

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Vol. 9 No. 6

January 1964

In this first issue of the new year, sincere wishes are sent to each one of you for a very happy, healthy, and successful year, with plenty of good weather for "birding"

NOTICE!!! The next meeting will be held THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, at 7:30 P.M. as usual, at the social room of the Tourist Church. The business meeting will be preceded by another of Mr. Roy Hudson's illustrated talks on the identification of birds which will begin promptly at 7:00 P.M. At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, several short films will be shown. A further description of Mr. Hudson's talk is given below.

The following field trips have been planned for the period January 17-February 15:-

All day trips:- Friday, January 17 - Silver Glen Springs
Saturday, February 1 - Osteen - Oak Hill - Sanford
Saturday, February 15- Dupont Road - Crescent Beach -
Anastasia Park

Half day trips:- Friday, January 24
Friday, February 7

Approximately 1000 attended the first film of the current Audubon Wildlife Series, January 4, given by Mr. Howard L. Orians. By special request, he showed his film, "The Land the Glaciers Forgot", describing a very interesting section of Wisconsin, which took him four years to complete. The next film shown and narrated by Mr. Karl H. Maslowski, will be given January 25, at 7:30 P.M. His subject will be "Gone with the Wilderness". Season tickets for the remaining four lectures will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for students. Single admissions, purchased at the door, will remain the usual price throughout the series - eighty cents for adults, forty cents for students.

Mrs. Beatrice E. Pratt, Membership Secretary, reports that since the last monthly meeting, the following new members have joined our society:-

Mrs. E. N. Baldwin, 4 Brooks Drive, Ormond Beach
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest M. Blanchard, Dolphin Motel, 2043 S. Atlantic Avenue
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Brainerd, 3720 S. Atlantic Avenue
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. England, 45 San Jose Drive, Ormond Beach
Mrs. William P. Haack, 32 Beechwood Drive, Ormond Beach
Mrs. Dorothy B. Hill, 37 Beechwood Drive, Ormond Beach
Mr. Robert E. Love, 21 N. Hollywood Avenue
Mrs. Laura Owens, 723 N. Atlantic Avenue
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert M. Patton, 126 Ocean Terrace, Ormond Beach
Mr. & Mrs. Harold H. Starkey, 45 Wisteria Drive, Ormond Beach
Mrs. Katherine J. Smythe, Ormond Hotel, 15 E. Granada Avenue, Ormond Beach.

We now have a total membership of 210.

Any member who wishes to purchase any of the Bird Lists to use for his own record, should contact Mr. George L. Williams, Trip Director.

FIELD NOTES By Margaret Branch

Although looking forward to fresh trips and new birds in 1964, we still remember what a good month this past December was. First, the all-day trip to Lemon Bluff Fish Camp, on December 7, a rewarding trip, was especially remembered for the Limpkins. This trip was missed by your reporter who was watching the Frigate Birds at Key West.

A beautiful day for the Welaka Fish Hatcheries trip on December 14 gave us fewer unusual species than we had expected at the breeding ponds but we had a fine chance to picnic and explore the various interesting routes that may be followed. The small aquarium, where our cars gather at noon, is one safe, warm haven to schedule for December, when chill days of other years have made even the hardiest glad to picnic indoors. This year small groups, following different paths, totalled over 100 species. We felt very fortunate as we remembered how, just one year before, our Dude Farms trip had to be cancelled by the drop to the 20's and the December 13 freeze that blighted Florida.

On December 19 the HRAS share of the nation-wide annual bird census for the National Audubon Society was scheduled. This was the first day of the period. Each participating club is given the choice of any one day only during the latter part of December. The undertaking is complicated and strenuous, nationwide in scope, and the results of the census is published the following summer in an issue of Audubon Field Notes. The report is very detailed and interesting as the different species of birds seen are named, their location, number, and in what weather the census was taken by each individual club. For our club, Mr. George L. Williams planned our trip, and compiled and mailed in the composite report of our 22 observers. Divided into teams and assigned specific areas to cover, our observers checked about 20,000 birds of 132 species on December 19 in good weather. The total included very welcome additions reported from feeders. The number of species was very fine, but the total number of birds was disappointing. Robins led in numbers with approximately 7000 reported, followed by Ring-billed Gulls.

On December 29, one HRAS carload went to the Titusville area, in wind and rain, to start there at dawn in an assigned section, and found over 96 species to contribute to the Florida Audubon Society's census of that day in that fast changing area. Bewildering even to those well acquainted with it in former years, it now calls for special government position to birders, and large acreage is completely closed to duck hunters. Thousands of ducks of many species have taken refuge there. The duck concentration was reached over a long, rough stretch of abandoned road, guided by Carleton Wilson, the director of that new U. S. Wildlife Refuge.

Our last local trip for 1963 was on December 28. The day was fair and cool, and plenty of interesting birds were seen by the fourteen who went out. That same day Ann Arbor, Michigan was taking its census for the National Audubon Society. Thirty-seven observers, in below-freezing weather, with snow and ice, were very happy to find 52 species numbering about 6000, one-third of which were English sparrows!! For the next four or five months our birding may steadily improve, but nearly any day, right now, one can investigate favorite spots for three or four hours in the forenoon, and find 50 or 60 species, not far from home. Three cheers for here!!!

The complete schedule of the 1964 Caribbean Natural History Tours, given under the the direction of the Florida Audubon Society is as follows:-

1. March 4-19, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Yucatan
2. April 4-18, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
3. April 17-May 2, Netherlands Antilles, Trinidad, Tobago
4. Nov. 12-15, Grand Bahama Island
5. Nov. 26-29, Eleuthera, Harbour, and New Providence Islands in the northern Bahamas.

These trips, limited to twenty persons, have been very popular in the past. Any one of our members interested in them may obtain full information by writing to the Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida. Or better still, drive over to Maitland and become acquainted with the office of the state Audubon.

A letter from Miss Addie Hobbs describes the "Winter Wonderland" at her home in Essex, Massachusetts. She tells of the sun shining like diamonds on the pines, and on a 3-foot icicle hanging from her neighbor's roof. She says "Florida in all its glamour has nothing to compare with the beauty around my home." A flock of Evening Grosbeaks have been feeding at her neighbor's feeder, as they did at her own earlier in the winter. They make a wonderful sight silhouetted against the snow and ice.

Miss Addie takes all her meals at a table in her kitchen near the window, and watches the birds having their meals at her feeder about one foot away. She has had Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, many Purple Finches, Juncoes, Downy Woodpeckers, Starlings, and, of course Blue Jays. Recently a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was feeding on seeds from a shrub directly below her window. A neighbor boy reported seeing a Robin gorging himself on frozen apples in a nearby orchard.

Miss Addie, however, misses Daytona Beach, and the bird trips which she enjoyed very much. She is also very lonesome for her old friend, Miss Maidee Polleys, who recently passed away, but her "bird friends" help to fill this void in a small measure. She asks to be remembered to all of her friends in the Halifax River Audubon Society. (reported by Norma Ekdahl)

KNOW THE BIRDS By Roy Hudson

In observing and identifying birds, still be alert to silhouette, their flight patterns and feeding habits; habitat, color markings and distinctive traits. These topics are basic, and a necessary part of either basic knowledge or of on-the-spot observation. And at one glance, it is necessary to make a mental photograph of the bill, crown, nape, throat, face pattern, breast and belly spots and color (all over, sides or belly), wing bars or none, tail (short or long, rounded or notched or square).

This month the slides and the additional points in identification will deal with differences due to sex and maturity; with the frequency of occurrence and status of the birds, and the problems of similarity and the process of sorting out by elimination. In studying the pictures and reading the books about the following birds, try to figure out how you would distinguish one from another in the field - where they might be seen, and whether they would be observed in large numbers or singly, or whether they would be here at all at this time.

Black bellied plover	Dunlin	Boat-tailed grackle
Golden plover	Short-billed dowitcher	Cowbird
Wilson's plover	Greater yellow-legs	Downy woodpecker
Semi-palmated plover	Lesser yellow-legs	Hairy woodpecker
Piping plover	Willet	Yellow-bellied sapsucker
Snowy plover	Horned grebe	Red bellied woodpecker
Least sandpiper	Pied-billed grebe	Red headed woodpecker
Spotted sandpiper	Redwing blackbird	Mourning dove
Pectoral sandpiper	Rusty blackbird	Ground dove
Purple sandpiper	Brewer's blackbird	
Sanderling	Common grackle	

Trip Through Southern Europe (continued) By George S. Murray

(After a week in Paris, Mr. Murray spent nine days touring the Chateau Country in the neighborhood of Orleans. His two new birds for his list found along the Loire River were the Yellow Wagtail and the Sand Martin. After returning to Paris, he and his aunt flew from Orley Airport to Lisbon.)

We stayed three days in Lisbon before starting a fifteen day tour of Spain. Two of these days were used in taking all-day tours out of the city. One was a circle tour north to Nazare, an old fishing village where the women still wash clothes on stones in the river; then to Batalha, Fatima, Santarem, and back to Lisbon. The countryside was covered with groves of olive and cork trees. The cork trees are stripped of their bark once every eight years, and then turn red through oxidation. The other tour took us up into Sintra, a very beautiful, mountainous country. One of the beauties of Lisbon itself is its mosaic sidewalks. They extend for miles to the outskirts but because of the high cost of construction are not used any more.

In Spain we stayed about four days each at Seville, Malaga, and Granada, and ended the tour at Madrid. We saw many cathedrals throughout Spain, each one more beautiful than the last, but amid this pretentious display of grandeur and wealth, signs of poverty were on every hand. Donkeys are the main mode of travel and transportation, and the roads are in very poor condition. In spite of this, the Spaniards still are a happy, boisterous people. They hold down two jobs to make both ends meet. Each city has a bull ring but I understand that bullfights are "for the tourists", and the natives are going in more for football, which they spell "futball" and is the same as the English game. Much of the countryside in Spain is rather mountainous and very dry, with many groves of almond, olive, and cork trees dotting the landscape.

I found great flocks of the Crested Lark throughout Spain. The Kestrel was often flying overhead. Over there the Kestrel is not the Sparrow Hawk. Their Sparrow Hawk looks like our Cooper's Hawk; then there is the Lesser Kestrel which is in between and has not quite made up his mind which one he wants to be. I could make this even more confusing if any one wishes me to!!! On our way to Algeciras I was fortunate enough to see some Griffons soaring in the sky.

After touring the cathedrals, flamenco dances, Prado Museum, and a few assorted castles, we flew from Madrid to Palma, the capital of the lovely island of Majorca. I hoped to have luck enough to find a Hoopoe, and seeing a castle, surrounded by trees, high on a hill, toward evening that first day I tried to find a shortcut to this area. There was one easily identified but because it was nearing dinnertime I returned to the hotel. The next day we took a trip to Valdemosa where Chopin lived for a very short period - quite a beautiful spot for a sensitive soul. I kept asking our guide about the Hoopoe but received little satisfaction from his answers. The following morning I started for that grove of trees I had spotted from our hotel. While tramping over four hills I saw the Sardinian Warbler, black cap below the eye, which is quite red when a close look is possible. It looks as if he had just gotten over a spree. On another hill I found the Firecrest, which looks much like our kinglet except that the crown is always visible. Finally on another hill I came to an almond grove, and found not one but two dozen Hoopoes!! With their black and white wing pattern, pink-brown body, long black-tipped erectile crest, and long curved bill, they can not be mistaken once they are seen. They hop along the ground like our flicker, turning over small stones looking for furry caterpillars which I saw them eating. They are very scary, although the Majorcans say they are smelly and no one bothers them. Any move at hundred feet will alarm them and off they go on a lazy, undulating flight with a call said to be "Poo, Poo, Poo." I had the pleasure of studying this fascinating bird for three days before we left Majorcas.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

Vol. 9 No. 7

February 1964

Extremely happy news for all members of our organization is the report that Chet Childs, our president who has been compelled to inactivity under doctor's orders, is sufficiently improving so that he will probably be able to assume his regular duties in March.

