

Volume 10, Number 4

January 1965

President's Report: New Year greetings to the Halifax River Audubon Society and affiliates.

This year has shown great progress in conservation. Both state and national agents are aware that food chains of the world are being destroyed. At last they are learning the "Why of Birds". This they tell in the following remarks:

"Birds are beautiful and God loves beautiful birds."

"Their songs are music to my ears."

"Birds of the United States save \$450,000,000 worth of plant life per year when they destroy our surplus insects."

"Birds are necessary to complete "The Web of Life."

"Flower seeds and cones scattered by birds are needed to reclaim cut-over, burned-over, over-cultivated, and over-drained lands."

When we conserve our swamps, marshes, and lakes, we retain our water resources. All life requires water. Water produces plant life, fish, and crustaceans. These in turn are food for birds, animals and people. This we call the "Food Chain." Now, if we enforce our good fishing, hunting, and conservation laws we can keep all our natural resources in balance. The "Web of Life" will be secure. Our "Food Chain" cannot be broken.

Mrs. Rose Block, President

New members enrolled since last issue of Pelican:

Mr. & Mrs. Harold M. Bradley, Ottawa, Canada; Mrs. Florence M. Brown, Olds Hall, Daytona Beach; Mr. & Mrs. John A. Dale, 46 Neptune Ave., Ormond Beach; Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A. Hoadley, 1383 John Anderson Drive, Ormond Beach; Mr. & Mrs. Edson A. Lewis, 314 Braddock Ave., Daytona Beach; Mr. & Mrs. Edgar H. Pierce, Box 4246, South Daytona Beach; Miss Ruby Rider, 419 Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach; Mrs. David P. Valley, 165 Riverside Dr., Ormond Beach; Mrs. Nellie P. Lincoln, 4304 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach. The present membership is 219.

The Christmas Count: Each year National Audubon sets the exact two-week period for a check on all the birds in this Continent. It has the results sent in by hundreds of reports (700 last year) each edited and published in a special number of Audubon Field Notes (at your library, but take along a reading glass; exact dates and numbers counted and names of all the observers are in very small print).

Groups all over the country pick one day for a strenuous hunt, from dawn, or before, until dark. Our choice was fixed months in advance and chanced to be, out of two lovely weeks, one of the only two bad days. The land birds were in hiding from chill wind, heavy over-cast, raw dampness. None were basking on fences and power lines, or happily flitting or sitting to be counted. By late forenoon they were too hungry to hide longer and we surprised them in sheltered spots, such as mixed flocks of small birds busy in weed patches by far-back dirt roads. Here are the approximate 1964 results.

Twenty hardy members of the Halifax River Audubon Society in six groups, each to cover a carefully assigned section of territory, worked from dawn to dark on a dark December 22. The day was planned and arranged by field-trip director George Murray, assisted by ex-director George Williams, who was in charge of counts for five previous years.

The birds counted along the beach and at the Inlet were most numerous. Inland, only flocks of Robins, mostly flitting by overhead, were reported by the thousands. Ring-billed gull (3,000), Robin (2,300); (both less than last year), Black skimmer (1,000), Royal Tern (1,074).

By hundreds: Redwinged blackbird (382), Rusty blackbird (114), Cormorant (232), Cowbird (428), Mourning dove (279), Lesser scaup (107), Goldfinch (323), Common grackle (896), Bonaparte's gull (511), Laughing gull (368), Blue jay (129), Mockingbird (202), Brown pelican (120), Sanderling (136), Chipping sparrow (309), House sparrow (214), Savannah sparrow (106), Starling (613), Ruddy turnstone (136), Myrtle warbler (318), Palm warbler (131).

From 10 to 100: Bluebird, Bob white, Catbird, Cardinal, Coot; Common crow, Fish crow, Ground dove, Mallard, Dunlin, Cattle egret, Common egret, Snowy egret, Flicker, Common gallinule, Gannet, Pied-billed grebe, Herring gull, Red-shouldered hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Great blue heron, Little blue heron, Louisiana heron, Black-crowned night heron, Kildeer, Kingfisher, Ruby-crowned kinglet, Knot, Meadowlark, Red-breasted merganser, Phoebe, Black-bellied plover, Sapsucker, Snipe, Shrike, Caspian tern, Forster's tern, Titmouse, Towhee, Black vulture, Turkey vulture, Orange-crowned warbler, Pine warbler, Red-bellied woodpecker, House wren and Yellowthroat.

Less than 10: Anhinga, American bittern (1); Carolina chickadee, Golden-eye (1); Pintail (1), Green-winged teal (1), Gnatcatcher, Boat-tailed grackle, Horned grebe, Great black-backed gull, Cooper's hawk (1), Pigeon hawk (1), Marsh, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned, Green heron, Yellow-crowned night-heron, White ibis, Wood ibis, Scrub jay, Loon (3), Hooded merganser (4), Oystercatcher (9), Semipalmated plover (3), Clapper rail (3), King rail (1), Semi-palmated sandpiper, Bachman's sparrow (1), Sharp-tailed (5), Song sparrow (5), Swamp (9), Vesper (1), White-throated (9), Tree swallow (only 4!), Common tern (3), Sandwich tern (3), Brown thrasher (7), Hermit thrush (1), Solitary vireo (3), White-eyed (6), Black and white warbler (2), Prairie (1), Yellow-throated warbler (2), Cedar waxwing (only 2), Downy woodpecker (5), Hairy woodpecker (1), Pileated (4), Red-headed (1), Carolina wren (9), Long-billed marsh wren (1), Greater yellowlegs (2), Lesser yellowlegs (2).

Grand Total: 124 species; 14,301 individuals.

January Dates Ahead - Reminder for calendar marking:

January 15, Friday, All-day field trip to Silver Glen Springs; January 18, Monday, monthly meeting (see program notes below); January 22, Friday; Half-day trip, 7:30 A.M.; January 23, Saturday, Audubon lecture, the second on Western Canada this month; January 29, Friday, All-day trip, Oak Hill-Osteen, Sanford. NOTE: At last meeting the membership voted to have all field-trips start, from the usual place, at 7:30 A.M. 8 o'clocks discontinued.

Films for monthly meeting, January 17, 1965, 7:30 P.M.

"Adelie Penguins of the Antarctic" is the first complete record of the life history of any penguin in motion pictures. Beginning with the trek of the adult birds over the frozen sea in early spring to the breeding grounds, it ends with the departure of the grown young at the end of the season. "World in a Marsh" provides an intimate view of the infinite variety of life forms that inhabit the quiet waters of the marsh. Roy Hudson's preliminary slide program at 7:00 P.M. will be on "Western Wildflowers".

Some February Dates - February 5, Friday, All-day trip; Dupont Road, Crescent Beach, Anastasia Park; (Symphony concert that night at 8:30 P.M.); February 12, Half-day trip; February 15, Monday, regular meeting; February 19, trip to the Cape.

Where the Wild Geese Go - Lockhart Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge, Ansonville, N.C. - U.S. 52. The Refuge is open daily from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., October 1 to April 1. The Pratts stopped here on their return from the north on December 31 and found it to be all that is said of it. Twelve thousand wild Canada geese, one snow goose (back for the third season), one blue goose (pretty heavily freckled and believed to be a hybrid between blue and Canada), 500 mallards, 300 ring-necks, two buffleheads (visiting for the first time) and two off-beat Florida coots. They walked about among the geese dropping corn at their feet which the geese promptly ate, and actually feeding a few geese from their hands. If ever, at this season, you can make this stop, keep this note for reference.

