hunter I learned many things that are useful in hunting with a camera, such as the patience to sit still in the woods; and "buck fever". Buck fever is a malady that attacks many deer hunters when they get their first shot at a buck. And do not think that you cannot have buck fever while photographing a bird - I mean as a beginner.

Suppose you have stalked a bird on the beach with your car and finally have him in the right position with respect to the sun and have the cameras pointed at him; you try to remember all the things you must check before you pull the trigger - camera level - stop - shutter speed - you start to focus on this beautiful bird, just the right distance away for a good picture, - and he walks out of the field. You must remember that the image in the finder is reversed and if he walks off to the right you must turn the camera to the left to find him again. Just as you get the lens focussed, the light changes and you have to change the stop; - and all this time your delightful, constant companion is whispering, "Hurry, hurry, he's getting ready to fly." I used to think I was doing pretty well if half the slides from a roll of film were good enough to keep.

It is advantageous to know something about birds when you start out to photograph them but you will also be pretty sure to learn more about them as your photographic efforts continue. Most birds seem to have little fear of a car if it stands still. The difficult thing is to drive up close to them and stop without their flying. Most of the birds of the beach can be photographed in this way as can many of those that perch on the fences or feed along the roadsides. But there are some birds like the Sparrow Hawk and the Kingfisher which just will not stay put when you stop the car. For them, you must use a blind. Then sometimes, you can walk up to a bird closely enough to get a good picture; that is, if you act like an Indian (or an old deer hunter). I took pictures of Avocets in that

manner and my most remarkable performance was with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

On Dec. 26th, 1955, returning from Christmas with friends at Golden Beach, we came up Route 78 on the west side of Okeechobee, looking for bird pictures, of course. We stopped for a picnic lunch by a gate barring the entrance to a cattle pasture. After lunch I took my glasses and climbed the gate to see if there were any birds in the pasture. I immediately saw that there was a small pond resulting from a quarry or a borrow pit and at the far edge of it were three Yellow-crowned Night Herons. I mounted the camera on a tripod, sneaked up almost to the pond, took what I thought would be a fair picture of the birds, and backed away without their flying. Then, after congratulating myself and picking the sand burrs off my ankles, I decided that I would see if I could get any closer by walking around to their side of the pond. I came to the edge of the pond about fifty or sixty feet from the nearest birds. I took a picture and started slowly toward them. When they began to appear nervous I stopped and took another picture. The birds settled down each time and I repeated the performance until I was within twenty or twenty-five feet before they flew. For many years I marvelled at the fact that I had walked up so close to these shy birds. Then the solution suddenly dawned on me. There were cattle around there and I was bare-headed. As I crouched over the camera to focus it, the birds thought that I was just another white faced Hereford.

TOMOKA FARMS ROAD If you go straight out Belleview Ave. to the end, you will run right into Tomoka Farms Road. Turn left for one happy hour of birding for it is truly a farm road and has little traffic. With rather rucky farms on the left side of it and woody thickets on the right, what more could a birder want? The fresh water birds, hawks and warblers think so too.

One day we stopped to admire a shrike who was quite near us atop a low fence-post and he obviously did not have his mind on us. Rather it was on his lunch which we had interrupted, - a small quite dead snake impaled on a barb of the wire fence. When he knew that we did not want to share it, he gladly let us watch him dine.

Jean Holden is known for retaining her comfortable seat in the car, while we birders ruck about and get chiggers. Having parked just beyond the big dairy farmhouse, a Friday bird trip group were spread along the road watching a great many yellowthroats, orange crowned, palm and pine warblers, and others too numerous to mention, - hopping about in the low branches of the woods. They were very friendly birds. When we returned to the cars, Jean casually said, "What is this little bird beside me?" and eight feet away, frozen in his tracks was a gem of an adult sora rail, standing just across a little wet ditch on the edge of a wet thicket. One of the most beautiful birds in Florida, he let us look at him for ten minutes.

About the size of a turnstone but heavier bodied, the first thing that attracted the eye was the outsize greenish feet, looking rather ridiculous on such a pretty bird. Then the bright yellow chicken beak stood out in our eyes, only this one had a bit of dirt on it, for he had been interrupted in food-searching in the ruck. Finally our eyes settled on the feathers, and that was the crowning glory for the underparts were a lively slate color and the back feathers a vibrant golden rust with an intermixture of both colors where the two met. Their beauty gladdened our eyes, for, as usual, the coloring is much lovelier than any plates can show.

Finally, he cautiously moved into the underbrush. I hope others can find him there, too, for they are not common to us. Try Tomoka Farms Road for your birding pleasure. It's a treat.

Elizabeth E. McCandless

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1963

THE SOCIETY'S 10th ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER will be held in the dining hall at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 18th. If you have not secured your dinner tickets contact Mrs. Willard Whiteman (CL 3-1117) at once, otherwise the few remaining tickets will be made available to friends or guests of members.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM After the business meeting, Dr. May will show us one of his bird films, and this will be followed by a new sound film sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, "Our Wildlife Heritage." This fine conservation film reflects the four seasons of New England Wildlife, - - - winter hardship, spring courting, summer caring for the young, autumn changes, - - - and was prepared by the Society's president, Richard Borden, in behalf of the Fund for the Preservation of Wildlife and Natural areas. It is loaned us through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, of which Dr. May is an Honorary Vice President.

FIELD NOTES

By Margaret Branch

Our Field Trip Director, George Williams, reports that the trips have given us, to date, a total of 201 species of birds. For our full-day trips we range widely and numerous cars appear at the starting point, to be assigned leaders and extra passengers. The car-loads average four as for example, on March 1st, when 13 cars carried 54 people to the Canaveral Basin, by various routes, and the total of species seen was 115.