Largest of all contributions from any local society was the \$400 presented by Conrad H. Ekdahl for the Halifax River Audubon Society for the year 1963 to the state Florida Audubon Society at its annual meeting at Lakeland on Saturday, February 1st. Connie resigned from the board of directors of the state organization but was immediately elected to the advisory committee. Ralph and Margaret Branch, and Connie and Norma Ekdahl represented our society, and Margaret tells us more about it below.

ANNUAL DINNER Tickets will be available for the annual dinner to be held on March 16th at the next meeting, February 17th. The price is \$2 and it will be at the Elks Lodge, South Ridgewood and South Street. Food here is reported to be unusually good and the dinner will feature baked chicken and delicious pie. Be sure to make your reservation at the next meeting or call members of the committee; Willard Whiteman, chairman, George Murray, Alvin Pratt, Nettie Ross and Dorothy Vickert.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fenn Holden who has just been elected to the board of directors of the state Florida Audubon Society.

CORRECTION ATTENTION PLEASE: There will be no half-day trip on Saturday, March 7, as listed in the trip schedule on your yellow program. On this date there is an all-day trip to Titusville and Indian River Groves as listed. On March 14 there will be a half-day trip that is not scheduled on the program. Please make these changes in your program.

ATTENTION: Two new departments appear in this issue: Audubon Chatter is a column about members and birds. Let Elizabeth McCandless or Lillian Crosby know, by telephone or note, what you have seen, what you have done and where you have been. The other new department is Questions and Answers about birds and birding territory. By referring your questions to the proper authorities, we shall strive to publish authentic answers. Do not hesitate to send in your questions, as you are like many others who would like to know!

NOTICE: The next meeting will be held ^{Monday} ~~Thursday~~, February 17, at 7:00 p.m., at the social room of the Tourist Church. Mr. Roy Hudson's illustrated talks on the identification of birds will be followed by the business meeting at 7:30. After this Henry Dearborn reports three films from the "Film Booking Department" of Florida State University will be presented. Further detailed information about Mr. Hudson's talk and Mr. Dearborn's films is given below.

Mrs. Beatrice E. Pratt, Membership Secretary, reports that since the last monthly meeting, the following new members have joined our society:

Mrs. Mona Malfoeuf, 174 Broadway

Miss Gertrude H. Houghton, Watertown, New York

Mr. Ernest D. Scribner, 2026 N. Oceanside Blvd., Ormond

Mr. and Mrs. M. Grasse, 1208 S. Ridgewood Avenue

The names of three new members were inadvertently omitted from the previous issue of the Pelican. They are: Mr. & Mrs. William F. Randall, 621 N. Halifax Av.

Mrs. Hazel Walker, 115 Mitchell Place

Our present membership is 229. At a comparable date in 1963, our society's membership was 239.

ATTENTION: holders of Special Triple Memberships!

Our association is affiliated with the National Audubon Society but is not a "charter" group. As such we are not eligible for a refund to the local of local portions of triple dues. When renewing your national and Florida (state) memberships, you may have a "dual" membership which packages national and state dues at \$10 per individual or \$12.50 for family membership, but you will be personally responsible to our club for next year's local dues, according to Mrs. Pratt.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: According to the by-laws of the Halifax River Audubon Society, it is required that the membership have published notice of a contemplated amendment to the Constitution and By-laws one month in advance of election. The following is therefore submitted to fulfill this requirement:

Article 5: "The Officers of this society shall be a president and three vice presidents of equal rank, a recording secretary and a membership secretary and a treasurer whose duties shall be those set forth in the by-laws."

Proposed Amended Article 5: The officers of this society shall be a president and three vice presidents of equal rank and a recording secretary, a membership-corresponding secretary, a treasurer and an historian whose duties shall be those set forth in the by-laws.

AUDUBON CHATTER: by Elizabeth McCandless

We want to know more about every one -- not just a few. Help us to have the Pelican represent all the membership by turning in short news items about you and your friends.

Ike Merrill, George Murray and Henry Dearborn saw about 65 or 70 knots in groups just south of Sunglow Pier during the last week in January. They report black-backed gulls here, too.

The Willard Whitemans have returned at last from six weeks in Schnectady, New York. Good winter birding there.

Frank and Lillian Crosby spent several days in January birding with the Florida Audubon sponsored trip at Flamingo and the Everglades. Many spoonbills are there now just before going into nesting season. On their way home near Okeechobee they came within close range of a group of 30 glossy ibis and a Cara-cara making a meal on a dead rabbit along the roadside.

At Enterprise Cemetery on February 1, about 25 heavily streaked birds busily eating pine seeds were identified by five Audubon members as Pine Siskins. It is believed that these birds set a record for Florida. Among the witnesses were Henry Dearborn, Willard Whiteman and Elizabeth McCandless.

Velma Hayes had a clipping from the Manchester Guardian. It told about the excitement (Audubonly) in the British Isles by the arrival - via a fall storm - of three strange birds: namely, a red-eyed vireo, a Baltimore oriole and a rose-breasted grosbeak. It seems that our red-eye is similar to their black cap warbler. Their oriole is the golden and found all over Europe. They do not have a grosbeak like ours; but distant cousins are the Pine grosbeak (Scandinavia) the scarlet grosbeak (Russia) and the crossbill (found in most of Europe).

KNOW THE BIRDS-PLUS By Roy Hudson

This month is not a bird-book-and-picture project. It is a field assignment. Assuming that I were confined to a wheelchair, able to be rolled to a window, I should be able to see, without binoculars, at least the first ten birds listed below. When I could be up and out, within a very short distance from our home, I might add another fifteen. Within one season, we identified 132 birds within walking distance of home. Depending on where you live, your list may be different, but even if you go no farther than a window, birds will come to you.

You will stimulate observation and enrich your outdoor life, if you add many of the other easy nature interests to your birds. Back of our home are four vacant lots, recently bull-dozed, and grown up in "what-have-you." The inhabitants may change from time to time. In addition to several birds that like it, we have found some 35 species of flowering plants - some quite exotic and some weedy - everything from orchids to stick-tights. And there within sight of our own yard, we could observe swamp rabbits, wood rats, field mice, voles, lizards, and more worms, insects and spiders than we could list, and more than a dozen kinds of trees and shrubs, not including cultivated nursery plants.

From the time this reaches you to the next meeting, you will have a week or so of time. Will all of you, whether leading or going on field trips, or observing from your own "wheel chair", please MAKE A LIST of all birds seen and identified during that period of time? It may be ten or it may be a hundred. Make a list and know the number. I'll ask you for a total report at the next meeting.

The following list is not for study or for pictures at the next meeting. (That is a surprise) Take your book and get outside. That is where you will see most of these birds during that week. The more often and the farther afield you go, the more you will see and the more fun you will have. Happy Hunting!!

Mocking bird, red-bellied woodpecker, mourning dove, starling, house sparrow, blue jay, brown pelican, ring-billed gull, cardinal, fish crow. (That's ten). Red winged blackbird, house wren, meadow lark, belted kingfisher, sparrow hawk, herring gull, sanderling, royal tern, Forster's tern, black bellied plover, double crested cormorant, ^{common} grackle, common egret, ruddy turnstone, myrtle warbler, palm warbler. If you LOOK for these, you will see twice as many.

The death of Edward E. Pinckney in January in Penn Yan, New York, is reported by Beatrice Pratt. Mr. Pinckney was a long time member of the Halifax River Audubon Society and although Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney have recently wintered in Bradenton, they have many friends here who will be interested to know that Mrs. Pinckney plans to return to Daytona Beach and become active again in HRAS.

NEXT MEETING At the February 17 meeting, Henry Dearborn reports that he will have three films from the "Film Booking Department" of Florida State University, of Tallahassee, Birds of Prey in black and white, showing common species in natural habitat. Such birds as: turkey vulture, marsh hawk, red-tailed hawk, rough legged hawk, sparrow hawk, bald eagle, barn owl, great horned owl, and snowy owl.

Birds of the Countryside in color, emphasizing the value of birds to man, and featuring the indigo bunting, meadow lark, night hawk, red-tailed hawk, king-bird and killdeer.

Audubon and Birds of America. The life and works of John James Audubon recreates youthful beginnings in America and takes us to the completion of his study "The Birds of America". In color.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How is it possible for shorebirds to stand for hours on one leg?

Answer: These birds hold the body in an oblique position by strong muscles balancing it between the knees, the rigid frame make this oblique position possible without tiring.

Question: How many species of birds are found in North America?

Answer: Scientists disagree about this as some of them group species together; others separate them. Most agree however that the total number is in the region of 650. In a 30,000 mile trip of birding areas in North America, Roger Tory Peterson and James Fischer established a record for one year of 572 seen.

TRIP DIRECTOR George Williams reports an enthusiastic group of persons are taking advantage of the Wednesday morning instruction classes in bird identification. Three excellent instructors conduct these classes; they are, Fred Ackerman, Connie Ekdahl and Margaret Branch. They meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 at City Island Parking lot, and if you wish to increase your joy in living and your bird knowledge there is still time and room for you to join one of these groups. This is work in the field which is always very valuable.

FIELD NOTES By Margaret Branch

January field trips were more or less routine enjoyment. One was postponed because of a heavy all-day rain; fog almost hid the beach on another. But the hardy "regulars" bundled up and were rewarded for going forth. The birds were there! Field-trip-day combined totals still average 96 species. The smallest field group went out on Jan. 3, when the temperature was 44 degrees and there was frost at 7 a.m. The Jan. 11 trip, the sky overcast and the temperature in the 60's, was luckily only a half-day trip, for it poured in the afternoon. The Hudsons led us to birds galore above Ormond, however.

On the next Saturday there was an all-day trip to Silver Springs. The cold wind caused half of us to lunch in our cars, parked overlooking the Springs, but a walk in the sheltered woods nearby gave us all excellent birding which included warblers, gnatcatchers and thrushes. While lunching we watched grebes, gallinules and coots busy feeding out on the water. Silver Glen Springs is one of our top favorites for birds, picnics and swimming, usually good for these sports the year round. For our half-day trip on the 24th, it was warm again with the temperature in the 70's, although we had started out once again in a thick fog at 7:30 a.m.

THE 64TH FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S annual meeting, as always the first week-end in February, this year left Winter Park, the headquarters area, and was held in Lakeland. The expanded three-day activities are now to be called the annual "convention", including and ending with the usual all-day field trip on Sunday. Lakeland has a beautiful new civic center on the principal one of its 17 lakes (or lakelets) within the city limits. Here there is provided suitable rooms and adequate space for all exhibits, speakers, film and slide showings and book store. Four special meals (with speakers and toastmasters) are also held here and ample parking space is provided.