AUDUBON CHATTER: Two couples of HRAS members (Branch & Hudson) spent a long day, one week after the local census, helping with the famous "Cocoa Count" on Dec. 29, and one of these couples also helped with the Florida Audubon Society Titusville count on Jan. 3. Baltimore orioles were reported from three separate homes near the time of our Christmas count. One was George Murray's. On Dec. 20, just two days before the census, a pair of orioles bathed in the noon sunshine making a 15-minute call in the garden of Elizabeth McCandless.

Lydia Hamilton writes of an expedition by her Hamilton (Ontario) Naturalists' Club, and we quote only two paragraphs. "The woods at Spooky Hollow were fairly popping with birds at mid-morning on Nov. 1. A flock of Pine Siskins flew across the trees as the cars pulled into the new "lay-by", that the county has provided for the club. The call of the Chickadees was incessant and seemed as if Juncos exploded from the dead leaves at every step. In a tall hemlock near the handsome gate, Goldfinches were feeding amongst the small golden cones. Three Fox Sparrows were seen skulking in the low bushes. The Partridge-berries were brilliant and very plentiful. There was also Wintergreen. Some of us chewed a few of the berries, in memory of our youth, and one of the younger generation was heard to remark that they tasted like tooth paste. Large patches of Foamflower, with lovely green leaves vined with red, were encountered everywhere, giving promise of Spring to come. There were also the shiny leaves of Goldthread. At least three species of Pyrola and two of Pipsissawa were found. The wood fern was still green on many of the hillsides. The Bracken had all been killed by the frost and was dry and brown. The beautiful stands of Maidenhair Fern also showed signs of frost. But the Christmas Fern and the leathery Grape Fern were fresh and green."

The following books are all to be found in the S. Cornelia Young Memorial Library, 302 Vermont Ave., Daytona Beach, Florida:

- 1- Allen, A. A. American Bird Biographies
- 2- Allen, R. P. On the Trail of Vanishing Birds
- 3- American Wildlife Inst. Wild Ducks
- 4- Ashbrook, F. G. Blue Book of Birds of America
- 5- "Green " " "
- 6- "Red " " "
- 7- Audubon, J. J. Birds in America
- 8- Blanchan, Neltje Birds
- 9- "Bird Neighbors
- 10- "Game Birds
- 11- Cruickshank, H. G. Flight Into Sunshine
- 12- Dugmore, A. R. Bird Homes (Nests, eggs, breeding habits, etc.)
- 13- Florida Grower's Press Birds of Florida
- 14- Hall, F. W. Birds of Florida
- 15- Hausman, L. A. Illustrated Encyclopedia of American Birds
- 16- Howard, L. Birds as Individuals
- 17- Howell, A. H. Florida Bird Life
- 18- Job, H. K. Propagation of Wild Birds
- 19- Jordan, E. W. Hammond's Nature Atlas of America
- 20- Laimbeer, R. H. Birds I Have Known
- 21- Lincoln, F. C. Migration of Birds
- 22- Longstreet, R. J. Bird Study in Florida
- 23- " Ornithology of the Mosquitoes
- 24- Mayr, E. Birds of the South Pacific
- 25- Menaboni, A. & S. Menaboni's Birds
- 26- Miner, Jack Jack Miner and the Birds, etc.
- 27- Murphy, R. C. Land Birds of America
- 28- National Geographic January 1949
- 29- Pearson, T. Gilbert, ed. Birds of America
- 30- Peterson, R. T. Field Guide to the Birds
- 31- Reed, C. A. Bird Guide
- 32- Sprunt, A. Florida Bird Life
- 33- Stroud, Robert Diseases of Canaries
- 34- Stuart, F. S. Wild Wings
- 35- Torrey, B. Nature's Invitation
- 36- Wolfson, A., Ed. Recent Studies in Avian Biology
- 37- Woolien, W. W. Birds of Buzzards Roost
- 38- World of Great Stories, Birds of Passage
- 39- Wright, M. O. Birdcraft, Field Book of 200 song, game and water birds
- 40- Zim, H. S. Birds - A Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds

page 481

A new "Birds of Florida", being a recently published compilation of several works by R. J. Longstreet, was reviewed in last Sunday's Daytona Beach News Journal (Jan. 3). The Library is sure to have a copy, but probably in circulation.

Margaret G. Branch
Editor Pro Tem

Volume 10, Number 5

February 1965

A Short Message to THE PELICAN: It is 8:30 A.M. From my tree-top windows I see many robins feeding on the wild cherries, mockingbirds are defending their Brazilian pepper berries, blue jays are clearing seeds from a flat-top feeder, a red-belly and a cardinal are eating while clinging to a small swaying feeder. Below on the grass pigeons, mourning doves, and wiggly tailed palm warblers are taking insects, seeds, and crumbs. The starlings are dashing from palms to bay trees. My Carolina wren is special singer for this occasion.

The mating season has begun. Please watch for our Florida white-breasted nuthatch, which breeds in the pine barrens of the northern half of Florida. It is sometimes found on the same pine tree with a singing pine-wood sparrow. The wood pewee will be here soon. We should see our touring red-breasted nuthatches and brown creepers, which visit us after severe snow and sleet storms in the North.

January has been a wonderful month. All departments are working separately but are always together as we move forward with our conservation duties. Our bird trips have been rewarding. I am sorry that I must miss those wonderful all-day trips. The Screen Tours were well attended. Executive members worked harmoniously. The monthly meetings with instructions and film entertainment were enjoyed by all.

My work as President of the Halifax River Audubon Society has been an honor and a pleasure, but soon it will be time for me to retire. So I take this space to announce your new nominating committee for next year's officers that must be elected at the annual meeting, March 15, 1965: Chairman, George Williams, Thelma Acosta, Mrs. Henry Dearborn, Mrs. Leon Ross, and Fenn Holden.

Rose Block, President

NEW MEMBERS since last issue of Pelican are:

Mr. Henry B. Block, Ormond Beach
Mr. William H. Bowman, Jr., 2431 Anastasia Dr., S. Daytona Beach
Mrs. Mae E. Casey, West Springfield, Mass.
Mrs. Mae D. Freeberg, Princess Issena Hotel, Daytona Beach
Mrs. Leigh S. Gallagher, Juneau, Alaska
Mrs. Nellie B. Leadbetter, St. Cloud, Fla.
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Linde, 39 Willis Dr., Ormond Beach
Mrs. H. P. Lyle, 401 Silver Beach Ave., Daytona Beach
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Rowley, 790 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach
Mrs. L. H. Shook, Toledo, Ohio
Mr. William H. Shook, Houston, Texas
Miss Maude Walcott, 622 Beach St., Daytona Beach
Mr. Joseph W. Weicker, 888 Duncan Rd., Daytona Beach
Present membership is 239.

For the monthly meeting on Monday, February 15, 1965, our program chairman, Henry Dearborn, announces that he is showing "PHANTOM OF THE MARSHES"-- The story of the EVERGLADE KITE, now the fourth rarest bird in the United States. "THE WHOOPING CRANE" -- This new film is the only one available of the WHOOPING CRANE and the efforts being made to save the species from extinction.

THOSE PUZZLING SPARROW-LIKE BIRDS. Roy Hudson will discuss them and show some pictures at the monthly meeting, starting at seven o'clock. Some birds can be recognized, and identification verified quite readily. Some seem impossible on first glimpse to distinguish. It will help with any of them to observe their color markings in detail, whether they are alone or several together, their habitat and behavior. Please study in advance and check pictures and text in your field guide for sparrows, vireos, water pipit, female redwings, palm and myrtle warblers, and other remale warblers and young. They are not impossible, but they do require more study than blue-jays.

February Trips ahead: Friday, February 12, half-day; Saturday, February 27, half-day, and, between these, all-day, to The Cape, on Friday, February 19. First three March trips, on Fridays, will be on March 5, 12 and 19. Don't forget that our next Screen Tour is Saturday, February 13, Berlet on Alaska.