Going southward, to Canaveral, we passed through clouds of orange blossom fragrance, a little windy, but on the whole March was coming in like a lamb, with a beautiful and delightful day on the 1st. Besides such unusual items as a Great Horned Owl, a Woodcock, an American Bittern, reports included most of the birds hoped for on that trip, except the Avocets whose usual territory was one of the areas all torn up by huge earth-moving machinery. We were not in sight of rockets, but saw plenty of symbols of Army, Navy and Air Force, in ships and signs, new bridges, canals and ditches and roads. At the Basin, near a dark gray, Navy Ship and a White Air Force one, on the flats, we watched one busy group of 24 snowy Egrets, 20 Greater Yellowlegs, 10 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 30 Bonaparte Gulls, (estimated) milling around together in pursuit of a school of small fish. On a sandbar near some bushes and tall grasses, 20 White Pelicans with some Brown ones, rested or moved about; and not far away dozens of Gormorants and hundreds of Black Skimmers, settled down on the sandy shore.

HOBBY SHOW AT CITY ISLAND

As the PELICAN goes to press plans are complete for a H R A S booth at the Hobby Show in the Recreation Hall on City, Island, the three days of March 12-13-14. A committee appointed by President Childs, has planned the exhibit, and its presentation to the public during the show.

A selection of bird slides from our library will be projected onto a screen in the booth by a special type projector. Visitors questions will be answered by various Society members, one of whom will be on duty at all times during the exhibit. We believe this to be a favorable opportunity for presenting Audubon objectives to the general public. The show is open each day from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

WE ARE GLAD TO WELCOME the following new members since the February issue of the PELICAN.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kugel	Ormond Beach
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beane	New Hampshire
Mr. and Mrs. Myron Hale	" "
Mrs. Gertrude Cunliffe	Ottawa, Canada
Miss Barbara Wight	New Smyrna Beach

MARTINS AT YACHT BASIN Fred Ackerman, who built and installed the Martin House at the Yacht Basin and who records the first Martin arrivals there each year, reports for twelve years as follows:

1952	Feb. 16	1955	Mch. 5	1958	Feb. 9	1961	Feb. 20
1953	Feb. 16	1956	Feb. 11	1959	Feb. 14	1962	Feb. 9
1954	Mch. 1	1957	Jan. 29	1960	Feb. 9	1963	Feb. 14

WORLD TRAVELERS Our Contributing Editor, Elizabeth McCandless sends us a hurried note from Lisbon as she boards a plane for Seville saying "we have seen 1,000's of black backed gulls and many mocking birds that have more white on head and tail than ours - also many unidentifiable swallows." She says the countryside of Portugal is "incredibly beautiful - helped by a complete lack of billboards," but requests that she be relieved of her PELICAN post until she and her round the World companion, Ethel Monroe, complete their tour. Both send best regards to all their AUDUBON friends.

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT The National Park Service reports that since 1960 the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station has been searching for large living American chestnuts *Castanea dentata*. Reportedly they have found 13 with diameters of 8" or more in Tennessee and Western North Carolina. The largest (near Sweetwater, Tennessee) has a 63" diameter trunk at breast height. Second largest is 37" and situated near Pikeville in Bledsoe County. Third largest is in Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the old Leconte Creek Trail; its breast height diameter is 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The Park also boasts a 15.2" diameter specimen. All these trees are suffering from the blight, and although showing conspicuous dead portions, have managed to survive. According to Assistant Research Forester Robert D. MacDonald of the University, all 13 of these living chestnut trees apparently grew from seed rather than as sprouts from blight-killed trees.

DO YOU KNOW? We know that some of our members migrate north with the birds, but do we know how far their conservation influence spreads? After many years as a member of H R A S, Miss Inga Quam helped organize the Nopeming Audubon Society at Barron, Wisconsin, which is just a few miles from our National Audubon camp at Sarona, Wis. Crax Meadows, a 35,000 acre State Conservation wildlife project is also nearby. Members of the new club have identified 244 species there, including all of our Egrets and Herons, as well as one group of Bohemian Waxwings - considered rare in that area.

This year, at 32' below zero, they identified 18 species in their Christmas count. We salute Inga Quam and the Nopeming Audubon Society of Wisconsin and wish them well.

BIRD BANDING BUNGLE The metal strips used to band birds are inscribed: "Notify Fish and Wildlife Service, Wash., D. C." and they used to read, "Wash. Biol. Surv.", which is an abbreviation of "Washington Biological Survey."

This was changed after a farmer shot a crow and disgustedly wrote to the U.S. Government, "Dear Sirs: I shot one of your pet crows the other day and followed instructions attached to it. I washed it, and boiled it and served it. It was terrible. You should stop trying to fool the people with things like this."

VOL 8 #4

APRIL

1963

MONDAY, APRIL 15 is the date of the last meeting of the '62-'63 season, at Tourist Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave. Mr. B. A. Hubbard of Jacksonville, will show a group of his slides entitled "The Nature of Things" for the pre-meeting session at 7:00 P.M. Following the business meeting a sound color film from the National Audubon Society depicting wild life on a peninsula in Northern California will conclude our meeting. Let's have a big turn-out.

THE SOCIETY'S 40th ANNUAL MEETING and dinner last month was a most enjoyable occasion. Dr. John B. May's bird films and the Massachusetts' Audubon Society's new conservation film, "Our Wildlife Heritage" provided an excellent program following the business meeting.

OFFICERS ELECTED for the coming year are:

President - Chester H. Childs
Vice " s - George L. Williams
Mrs. Herbert B. Monroe
Leo M. Sandefur

Membership Secy. - Mrs. Alvin Pratt
Recording Secy. - Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless

Treasurer - Conrad H. Ekdahl

Members-at-large Executive Committee: Willard S. Whiteman, George Murray, Col. O. E. Thomas.