Dynamic President Ken Morrison opened the convention Friday morning. Executive Director Rus Mason and Lake Region Audubon Society's president, Mrs. Niswonger, was active in all areas. Mrs. Ray Moody (who led us around on the dykes at Duda Ranch last fall) is the new secretary of Florida Audubon Society, and our

treasurer and screen tour director, Connie Ekdahl resigned as a member of the board of directors on which he has served for approximately five years and was made a member of the advisory board.

This year, Lakeland being surrounded by extensive phosphate mining territory, the program featured speakers and films on the subject, and for the Sunday field trip, two big chartered busses were carefully guided into the generally forbidden phosphate sanctuaries. These are being developed around lakes made where dangerous and unsightly pits and barren spoil banks followed huge operations. One official showed rather amazing pictures of present experiments in restoring the countryside to use and beauty after trainloads of phosphate rock have been processed and removed. The Florida phosphate industry has a "4 million dollar payroll". In the deep pits, shallow water hides forty feet of pumped-in residue called "slime" which would stick to us like paste and act like quicksand. It is a mystery how an anhinga can dive into this and come up spotless and sleek. Dead trees, crumbling bush-covered banks and dangerous pit-lakes (people are barred) make grand roosts for numberless wood storks, herons and egrets which nest there.

The 1964 Convention program was very full and varied. Birds, conservation, wildflowers of Florida, bird carvings and painting, wild-life photography, snakes and amphibians and Florida parks were a few of the many subjects. Three hundred were reported registered but all were probably not in attendance for the entire convention period. The whole package is too exhausting, and too expensive and too fully packed for some of us. Next February the convention is to be at Jacksonville Beach, and many of our members should enjoy at least portions of it - all, if they can TAKE it! from Margaret Branch

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Vol. 9 No. 2

~~to 4~~

March 1964
~~October~~

The most important festive occasion of the Halifax River Audubon Society is the ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER to be held this year on March 16th at the Elks' Lodge, South Ridgewood and South Streets. This event should receive priority on your engagement calendar for March as the hardworking committee is making every effort to make this a gala event with excellent entertainment and unusually delicious food. The price is \$2.00 and you ^{may} make your reservation or buy a ticket by contacting any member of the committee by mail or telephone. They are Willard Writeman, chairman, George Murray, Alvin Pratt, Nettie Ross and Dorothy Vickert. The deadline for these reservations is Thursday, March 12th. Hurry! Hurry!

OVER THE TOP: A record high in membership for our society has been reached this year. It now totals 241 exceeding last year's membership of 239. Congratulations to Beatrice Pratt, membership secretary, and to other loyal and devoted members who have made this banner year possible. We welcome these new members:

Mrs. Alice Eldridge, 321 N. Ocean Avenue (from Western Springs, Ill.)

Miss Lucinda E. Johnson, Ormond Hotel, Ormond Beach

Mrs. Carl Lange, 20 San Jose Drive, Ormond Beach

Mrs. Ruby Miller, Ormond Hotel, Ormond Beach

Mrs. Stella Rogazz, Tahiti Motel (Cleveland, Ohio)

Mr. Thomas A. Spencer 337 Manhattan Avenue

Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Johnson, 116 Sun Dance Trail, Ormond Beach

Mrs. Herbert M. Fillebrown, 431 N. Halifax Avenue

→ DID YOU KNOW THAT the entire state of Florida regards the Halifax River Audubon Society with awe and respect because it ranks first in so many areas? We have been recognized for a number of years as having more and better conducted bird trips than most areas, for our outstanding educational work in schools and with beginning birders; we rank first in the state in tour screen attendance for the size of our area and second only to St. Petersburg in the entire state, and for our financial contributions to the state Florida Audubon Society. These are only a few of our activities and we plan in the future to tell you more in detail about our branch. Frank Berger, who so ably edited the PELICAN for the first issues of the year, has promised to write the story of the history of our organization which is now more than 40 years old. Watch for his article.

CONRAD EKDAHL urges you and your friends not to miss the fifth and last screen tour of the season on March 28th in Peabody Auditorium. Alfred M. Bailey, whom Connie knew some years ago when living in LaGrange, Illinois, while the former was the Director of the Chicago Natural History Museum, will present an excellent illustrated talk on "Ecuador's Enchanted Isles"

DANGER ALERT! For the second straight year, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has permitted Texas Ranchers or their agents to kill golden eagles in 32 Texas counties during the lambing season, but denying them the use of airplanes or poison. They are permitted to shoot eagles from the ground, or catch them in steel traps by setting them around dead sheep.

A pressure group, including a few pilots, are using every means to force Secretary Udall to change his regulations and permit a resumption of the aerial slaughter which, until stopped, was steadily depleting the golden eagle population of western North America.

Please express your views promptly by letter or telegram to Mr. W. R. Poage, chairman, House Livestock Sub-Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Ask him to make your message a part of the hearing record. Also be sure to write your own representative if you reside elsewhere than in Mr. Poage's district. D. R. Matthews, of Florida, is a member of Mr. Poage's Livestock Sub-Committee. Your prompt message urging him to support Secretary Udall in his prohibition of the aerial slaughter of the golden eagles in Texas would be very helpful. Do it today! Do it now!

AUDUBON CHATTER by Elizabeth McCandless

Connie and Norma Ekdahl found the first Parula Warbler of the season on DuPont Road on February 25th.

Iydia Hamilton, of Hamilton, Ontario, our birding companion during the many winters she spent at Whitehall, now sends us word of her trips and finds in Maine and Ontario. Following the extra-successful Christmas bird count (98 species) in December, the "Hamilton Spectator" published an entire page with bird illustrations, rather like our local page which recently featured Fenn Holden's bird studies. Their leading species; a black-backed, three-toed woodpecker and 20 king eider ducks would have been unheard of here. They also pictured re-tailed hawks (152) and starlings (4,100). We miss Iydia and her keen eye for spotting.

We understand the Fenn Holdens are spending a week at Flamingo and the Everglades. We look forward to more of Fenn's incomparable bird photographs.

Lillian and Frank Crosby have returned from Wakulla Springs and St. Marks Wild Life Sanctuary. Some persons do not believe the limpkins came up on the dock and "talked" back to them but just take a little trip up there and find out. They saw whistling swans in the refuge; "whistling in the rain," they say, for Tallahassee has had the same kind of rainy weather as Daytona. There are wood ducks and mandarin ducks on the lake at the inn.

Mr. R. J. Longstreet, prominent ornithologist, author, lecturer and teacher and one of the Halifax River Audubon Society's beloved founders, regrets exceedingly that his health will not permit him to attend our annual dinner. We wish to express our gratitude to him for the excellent groundwork he did in organizing our society. Mr. H. C. Chambers, who was treasurer for HRAS for 14 years, is also unable to make the trip from Pittsburgh where he now lives, for this occasion.

A charming letter from Essex, Mass., from our dear friend, Miss Addie Hobbs (who is getting about with a walker now) tells of the birds on her winter feeder gold and purple finches, juncos, song sparrows, white breasted nuthatches, hairy and downy woodpeckers, an occasional pheasant and grosbeak. There are many chickadees but her thrill is two pine siskins. Even a broken hip can't spoil this birder's enjoyment. She recommends reading "ALL THE BIRDS IN THE BIBLE" by Alice Parmelee. Thank you, Miss Addie.

A jar lid of bacon fat seems to be the main attraction for the many birds now coming to my feeder. Lately there have been Maryland yellow throats, myrtle warblers, brown thrashers, bluejays, cardinals, field, house, white-throated and chipping sparrows and house wrens. What surprises have you had lately? Let me know. -- Elizabeth.

FIELD TRIPS and WORKSHOPS By George Williams

I want to emphasize the value of our morning "workshops" which start from the parking area east of the recreation building every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. For those members not well-versed in the birds of Florida and the species who use Florida as a part of their northern migration flyway, the instructors and their knowledge of these birds can be of immeasurable help. Conrad Ekdahl, Fred Ackerman and Margaret Branch are giving their time to improve your birding pleasure.

Your club officers hope that through your attendance, many new group leaders and field directors will become available. Before the season ends, I hope to take over one Wednesday morning session to give a talk on the duties of group leaders and trip directors.

The birding trips of the past four weeks have produced some interesting features which culminated in our spring trip to Cape Kennedy. Five small groups for that trip-day recorded 131 species identified which tops the number recorded for any one-day field trip. This was a pleasant and rewarding day's effort for the 48 members who braved the wind, rain and mists which they endured between 7:30 in the morning to 4:30 in the afternoon. However, most of our members felt that the birds seen amply offset the discomforture of the weather. Among the unusual birds identified were: the bald eagle, Canada goose, marbled godwit and both short and long-billed curlew. These species are seldom seen north of Canaveral harbor. One group saw an eagle's nest with two young on it and both parents in the nearby area. Considering the weather, the appearance of 48 birders was gratifying and more than justified the faith of your trip director in calling out five excellent group leaders to assist in making the all-day trip a highly successful one. Read Margaret Branch's detailed account in her Field Notes in this issue!

FIELD NOTES by Margaret Branch

This February was a difficult month, indeed, for hitting upon good trip days, but we dodged bad weather on both sides, enjoying half-days on February 7th and 21st, and whole-day trips, west and north, on the 1st and 15th, just as scheduled way back last summer.

Then came February 28th and the long-anticipated journey south to Cape Canaveral. It was one of those warm, gray days when showers descend at most inconvenient intervals -- weather that is sometimes referred to as "open and shet -- sign of more wet". Nevertheless, our people gathered in numbers shortly after seven in the morning and George Williams sent forth group after group with a black rain cloud traveling along above us as we made our way by various southerly routes, 2 to 4 cars for each leader.

On this trip, we never could all get together. Our picnic spot was awash with rain puddles and noon was our wettest hour. Two cars reached a friend's home on the Cape where they ate lunch on a covered porch while they watched painted buntings at a feeder. The other ten cars sheltered their passengers who managed to keep dry and quite comfortably enjoying sandwiches, cookies and the contents of thermos bottles. In the afternoon, the weather cleared, and altogether we had a combined grand list of 131 species of land and water birds. These included as George Williams has mentioned in the previous article: 4 bald eagles, osprey, white pelicans (hundreds), dowitchers, whimbrels, Dunlins, glossy ibis, Wilson's plovers, great black-backed gulls, common gallinules, and painted buntings. Ducks are not common in our home area, except the red-breasted merganser and scaup which like our brackish waters. We found it exciting on this trip to look over numerous coots and discover beyond them shovellers, redheads, mottleds, pintails, canvas backs, American widgeons, blue-winged teals and hooded mergansers.

This was our first trip since that fatal November 22nd to the Cape which has, quite fittingly, changed its name to Cape Kennedy. There are still many side roads, causeways, dozens of ponds and shores where birding is good, for this is the Cocoa area that has the largest national Christmas bird count every year. This year, however, the Houston, Texas, area ran an uncomfortable close second to them; they were only 3 birds behind them in the runner-up. Birders making this trip should dodge or by-pass, somehow, the thick and fast traffic with its huge, loaded trucks hurrying to take over the Cape. Canaveral, meaning "sea of grass", it should no longer be called.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Henry W. Dearborn announces that the color films for the next meeting will be "Our Wildlife Heritage", and "The Bald Eagle, Our National Bird."