On January 21, afternoon, Mrs. Gretchen Farr gave a program on birds of their own area, to the Port Orange Garden Club. Especially suitable for a home difficult to darken, this was a departure from the bird slides. She used, instead, her many bird books and pictures, including chosen color photographs in copies of "The Florida Naturalist". About 18 members, in a spacious living room, sat in a large circle, and enjoyed for over an hour passing around the exhibits, and listening to Mrs. Farr's talk about them.

AUDUBON CHATTER: Willard Whiteman has two beautiful Martin houses all ready to erect, near our starting point on the bridge. Only a difficulty about poles has delayed our seeing them in place, until now.

Louise Henderson has a "table-viewer", for slides, that she would like to sell. If interested, call 253-7398.

To check on progress of Chet Childs, please call Halifax Hospital, rather than bother Mrs. C., before sending messages to him? or visiting?

Three members who, with guests, spent a recent delightful weekend at Wakulla Springs were greatly entertained watching two anhingas spear, and swallow, fish almost beyond their abilities, in size. Such softening, adjusting, and gulping! That can be a very chilly spot, but they chose the right interval, those travellers, just before the cold wave. They report that National Audubon has stationed a Naturalist at Wakulla, as an experiment, to guide, instruct and observe the visitors.

NEWS FROM QUEBEC: Remember Madame St. Onge, with her charming French accent, who met our local birds the winter of 1963? She lives and works at New Carlisle, far back on the Gaspé Peninsula, in Quebec Province, manages summer visits to Perce, at the tip, and its world renowned off-shore sanctuary and birding island, Bonaventure.

To quote from her recent letter: "I'm enclosing my year's list. Very modest from some point of view but everything is relative. From my point of view it's simply wonderful and I got an immense enjoyment out of it. As you notice there are quite a few lifers. Of course the one that gave me the greatest kick was the Atlantic Puffin. I was so thrilled and we had such a perfect day. In my excitement I almost fell out of the boat! I'm looking forward to next year when I will have my telescope. I'm getting it pretty soon. I saw it when I was in Montreal....I can just picture myself taking the boat (to Bonaventure) with all that paraphernalia. And will I be able to set it up in the small boat as there is quite a swell on that side of the Island. Maybe I will just hold it in my hands as binoculars as it is so light. I was down 7 times this year and intend to go as many times next year if not more but I think my visits will be more fruitful knowing more where to go. As for the meadow lark I saw December 22, I couldn't believe my eyes. Not only had I never seen one down here but nobody had. Which does not mean that there are none, but no one had chanced to see any yet. And at such a late date in the year. It had been zero for a couple of nights. It was around 5 p.m. I was coming home from work at my usual clip of 60 p.h. when I glimpsed that grey bird right on the side of the road. Your sixth sense tells you when it's no ordinary bird. So I backed up and there it was eating on the side of the road just as unconcerned of the cars whizzing by as anything. It took quite a few moments to recognize it because I was seeing it from the back. When I had really recognized it I made it fly away to really be sure. The road is right near the cliff. In my excitement to go and get a friend of mine to see it too, I put my car in reverse and almost broke my fool neck. Those birds will be the death of me yet!!"

FIELD NOTES- by Margaret Branch. Be thankful that we still have so much water around our Halifax land. Florida is ruining its wonderful climate, at a great rate. Witness draining and burning and clearing, not only around Lake Okeechobee and The Everglades, but all around us here, North, South, and West, where our protective swamps and forests are vanishing, from only a few decades of man's work, plus machines, and waterways fast being changed.

To quote an Arizona birder: "In a land seemingly so harshly treated by nature, where the sun reigns in uncontrolled abandon, each drop of water is cherished, not only by man, but by the avian population which the water attracts...and growing between it and the SCORCHING DESERT BEYOND, flourishes a thin, vital border, a band of abundant foliage, vibrant with life." Southwest Arizona is so largely desert.

Having visited various desert lands in the past year or so, and travelled thousands of miles of smooth, fast highways through many states, less blessed than this one, all flat and dusty, or arid and rocky, to the horizon, I speak from the heart. Appreciate our abundance of water, both fresh and salt, and the birds it brings.

On January trip days here, neither rain nor frost could discourage our hardy band of field-trip-lovers. January 15 dawned to real rain, but five out of six carloads that showed up in the half-light, at our starting spot, judged that we might run westward out

of the murk, as we did. All set for a picnic lunch at Silver Springs, only one car turned back. Connie Ekdahl leading, four cars trailed westward in the rain at 7:30. Sure enough, in an hour we were all in and out of cars, and dry, to watch birds along the way. For the noon hour, at that pleasant picnic spot, the sun was shining. We all saw special birds, including Limpkin, Gallinule, and Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, before sprinkles cut short walking on the woods paths, and cars took us comfortably back into rain again, for the last homeward miles. That was a good day in spite of the weather. We had also seen Scrub jays, Blue birds, Gnat-catchers, Black and white warblers, Yellowthroats and Meadowlarks, not to mention Robins. We've been seeing Robins by thousands for some weeks past. Plenty come to earth, and whole flocks flit over, far above the tree-tops.

Then, again on January 29, seven cars went forth. Hoar frost, thick on the ground, was beautiful at 7:30, but only the clever ones wearing wool socks were happy about tramping around on it, at the early stops. After an hour or two, the sun warmed us up and we had no difficulty finding the little County park (mostly for fishermen) on Mullett Lake, for this second visit. Over in that Sanford direction, picnic spots and rest stops are especially hard to plan for such a number. One-car birding is so simple, in comparison.

This trip gave us plenty of species (see statistics below) but the greatest thrills were watching the soaring, glinting in the bright sun, of a flock of White Ibis, and of an Osprey, a big Red-Tailed hawk, and at three still other spots, of three handsome white-headed and white-tailed, Eagles.

The couple who would have been alone in car 8 that day, decided to stay and bird near home. Either they wished to park, and help another driver pay for his gas, or they wanted passengers, who knew birds; with them. This packing business is one aspect of our field trips, especially all-day ones, that is not at all simple.

New birders, wanting instruction, can either be welcome passengers, or can ask for passengers, one of whom may be a born teacher, like our President, Mrs. Rose Block. Call her, if you want to talk about this. We are rather short, right at this time, of carrying-drivers, so a little planning helps. For best birding, since we see and hear many finds from the cars, it seems best to plan on no extras in the middle. Not more than four to a car, is the general idea, and every car should be free to drop out and return home at the driver's pleasure. Not yet open, when we start out, the Public Library is a good place to meet anyone on return; an hour's wait can be pleasant there, so close to our parking spot--and with all sorts of books and magazines to pick up--including bird books.

A FEW HRAS STATISTICS OF BIRDS OBSERVED in January:

January 8 (half-day)	- 40 observers	88 species
January 22 (half-day)	- 40 "	96 "
January 29 (whole-day)	- 35 "	96 "
January 15 (whole-day)	- 20 "	95 "

See FIELD NOTES for more about January 15. The weather was a good reason for small number of observers. The Hudsons' trip to St.

Augustine, that day, included with our Silver Glen Springs list, brought species count so high. George Murray, our trip director, reports that since he began collecting the figures on his return, with November 14, our trip days have shown us 152 species.