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY Receipts including balance on hand, membership dues, screen tour receipts, annual dinner, miscellaneous, interest on savings account, \$8420.83

Disbursements including screen tour expenses, Pelican, monthly programs, annual dinner, delegates to State Conference, projector repairs, donations, printing and supplies, miscellaneous; \$3266.15, leaving a balance on hand, of \$5,154.68

FIELD TRIP DIRECTOR, George Williams reports: The 22 scheduled trips, excluding the Christmas Census, show the following averages: species identified 100 per trip day; observers participating 35.22. The greatest number of species identified on any trip day was 125 on Feb. 8, 1963 when 52 observers in 15 cars participated. Fifty-five observers spotted 119 species on March 9th, 1963. Only birds seen on regularly scheduled field trips are included in this report.

To date this season, unusual to rare species seen include: a Brown Creeper, Blue Goose, Yellow-throated Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Common Eider Duck, Slate Colored Junco, Brant, Brewers Blackbird, Great Horned Owl, American Woodcock, Fox Sparrow, Black-throated Green Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Red-throated Loon, and a pair of Wild Turkeys. The Purple Gallinules have returned to Lake Helen and the Purple Sandpiper and Oystercatchers have been seen much of this season in nearby areas of the Halifax River. The warbler migration has not passed through our area as yet although our observers have identified a number of warbler species during the past month. Most of these species are new on our "un-listed" records for the past 4 years.

Any of our members who see unusual birds might assist others to enjoy or share their fun by calling CR 7-0907 and Trip Director Williams will pass the information to other interested birders.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS at MONTHLY MEETINGS

During our 1962-1963 Fall and Winter season we had a half hour program of slides from 7 to 7:30 P.M. preceding the usual business session at our Monthly Society meetings. Following the business session we then had one or more films in colored moving pictures of wildlife.

Our slides were mostly of birds likely to be seen at that particular time of year in our area. However, we had some variation from this in the fact that one program featured slides by Mrs. Thelma Acosta showing some of the interesting pictures she took on her trip around the world.

On another occasion, Dr. Rawson of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C. showed us some beautiful slides of butterflies.

Our colored moving pictures included such films as "Point Pelee - Nature Sanctuary" and "Newfoundland Sea Birds" from Canadian Travel and Wild Life Films; "See how they swim" and "See how they fly" from the University of Florida; "The Bobolink", "The Bluebird", "The Humming Bird" from Florida Audubon Society.

At our annual dinner Dr. John B. May, honorary Vice-president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and life member of the Halifax Audubon Society, gave us an excellent program consisting of first, a film from the Massachusetts Audubon Society showing the four seasons of the year and their influence on the wild life in that area. This was followed by two of his own splendid films taken on the Gaspé peninsula, concentrating mainly on sea birds and wild flowers in the region around Percé.

I. L. Merrill

SCREEN TOUR ATTENDANCE Our five Audubon Lecture and Wild Life Programs at Peabody Auditorium this season set an all time attendance record - a total of 7,800. This speaks well for community acceptance of an educational program directed toward conservation. The 796 season tickets sold, covering 3,980 admissions, and the 2,867 single admission tickets sold at the box office are both record highs.

Dates for next season's programs have been set as follows: January 4th and 25th, Feb. 8th and 22nd, March 28th.

THE H R A S BOOTH at the Hobby Show last month attracted many visitors. The color slides of birds, photographed by Fenn Holden, really stopped the people. Our booth stopped the judges too. We received a fine award, which was presented to Mr. Holden at our last meeting with instructions "To have and to hold". Credit for construction and layout of the exhibit goes to Willard Whiteman and Carlton Smith and its successful operation during the three days of the show, to the enthusiastic members of our Society who manned the booth daily from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. It was a splendid team effort!

A LETTER FROM EGYPT March 10th, 1963

Luxor, 450 miles up the Nile from Cairo, has given us our only bird life to date. From 200 to 3,000 B.C. it was known in ancient days as Thebes, - the home, place of worship and of burial of the great pharaohs - and a place of great fertility. There we saw 8 Hoopoes, about the size of a turnstone, with black and white chevroned back, a long, sharp bill and the crest of a peacock. There were endless cattle egrets. Ravens abounded as well as crows, but these crows were beauties. The size of a raven, they had gray bodies with black caps, bibs, wing tips and tails. And soaring endlessly and in great numbers was the Egyptian hawk who was featured as a god here long ago. This ancient garden spot of Thebes still remains so, with our own Florida flowers, vines and trees growing in profusion.

Elizabeth McCandless.

WHO'S WHO IN H R A S

On March 2nd, seventeen hundred citizens of the Halifax Area found their way into Peabody Auditorium for an Audubon Wildlife Film and Lecture program - the fourth in our 1963 series. This attendance figure represents an all time high for a single lecture and brings our total attendance for this year's series to better than 5900, which exceeds our seasonal total of last year. With the Peterson program yet to come on March 16th, and its possible attendance figure of 2,000, our 1963 series promises to set a record figure of almost 8,000. This speaks well for the development of interest in conservation among the people of our area where rapid expansion threatens many of our natural resources.

How did this desirable situation come about? Well it didn't "just happen!" It has been developed largely through the quiet, continued and persistent efforts of one man - Conrad Ekdahl.

Mr. Ekdahl has been interested in nature, particularly birds, since boyhood. Thirteen years ago he became a member of the Halifax River Audubon Club. Eleven years ago he was persuaded to accept the chairmanship of Audubon Screen Tours - a new undertaking for him at that time. Step by step he developed techniques that led from year to year, to an increase of public interest in Audubon Wildlife Programs. Four years ago it became apparent that Seabreeze High School Auditorium was too small to accommodate the more than four hundred people who tried to attend the programs. The move to Peabody Auditorium, in spite of some original doubts as to its financial wisdom, has proved to be the perfect solution as evidenced by this year's attendance figures.

Connie Ekdahl will say that he alone is not responsible for the excellent growth of our Screen Tour programs; that he has had plenty of help from many different members of the Society. This we agree is true - and is as it should be. But the fact remains that for eleven years he has served as Chairman and has carried the responsibility of success or failure.