In the first film, "Animals are intimately portrayed in their natural environment, and birds of many varieties are shown in the four seasons as they migrate, incubate, feed, and protect their young." The National Audubon Society speaks of the second film as: "A magnificent documentary film showing the habits, behavior and seasonal movements of our national bird, and presenting some of its problems". "Includes dramatic scenes of the vast concentrations of Alaskan eagles, as well as close-ups of the Florida nesting birds."

Marion J. Anderson: The death during February of Marion Anderson marked the passing of a valued member of the Halifax River Audubon Society. He had been an active member since the beginning of the club. His latest activity had been as screen tour conductor immediately preceding Conrad Ekdahl.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How many species of birds are found in North America?

Answer: To supplement last month's answer to this question, what the inquirer probably meant to ask was the number in the Continental United States, which, because of Alaska, also includes Canada and Greenland, but not Mexico, except Baja, California, which is bird-wise a part of California. There have been 5 editions of the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, 1886, 1895, 1910, 1931 and the current issue of 1957. The original edition of 1886 listed 768 species of birds, and many races or subspecies. Since 1886, 15 species have been dropped for various reasons; 20 have been ruled identical with other species; and 132 new species have been added, with at least 6 more since the 5th edition was published, making a total of 871.

There are also 24 species not numbered above, in a Hypothetical List, with perhaps one sight record or otherwise not satisfactorily identified. In addition, Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" has a special section on birds of Hawaii which includes many species not found in Continental United States.

Restricting the count to this A.O.U. Check-List, the top birder in the United States is Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, with a count of 669. Roger Peterson is second with 638. Both have lists much higher, including birds outside of the U.S.A. from Roy Hudson

Question: Do any birds hibernate rather than migrate?

Answer: Many years ago it was believed that most birds hibernated during the cold. Recent studies indicate that some boatsuckers, swifts and occasionally some hummingbirds may enter a torpid state. In 1949, a study was made by scientists of a poorwill in a state of hibernation for a period of 85 days. Much has yet to be learned of the migration and hibernation of birds.

Question: Why do birds sing?

Answer: To proclaim territory, for a mating invitation, as a manifestation of peak vitality, for flock formation, and perhaps for the very joy of living.

OF FRED AND ARISTOTLE

For a long time we have wanted to tell you about Fred Ackerman but he is strangely reticent to tell us very much about himself so that any errors in the following will have to fall upon his own head. First, like the famous Greek, Aristotle, who you remember was a tutor to Alexander the Great, he is a natural-born teacher and scientist, with a passion for ornithology. Like Aristotle, he has a great respect for and the comprehension of established fact. You recall that Aristotle anticipated Bacon and the modern scientific movement in his realization of the importance of ordered knowledge. He set himself the task of gathering and setting down knowledge of natural phenomena. This was the first gleam of organized scientific inquiry in the world. Fred, too, has this gift of patience for observing carefully and recording in detail, without which no scientist can be. Some of the things we do know about Fred is that he is one of our best and most patient instructors and leaders in field trips. We have not been able to find out if he put up the bird houses on City Island but he does take the responsibility for having them cleaned and in shape when the birds come back.

We know that he works hard selling tickets to the Audubon screen tours and is probably our top salesman, and that he has one of the most carefully detailed and recorded bird list in our membership. But let Fred talk to you himself, as he writes with all the charm of the famous Pepys' Diary which is one of our classics:

From Fred: The instruction group met this morning (2-26-64) and had a good morning of lessons; 2 purple sandpipers, 25 martins, 12 Savannah sparrows, horned grebes, 2 clapper rails, 2 black ducks, 1 spotted sandpiper, a great black-backed gull, 2 willets, 18 snipe, 2 Caspian terns and 1 Canada goose at Port Orange (which is a very scarce bird around here). Mrs. Von Thurm was the witness for the Canada goose. Sixty species more were seen and more than 100 coots. Sharptail sparrows and robins are migrating fast now through the Daytona Beach area.

(2-19-64) Today we saw a flicker sitting in my small martin house at City Island to nest.

(2-7-64) Martins returned from South America to my 24-room house all smacked and clean and newly painted. In other years martins came home to Daytona as follows: January 29 - 1957; February 9, 1958; February 14, 1959; February 9, 1960; February 20, 1961; February 9, 1962; February 14, 1963. See purple sandpipers in two's almost every day at City Island.

A Trip:

By the time I drove over town to pick up Mrs. Farr and then back to get Mrs. Block and then Miss Velma Hayes out in Ormond, I just did not know where the bird club had gone so we started out and worked north looking for scrub jays but had no luck. However, we kept probing around in our slow and easy way and we found 9 white ibis, 25 cedar waxwings, 2 cattle egrets and 23 Forster terns almost in one flock, which was quite a treat. There was also one lone osprey. Fifty-five tree swallows circled around us at Dr. Folk's pond where we also found 7 wood ibis, 12 Savannah sparrows, 2 Bob Whites, 3 Caspians, catbirds, coots and ring-necked ducks. Presently we tried our secret place where things were popping with brown thrashers, chipping sparrows, towhees, white throats, cardinals, redwings and an immature redtailed hawk. A little later, while driving along some exclaimed about a flock of birds so Fred had to turn around to go and find them. Pure gold in the sunshine there they were, another flock of Cedar Waxwings.

March 1964

page 6

When we stopped at our place to eat we were greeted by bluebirds, field sparrows, meadow larks, gold finches and grackles. After lunch we brought out the 'scope and found myriad birds: piping plovers, semi-palmated plovers, willets, yellow legs, (both greater and lesser) many herons and egrets, gulls, warblers and sparrows. The climax of the trip occurred at Crescent Bridge where our outstanding finds were 3 gull-billed terns, Dunlins, dowitchers, 24 white pelicans, and many others. On our way home we found 2 beautiful hooded Mergansers, red breasted merganser, and a scrub jay came down from the wire when I produced peanuts while four of his brothers came out of hiding to feast also. We saw 100 black skimmers at the Matanzas bridge. On our way home Ninety-one species were observed in all their glory. Oh what a wonderful morning; oh, what a wonderful day!

IN APRIL of each year, THE PELICAN folds its wings and hibernates until the following October. We look back this year on a job well done by officers, committee chairmen and an enthusiastic membership, so that our "parting is a sweet sorrow". The well-conducted field trips, the screen tours and lecture slides, together with the Wednesday morning instruction field trips constituted a course in ornithology that might be the ideal of any college curriculum. The membership expresses its gratitude to those who gave their time, knowledge and experience to thus enrich our lives, for scientists now know that while "birds can live without man, man cannot live without the birds."

OUR PRESIDENTS, PAST AND PRESENT: Chester H. Childs, one of Halifax River Audubon Society's most respected, revered and efficient presidents has turned over his gavel to Rose P. Block, the new president for the 1964-1965 season. Plagued by ill health and restrictive doctor's orders, Mr. Childs has nevertheless kept his finger on the pulse of the society's activities and given assistance to Mrs. Herbert Monroe who took over the presidency pro tem, and to her hardworking committees. How can thanks be expressed for such dedication! But Emerson has said it better than we can with: "Every institution is but the lengthened shadow of one man." The present status of HRAS is the living thanks for this president's work.

Says Mr. Childs: "Five years ago I accepted the presidency of the Halifax River Audubon Society, little did I think that I would serve that long. However, I have enjoyed the memories and the associations of these years and have been much gratified in watching the society grow until its many successes have made it one of the best and largest societies in the state.

The office of president, although it is important, cannot succeed without the other officers and committees doing the brunt of the work. My committees and officers have done just that, and I thank each and every one, plus the entire membership.

Now with many new officers and committees, the success of every endeavor will depend on the backing they get. I am sure the club will grow and reach many more high goals, and I wish them every possible success."

ROSE P. BLOCK: A professional woman of stature, Mrs. Block, our new president, has been a member of the Halifax River Audubon Society since 1946, serving the organization in many capacities since 1948. She has been an educator, journalist, college librarian, wife, mother, and church and community worker in many areas. She is also an accomplished musician and has been prominent in forensic and little theatre activities. She came to Florida, in 1944 where she was house mother and disciplinarian for the U.S.O. club in Tampa until the end of the war. After coming to Daytona Beach, she was supervisor and house mother for the student nurses' dormitory until Mary Karl became part of Daytona Beach Junior College. Frank C. Parker, superintendent of the Michigan Masonic Home wrote to her:

"In recognition of your twelve years of faithful service with the Michigan Masonic Home, I wish to extend to you this word of appreciation for your loyalty, sacrificial services, absolute dependability and unfailing honesty during every one of those years."

From her rich and varied background, Mrs. Block brings to her new post vibrant energy and untiring devotion. Of herself she says:

"During my life in Daytona Beach, I have had various hobbies: ceramics, oil painting, hooked rugs, foreign languages, but the greatest pleasure has come from the study of birds, flowers and butterflies. I have enjoyed working as field director on many special committees connected with these interests. I have also been historian of our organization for three years, which I enjoyed immensely. While I really did not anticipate becoming president of the Halifax River Audubon Society, now that I am about to assume the responsibility of this office, I look forward to working with a group of the finest workers I have ever known."

WELCOME, NEW OFFICERS:Board of Directors

Mrs. Rose P. Block	president
Mrs. Hiram J. Farr	vice president
Mrs. Harvey W. Funk	vice president
Mr. Henry Dearborn	vice president
Mrs. Robert Henderson	secretary (recording)
Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt	secretary (membership)
Mr. Conrad H. Ekdahl	treasurer (screen tour dir.)
Mr. George Murray	member-at-large
Mr. Willard Whiteman	member-at-large
Mrs. Frank Crosby	Editor, Pelican

PERIL ALERT! It has come to our attention that the following detergents are about to be outlawed in Dade County, Florida, because they contain alykyl benzine sulphate which remains poisonous after going through sewage systems and thus endangers fish and wild life. They are: TIDE, PREMIUM DUZ, FAB, OXYDOL, RINSO, VIM, SALVO and CHEER. Let's be good conservationists and do our bit in discouraging their use!

OVER THE TOP AGAIN: Although the birding season is waning and this is the last issue of THE PELICAN, Beatrice Pratt, membership secretary, reports more new members and another new high for our enrollment, topping all previous records. Our total 244! The new members since the last issue are:

Mrs. Martha Grant 517 Frances Terrace, Daytona Beach
 Mr. William R. Moore 23 Sunset Boulevard Ormond Beach
 Mrs. George C. Morrow 1612 Crescent Ridge Rd. Daytona Beach

Omitted accidentally from the February PELICAN were:

Dr. and Mrs. John M. Wilcox, Tahiti Motel, Daytona Beach

Your membership secretary wishes you all a happy summer and looks forward to the fall when we hope to have a bigger and better season than ever before.

AUDUBON CHATTER by Elizabeth McGandless

We are happy to announce that Jean Hudson's father in Canada is better and that Jean and Roy are now at their home in Asheville, North Carolina.

A week ago, Ike Merrill and George Murray had just crossed the railroad tracks, entering Dupont Road, when they saw a summer tanager and a prothonotary warbler, the first reported this season.

Fred Ackerman left on April 4th for Cleveland, Ohio, for the summer.

Our well-loved Helen and Leo Sandefur write from San Diego that they are up to their necks in the Audubon society there, and they are finding southern California increasingly interesting. They are especially blessed with many humming-birds in their garden.

In the Sandefur's society publication "Sketches", it is interesting to note that the society here provides a scholarship to the Audubon Camp for the West for a state park ranger; that some of their field trips are two-day ones, and that a large ranch has set aside some 50 acres for the exclusive use of the San Diego Audubon Society.