The following books are all to be found in the library at Daytona Beach Junior College:

Chapman, Frank M.	Bird Life
Chapman, Frank M.	Autobiography of a Bird-lover
Lowell, James Russell	My Study Windows
Torrey, Bradford	Birds in the Bush
Heinroth, Oscar	The Birds
Allen, R. P.	On the Trail of Vanishing Birds
Bailey, H. H.	Birds of Florida
Bent, A. C.	Life Histories of North American Warblers
Dorst, Jean	The Migration of Birds
Audubon, John James	The Birds of America
Pearson, T. Gilbert	Birds of America
Hall, H. M.	A Gathering of Shore Birds
Jaques, H. E.	How to Know the Land Birds
Jaques, H. E.	How to Know the Water Birds
Palmer, R. S.	Handbook of North American Birds
Peterson, R. T.	A Field Guide to the Birds
Hall, F. W.	Birds of Florida
Alexander, W. B.	Birds of the Ocean
Lincoln, F. C.	Migration of Birds

The following books are to be found at the Daytona Beach Public Library, City Island:

1- Allen, R. P.	On the Trail of Vanishing Birds
2- Askins, Charles	Game Bird Shooting
3- Audubon, J. J. Ed. Ford, Alice	The Bird Biographies of John James Audubon
4- Audubon, J. J.	The Birds of America
5- Austin, Oliver L.	Birds of the World
6- Stepanek, O.	Birds of Field and Forest
7- Cruickshank, Allan D.	1001 Questions Answered About Birds
8- Florbush, E. H.	A Natural History of American Birds of Eastern and Central North America
9- Kesting, Ted	Lowland Game Birds
10-Kesting, Ted	Upland Game Birds
11-Krutch, Joseph Wood	A Treasury of Birdlore
12-Martin, Alfred G.	Hand-taming Wild Birds at the Feeder
13-Menaboni, A. & S.	Menaboni's Birds
14-Peterson, R. T.	The Birds
15-Peterson, R. T.	A Field Guide to the Birds
16-Postle, Joy	Glamour Birds of the Americas
17-Pough, Richard H.	Eastern Land Birds
18-Shelly, D.	Audubon and Notes
19-Collins, H. H. Jr.	The Bird Watcher's Guide
20-Gilliard, E. T.	Living Birds of the World

Book List Continued:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 21- Kearton, Cherry | The Island of Penguins |
| 22- Kieran, John | Footnotes on Nature |
| 23- Lincoln, F. G. | Migration of Birds |
| 24- Miner, Jack | Jack Miner and the Birds |
| 25- Peterson, Roger Torey | Bird Watchers' Anthology |
| 26- Pope, B. | Care and Training of Home-Caged Birds |
| 27- Pough, R. H. | Audubon Water Bird Guide |
| 28- Rand, Austin | American Water and Game Birds |
| 29- Rand, Austin | Stray Feathers from a Birdman's Desk |
| 30- Ripley, Dillon | Trail of the Moneybird |
| 31- Schneider, Earl | All About Parakeets |
| 32- Austing, Ronald | I Went to the Woods |
| 33- VanVleck; Sarita | Growing Wings |
| 34- Williams, Henry Smith | The Private Lives of Birds |
| 35- Yglesias, Dorothy | The Cry of a Bird |
| 36- Tottenham, Katharine | Bird Doctor |
| 37- Headstrom, B. R. | Birds' Nests |
| 38- Wyly, F. H. | Birds of Florida |
| 39- Thomas, Ruth | Crip, Come Home |
| 40- Blachly, Lou | Naming the Birds at a Glance |
| 41- Stevenson, William | Birds' Nests in their Beards |
| 42- Palmer, Ralph Simon | Handbook of North American Birds |
| 43- McElroy, Thomas P. | The New Handbook of Attracting Birds |
| 44- Pearson, T. Gilbert | Adventures in Bird Protection |
| 45- Ripley, Dillon | Search for the Spiny Babbler |
| 46- Kraft, Ken | The Birds and Beasts were There |
| 47- Stanwell-Fletcher,
T.C. | Birds of British Columbia |
| 48- Alexander, W.B. | Birds of the Ocean |
| 49- Lane, Dr. F. C. | The Mysterious Sea |

Please save the book lists in your PELICANS and use them.

Please give all items for the next PELICAN to Elizabeth McCandless. She is safely back from a lovely cruise to warmer lands; now comes our turn, out of Florida March 3 to 19.

Margaret Branch
Editor Pro Tem

Volume 10, Number 6

March 1965

President's Message: Good news! "Woodman, spare that tree. Touch not a single bough." The voice of the poet still rings in our land. The National Audubon Society reports: "The famed wilderness canoe country of northern Minnesota, by a directive from Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman, has now increased its protected forest refuge. The saw of the woodman is prohibited from its 600,000 acres."

The Toledo Naturalist Society reports that the 2,300 acre waterfowl marsh formerly owned by the Cedar Point Gun Club is now a Natural Wildlife Refuge and has been presented to the Department of the Interior. About 20 miles west of these great marshes is a sandy but well-watered territory known as the Oak Openings where 100 species of land birds nest. To show its nesting value - north of the Reed Road in a small valley drained by Gale Run, in an area $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles square, thirteen kinds of rare warblers have been found nesting.

Both the Atlantic and Mississippi migration routes swing down from Canada and Michigan, coming around the west end of Lake Erie. The small birds flying by night, rest and feed in the Oak Openings, where they are joined by the local birds on their north and south routes from their winter homes. The waterfowls and some of the other large birds fly by day, turn east to the Cedar Point Marsh lands where they feed and rest for sometime before continuing their journeys south.

Most of the Atlantic and a good part of the Mississippi migrants pass through Florida. Many winter here.

Rose Block, President

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Dates to remember: March 13, "Missouri Northwest", an illustrated talk by Roy E. Coy. March 20, "Sea, Ice and Fire" by Olin S. Pettingill. These programs have been especially fine this year, as witnessed by the attendance. They are really thrilling nature films. Bring your friends.

Trips coming up:

March 12 - Half day	April 2 - Whole day to Rock Springs
March 19 - Half day	April 10 - Whole day to Crescent Beach and Anastasia Park

As to the trips so far, they have done right well. On the Anastasia Park trip February 5, 28 observers sighted 99 species. On the half day trip on the 12th, 30 observers sighted 106 species including a Baldpate Duck, a Prairie Warbler and Yellowcrowned Night Heron. The all day trip to Cape Kennedy really was a bird lover's dream. That was on the 19th. A total of 104 birds were seen by 24 observers, which included the Long-Billed Curlew, Gadwall and Shoveller Ducks, Marbled Godwit, White Pelican and Wimbrel. So far this year 158 species have been identified.

George Murray

March 1965

Page 2

BIG DOINGS IN MARCH, for that is the time of our ANNUAL MEETING to be held at the Castaway Beach Motel, 2075 S. Atlantic Avenue, March 15, at 6:00 P.M. Mrs. Willard Whiteman has the tickets for sale - a real banquet for \$2.00. Please call her for reservations, which are absolutely necessary. Her phone is 253-5184. DON'T MISS THIS BIG EVENT. No tickets sold after March 11.

The films especially emphasize the beauty in our nature wonderlands of the great northwest. They will be: "Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin", which shows the spectacular and breathtaking scenery of the mountain wonderland of north central Washington. "Wild Shore", which encompasses the shoreline marvels from Cape Flattery, Washington to Todo Bay in Baja, California. The subject matter ranges from ocean wave action to marine and bird life along the coast. These are prime films picked especially for our banquet.