Because of this fact, we nominate Conrad H. Ekdahl for the PELICAN award of WHO'S WHO IN H R A S in recognition of the dedicated service he has rendered the Society.

BIRDING IS A HOBBY TOO

By Roy Hudson

If you don't think so, just compare it with golf. A golfer pays about a hundred dollars or more for special clubs, carries them in a fancy bag until he gets to his thousand dollar cart. He gets in, gets out, selects a club and he hits a little white ball down a stretch of fairway, which is part of a million dollar piece of real estate. Then he rides to the ball, gets out and hits it again, and again and again. He loses it, sometimes finds it, and eventually putts it into a little hole, picks it out and starts all over again. He pays \$250.00 up to belong to a club, pays \$3.50 up as a fee to play the course, and when he is through, he tears up his score and hopes to do better next time.

Or, take hunting. The hunter dons his special suit, and with his hundred dollar gun and a pocket full of shells, he either sits in a wet and windy marsh blind waiting for a duck, or freezes (literally and figuratively) at his stand, waiting for a deer to pass by. For food? Well, maybe. At how much per pound?

Try fishing. Boat, rod, reel, line, bait. His neighbor might accept his catch - provided it is cleaned.

Now, for birding. Fifty intelligent adults in fifteen beautiful automobiles worth \$50,000.00 up, equipped with \$2,500.00 worth of binoculars and scopes, drive a hundred and fifty miles round trip, to see a red-cockaded woodpecker, maybe. A total of 400 man hours (worth a thousand dollars as unskilled labor), 2,250 car-miles go-and-return, 150 gallons of gas costing \$50.00 (plus oil, wear-tear) later, someone figures out that for the same expenditure of money and time, two people could have made a trip from Daytona Beach to the Rocky Mountains, to see a woodpecker, maybe.

Question: what could be more silly? Answer: to stay at home and listen to the commercials. Cynical? Negative thinking? Take friendship and fresh air

as two positive features and easily add ten more, and you have the reasons why some do not prefer to sit it out.

The worst day of the year, following the big storm, it was cold, raining with a wind up to forty miles per hour driving it into a window cracked open half an inch spattering binoculars. But, surely that was no fit day to stay inside the house looking out at the weather. So, four members who drove ninety miles in and out of the storm zone, found what birds do and where they go in such impossible weather, and had a wonderful day with 82 species.

"Now, Voyager!" Are you ready to come aboard that magic frigate and take a trip "North With The Spring" - in the company of a truly magnificent writer who is also a great naturalist? Are you ready to dream of Spring and to open your heart to another great Spring tide? "When the stars and planets wheel into line, and we have another Equinox - and down here the earth quivers imperceptibly; a root wedges its way between two grains of sand, a bird sings." Mr. Teale says that seasons begin in the sky. And, since the time of the Ancients, Spring has been the most exciting season for many of us earth-bound creatures. Chapter 3, page 11 of this enchanting book is titled "Spring In the Sky."

There is no chance for us to select a favorite chapter, or choose a special portion of such a book. Your editor just finished rereading it and was as entranced as are all people who appreciate the true glory of nature. This book is over ten years old, but to read it is to capture all the joy and beauty of traveling from the little town of Everglades, "near the Ten Thousand Islands of the wild Gulf coast" to the summit of Mt. Washington and the Canadian Boundary, and finding the miracle of Spring all along the way.

Mr. and Mrs. Teale left for a seventeen thousand mile journey around Feb. 25th through the spring fires that occur in lower Florida. Last Spring, we journeyed over much of the same area and found almost identical feelings about the fires and the lowered water tables of the Glades, and I am afraid with the present real estate boom in Collier County - they may grow worse. We sat in our Motel at Flamingo and watched flocks of migrants fly into the trees that lined the water's edge, warblers among them - tame enough to play around our feet as we would go up to our meals at the lodge. Bobolinks in flocks of twenty or more - surging up from the side of the road fill air with their whirring wings - and reedy song - which is the very essence of Spring. One never knows what he will find around the next bend in the road.

Spring is all things to all men. One cannot count the ways in which it calls to each individual. We have watched it come in so many of the same places that are covered in this wonderful book - Dismal swamp - Lake Drummond - the Smokies - area from Minnesota to Kentucky - Oklahoma to Maryland. We have watched warblers such as Mr. Teale describes in Chapter 19 and we have gone deep into Okefenokee swamp with a guide who knew those marvelous water trails as we know Tomoka Road, - and have gone up Roan Mountain in the Tennessee - North Carolina border country to watch the vertical migration and from Ormond around the Gulf to Brownsville and have felt the desolation of the Ducktown country and the magic of a New England Spring.

All of these things you will find in "North With the Spring" written in 1951 by Mr. Edwin Way Teale and awaiting you at your Library. Come aboard the frigate, my hearties - and drink deep of the nectar of Spring. Nell Kent.

CONSERVATION SERVICE A real piece of conservation service is being rendered by Margaret Branch this year. She is giving talks to groups of children and adults illustrated with the Holden bird slides. So far in '63 she has given four programs with two more scheduled and others pending.

Mrs. H. G. Farr also gave one garden club program at Edgewater. These programs are encouraging many new people in feeding, protecting and possibly studying the birds of our area. Our thanks to these Ladies.

Vol. 9. No. 3

October 1963

To members of the HRAS, greetings and hopes for a bang-up 1963 - 64 birding season.

In this issue of the Pelican there is a copy of the folder "Birding at its best". Keep this and use it to sell a new prospect to join our society. We should increase our membership by 50 to 75 by next spring, but that will depend on the efforts put out by you.

Three good ways to interest new people are (1) Invite them to take one of our bird trips with you; (2) Take them to one of the monthly meetings; (3) Talk up the Audubon Screen Tours. Try to sell them a season ticket.

Tickets will be available at the November meeting. A real effort by each and everyone will make our society the biggest and best in the state.