A black poll warbler briefly visited the Pratt's feeder in Ormond recently.

After a plethora of guests from Michigan - five of them being grandchildren - Margaret Branch will take off for an Audubon tour to Trinidad and Tobago about April 15th.

Peggy Dence, one of our best birders, has been ill in Halifax Hospital, but is home now.

We hear the killdeer are "fanning" their tails at Foulk's Pond.

A short time ago, Frank and Lillian Crosby found a great horned owl had taken over the famous old eagle's nest in Allandale and was raising two "bonnie" owlets in it. The Crosby's will leave around April 15th for New Orleans and Rockport, Texas, and other good birding spots.

It is with sadness that we realize that many of our members will migrate northward with the birds in another month. We who remain here (and we shall do quite a bit of birding in your absence) will miss you and will look forward to your early fall return. So good fortune and good birding to you all, and our love goes with you. Let this column know of the wonders you see!

HAVE YOU EVER been threatened by two great blue herons or invited to breakfast with six white pelican? These incidents were two highlights of a fabulous birding trip that Al and I enjoyed about the middle of March along the Bayway from St. Petersburg to Fort DeSoto Park. It was truly "classroom" birding for the comparisons were there to make: Royal and Caspian Terns; Common and Forster's Terns; Long and Short-billed Curlews; Willets, Dowitchers and Yellowlegs; Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers; Snow, Piping, Semi-palmated and Wilson's Plovers.

The Bayway runs by an island community in the making with seawalls already built and sand and marl blown in to form many fingers upon which homes will be constructed. We turned out onto a barren finger to look over the seawall. There was a Great Blue Heron standing on the parapet so I took a tack away from him so as not to disturb him. As I reached the seawall, he stepped from the parapet and stretched one wing full length. While I enjoyed this show, another Great Blue joined him. They circled around until they had us between them and the seawall and then each spread both wings to the full seven foot span and advanced deliberately toward us. When they came within fifteen feet of us, they stopped and stood looking balefully at us. We thought that discretion was the better part of valor and returned to our car. Looking back, we wonder if we had stayed might they have forced us over the seawall and into the sea?

On the sandspits at the North Beach was a colony of skimmers which we were able to approach to within fifteen yards as the air rang with the screaming mirth of laughing gulls. The next day a cool wind was blowing and all the small fry had sought shelter. In the backwater we saw scores of Common and Snowy Egrets, Little Blue and Louisiana Herons, and Brown Pelicans feasting, while a dozen Great Blue Herons apparently stood as sentinels in a semi-circle around them and a grandfather Wood Ibis snoozed nearby. We turned to the other side of the road and found a closely grouped flock of scores of White Ibis sweeping the water for food like a corps of "whitewings" sweeping the streets of New York City after a tickertape parade. Soon two White Pelicans glided in on black-tipped wings and set their bright yellow, webbed feet, heels down and toes up, to hit the water like skis. After they settled on the water they were joined by four others from somewhere. Not twenty yards from shore, we saw them demonstrate the difference in feeding habits between them and their brown cousins. The Brown Pelicans rose into the air a foot or two to make a shallow dive for food, but the White Pelicans just sat and stretched out their necks and with those great bills fanned the water a few inches below the surface, then threw back their heads and swallowed.

It was indeed an experience to observe at such close hand nature's beautiful children feeding on such a bounteous supply. We could not bear to leave them and we never shall, for the picture is burned into our memories for all time.

If you would share the thrill of magnificent birding along such a wild and secluded shoreline, make it a must to bird the Bayway to Fort DeSoto Park. You reach it by turning west off Highway 19 about a mile or so north of the toll gates to the Sunshine Skyway. It is well marked and we suggest that you go all the way out, for each turn in the road holds new pleasures.

Beatrice E. Pratt

HENRY DEARBORN, program director, announces that "African Safari" will be presented by Mrs. John Walker at the next monthly meeting on April 20th at Tourist Church. Mrs. Walker took an 8-weeks' tour of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, living in landrovers and covering "the greatest game country" left in the world. Both colored slides and movies will be used to present some of the highlights of the wildlife and natural habitat of these areas.

FENN HOLDEN will substitute for Roy Hudson (who is in North Carolina) on the Know the Birds of the Month at the April meeting. He will show pictures and lecture about them.

The membership will also elect an historian. The nominee for this office at this time is George Williams, former trip director for the past 5 years.

FIELD NOTES by Margaret Branch

Saturday, March 7th, was a lovely day for our field trip down into the Titusville area with lots of birds and enthusiastic birders. Our little subgroup listed 88 species, and the combined total was, of course, over 100.

March 14th was a half-day trip and everyone was a little let-down after the exciting whole-day and picnic of the week before. A large flock of about 50 wood storks, taking off and soaring close to us, was our brightest item in the High Bridge territory.

On the following Wednesday morning, our instruction class found about 25 wood storks and 50 egrets feeding together beside Tomoka Farm Road, just south of the dairy farm where we often stop to explore. This time the wood storks, great (common) egrets, 2 dozen snowy egrets and other birds all took flight, so we studied them close by, those grounded and those flying. We had hoped to see a swallow-tailed kite there, too, but instead watched a flock of white ibis fly over our road (16 immatures, 4 adults) and, to complete the show, a pair of red-shouldered hawks, chasing and calling. Previous to this, we had enjoyed seeing bluebirds on the wires and had found four black-necked stilts at Bethune Point.

Our most recent jaunt of Friday, April 3rd, should be included here. This began a series of four whole-day trips to take advantage of the fine weather and migration time. The Rock Springs trip gave us a wealth of species, but few new or exciting ones. Forty of us went and gathered to picnic at the comfortable shelter there. Everybody was happy. But we all hope for many new migrants, as well as a good crowd and perfect weather on April 11th.

A word about a new book that you may, already, have seen, "Handbook of North American Birds" that Yale University Press is just starting to bring out, at intervals, in 20 volumes. The first volume is a thick, heavy, expensive "handbook" indeed, but just fine to borrow from the library and to study. My resolve to refer to wood stork and not wood ibis and great egret rather than American or common has been confirmed by this authoritative source. Roger Tory Peterson argued with the A. O. U. for wood stork in the last edition but could not convince all those professional ornithologists on that point.

Another few words about the Holden slides! They are too fine and unique not to be more appreciated in this area, beyond our membership. Six garden clubs and school programs used the slides this season. Hazel Walker was a great help for the program with the largest audience at the Art Institute. Six showings were plenty for me, but the slides are in fine shape and will be in Carlton Smith's hands ready for others to use any time. I especially enjoy giving the school programs and I have also enjoyed my little instruction class every third Wednesday in the out-of-doors. (The other two instructors have been Conrad Ekdahl and Fred Ackerman). More of "you-all" should have joined us as assistant instructors if reluctant to be pupils. So long, until fall! Margaret B.

GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, for the past 5 years, has held one of the most difficult and arduous jobs in our society - that of field trip director. During this time George has been a vice president in charge of the activities division, and it has been largely through his zeal, organization ability, and good public relations that our field trips in the Halifax area have received state-wide acclaim. The membership extends to him affection, respect and gratitude as he leaves this particular post. He tells us of these years in the following:

"The late Colonel O. E. Thomas, my neighbor in Ormond Beach, some five years ago suggested to Chester Childs and the late Bob Henderson that they ask me to accept the responsibilities of a vice presidency and trip director for the 1959-60 HRAS season. Thanks to their advice and the whole-hearted cooperation of the active members, the changes inaugurated that season have materially added to the pleasure of birding with the Halifax River Audubon Society.

"Those members who have acted as group leaders are the real backbone of the system which has made possible the results which have been so satisfactory to our membership. I feel quite sure that with a little assistance on my part in the preparation of routes for each group and securing group leaders before the day of each trip, my successor will be able to carry on with equal satisfaction to our birders. I have agreed to keep the records of species observed, together with other details and, when needed, to lead a group now and then.

"The executive committee has nominated me to fill the new position of historian for HRAS, and if elected I look forward to some very interesting researches in this work.

"One parting thought! I sincerely hope that many of our birders who during the past five years have asked me to assign to their cars a good bird identifier will join the "study group" which will start in November. This should develop their ability to the point where they in turn could readily identify most of the species seen in this area."
- George W.

MARGERY J. WOEHR is one of our new members this year who brings to us a wealth of experience and knowledge gained through her devotion and activities with birding groups in many states throughout our nation. Here she tells us about it most interestingly:

"My first experience with the Audubon Society was in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where I was a member of the Stockbridge Chapter. As a beginner, I attended the Audubon Screen Tours and went on field trips the year around. Many times in the winter I had to thaw out in a hot bath when I got home.

"When we moved to Erie, Penna. I got wise and bought insulated clothing. Believe me, we needed them! Erie had no Audubon chapter, so we announced a meeting of anyone interested in forming a bird club there. From that beginning, we formed the Presque Isle Nature Club, which later became the Presque Isle Audubon Society. Presque Isle is a Peninsula 7 miles long, jutting out into Lake Erie. It is an ideal place for naturalists. Water and shore birds, land birds, and wildlife are abundant. It is a natural target for migrating warblers and other birds every spring and fall.

"The warbler migration usually came in full swing around the second week-end in May. This was the high spot of our year's calendar. Nothing is quite as fascinating to the bird watcher as a wave of tiny brightly patterned warblers. They actually do come in waves! The woodland seems quiet; then suddenly their wispy voices come out of nowhere and they seem to blossom forth from every tree. Todd has listed 36 warblers for Western Pennsylvania. I have sat on a log and called warblers too close for binoculars. I could see them better with the naked eye.

"At this time we had our annual "Pymatuning Week-end". The Pymatuning group consisted of bird students from the tri-state area of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, plus a few from West Virginia. We organized early Saturday AM for the field trip on the Peninsula, had lunch at cabins there, then proceeded to Linesville, Pa., where we had a dinner and an evening program featuring movies and a lecture. We arose before dawn on Sunday to continue our birding around Pymatuning Dam and surrounding area. The founding of the Pymatuning Group was brought about 28 years ago by ideas springing from the meeting in Pittsburgh of the American Ornithologists Union. It was noted that the Pymatuning region was rich in many varied kinds of birds, but there were not enough professionals in this area to cover it well. Therefore, the group was born. Not only were the field trips varied and interesting, but the programs featured many VIPs in the birding world including George Sutton, Roger Tory Peterson, and Richard Pough - all noted in their field - as well as many others. The group has records of several very rare and unusual birds, both in the Pymatuning and Erie areas.

"The peninsula had an eagle nest, as it was an ideal breeding place for the eagle, whose diet consists mainly of fish which it finds along the shore. Being a shy bird, shunning the haunts of man, its future at Preque Isle is questionable. It seems that the wilderness there will soon be at a minimum. The peninsula is fast being built up as a resort area, with bath houses, administrative buildings, boat harbors, etc. Before we moved from Erie, they had already either trapped deer and transported them to other game lands or "harvested" nearly all of them.

"The peninsula also harbored pileated woodpeckers, "The Cock O' The Woods". Through a 20 power spotting scope, we had him close enough to count each feather in his flaming red crest. I shall never forget watching the exciting action of the parents feeding their babies. This is done in a most startling manner. The parents and young lock beaks and then as they literally shake each other's brains loose, the adult pumps pre-digested food into the mouth of a baby.