Notes Afield. The first week-end in February, a date so vulnerable to bad weather, meant as always, a trip to the Annual Meeting of the Florida Audubon Society. This was its 65th, and with its work state-wide and state-long, problems of the F.A.S. are fast increasing, while its Annual Meeting lengthens and widens also. It now takes place in a different location each year, involving several days of indoor and outdoor programs. If you can take that much, plan to cover it next year, including three nights away from home. The speakers, slides, films, special meals and mingling at headquarters, all greatly interesting and exciting, may coincide with any bad weather. They did this time on Saturday, while the one beautiful though rather chill and windy day allowed a memorable field trip all day Friday, at Atlantic Beach, near Jacksonville. That day began with a fine breakfast at 7 o'clock for the 90 of us who settled into two comfortable chartered busses to take off at 8 o'clock. Two directors with a loud-speaker system for each bus kept us informed as we travelled along the Buccaneer Trail, up along the coast. Dr. Edwards, president of Duval Audubon Society (our hosts) and Carol Beck, chief naturalist for Florida's park system in her forest green uniform, commented on fascinating history and natural history of the region, as we crossed the St. Johns River by ferry and several toll bridges, from island to island. We stopped to set up scopes various times, ending at Amelia Island right up on the Georgia border where we found a hot lunch waiting for us at the old fort in Fort Clinch State Park.

Large Amelia Island has been under seven flags. It is mostly hammock (high thick woods) plus shores, ponds and jetties, and is full of birds. Some of the Painted Buntings, which winter south of us and sometimes pause in the Halifax area on their way northward in April, stop there to nest. Carol Beck pointed out that the yuccas and agaves (Spanish bayonet and century plant), while native Florida plants, were probably carefully introduced there by the Indians, who used them for food and fibers. Stops at the Florida Audubon's Saw-pit Sanctuary gave us many more birds. The stop at the Kingsley Plantation for hot coffee, with buildings especially opened for us, was another item of Duval Audubon's outstanding planning and hospitality. Other field trips were held on Sunday.

Numbering only 17 chapters with 1600 members, F.A.S. is charting a drive for 6600 members. Our Halifax group is an affiliate, not a chapter, and so counts as a single member, such as a garden club or a library. At the annual luncheon Halifax Audubon's check was presented to show appreciation of and to help sustain F.A.S.'s good work. There are other affiliates, like us, who prefer to charge lower dues and let individuals join state and national if they prefer.

Atlantic Beach, classed as a disaster area last September, had recovered enough for all our needs, but in the ruined beach, piers, and oceanfront buildings still showed painfully where that hurricane Dora hit.

Margaret Branch

Our good and former member, Leo Sandefur, who now resides in San Diego, sends us his San Diego Audubon Society's "Sketches", and we have taken some news from it as follows: Someone there reported sighting a life bird - a starling! A list of endangered and extinct animals and birds may be obtained from Daniel H. Janzen, Special Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Species, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington 25, D. C.

"What can be done? You can be the eyes, ears, mouth and conscience of your community. Write your officials. Visit your Planning Board and ask to see plans for parks, roads and developments. Insist that parks be developed as per purpose. Talk to your realtor, doctor, lawyer, banker and neighbors. Contact your Chamber of Commerce, civic and service organizations. Demand a beautiful and useful environment. Offer your services to civic groups. LOOK, HEAR, STUDY AND SPEAK." For a bird feast, try using cornmeal mixed with enough peanut butter to give it a piecrust consistency. Thank you, Leo.

As to detergents, the suds of the following hard detergents do not break down chemically, but go on sudsing and polluting our streams, so please do not use the following: Tide, Premium Duz, Fab, Oxydol, Rinso, Vim, Salvo and Cheer. Here are the good ones which contain no Alkyl Benzene Sulphate, the damaging agent: AD, ALL, AMWAY PRODUCTS, MR. CLEAN, DIAL, DUZ, THRILL, QUICK SOLVE, SPIC AND SPAN, VEL-O-MATIC, CASCADE TELS NAPHTHA, AND CALGON Products. Amway Products may be bought from Babson Park Audubon Nature Center, according to our good friend, Mr. Mason. We cannot emphasize too often the necessity of restricting the use of pesticides in the garden, especially those with dieldrin, gamma-BHC and DDT. Mr. Peterson estimates that millions of birds are killed annually. Ten infected worms may be enough to kill a robin.

Our long-time friends, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Johnson at Fort Matanzas, where we find warblers in the Spring, have donated 80 acres of land for a state park. This includes the entire southern tip of Anastasia Island. A recreational area on the ocean is planned, and nature trails on the west side of the highway. Ferry service for a small charge is provided during week-ends to the old fort. This stone fort was built about 1742 by the Spanish and passed into U.S. hands when Spain gave up Florida in 1821. Don't forget to visit Florida's newest park, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, 3 miles south of Marineland. Some of the liveoaks there are estimated to be over 500 years old.

Those Western Visitors - One of our distant members, Mrs. Earl F. Olsen, of Norris, Tennessee, writes of having seen 31 Fulvous Tree Ducks in a field below Norris Dam. These are of tawny body with creamy stripes on the sides, and the legs are long, extending beyond the tail in flight. They belong in the marshy areas of southern California, Mexico, southern Texas and Louisiana. Their appearances in the east are accidental, but they have been seen during the last 10 years in small numbers after bad weather in their home area. Thank you, Mrs. Olsen. She suggests some of our members might enjoy driving north on U.S. 25 and stopping at Cove Lake State Park, which is a wonderful bird sanctuary.

A hunter who fortunately knew the curator of the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, said to him, "Yesterday I was duck hunting and I shot two of the darndest looking ducks you can imagine." Inspection proved them to be Fulvous Tree Ducks, and the curator begged them for specimens, so that now the museum will have its first stuffed fulvous tree ducks and they are happy about it, the museum people.

Now those darling ducks are here. There are about three dozen to be seen after crossing the Tomoka Park bridge in a large pond that can be barely seen on the right side of the road. It is the National Gardens road. There are also a couple of dozen Green Winged Teal in the pond.

AUDUBON CHATTER. It was about 2:30 P.M., February 18, a softly grey day. Being near the ocean at low tide we drove as usual along the beach. It is always interesting in its variety. This day the birds were resting by the hundreds at the water's edge and we paused to turn field glasses on each large concentration and were highly rewarded for we saw a life bird near the Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach border. Into the picture of scattering gulls, terns, various plovers and sanderlings, flashed a Pomarine Jaeger. Before he had wheeled and vanished low out beyond the rolling surf, we had a clear view of that distinctive tail. Margaret and Ralph Branch. Thank you both!

Chet Childs sent us a bit about Roger Tory Peterson identifying a West Indian Flamingo in the shallows off East Lyme, Connecticut; last summer. "Birds have wings and sometimes get the wanderlust", Mr. Peterson said. So let's keep our eyes open.

Those wishing to enjoy "Audubon Highlights" on the radio should send a card to WSBB, Box 125, New Smyrna Beach. The tapes were offered to the local stations who turned them down. Martha Humphrey was instrumental in persuading Mr. Al Pruitt of WSBB to use them. He seemed delighted. Let us show him that we appreciate him and his good judgment.

On the last trip to Canaveral, Marjorie Woehr saw a queer looking arrangement of sticks in the mangroves about 3 feet from the water. This was on the road to Titusville bridge on the south side just east of where we usually eat lunch. As we looked at it a Great Blue Heron flew to it and folded her legs to sit on her nest, for that is what it was. Her lovely brown breeding plumage flowed in the breeze over the front of her nest as she looked quizzically at us from about 200 feet away.

Don't forget - talk conservation at all times. It is a serious problem and a good Audubon member is a serious conservationist.

Please send in your news and chatter.