Our new Post Office Box is 5474 - Seabreeze Station.

Two golden anniversaries of notable Audubon members were celebrated since your last Pelican. Helen and Leo Sandefur had theirs last April and in August Jean and Fenn Holden had a reception in Michigan which Margaret and Ralph Branch attended. Congratulations - you four.

We shall sadly miss the Sandefurs, who have moved to San Diego.

Address: 9062 Robinridge Way, Santee, California.

Nell and Millard Kent are a loss to us.

Address: 427 Palm Drive, Bahia Villa Estates, Sarasota, Florida.

It's a bit of luck for us that the Florida Audubon Society's Fourth Annual Group Conference will be held at De Leon Springs, for we have all been invited by Mr. Russell Mason to attend any of the meetings we can. The conference will start October 11 at 2:30 p.m. with an evening session. All day Saturday, October 12 will be filled with interesting programs, and it will end Sunday at noon, October 13. Let's have a good attendance. Mrs. Fratt and Mrs. McCandless will be the regular delegates, and cars of our local birders are planning to drive over for most of the sessions.

Schedule of Birding Trips - October and November 1963:

Half day trips	All day trips
Sat. Oct. 12	Fri. Oct. 18 - Matanzas Park - Villano Marsh
Fri. Nov. 1	Sat. Oct. 26 - Rock Springs & Duda Ranch
Sat. Nov. 16	Fri. Nov. 9 - Titusville & Indian River Groves
Sat. Nov. 30	Fri. Nov. 22 - Cape Canaveral

The Florida Audubon Society's Caribbean Tours for 1963 are as follows:

November 7 to 10
Eleuthera \$185 per person

November 28 to December 1
Grand Bahama \$170 per person

Contact Mr. Mason at P.O. Box 7, Maitland for further information. These tours have proved being very worthwhile to those of our members who have taken them.

Prof. Calvert of East Alabama University arrived in town for his annual late August birding trip. Mrs. Beatrice Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. George Williams joined him for a trip to Duda Ranch. They found Sandhill Cranes, Black Terns, Baird Sandpipers, White Rumped Sandpipers, Cliff Swallows, and 60 other species identified during their 8 hours in the field.

A change is the road from Mason Ave. as it turns south toward Rte. 92. This joins the Barberville road east of Hull Rd. Another change in our local area is a new dirt road around the southeast section of the Ormond Beach Airport.

The additional General Electric Building with the lagoon and flagstaff will impress our members as they return to the "World's Most Famous Beach" and one of the most versatile birding areas in the Southeastern United States.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in a recent release from its Ocala office, indicated that it is a violation of the law to pick up baby animals from the woods and that violators will not only have the animals confiscated, but will be subject to court action. Mr. Bickerstaff, central regional manager for the Commission said that "You may think that you are rescuing an orphan by picking up a baby animal when the mother may have been actually frightened away. If you know definitely that the mother has been killed and has left a fawn in the woods, notify the nearest wildlife officer and let him rescue. it rather than attempting the task yourself."

The Florida Audubon Society cautions that most supposed orphaned birds are not usually orphans. The parents probably are nearby and are simply waiting for the intruders to leave before resuming feeding their young. But when birds have been injured they sometimes can be nursed back to health so that they can be returned to the wild. A circular on this may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Florida Audubon Society, P. O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

Vol. 9, No. 4

November, 1963

To all members, old and new, and to all friends of HRAS, welcome to what has started off as the best season ever!

The next regular meeting will be November 18 (correct the printed program which you have received), same time, same place, as usual, and do not forget the very interesting thirty-minute program before the business session begins, more details of which are printed below.

All members who are interested in an instruction course to improve their bird identification, kindly hand in name, address, and phone number to George L. Williams, Trip Director, at the next meeting. If there is sufficient interest among the members, details for such a course will be completed so that it may begin in December.

Schedule of Birding Trips - November 16 to December 14, 1963:

Half Day Trips

Sat., Nov. 16

Sat. Nov. 30

All Day Trips

Fri., Nov. 22 - Cape Canaveral

Sat., Dec. 7 - Lemon Bluff - Osteen - Sanford

Sat., Dec. 14 - Welaka Fish Hatcheries

The last of the Caribbean Tours for 1963, conducted by the Florida Audubon Society, will be November 28 to December 1, to Grand Bahama. The cost is \$170 per person. These tours have proved to have been very worthwhile in the past according to those of our members who have taken them. Contact Mr. Russell Mason, P. O. Box 7, Maitland, Florida for further information.

By the way, speaking of the Florida Audubon Society, reminds your editor to urge all members new to the state to take time out to visit the office of the State Society at Maitland. You will find your visit very interesting, and you may be fortunate to meet Mr. Russell Mason, himself.

It is not too early to begin to talk up the Audubon Screen Tours for the coming season. Although other costs have gone up, the cost of a season ticket for the Audubon Wildlife Films, as the Screen Tours are officially named, remains the same - \$3.00 for adults for the course of five programs; \$1.50 for high school or junior college students. Single admissions at the door remain eighty and forty cents respectively. Tickets will be available at the November meeting.

We are very glad to welcome the following new members who have joined since the April meeting:

Mr. Donald J. Barmettler - Route 3, Box 665, DeLand, Fla.

Mrs. S. F. Branson - P. O. Box 5741, Daytona Beach

Mrs. Ruby Cowden - 734 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill

Miss Henrietta Flack - 412 N. Peninsula Drive, Daytona Beach

Mr & Mrs Donald T. Mason - P O Box 805, Edgewater, Fla.