"We moved on to Cincinnati, Ohio, next, where I joined the Ohio Audubon Society and also the Cincinnati Bird Club. The birding there is fabulous. Cincinnati has a wonderful climate - the changing seasons, with winter being shorter and milder than farther north. (In Erie we had two seasons - winter and August). Cincinnati not only had a Christmas Bird Census, but also a Spring Nesting Census, as well as many other field trips scheduled throughout the year.

"Our home was a 3 acres of land, with many pines, ashes, maples, beeches, oaks, walnuts, and fruit trees, which afforded a heavenly habitat for birds. There were woods behind us which sloped down to a stream. This attracted more birds and more species than I could see on field trips, right in my own back yard. Even in winter I had 20-25 species feeding at my 3 feeders. It was a real thrill! At dawn in the winter, there'd be as many as a dozen pairs (24) cardinals at one time. They are as thick as robins. In springtime, the birds woke us at 4-4:30 every day with their beautiful songs.

"One of the spectacular and rare birds we saw, both in Erie and Cincinnati, was the evening grosbeak. They came from Canadian breeding grounds. Their invasion into Southwestern Ohio was incredible when compared to the scarcity of records for this northern finch in past years. All were eating at feeding stations liberally supplied with sunflower seeds. The two largest groups seen were of 24 and 40 steady patrons.

"In one of Cincinnati's County parks is a heronry of black-crowned night herons. They have nested there for 50 years, in a beech forest. The heronry is the only known nesting place of its kind in Southwestern Ohio, and is a bird-watcher's and botanist's delight. Naturalists are anxious to keep it intact, but it has been zoned for development of lands in a residential area. The beech forest has taken more than 1000 years to develop, some of the trees being more than 200 years old. Five lifetimes couldn't produce a beechwood forest like this. It's unusual that

society will pay millions of dollars to preserve a Rembrandt painting and destroy something that takes nature a millennium to fashion and couldn't be reproduced at any cost.

"Now that we have moved to Daytona Beach, I have made new friends again in the Audubon Society. Where could one find better ones? I am also learning new birds each time I go on a field trip, which hasn't been too often yet; but I hope it will be more regular in the future.

THE NOPEMING AUDUBON SOCIETY:

On April 1st, Inga Quam left for Barron, Wisconsin, where she will spend the coming months on beautiful Quamland farm. During the summer she will be active in the Nopeming Audubon Society of Barron. This society, started only 3 years ago, now has 30 enthusiastic adult members.

The highlight of the society at this time is the showing of the film "The Land the Glaciers Forgot", shown here January 4 by Howard L. Orions and arranged by Inga. The Barron High School where the film will be shown April 15th has a seating capacity of 800. Though the Nopeming society has many interesting and instructive programs and field trips, this is their first "dollars and cents" venture. They expect to fill every seat, and Inga herself ordered 20 tickets while in Daytona and sold them through the mail. She says: "If we had one, two or three Fred Ackermans up there, the auditorium would be quickly filled to overflowing. Fred sold 143 season tickets at \$3.00 each this season for the Halifax River Audubon Society here. He sold that many last year, and many in previous years. Hats off to Fred!"

The activities of this energetic group in Barron are varied and many. Last December in one of the Barron store windows there was an attractive display of different stule birdhouses, suitable foods for birds during the winter months, arranged by two of the society's members. On December 28th in sub-zero weather the organization had their third annual Christmas bird count, with a total of 639 birds and 22 species seen. A few weeks ago, the society purchased the book, "Birds of Wisconsin" by Owen Gromme, priced at \$22.50. This book shows more than 100 of the 328 listed species for Wisconsin. The book also gives detailed information as to habitat in relation to other birds and animals with which they are associated as predator or prey. Most of these birds migrate to warmer climates in the fall and return in the spring. by Inga Quam

Vol. 10 No. 1

October 1964

TO OFFICERS AND MEMBERS of the Halifax River Audubon Society, your President, Mrs. Rose Block, sends a welcome greeting. We begin the new year with faith and confidence in our efficiently organized group of nature lovers who will work with ardor in promoting the duties planned for us by our very good program committee.

May we view this duty as a trust bequeathed to us by the writers of our local constitution and by-laws. This guide is the finest in the land. Ours is a great work. We work not for fame. We work for joy in our labor. As Peterson says in his "Wild Life in Color", "Hamburger does not come from the butchershop. It comes from the land.", - meaning that if we destroy our swamps and our marshes, etc., all animal life will disappear. According to reports from State and National Audubon Societies, Congress has become more conservation minded. Maybe the food chains of all animal and bird life will eventually be protected. For this we must work always.

During the summer, where I remained with my birds and flowers, butterflies and bees, I was happy to receive many cards and letters from bird-loving friends and relatives.

Shore birds and gulls are returning. Grey Kingbirds have joined Eastern Kingbirds on their passage south. Crested Flycatchers no longer "weep". The screech of the swooping Nighthawk is missing. Cliff, Barn and Tree Swallows are passing. Redstarts and Warblers are on their long journey. Chimney Swifts have gone north to join other Swifts and Martins where they gather in southern Mississippi and Alabama before passing around the Gulf of Mexico on their usual Fall journey to South America.

A special message I send to absent members who will be with us in spirit only. Remember, we miss you and remember that we love you.

Rose Block, President

THE FIRST FALL MEETING will be held in the social room of the Seabreeze United Church at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 19. Do not be confused by the change of the name of the church. It was formerly Tourist Church, and in April changed to Seabreeze United. Mr. Dearborn has arranged for us to see three color films from the National Audubon Society. They are "The Wood Thrush", showing excellent scenes of the Wood Thrush nesting, hatching, and caring and feeding the young; "The Loon's Necklace" tells the Indian legend of how the Loon received his distinguished neckband; "Yours for a Song" shows how you can attract birds into your garden. These sound like excellent pictures. Come and bring a prospective member.

GEORGE MURRAY is spending the month of October in Hong Kong and thereabouts. He will return in early November, and will resume his job as trip director. In the meantime, George Williams will see to it that we are cared for on trip mornings.

Trips from October 10 to November 14 are as follows:

<u>HALF DAY</u>	<u>ALL DAY</u>
Sat. Oct. 10	Fri. Oct. 16; Matanzas Park and Villano Marsh
Sat. Oct. 24	Fri. Oct. 30, Titusville and Indian River Groves
Sat. Nov. 14	Fri. Nov. 6, Rock Springs and Duda Ranch

MEMBERSHIP. We hope you had a good Summer and will soon be back taking an active part in our Audubon activities. MEMBERSHIP FEES are NOW DUE! Please return the enclosed membership card, completely filled in, together with your dues. Cards MUST be completed and sent in by all members - new or renewal - EACH year so that the membership roll may be complete and mailing lists accurate. It would be very helpful to your Membership Secretary if dues and cards were MAILED in before the meeting night.

A REMINDER from our By-laws: "The objects of this society shall be to foster the protection of birds and other wild life in the Halifax River area and in Florida, to promote the study of birds and natural resources, and to cooperate with other similar organizations, local, state and national, in the conservation of wild life and in the study of the natural history of Florida." If you know any who are interested in these things, give them an opportunity to do their part. Sign them up as members. Use the membership blank attached to "Birding at Its Best" which is enclosed.

Beatrice E. Pratt,
Membership Secretary

AUDUBON CHATTER - People, places and birds. What have you seen that is unusual? Carolyn Jones reported that she had bought and set in her garden a South Seas Tiki, - a large head about five feet tall made from the trunk of a tree. It really is very impressive. One day she was admiring when the tiki winked at her. While she was struggling not to faint, the head of a Flicker bobbed out of the eye. In her absence, the bird had drilled one eye out and had built a nesting place inside the eye. Carolyn had the pleasure of watching the young appear later.

Several of our members went Spoonbill seeking and found them just off the north side of the Cocoa Causeway on the way to Cape Kennedy. Five were seen one time, fifteen another time. Their pink and salmon colors were especially brilliant and it made the strange green heads seem even greener. Exceedingly lovely birds, these Spoonbills.

On July 16 Connie Eggleston saw a whole family of turkeys entering the woods a few miles south of Marineland. On August 19 she saw many thousands of birds flying south. The sky was dark with them. There were various kinds including Swallows and Warblers. That date is interesting. In July Chet had to stop his car on the outskirts of Deland to let a quail family cross the road - parents and a dozen chicks so tiny that they looked like fluffy golf balls on legs.

Bea and Al Pratt spent a month in and near Denver, Colorado this Summer. Among many other birds, here is what they found of particular interest.

Violet-Green Swallows. Even though we could hear the clamor of nestlings demanding food, we were denied the privilege of seeing the feasting, for the adult Violet-Green Swallows had carefully concealed the nest behind a chink under the eaves of a cabin at Red Feather, Colorado. Both male and female kept zooming in with food for the young.

The Barn Swallows were not so careful -- they had built under the eaves of the "Trading Post" and four wide mouths were vying for food as we watched the busy adults bring in tasty morsels.

The noise of nesting Cliff Swallows was unbelievable until we climbed down a gorge and looked up to see hundreds of "mud jugs" suspended from the steel under-girders of the bridge spanning the gorge. The air was alive with myriad adults coming and going to appease the hungry youngsters.

A Sparrow Hawk captured a field mouse and flew to a tree where she sat and ripped off pieces of red flesh and enjoyed her evening meal while two young birds fluttered around trying to "grab a bite" and demanding their share. They had already been fed as we watched but fresh mouse-meat looked mighty good to them.

Inform us of your interesting bird experiences.

LET CRYSTAL RIVER be starred for one of your two-day birding trips! It is almost directly across the state on good roads. The island filled area between the Crystal, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers is called the Sun Coast. It is a very low section with grassy islands reaching to the horizon, making a glorious feeding ground for water birds.

We stayed at Port Paradise Inn facing an arm of Crystal River; and looked out from our balcony on an endless procession of Herons, Egrets, etc. It is doubly necessary here to know flight patterns and silhouettes. The main thrill was to watch a Yellow Crowned Night Heron perched in the top of a palm tree overseeing (presumably) three half-grown children--all brown lined and spotted. Twenty feet from us one of them froze, eyeing its quarry, then jabbed and came up with a wiggling crawfish about five inches long. With two quick shakes of its head, the bird stripped both claws off. Rolling the crawfish over and over in its bill, repeatedly crunching it, the young Heron finally twirled it and gulped it head first.

Back of the hotel and around the town, which is quite small, there are dense thickets teeming with Warblers and small birds. Among some dead trees nearby one lusty Red-bellied Woodpecker gave two Pileated Woodpeckers a bad time and won. On stands of dead trees along the road were perched many hundreds of Cattle Egrets making the trees look as if they were in bloom. You will not be sorry if you try this lovely birding trip and our highly recommended hotel.

ONE OF THE RAREST DRAMAS of nature is now at its climax in Florida. Once common, there are now nineteen Everglades Kites in all Florida, according to Alexander Sprunt. They take the apple snail while on the wing, which means that the water in the Everglades must not get so low that the snails burrow into the mud. An Emergency Committee for the Everglades Kites has been set with the Department of the Interior and to date nine miles of the Loxahatchee River surrounding a "willow head" has been closed off. We must ever be alert on this subject as the Kites resent disturbance.