Elizabeth E. McCandless
Editor Pro Tem

Volume 10, Number 7

April 1965

Wasn't that a wonderful banquet? We have good reason to be proud of our turnout which was 135 members. To refresh your memory on those fine officers that were elected for the coming year, they are:

F. Beacom Rich - President
George Murray - Vice President in charge of Activities
Mrs. Leon Ross - Vice President in charge of Public Relations
Mrs. Ralph Branch - Vice President in charge of Education
Mrs. Robert S. Henderson - Secretary
Conrad Ekdahl - Treasurer
Mrs. Alvin Pratt - Membership Secretary
George Williams - Historian
Willard Whiteman and Mrs. Thelma Acosta - Members at Large

* * *

Over the Top! We now have enrolled 246 members, an all time record number. New members since last issue of the Pelican are:

Mr. Lynn L. Carr, Uniondale, Penna.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Elliott, 1227 Oakwood Ave., Daytona Beach
Mr. Roger O. Marshaw, 2581 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach
Miss Lillian Shields, New York City
Mr. Ernest Stadelmann, Hartsdale, N. Y.

Your Membership Secretary wishes you a happy summer and hopes that you will return with the birds in the Fall, bringing with you a new member.

* * *

Last dates of the season to remember: Our final meeting of the season is April 19 at Seabreeze United Church at 7:30 P.M., preceded by bird identification by Roy Hudson at 7:00 P.M. The film for the program will be "Island of Birds", a special importation from England by the Audubon Naturalist Society, Washington, D.C. It is a full length color film of the great variety of birds found on the National Reserve on Havergate Island in Suffolk, England, with commentary by James Fisher.

The last three trips are all full day ones:

April 10 - Anastasia Park
April 24 - Silver Glenn Springs
May 1 - Vilano Marsh

Notes Afield. On the morning of March 11, while scanning the mud flats at the south end of the WROD canal, the Ekdahls and Dearborns watched a Clapper Rail come out of the marsh grass. Then, to their surprise, a Sora Rail appeared in full view, walking about unconcernedly for nearly five minutes in full sunlight which gave an excellent opportunity to see the beautiful soft coloring of this plump, chicken-like little bird. Because one generally has just a quick glimpse of a sora, it was an extra surprise later in the morning to have the experience repeated on the marsh of the Indian River

Grove Road. A sora was on the mud bank of the ditch along the main road that borders the marsh and, like its predecessor, it allowed observation for several minutes. The highlight of the day, however, was the sighting of three Pectoral Sandpipers on the mud of the marsh beyond the upper bridge.

On March 30, the Ekdahls, Dearborns, and Holdens birded on the Dupont Road and were delighted to see a male Summer Tanager, two Swallow-tailed Kites, and a Prothonotary Warbler. The warbler was in plain view, first on one side of the road, then on the other, for about fifteen minutes. He was sighted not far up the road beyond the house on the right-hand side as one enters the Dupont Road from Route 1. The tanager was also in this general area. Great-crested Flycatchers were calling, and Bachman's sparrows singing but they would not come out to be admired.

On recent trips the one to Cross Creek was through charming backwoods countryside. We thought ducks would be in some of the ponds but there were no ducks to speak of, but our 40 observers did have a count of 96 species. Turning left on State 325 at Island Grove toward Cross Creek, 4 large nests were seen in tops of huge pine trees. In two of them were seen a pair of Eagles. No birds were in the other two, but since many Ospreys were about it could be assumed that they were osprey nests. These nests were all within a mile stretch along the road. Some saw a Fulvous Tree duck and the White Pelican seems to be staying in the Halifax River area. One member sighted a Sora Rail.

A half day trip on March 12 with 38 observers brought forth 98 species including Gannets, Fulvous Tree Ducks, Green and Blue Winged Teal. They can be found at Holden's Pond. The Rusty Blackbird seems to be more numerous than in former years. A half day trip on March 19 with 30 observers found 98 species. Again the ducks before mentioned were the most spectacular feature of the day. Sharp Shinned Hawks seem to be seen more frequently on our trips. Glossy Ibis were sighted by some. The Hermit Thrush made its appearance, and Thelma Acosta saw the first Nighthawk of the season. The little butterflies of the bird world, the Warblers, are starting to come through from their winter playgrounds in South America. March 27 on the trip to Titusville, George Williams sighted a Barred Owl. Eastern Kingbirds and Stilts were seen also. Twenty-one observers reported 96 species. The April 2 trip to Rock Springs produced two Burrowing Owls, A Solitary Sandpiper, a Great Crested Flycatcher, and more Rusty Blackbirds than have ever been seen before - also a Great Crested Flycatcher, a Solitary Sandpiper, and more Stilts at Osteen Marsh, with 112 species for the day.

Our check list for the season comes now to 187 species. Keep your binoculars within easy reach. The check list we use lists approximately 204 species to be seen from Daytona Beach to Melbourne. We now have seen 187 of these this year. Some of the ones seen are not on our check list. I hope all my northern friends will have a fine summer birding and that they all come back to the Daytona area next year.

NEW PICTURES IN SLIDE FILE: Mr. Penn Holden has donated thirty new slides for the Society File. He will show these during the first half hour of the April meeting. During the past two months Roy Hudson and Penn Holden have spent over seventy man-hours re-arranging the H.R.A.S. slide file. Examining every slide in the file, carefully, they discarded all those inferior and useless. Then each of the 371 slides retained was given an easy-to-read number and the name of the bird on a label by the number. The slides are now filed in three new steel slide files.

A new index was also compiled including 280 species that appear in this area with reasonable regularity, following correct nomenclature. An alphabetical index makes it easy to find the page in the loose-leaf index book, where the number of the slide appears with a description of the bird or birds on that slide, making selection more easy.

New slides can be added and indexed at any time, fitting into the present arrangement. Suggestions are made for the care of the slides, as it is important that they be kept dark, dry, cool and clean. When the slides are used they must be used carefully to avoid fingerprint damage, and returned immediately to the file boxes. The fact that some of the slides are as much as ten years old, and are in excellent condition, indicates that they have had good care.

Carlton Smith, who operates the projectors, is custodian of all of the equipment and films. A new cabinet has been provided in which he stores this valuable collection, the projectors, and the records.

Roy Hudson

AUDUBON CHATTER. Rose Block saw a Blackthroated Blue Warbler in her garden on March 20. Arriving here from Haiti it rests briefly and leaves the area about March 21. On the Titusville trip, Nettie Ross looked for the Great Blue Heron whose nest we reported before, and saw three baby herons' heads sticking up from the nest with the mother standing above it like a guard. In the water nearby were two alligators trying to look nonchalant, and the numerous Anhingas were still perched in the tops of the mangroves surrounding the nest. Those ponds south of the Titusville causeway are a good place to watch.

Thelma Acosta is doing an interesting thing. She went to Tucson where she joined a busload of folks under the sponsorship of the Tucson Audubon Society. They will spend two weeks birding in Mexico. Chet Childs, our well-loved former President, had that troublesome gallbladder out on April 2, and is reported doing fine in Halifax Hospital. Bates Bookshop at 817 Broadway, always friendly to conservationists, has offered to give a 10% discount to all Audubon members on ANY book purchased there. All we have to do is to show our membership cards.

We are a little jealous! In the Christmas bird count, Fort Lauderdale had 409 Painted Buntings! Why can't those darlings favor us a bit more? Their eight firsts were: Chimney Swift, Bell's Vireo,

Common Night Hawk, Veery, White Winged Dove, Fulvous Tree Duck, Red-head Duck, and Rusty Blackbird. They saw that Woodstorks did not nest in Corkscrew Swamp last year but are doing so now. Stuart reports a large rookery of storks now, and also three Sandhill Crane nests snuggling low in the swamp grass. Let us see if we can spot any Woodstork nests high in cypress trees. If so let me know.