Mr & Mrs Philip D. Nichols - 66 Ocean Shore Drive, Ormond Beach

Mrs. Iola Sabine - 349 Flushing Avenue, Daytona Beach

Mrs. Ella J. Schultze - 65 River Shore Drive, Ormond Beach

Mr & Mrs Fred W. Vichert - 82 Carol Road, Ormond Beach

Mr. R. J. Ward - 311 S. Decatur Street, Malden, Missouri

Mrs. Margery J. Woehr - 220 Venetian Way, South Daytona

Mrs. Adele M. Wylie - 320 N. Peninsula Drive, Daytona Beach,

Please MAIL applications for membership renewal promptly to Mrs. Beatrice E. Pratt, 64 River Shore Drive, Ormond Beach, Fla., or P. O. Box 5474, Daytona Beach, Fla. 32020; or BRING cards with you to the next meeting.

Word was received recently from Miss Addie Hobbs that she and Miss Polleys will not be able to return to Daytona Beach this winter. Miss Addie is still using a walker altogether since she fell and injured her lame hip some weeks ago. Miss Maidie is confined to her bed because of a slight stroke which affected her right hand and left leg, and Miss Addie is acting as her nurse. They are both very interested in their birds, and keep their feeders well filled. Miss Addie said that they would miss HRAS very much, and would appreciate it if any of their friends would drop them a line. The address - Essex, Mass., 01929.

KNOW THE BIRDS by Roy Hudson

With a view to presenting a unified program of some interest to all members, I have agreed to take the first half hour of each monthly meeting for the entire season, using about thirty of the Fern Holden color slides at each meeting. In addition to emphasis on birds to be seen during the month just ahead, the overall plan will include practically every bird commonly seen in this area, which is one of the best birding districts in the entire nation.

Some may want to just see the pictures for a half hour of entertainment. But the aim will be to go far deeper for those who want to know more and more about birds and nature. No matter how much of a novice or expert you are, you will learn something by looking up each of the following birds in "the book".

Many birds can be identified readily by size and color at almost any time of the year, but others may puzzle you by plumage that varies with sex, with the season, with the immature bird, or individual differences. For this month, pay particular attention to what you can learn about silhouette, their flight patterns and feeding habits. These things DO NOT CHANGE, and are often quite necessary to finally identify a bird. For this month:

(These eat insects, worms, seeds, fruit, etc.)

Tree swallow	Brown-headed cowbird	Cardinal	Blue jay
Barn swallow	Loggerhead shrike	House sparrow	Scrub jay
Cattle egret	Mockingbird	Cedar Waxwing	Bobwhite

(These eat mostly fish, but how do they catch them?)

White pelican	Brown pelican	Little blue heron	Magnificent-
Pied-billed grebe	Belted kingfisher	Common egret	frigate-bird
Double-crested cormorant	Royal tern	Black skimmer	
Common loon	Sandwich tern	Osprey	Laughing gull
Gannet	Great blue heron	Bald eagle	Herring gull

Come a little early, for either "the 7:30" or "the 8:00" o'clock trip. George Williams, our field-trip chairman and director, will arrange carloads considering space, guidance, driving, even compatibility (e.g. while many are indifferent, some are decided smokers, or non-smokers) in each small group he sends forth. If some cars gather passengers in advance, it promotes a smooth take-off, always only three or four cars at a time. With your car's route and destination given on a fresh check list, you can usually make several checks, to start with, at our South Bridge rendezvous. As you scan water, air, and land between early morning greetings you'll find around there a surprising variety of both birds and people. Going ten miles away or a hundred, for some of us the field trips are the choicest of all HRAS activities, and the all-day ones the best of those even when weather or interesting happenings may make them rough.

So far this season weather has been elegant on all four trip days. On October 26 it might have been a bit cooler for the long and very special trip we speak of as "Duda", and the enjoyable picnic lunch, after hastening out of that Duda gate, at Rock Springs - a large outdoor picnic and recreation park - where all 36 of us in eleven cars got together.

All of our meeting and picnic spots are as carefully and cannily chosen as our birding ones - with an occasional daring flutter into new territory which we must constantly seek, if only to compensate for old favorites lost to development and "progress". (e.g. our "Route 4" spot once so fabulous now has a "NO STOPPING" sign along the road) Few and far between are our trips to where Mr. Duda and his sons achieved a rather amazing and extensive lay-out for truck farming in black-as-coal muckland, over west and south of Sanford. Several years ago Ethel Monroe introduced us to this whole new area through a Florida Audubon friend. Thanks to arrangements first made by Mrs. Rae Moody of Tangerine, who usually guides us there, we are now a privileged group. Provided we are out of the big gate before it closes at noon on Saturday, we may walk or drive slowly along the dirt work-roads on the many dykes, and scan whatever wide fields and drainage ditches may be flooded attracting water and shore birds, or vast stretches where enormous machines have plowed under tall cover-crops, leaving visible great concentrations of birds. We must keep a wary eye on the huge machines at work in the distance to keep out of their way on the dykes, as well as to keep away from their noise, and their clouds of black dust, or white spray (This time on wide fields of green cabbage.) At the Duda truck farms on October 26 our most special finds were sandhill cranes flapping away, soras hastily vanishing behind overhanging greenery as a car rolled quietly by a drainage ditch, and a solid huddle of hundreds, perhaps a thousand, blue-winged teal. These ducks, probably exhausted migrants, were far away from all of our binoculars and 'scopes down a drainage ditch, paying no attention to us.

At Rock Springs, after lunch, a fascinated group watched a pileated woodpecker at work only a few yards from our sheltered tables. Meanwhile, another small group was slowly exploring a nearby trail where Connie Ekdahl's come-hither language brought a ruby crowned kinglet almost to his shoulder, and kept a hermit thrush peering from a low bush near the path, for us to observe, too close for binoculars.

Leaving Rock Springs, drivers chose their own routes home. Some left parked cars near the bridge where the route to New Smyrna crosses the Welaka River, to lean on the guard rail and peer down at that tropically scenic stream and watch the limpkins feeding in the shallows, or preening themselves on the roots of a fallen tree along the bank. Once at New Smyrna Beach, our carmates agreed to detour to walk along the sands of the Coast Guard beach, and saw ospreys, gulls, terns, and the small plovers, piping and "ringed", that are such fun to watch as they busily feed along the shore. Home in the sunset, about 6 P.M. - a lovely day.