THE LARGEST AUDUBON SANCTUARY in the nation was created last Spring when the F.A.S. accepted as a gift nearly one mile of unspoiled seashore on Jupiter Island. Rich in wildlife and storied in Florida history, the area reaches back some 2,000 feet from the ocean to the Intracoastal waterway. It will be known as the Joseph Verner Reed Wilderness Seashore in honor of the man who foresightedly acquired it in 1933.

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR UDALL says that Rachel Carson did not overstate her case in "Silent Spring". Roger Tory Peterson says that "I have become increasingly disturbed by the incidence of pesticide disasters. Each of us should speak up locally to government officials, to your elected representatives".

Endrin, aldrin and dieldrin are the harmful chemicals. Now that pesticides have to be labelled, please do not use those with these dread ingredients. In any case be sure to read the labels carefully.

The Bald Eagle and Osprey are especially susceptible because they eat the weakened larger fish which have become poisoned by the fingerlings, which in turn have absorbed the poison from runoffs. The birds after ingesting these poisons seem to lay sterile eggs. Bitterns and Kingfishers are affected too, according to Mr. Peterson. He advises that all compounds of the chlorinated hydrocarbon complex should be banned.

RUSSELL WILSON asks you to send any news of Warblers' breeding places in Florida to him at Audubon House in Maitland. Their breeding records are scarce.

→ HERE IS A STATEMENT OF AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY from Ridge Audubon Society in Lake Wales.

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

We know that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.

We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.

We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.

We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed.

So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

Elizabeth E. McCardless
-Bureau of Audubon and Editor Pro tem

...the Audubon Society...
...the Audubon Society...
...the Audubon Society...

"The less you can enjoy, the poorer and scantier yourself;
The more you can enjoy, the richer and more vigorous."
Johann Kasper Lavater (1747-1801)

Welcome Home -- all you migrants, and we don't mean birds! It is jolly good to see your merry faces among us again. We missed you. Your society is starting off very well with good attendance at both the field trips and the one meeting so far.

Your President, Mrs. Rose Block, thought it best if we would define the standing committees under our by-laws. Each division is under the charge of a vice-president, all of whom are of equal rank.

The Activities Division, under Henry Dearborn, has two committees.

First - A Field Study Committee which shall carry out the Field Study programs and make permanent records of birds observed.

Second- A Program Committee which shall be responsible for interesting programs at each meeting, and participate in special events such as those of the State and National Societies.

The Public Relations Division, under Mrs. Harvey Funk, which shall be responsible for:

First - The Audubon Screen Tours Series during the winter months.

Second- A Publicity Committee which shall keep the public informed of the Society's activities through the press.

Third - A Membership Committee.

The Education Division, under Mrs. Hiram Farr, which shall consist of:

First - An Instruction Committee which shall work with schools, etc.

Second- A Library Committee which shall keep and make available such books as we shall own, and to work with public libraries, etc.

Third - A Committee for the publication of the Pelican monthly from October through May.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, three vice-presidents of equal rank, two members-at-large, the immediate past president and the chairmen of the standing committees.

MEMBERSHIP renewals are coming in well. We have already reached a membership of 141. If you have not already renewed please MAIL in your dues and membership application card, correctly filled in, or BRING them with you to the next meeting.

We welcome the following new members to our club:

Mrs. George Amos, 614 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill

Mrs. Edward E. Cole, 828 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill

Mrs. Mary C. Kuchenbauer, 1612 Pleasant View Drive, Deland

Miss Olive Owen, 1656 Beach Drive, Holly Hill

Mrs. Donald Tucker, 1682 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill

Half day trips for the next month are as follows:

Saturday November 14; Saturday November 28; Friday December 4.

All day trips are Friday November 6 - Rock Springs Park & Duda Farm; Friday November 20 - Cape Kennedy; Saturday December 12 -

Let's see how many we can have at the next monthly meeting at the Seabreeze United Church at 7:00 PM November 16. We promise a good program. There will be "Big Game Camera Holiday", featuring a trip into Tweedsmuir National Park north of Vancouver - a wilderness area of turquoise lakes, shiny mountains, forest and high plateaus - the natural domain of the grizzly bear, big-horn sheep and caribou. "Land of the Red Goat", featuring northwest British Columbia, an almost unknown land of snow-capped peaks, mysterious valleys and plateaus. "Hunting the Foothills Flyway", showing Alberta's grain fields, marshes, lakes and woodlands where ptarmigan, grouse and the like come by the million.

Incidental note: The Duda family and a few friends are Polish immigrants who started growing celery in Florida in 1912. Last year they shipped 2 million crates of celery and 1½ million of other vegetables. They now control 90,000 acres of ranch, citrus and muck land, employing 1800 people. They own a patent on the "mule train," a portable packing house 60 ft. wide. They are deeply religious Lutherans, and are good to Audubonners.

Field trip notes: "Unusual species" listed in some cases are birds not listed on check list. Most are carried temporarily because they were seen for the first time. This is one of the better birding spots of Florida; having the shore area and marsh lands of the Halifax basin for waders, and the upland areas for warblers, hawks, sparrows and woodpeckers. October 10, with 22 people and 6 cars, unusual species sighted were Glossy Ibis, Oystercatchers, Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Wood Pewee, Redstart, Black & White, Black Throated Blue, Hooded, Myrtle, Palm, Parula and Yellow Throated Warblers. 85 species seen. October 16, an all day trip to Matanzas & Villano Marshes with 4 cars and 15 people, the unusual species seen were Coopers and Night Hawks, Robin, Least Tern, Solitary Vireo and of the Warblers - Prairie, Chestnut-sided and Yellow, Grey Cheeked Thrush and short-billed Dowitcher. 93 species seen. October 24, with 8 cars and 26 people on a half day trip, the unusual species were Black Crowned Night Heron and the Knot. 76 species seen. October 30, with 7 cars & 27 people to Titusville and Merritt Island, unusual species seen were Lesser Scaup, White Pelican, Orange Crowned Warbler, Blue Winged Teal, Downy Woodpecker & Long Billed Marsh Wren. 96 species seen. Note: Titusville N.W. sector is no longer open to the public, but it is possible to go to Canaveral Harbor over the toll bridge south of Titusville.

Audubon Chatter:- "Crip"; the little Turnstone with the crippled leg, in company with 3 others; swooped down on the S. Bridge at New Smyrna Beach for the 9th winter, on Aug. 23. During the hurricanes and north-easter, when the water was high, they were so hungry that they would eat almost anything thrown out to them, this according to Mrs. Farr. May Folk asks anyone visiting the vicinity of Bradenton to come to see her at Bradenton Manor. PO Box 1670 if you want to write. How would you like to be chased by 15 angry stilts? That's what happened to Velma Hays and the Kents at Sanibel Island. Velma says to get out of there fast at breeding time. Bea Pratt reports 4 small fluffy limkins at Wakulla Springs who stood between the parents' feet and nibbled on snails that the elder opened for them; also at Wakulla a half dozen little brown balls paddling behind their gorgeously colored Wood Duck parents.

Elizabeth E. McCandless
Editor Pro Tem

Volume 10, Number 3

December 1964

President's Reminiscence: Several recent events caused me to review my past relations with the Halifax River Audubon Society. First is the united support of the new officers of 1964-65. Next, was the sudden death of Mrs. Frank (Kay) Kirkpatrick. This brought to mind her years of faithful service to our society and to other worthwhile organizations. Then I recalled my first visit to an Audubon Wildlife Film in January 1946 at Seabreeze H.S. Present were Mr. & Mrs. Frank Berger, Mr. & Mrs. Marion Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kirkpatrick, Mr. & Mrs. Frances Howes, Mr. & Mrs. Beacom Rich and others. Mr. Rupert Longstreet was still with us. He came from the gymnasium to welcome the waiting audience and introduce the speaker. Then he returned to his basketball team. Miss Rosella Ames was our field director, assisted by Mr. Rich and Mrs. James. We thank Miss Ames for her congratulations on our growth. "Remembrance is the sweetest flower that grows." Miss Marian Adams, a former secretary of HRAS has returned here for the winter. She is answering to the name of Mrs. Harry Lyon. We congratulate the honeymooners.

Mrs. Rose Block, President

December 21 is the next meeting date, so plan your Christmas activities carefully around it. There will be two films: "The American Flamingo" which tells the story of the almost extinct American Flamingo at its nesting grounds in Yucatan. "Beaver Valley", a Walt Disney "True Adventure Series" film showing birds, animals and fish in their native habitat in the region of a beaver pond.

All day trips: Friday, Dec. 18, Osteen-Sanford; Friday, Jan. 15, Silver Glen Springs. Half day trips: Saturday, Jan. 2; Friday, Jan. 8.

We are looking forward with anticipation to attending our first Wildlife Film of the season on January 9 - Mr. Lyons' lovely pictures of wildlife in British Columbia - pictures of mammals, insects and reptiles as well as birds. Bring your friends!

At Cape Kennedy we saw a nice circle of White Pelicans, some Marbled Godwits, a Long Billed Curlew, many Avocets, a few Black Backed Gulls, Oyster-catchers and Wimbrels. The Western Kingbird was seen again on the Old Deland Road, the Widgeon and Canvasback Duck at the airport pond, a Loon and Cabots Terns at the Inlet, and a Cooper's Hawk was seen

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: NO PELICANS will be mailed after this issue to those who have not renewed membership. Please MAIL your membership renewal application card and dues promptly to Mrs. Beatrice E. Pratt, Membership Sec'y., P.O. Box 5474, Daytona Beach, Fla., 32020, if you have not already done so. Membership of the Society now is 191.

NEW MEMBERS ARE: Mrs. Geo. Amos, 614 Riverside Dr., H.H., Mrs. Edw. E. Cole, 828 Riverside Dr., H.H., Miss Jean Van Fossan, 6 Ocean View Dr., O.B., Judge Ernest H. Van Fossan, 6 Ocean View Dr.; O.B., Mrs. Paul Oliver, 2410 Peninsula Dr., D.B., Mrs. C. E. Booth, 503 N. Halifax Ave., D.B., Mr. J.A. Primm, RD 1, Box 72, D.B., Miss Marguerite Burleson, 1553 Ocean Shore Blvd., D.B.

AUDUBON CHATTER (People, places and birds). Willard Whiteman generously offered to rebuild the two Martin houses which were knocked down during our Fall storms. They are just back of the City Library. Wakulla Springs is an excellent spot for a birding week-end, and the hotel facing the springs is quite good. It was here that Fred Ackerman saw

a Limpkin swallow a long thin snake, head first, which took some time. Twenty miles south of there at St. Marks Wildlife refuge, he saw a rare Groove-billed Ani, which he described as black and parrot-billed. Martha Humphrey, New Smyrna Beach, has had Scrub Jays come into her living room to feed out of a bowl of sunflower seeds kept there for just them. Sometimes they have sat on her head or perched on the furniture. Chet Childs saw a Pileated Woodpecker take a great leap from a branch to a clump of moss and swing there as if he loved doing it. The little lake where Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gottfreid found the Spoonbills near Jacksonville is called "Spoonbill Pond" and is part of the new Sawpit Creek Sanctuary. In the summer there are always Spoonbills to be seen from the north causeway at New Smyrna Beach south to Turtle mound.

KNOW THE BIRDS by Roy Hudson. This is an additional list of birds that could not be included on pages 3 & 4 last month. Please mark the following birds PR (permanent resident) in your books. Some may migrate, but at least some of the species may be found here all year.