Former President Rose Block welcomes your new President, F. B. Rich, who welcomed me into the Society in 1945. I studied hard, and in 1950 was chosen to take part in the Christmas bird count. We reported 94 species and 8,876 individuals. My work with the Society has kept me healthy and happy for 20 years. One proud achievement I wish to tell of this month is our aid to the Volusia County Enrichment Center where pupils had been assigned to create something on the general theme of "Song and Garden Birds". At the completion of their contract they invited me to their open house. As reported in the Daytona Beach Evening News of March 29, these fourth and fifth graders were invited to a field day at the University of Florida's bird range to see how birds are prepared for mounting in museums.

First Glimpses of Central America

by
Margaret Branch

Yucatan - Guatemala - Costa Rica - March 3rd through 18th, the most strenuous of our Florida Audubon Society trips. Aside from the delicious fruits, the food in most Central American places comes to be less interesting than the servitors in brightly costumes, and what they will bring in place of expected orders, and when. Shifting tablemates in a party of 20 also makes meals a pleasure.

In Yucatan where there were plenty of Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza and Uxmal, there was the first wave of bright exotic birds including many of our own migrants, both eastern and western. They were easy to watch from our balconies as they enjoyed the numerous flowering trees and shrubs.

The Mot-mot, looking like a large cuckoo, sits to be admired, and every one charms me. A vivid memory is of the Turquoise-browed Mot-mot swinging his long tail slowly side to side on a vine overhanging the wide deep natural well there, in a year of drought, maidens were sacrificed by the Mayas. Like a pendulum are those two long tail feathers, barbered to shape by him, and they call him the "clock bird".

In Costa Rica we lunched in our chartered bus among the clouds high up on the side of Poas, the volcano, and saw the famous "flowery meadow" near the crater. Coming down out of the clouds on Poas we saw vivid rainbows, wide and close, and lunched near a waterfall where a tiny Torrent Tyrannulet was at home, and dozens of hummingbirds on some long verbena hedges. Rich soil allows thriving living fences, and the long spikes of the thick purple verbena shrub provides a banquet for hummingbirds. We got best views of the

Rufous-tailed, a comparatively large species and belligerent, which kept chasing the smaller species that we were trying to study.

The next day we spent watching birds on the wide acres of the Agricultural Experiment School and saw many birds, including Jacanas, walking on the lily pads of the little lake, and Purple Gallinules there, and even on the wet lawns adjoining.

The jets were all efficiency with smaller foreign planes within and between countries. Our touching down at airports in Salvador and Nicaragua once involved a pleasant drive to a fine hotel for lunch between planes, and once a sudden change of plans put us on a more direct flight and got us to Guatemala City one and a half hours early. Our travel agent got the word and arrived breathless with the five cars and drivers soon following to meet us. But the special surprise, the marimba band, had not heard. It played briskly for the passengers landing on the later plane (we were told) after we were all settled at the Palace Hotel in the heart of the city.

The Palace Hotel, built about 1912, is a whole story in itself. Indians in colorful woven costumes, which are their daily dress and a different pattern for each village, were the numerous staff. They are noted for their honesty and spoke no English. Place after place one Spanish-American took our orders, but the barefooted Indians did all the running about, and even we learned to demand "agua caliente" or "leche caliente" for the excellent but mighty strong coffee. Ninety-eight per cent of Guatemalans are Indians and mostly still on the land living in unpainted huts. The colorful houses and churches of the Spanish-American villages in Costa Rica rival the flowering trees and the birds. In one village looms up a pale green church, in another yellow, and in a third a pretty terracotta, all plastered. Some of the beautiful ones in natural gray stones are ruins from earthquakes.

Flying to one remote spot over mountains, we found Mayan ruins in process of excavation, and the most fabulous birds of all. We watched Parrots and Toucans from our balconies at Tikal, Guatemala. These were two wonderful weeks.

* * *

A Feather's Tale. All healthy adult birds replace all their old feathers with new, at least once a year, all their lives. Most species and all migratory birds do this after the breeding season in early autumn. During the annual molt most birds lose their flight and tail feathers two at a time. The innermost wing feathers and the innermost tail feathers drop first. In this way birds continue to have the balance and wingspread for flight all during the molt. By the time the outermost wing and tail feathers are dropped the new innermost feathers are nearly full grown. Soon after the start of the molt of wing feathers is on its way the body feathers are dropped two at a time, one from each side. They, too, could cause imbalance in flight.

A number of water birds that can escape their enemies and feed themselves without flying drop all their flight feathers at once and sprout all the new ones the same way. Many members of the auk family and ducks, geese and swans molt this way. The waterfowl go through their annual molt at a time when the ducklings, goslings and cygnets are too young to fly and the parents must either swim or waddle with them to protect them and lead them to food.

A few species of birds, such as the egret, acquire special nuptial plumes before the breeding season which are shed as soon as the breeding season is over. Some species show new color during the breeding season which has nothing to do with molting. The yellow tips of the male Bobolink's feathers wear off during the winter and expose his handsome black and white courting clothes. In the same way the house sparrow's gray feather tips break off and the black bib they hide is revealed.

* * *

A feller isn't thinking mean out birdin',
His thoughts are mostly good and clean out birdin',
He doesn't knock his fellow men or harbor any grudges then;
A feller's at his finest when out birdin'.

The rich are comrades to the poor out birdin',
All brothers of a common lure out birdin',
The urchin who loves birds on wing can ehum with millionaire
and king,
Vain pride is a forgotten thing out birdin'.

A feller's glad to be a friend out birdin',
A helping hand he'll always lend out birdin',
The brotherhood of Audubon have hearts with friendship
throbbin'
Men come real close to God's design out birdin'.

A feller isn't plotting schemes out birdin',
He's only busy with his dreams out birdin',
His livery is a coat of tan, his creed to do the best he can,
A feller's always mostly man out birdin'.

A parody on Edgar A. Guest's "Out Fishin'", sent by
Helen Whitmore.

Elizabeth McCandless
Editor Pro Tem

Volume 11, Number 1

October 1965

Good fall greetings to all migrant HRAS members, and welcome HOME to Florida. Those of us who remained here fed our birds like mad so they would be here for you this winter. We shall have the best year ever for our membership grows all the time. An article in "Bird Lore" in 1916 ends with this question, "When will the really intelligent people of Florida awake to the desirability of preserving what nature has given it?" Are we awake yet? In the statement of Audubon Belief, point 10 continues "conservation and restoration of water, soil, plants and wildlife is so vital to the future of our state and nation that conservation education should be an integral part of the instruction in all public schools." All the more reason then for the following message - - -

Membership fees are now due! Please return the enclosed membership card, completely filled in (with Zip Code) 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 meeting night. If you know any who are interested in the objects of the Audubon Society, give them an opportunity to do their part. Sign them up as members.

(Mrs. Alvin R.) Beatrice Pratt, Membership Secretary

The first meeting this fall will be held in the social room of Seabreeze United Church on Monday evening, October 18, at 7:00 P.M., with bird identification first, a short business meeting, and some films that Henry Dearborn has provided. It will be a good meeting as it always is. Don't miss it.

TRIPS - October 9. All day. This is a break from past schedules for it takes us to the Mead Botanical Gardens, Winter Park via Osteen, Oviedo and Genius Drive.

Saturday, October 16. Half day.

Saturday, October 23. Washington Oaks State Park, Matanzas Park and Anastasia Park. We may see some warblers.

Saturday, October 30. Indian River groves and Titusville.

Friday, November 6, Half day.

Friday, November 12. Back to Matanzas, but this trip includes Crescent Beach and Guano River Park. (A new one for us)

Friday, November 19. Duda Ranch and Rock Springs State Park before the duck season starts November 25.