On trip days all hours count, before, during, and after the trip, and each group reports in all species observed that day. The very first trip reported a combined total of 92 species. Each of the next two trips reported 94 species. The fourth trip, November 1, with three separate groups driving off in different directions, a total of 103 species were reported - our "high" to date. In another "Pelican" I hope that we can have a complete list of species seen so far, and that complementing Roy Hudson's 20 we are to study and be shown on slides at the monthly meeting, and also we may become lyrical about an independent "Top Twenty" enjoyed on our recent field trips.

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December, 1963

As this issue is going to press the news of the sudden passing of Dr. John B. May, on December 2nd has been announced. While preparing to leave his home in Cohasset, Massachusetts for Daytona Beach, he was stricken.

Dr. May was known throughout the United States as one of its foremost Ornithologists, having written several books on this subject, among them one on the hawks of North America. He was a long time Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Tribute was paid to him by Roger Tory Peterson when he was on our Screen Tour Program last year. Mr. Peterson said that it was through the help and encouragement of Dr. May that he took up the serious study of birds in his younger years.

Although 87 years of age, Dr. May was young in spirit, active, and still had keen perception. During the winters that he has been spending here he was a very frequent member of our scheduled bird trips, and made many additional trips with various members of our Society. Just last year, it was he who pointed out the Ipswich Sparrow to a number of us, which is a very hard bird to identify.

A few years ago at our annual meeting Dr. May showed one of his fine nature films which was enjoyed by everyone. At that time, he was made an Honorary Member of our Society. We shall greatly miss Dr. May. by C. H. Ekdahl

Our next meeting will be held on December 16, same time, same place, as usual. For our new members, and those others who have just arrived in town, the half hour program which starts at 7:00 o'clock, before the meeting, the details of which are given below, will be very interesting for all.

There is but one half day trip planned for December, on the 28th. In January, one half day trip on the 3rd, and a full day trip on January 17 to Silver Glen Springs, have been planned.

Our series of Audubon Wildlife Films will begin January 4th, less than a month from now. As has been the case in the past several years, they will be held at Peabody Auditorium, starting at 7:30 P.m. The first illustrated talk will be given by Howard L. Orians, know to many of you, on "For Generations to Come". The cost, as usual, is \$3.00 for adults, and \$1.50 for students, for the course of five lectures. Single admissions at the door are eighty and forty cents respectively.

Christmas Census: This activity is a nationwide project sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The purpose of this activity is to keep track of the bird population, and through it, to protect by added national legislation the bird species which assist in maintaining the beneficial balance in Nature, and to control the excessive use of harmful insecticides. Each bird club, country-wide, through its coverage of an area around its headquarters, endeavors to identify and count all birds of each species seen on a single day between dawn and dusk. Accuracy and dedication to this project are paramount in this activity. The trip director appoints the group leaders and assigns the areas each of them will cover that day. The group leaders choose their own observers.

Subsequent to December 19th and prior to January 3rd, anyone in the greater Daytona Beach area seeing unusual bird species is requested to call Trip Director George Williams, OR 7-0907, between 6 P.M. and 7 P.M.

The new members who have joined HRAS since the last edition of The Pelican are:

Miss Elizabeth Boyer, 9 River Drive, Ormond Beach
 Miss Georgia Conley, 340 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach
 Mr. Frank F. Hardy, 426 Golf Boulevard, Daytona Beach
 Mr. and Mrs. Jean duVal Kane, 1219 Fernway Drive, Ormond Beach
 Mrs. Charles F. Lee, 171 Laurie Drive, Ormond Beach
 Miss Ellen Peterson, 340 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach
 Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Ward, 108 S. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach
 Mrs. Herbert Woods, 441 Zelda Boulevard, Daytona Beach
 Miss Gertrude McCullough, 340 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach

Please MAIL your membership renewal promptly to the membership secretary if you have not already done so. NO PELICANS will be mailed after this issue to those who have not renewed membership.

All members who have joined through the TRIPLE MEMBERSHIP PLAN should notify the membership secretary promptly so that their status as members in our Halifax River Audubon Society may be determined.

Membership as reported at the last meeting was 171. The membership secretary is Mrs. Beatrice E. Pratt, P.O. Box 5474, Daytona Beach, Florida, 32020.

KNOW THE BIRDS By Roy Hudson

Recall the emphasis last month on silhouette, flight patterns, feeding habits. This month, study the books and birds for habitat, color markings (note male, female, immature; mating and winter plumage), distinctive traits (such as tail-wagging). Some birds will be found in a great variety of habitats, some will be in only one or a few. Note relation between habitat and feeding habits.

Here are some different habitats: far out at sea (pelagic), off shore, in near shore, on beach, gulfs and bays, salt and brackish marshes, tidal flats (mud or sand), islands. Fresh-water lakes and ponds, rivers, creeks, rapid streams, marshes and swamps (wooded swamps, open water, edges growing grasses or reeds, deep water or shallow). In wooded areas, high in trees (in pine or deciduous), dead trees or snags, low trees, brush, scrub or thickets. Open country, grain fields, grassy stubble, meadows, pastures, burned fields, farm lands, roadsides (on fence or higher wires). High in sky, low over marshes. Airports, cities, towns. And when you go north or west, forests, mountains, canyons, deserts.

This is the "bird of the month" list. How many can you match to one or more of the above habitats? If you read about them and figure out where they are most likely to be found, the showing and discussion at this month's meeting will have accented meaning and value.