Pied-billed grebe, brown pelican, double-crested cormorant, anhinga, great blue heron, common egret, snowy egret, cattle egret, Louisiana heron, little blue heron, green heron, black-crowned night heron, wood ibis, glossy ibis, white ibis, mottled duck, wood duck, turkey vulture, black vulture, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, osprey, sparrow hawk, bob-white, turkey, sandhill crane, limpkin, king rail, clapper rail, common gallinule, American coot; oyster-catcher, semi-palmated plover, killdeer, black-bellied plover, willet, short-billed dowitcher, semi-palmated sandpiper, western sandpiper, sanderling, herring gull, ring-billed gull, laughing gull, Forster's tern, common tern, royal tern, Caspian tern, black skimmer, ground dove, mourning dove, barn owl, screech owl, great horned owl, barred owl, belted kingfisher, yellow-shafted flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, blue jay, scrub jay, common crow, fish crow, Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, brown-headed nuthatch, long-billed marsh wren, mockingbird, brown thrasher, eastern kingbird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, loggerhead shrike, starling, white eyed vireo, yellowthroat, house sparrow, eastern meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, boat-tailed grackle, common grackle, cardinal, rufous-sided towhee, seaside sparrow, dusky seaside sparrow, Bachman's sparrow.

Roger Tory Peterson says: In 1915 the Department of Agriculture showed that U.S. farms averaged about 2 birds per acre. With the use of pesticides, recent bird censuses reveal extremely low bird populations in the same areas, ranging from 0 to 8 or 9 pairs per 100 acres. It is not improbable that since World War II our continental bird population has been reduced by many millions of birds by DDT and its derivatives.

Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 22 this year.

For the next two months please notify Margaret Branch of news for the Pelican or Audubon Chatter. Good birding!

Elizabeth E. McCandless
Editor Pro Tem

...and I produced an **INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR** I think...
 ...and luckily for all of us, some years ago in a Michigan camera shop,
 a suggestion found the right customer. It happened to be Fenn Holden.
 "Bird slides hard to find? Now, with this fine projector and screen
 for all those scenic Western slides you bought, why not make your own
 slides?" He replied, "If you can fix me up to take close-ups, from
 my car, of the birds on the beach, at Daytona Beach,..."

So, that started it. With all the best equipment, his own in-
 genious refinements added, and endless pains and patience, Mr. Fenn
 M. Holden of Ormond Beach and Michigan, has achieved a fabulous pri-
 vate collection of slides of hundreds of Florida birds, not to men-
 tion California, Michigan and points between. About five hundred
 fine duplicates of Central Florida birds, given to Halifax River
 Audubon Society, have become our treasured Holden slides collection.
 Some of these are shown at nearly every monthly meeting of the
 Society, to instruct members in what they are apt to see in our area
 at this season. In work throughout Volusia County with schools, gar-
 den clubs, Scout groups and others, we use them widely.

Fenn has been an active member of HRAS for over a dozen years,
 even though he spent four winters birding in California. He is also
 a very active member of the Kirtland's Warbler Committee (of which
 you will be hearing more) of the Michigan Audubon Society, and on the
 Board of Directors of the Florida Audubon Society.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

by

Fenn M. Holden

Early in March, 1964, Henry Dearborn mentioned to me that he had
 seen on two different field trips, a red-cockaded woodpecker in a cer-
 tain tree on the Dupont Road near the Hudson Road 13. This suggested
 to me that the bird might be nesting nearby.

The red-cockaded woodpecker, *Dendroopos borealis*, digs its nest
 hole in a live pine tree and always pecks a few holes in the bark
 around the nest opening so that pitch oozes out and runs down the side
 of the tree around the nest. Several theories have been advanced to
 explain why the bird does this, the most plausible being that the
 pitch prevents ants or other parasites from entering the nest. The
 bird uses the same nest year after year so long as the bark around the
 hole is live enough to ooze pitch. This peculiar nesting habit makes
 the nest quite conspicuous, especially after the same hole has been
 used for a few years and pitch has accumulated. It also positively
 identifies the nest as that of *D. borealis*.

Since I know of no other way to photograph this elusive bird ex-
 cept at its nest, I have spent much time scrutinizing the pine trees
 as we have driven along the back roads near Daytona Beach, but I have
 never found any woodpecker hole that showed signs of being that of a

red-cockaded until I went to investigate the area of Dearborn's bird. On my first trip there on March 6, 1964, I found several old nests that appeared to have been abandoned long since, and I found one that looked new with fresh pitch around it. And, whereas the books say that these nests are usually 30 or more feet from the ground, this one was only six or eight feet up and was in the sun for an hour or two each morning, making it the opportunity of a life-time for photography. I will refer to this as nest #1. It is near the main road and can be seen from a car parked at the gate marked "Hudson Road 13".

I saw nothing of *D. borealis* on this first trip. On the next trip, on March 8, the area was in flames. (The Hudson Paper Company was burning the undergrowth to make it easier to collect the old pine stumps which they process for turpentine). On subsequent trips I found that the fire had done no damage to nest #1 and it had made the walking easier, so I extended my examination of this woodlot and found it to be an isolated stand of long-leaf and slash pine, about forty acres in extent, roughly square, bounded on the north by DuPont Road; on the west by Hudson Road 13; on the south by an open field or pasture; on the east by a cypress swamp.

Near the south edge of this lot, on March 14, I found another nest. This nest #2 had obviously been used for several years and was a few feet higher than #1 but was still a good subject for photography.

I now had made five trips to the area and had found two likely looking nests but had as yet seen no red-cockaded woodpecker here. To find out if the birds were using either nest and, if they were, to find out when they started to feed young (which is the safest time to put a blind close to the nest) would require no little concentrated bird-watching. I needed help.

Since Henry Dearborn had tipped me off to the location and since I knew that he also wished to photograph the bird, I enlisted him as assistant watcher. On March 16 we drove to the area so that I could show him where the nests were. As we stopped at the gate I pointed to nest #1 and there was one of the birds at the nest hole. That indicated that the birds might be nesting already, in which case we would be able to get our pictures and be all through in two or three weeks at the outside. We therefore decided, in order to reduce the risk of scaring the birds away, to keep the project a secret until we had our pictures, (hence the title of this article). We arranged a schedule whereby the Dearborns would watch both nests for an hour or two one day, and a few days later the Holdens would watch.

On one of Henry's mornings he took a walk into the woods and found nest #3. It appeared to have been used for several years, was in a larger tree and was more nearly at the conventional height - too high for convenient photography.

The most remarkable thing about this whole project was that we saw so little of the birds. Many mornings we watched for two hours or more without seeing them at all. Once Henry followed one of the birds all the way through the woods but it didn't go to either nest. Twice Jean saw the bird leave nest #1 and the Dearborns saw it there once or twice. Weeks came and went. The ditches, which were full

of water when we started, dried up so that we could drive in and park in the shade of the pine trees; and the shade became more and more welcome. I became a saluting acquaintance of the pulp truck drivers - would open and close the gate for them and they left the gate unlocked. I talked to one of the bosses, told him what we were up to and got his approval. One day we found a fleet of heavy equipment - trucks, bulldozers, hoists, etc. - taking out the old stumps.

Then on April 17 Jean and I were parked in the shade watching nest #1 (I had by then given up hope of seeing any activity at nest #2) when we saw the first indication that the birds were incubating. The two birds flew to the nest; the male hesitated just long enough for the female to enter the nest then flew away. (A common ruse among birds. The incubating female, returning from feeding, has the male attract attention while she goes on the nest unobtrusively.)

The male went to another tree where there was an old, partly excavated hole on which we had seen him working earlier that same day. He seemed intent on finishing this nest although his activity may have been only what the biologists call a displacement reaction. (But a week or two later this nest looked quite complete even to a few holes in the surrounding bark loozing pitch. This nest will bear watching next Spring).

I was now convinced that the birds were incubating in nest #1 so I put up my blind and left it about 75 or 100 feet from the nest so the birds would get used to it. The time was fast approaching when the Dearborns and the Holdens would be leaving for Maine and Michigan, respectively, and at this point I let my anxiety to get a picture overrule my better judgment. I did not wait for the young to hatch - I tried for a picture of the female as she left the nest or returned to it after feeding. This was just the first of a series of mistakes that I made at this time.

On April 18, just before dark, I moved the blind up to fifteen feet from the nest tree. The next morning as I went to the blind about 8:30 o'clock one of the birds scolded me from overhead. I thought at the time that it was probably the male - now I think that it may have been the female, off the nest feeding; that she saw me go into the blind and was afraid to go back to the nest. (I used the classic method by having Jean go with me to the blind and walk away after I was inside which is supposed to fool the birds every time).

I sat in the blind until about 11:00 o'clock when the nest became shaded, and the only birds I saw were two bobwhites that walked between the nest tree and the blind. Having found that I was too close to the nest for my camera to properly cover it, and fearing that the blind was so close that the birds would not come and go, I moved it back to about 21 feet before I left.

It was now Henry's turn to sit in the blind. I do not know what hours he sat there but he had the same lack of results that I had - probably for the same reason - that the bird was off feeding when he went into the blind.

On April 23 I used the blind again. This time I saw no birds as I approached the nest. When I had seen nothing up to about 10:00 o'clock I was getting pretty discouraged and bored. Jean had to move the car ahead to get in the shade again; I heard her start the engine and looked to see what she was doing. When I looked back there was the bird just above the nest but around on the shady side of the tree. She preened her feathers, knocked off a piece of bark looking for something to eat, and drummed softly for her mate. All the while working slowly up the tree. The sun was bright on the nest hole and I thought that when she came back to the nest I would get a good picture. When she was about eight feet above the nest she started back down and came nearly to the nest again. This time I decided to make a couple of exposures in the shade on the chance that I might get something. I had to merely guess at the exposure and had little hope of getting anything better than a silhouette.

The bird soon flew away and that is the last that Henry or I saw of either her or the male although we each spent more time in the blind and watching from our cars. It now seems probable that at the time of my first morning in the blind incubation was far enough advanced so that the eggs became addled when the female was afraid to return to the nest and let the eggs chill. On the 23rd the female may have become aware, through some sixth sense, that the eggs were addled and was leaving the nest for the last time when I saw it and took the two pictures.

The birds probably went to some other nest hole and started over; not to nest #2 as I found that that was being used by a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers. Perhaps they finished nest #4 and moved in. I removed the blind early in May and called the project off. - I was disappointed by our seeming failure and had so little faith in the pictures I took that I did not have them processed until we returned to Michigan. When they were developed I found that by some miracle they turned out fairly well - far better than I expected. I have had a duplicate of the best one made for the Club's slide library.

The secrecy is now off and the club members are welcome to roam around this area to your heart's content. It will be a good place to look for the red-cockaded woodpecker, but as you will gather from this story you may not always see it. If you have not seen this bird before do not look for a large woodpecker with a flaming cockade. The latter mark is seldom seen and in size *D. borealis* is midway between the only other members of the genus *Dendrocopos* that are found in Florida - the hairy woodpecker, *D. villosus* and the downy, *D. pubescens*.

I had a chance to see one of these birds when I was in the blind on the 23rd. I saw it just as I was about to leave. It was just above the nest but around on the shady side of the tree. It preened its feathers, knocked off a piece of bark, and drummed softly for its mate. I took two pictures of it. The first was a silhouette and the second was a better picture. I have had a duplicate of the best one made for the Club's slide library.