Hooded merganser	Ruddy duck	Common snipe	Catbird
Mallard	Ring-necked duck	Brown-headed nuthatch	Redwinged
Blue-winged teal	Lesser scaup	Turkey vulture	blackbird
Green-winged teal	Canvasback	Black vulture	Yellowthroat
Pintail	Sanderling	Pileated woodpecker	Swamp sparrow
Shoveler	Ruddy turnstone	Palm warbler	Killdeer
American widgeon	Caspian tern	Myrtle warbler	Meadowlark
Redhead	Clapper rail	Eastern phoebe	

FIELD NOTES By Margaret Branch

Farewell Cape Canaveral! On November 22d ten cars of us made the extra long trip southward by various routes. After a fine long morning of birding, leaving home at seven, we were hungry before noon for the happy get-together, to lunch and compare notes in the remnant of the park right in the town of Canaveral. The picnic tables among big trees were still there though development had surrounded our spot and almost crowded it out. The numerous birds of other years were gone. A big new restaurant and dozens of empty, parked cars, like a wall around it, were there instead. So, by 1:30 we all were scattered, off once more to explore new and changed areas, and search for the wildest roads remaining. Some of us never heard a word of the day's tragedies until evening, at home.

We had found new causeways, double-paved and toll, and a railroad spur, nearly finished, blocking off Playa Linda, the beach where all Titusville played in the hot months, and where we had watched Frigate Birds soaring above us. Before lunch reaching our choicest objective, Canaveral Basin, we watched a small fraction of the shore birds and water birds hoped for there. True, the tide was in, and when it ebbs the stretches of water may uncover some wide mudflats, still. But huge machines are busy there, too, digging out and filling in for ships, not birds.

We found wide banks of white sand fill, in place of Avocets. Aside from a group of White Pelicans flying in formation, afar off, we saw but one large white one resting with several Browns at the Basin, and a single Frigate Bird over the torn-up beach a block from the picnic area. One Long-billed Curlew was a prize to be admired by 'scope, and near him, for comparison, the shorter but still strongly down-curved bill of another curlew, once called Hudsonian, but now Whimbrel, to agree with other countries. In spite of the change, however, November 22 was a fine day.

It is astonishing how many devoted birders may show up on a bright Saturday morning so cold (one of our short spells, of course!) that fingers are cold inside gloves. On November 30, our trip director was prompt in arriving but found seven cars at the bridge waiting for him. He condensed (not literally) six into four, and sent them on their way at 7:30. Our president stayed behind to help greet and speed the eight o'clocks. At 7:45 the lagoon near WROD had a beautiful assortment of nearly all the Herons, White Ibis, our first Horned Grebe of the season, several Pied-bills. Later, near Port Orange we found our first Common Loon, temporarily stranded, in his dull winter plumage, at low tide.

The average number of species seen on our five scheduled trips in November was 110. The largest number on any one day was 130, and the smallest was 87. This last number were seen on November 30 which was so cold and windy. The largest number of birders for one day was 38, on November 9.

Some unusual single birds reported in November, not included on our checklist, were: Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, Black-throated Green Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Western Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Fulvous Tree Duck, and, most unexpected of all and watched by a whole group, south of New Smyrna Beach, a Western Kingbird. A bird included in our list but rare for this area was the Marbled Godwit.

Crex Meadows By Inga Quam

(Inga Quam, a member of HRAS for many years, has recently returned from Wisconsin where she spends several months each year. While there she is an active member

of the Nopeming Audubon Society of Barron, Wisconsin, which she with several other conservation-minded men and women started two years ago last April.)

Barron, in northwest Wisconsin, is a favored spot for the study and enjoyment of birds, wildlife, and nature. It is only thirty miles to the southeast of the new National Audubon Camp near Sorona, Wisconsin - one of four in the United States. Crex Meadows, only a few miles farther to the northwest is another of Nature's Wonderlands! This - a 3500 acre wildlife area, part of which is a "Refuge" - is a wetland restoration project. It is owned and managed by the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Though as yet this vast area is only partially developed for the protection and feeding of birds and wildlife, its wide choice of habitat attracts a mixture of both Eastern and Western species of birds. The yearly highlight is the thousands of waterfowl which concentrate each fall within the Refuge to rest and feed during migration. Each year Nopeming Audubon members and others go there during the month of October. It is a breathtaking scene! Immense flocks of Canada geese, blue and white geese, ducks, heron and other waterfowl fly between the acres of planted corn, barley, and rice - to the nearby ponds and swamps. In a few days each flock, fed and rested, continue their journey to warmer climes.

TRIP THROUGH SOUTHERN EUROPE By George Murray

On my recent trip to Europe I found the wide distribution of birds amazing in a way. The birds found in Ireland, England, and Scotland, can also be found in Spain, France, Portugal, and on the island of Majorca. I saw a number in France this year that I had seen before so was only able to find twenty-five new species to add to my check list.

Our first stop was Paris where I took the Metro to the Bois de Boulogne, a lovely park on the outskirts. Here I found all the common species such as the Blue Tit, Blackbird, Spotted Flycatcher, Nuthatch, Song Thrush, Magpie, Common Gull, Wood Pigeon, Great Tit, Chaffinch, and that European cousin of Passer Domesticus, the Tree Sparrow. The Tree Sparrow, in case you are interested, used to be seen in the United States, in St. Louis, I believe, and probably is integrated with the Weaver now. I found but one new species in this vast park, the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which is a great deal like our Ladder Backed Woodpecker in appearance.

They are cleaning all of the old buildings in Paris and had almost finished the Opera House when we were there. The removal of the centuries of grime from these old buildings is revealing the true architectural beauty these buildings really possess. The Tuileries, the gardens near the Louvre, were exceptionally beautiful this year. I had seen them in November of 1959 and they had left much to be desired, so I was pleased to see them this year in the peak of their beauty.

We took a trip down to Fontainebleau and I was amazed to see the groups of swifts and swallows skimming over the great expanse of grass between the formal gardens of the palace. I did find the Black Redstart in a stand of pine trees, a new one for me. It was black with rusty tail and not as pretty as our Redstart.

(To be continued)