AUDUBON CHATTER. George Williams saw a male and female Baltimore Oriole recently. This is about 2 months earlier than usual. At Duda Ranch this August he and Professor Calvert from east Alabama saw Sandhill Cranes, a Black Tern, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs. Here at Daytona Beach the darling Least Terns have delighted us all summer and there has been an unusually large number of Willets on the beach. One member saw a Black Skimmer skimming at night near the bandshell. Another reported five Cardinal nestings in his yard. Let us know what you have seen. Connie Egleston saw 2 Frigate birds north of Flagler Beach this summer. At Folkes Pond the wires held more than 100 Eastern Kingbirds recently, according to the Pratts. Good birding!

THE JESUS BIRD by George Murray

The bird with the blushing red face that came unheralded to our shores from the Old World might be of interest to our New England visitors as well as those who are members of our local Audubon Society. Some of these European Goldfinches were introduced into the United States in the vicinity of Hoboken, New Jersey in the year 1878. A few breeding years later they appeared in sections of New York, Massachusetts and Maine. Soon the bird watchers in three states were on the alert to catch a glimpse of the American Goldfinch's cousin, the continental bird with the red face. Some undoubtedly saw this bird but there seem to be very few official reports turned in. It lived and bred in the New England sector about 54 years and then disappeared from the scene around 1932. The bird seems to have a penchant for island living. In its migration from the north to the south in winter small flocks landed on the island of Bermuda, and here it seems to have stayed, becoming a permanent resident of the island. The colony seems to be growing in Bermuda. These birds are native to the British Isles and also found throughout Europe, North Africa and eastward to Iran. It was introduced successfully in New Zealand.

William Henry Hudson, the naturalist and writer who was born in South America of New England parentage and who died in 1922, referred to the European Goldfinch as the bird with the "coat of many colors". It is very striking. The head is capped in black and a white streak in the neck seems to emphasize the face, which is a bright scarlet. The black wings are splashed with a yellow patch and the back is brown. The tail is black and white. The bird is just as beautiful in flight as on the ground. The yellow patch extends from the body of the bird to almost the tips of the wings and the white patch on the rump shows more distinctly in flight.

There is another page in this bird's history which is interesting. This takes us back to Italy between 1472-1517. Here in Florence an Italian painter, Fra Bartolomeo Della Porta, painted in oil a picture of the Holy Family. The picture is in a gracious tondo, "tondo" being a composition within a circle. The name of the painting is "The Holy Family With the Infant John the Baptist" and can be seen at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida. Mary and Joseph with the Christ child and the infant, John the Baptist, are the central figures but the bird with the coat of many colors, which seems to be so attentive to the baby, Jesus, appears in the foreground. The bird is often seen in Italian paintings depicting the Christ and is referred to as "the beloved bird of Jesus", or the "Jesus Bird". It was sometimes used as a symbol of the resurrection in these early oil paintings.

I have seen this bird in the lovely surroundings of Kew Gardens, just outside of London, in the company of the Greenfinch and Chaffinch. The people feed the finches in the gardens and they become quite friendly. The small and charming country churchyard at Stoke Poges where the poet, Thomas Gray, lies buried is often visited by this bird. The churchyard on the outskirts of Epping Forest has small flocks flying about. I have seen it also on the Island of Majorca, which is one of its favorite winter spots. Here it associates with the Sardinian Warbler and the Firecrest.

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 11, Number 2

November 1965

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT:- Greetings and a warm welcome to all members and friends of the Halifax River Audubon Society. The officers and directors are pleased to embark upon another successful year of activity together with each and every one of you. Working together we can contribute our best to the ever-widening field of conservation -- the wisest use of God's natural gifts for the highest benefit to all.

F. Beacom Rich

Program of Monthly Meeting, November 15: Our program consists of three films from the National Audubon Society: "BIRDS OF THE PRAIRIE" features, among others, such birds as Willets, Avocets, and Curlews, and stresses the need of guarding them as part of our American heritage. "YOUR LIVING HERITAGE" is a delightful film showing a wide variety of wildlife, virgin forests, rushing streams, alligators, beaver, flamingos, spoonbills, egrets, and the Whooping Crane and California Condor. The film "AN ISLAND IN TIME" is a revelation of the beauty, interest and recreational possibilities that exist on POINT REYES PENINSULA, 35 miles from San Francisco. Because of its superb photography, its moving narration, and beautiful music, it has been described as a "picture poem, rare and compelling".

Henry Dearborn, Program Chairman

Editor's Note: "The Pelican" was originated, and often entirely written, by Bob Henderson, whom we greatly miss. Its early letterhead named it as "Information Bulletin" of the H.R.A.S. Primarily it is sent to bring items of timely and local interest to members. The extra bonus pages will tell of some more far flung adventuring of our members. As more in the "news", the last shall be first; we hold accounts of earlier, no less enviable trips, for future numbers.

Our monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. A born teacher, this same Bob Henderson began giving an extra preliminary half hour of instruction for those who wished to come at 7 o'clock to see and study slides of birds to be looked for on our upcoming field trips, or on days between. This extra instruction period has grown to be an expected thing which most of our members do not plan to miss, and it has widened in scope, like "The Pelican". Besides "the Holden slides collection" of our local birds, his gift to the club, Fenn Holden has many more that he has photographed from here to the Pacific Coast, and we have several other experts among us who have photographed, for slides, as far away as Africa.

This season Roy Hudson is our expert instructor, and this month's treat, caught and presented by himself, he calls "Caroline Beauty", including wild flowers of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where he and Jean hiked daily, up to 18 miles (one day), during the several days of this Spring's annual Wild Flower Festival.

FIELD TRIPS: The October "Pelican", edited by Elizabeth McCandless, was mailed early, along with our very important "CALENDAR" for the whole season, and blanks for renewing membership. Trip number one, on October 9, to Head Botanical Gardens, Winter Park, was missed by many of us who had not yet converged near the Halifax. We are assured by

George Murray, our trip director, that it will be scheduled, even better, for early April at latest. By direct route it is no farther than to St. Augustine. Ira Weigley, trip director for the Florida Audubon Society, met and led our group at this new objective and, in all, 20 observers totalled 66 species. In George's own words, "On the way to the Gardens, by way of Osteen Marsh, two Eagles and one Pigeon Hawk were seen. The credit for this enjoyable trip goes to Marjorie Van Buren who suggested it to the trip director". On October 16 four cars, with 14 people, made a half day trip, Loop Drive, with an aside to Bulow Plantation ruins. October 23rd was a perfect day for stops at Washington Oaks and Matanzas Park and picnic at Anastasia Park. Cars grouped 4-4-1-1, following various routes. B. Thomas did not return Rose Block to her doorstep until dark. Once started birding, those two find it hard to stop. Thirty observers, 93 species, leader Connie Ekdahl who verified, among many others, two birds unusual for the time and place - Wood Pewee and Tennessee Warbler. Again quoting George Murray, "Not until he got a glimpse of the (Pewee's) wing bars. A lot can be learned in birding from observing Connie Ekdahl. There is never a quick judgment made until all the facts are put together". Saturday, October 30, Indian River Groves and Titusville. Six cars, 20 people, 82 species; totals reduced by rain and wind, and lingering also shortened by mosquitoes where the marshes offered a fascinating variety of birds. Remember that Saturday, November 6, is a half day trip, and Friday, November 12 is to be a long one, with noon lunch at a new spot for us. Guano River Park is well above St. Augustine. Friday, November 19, to Rock Springs, is a long one too, but interesting route, sheltered picnic tables and swimming pool worth trying. Welaka on December 11 has a nice warm aquarium if it is too cool for you to lunch outside, and half the gang prefer seats there. Friday, November 26, should provide some exciting birds not seen in our area, and it will at least be interesting. Changes down that way are so big and so fast that some of us can hardly bear to look at what was Cape Canaveral.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE AT THE GRAND BAHAMA HOTEL, OCTOBER 14-18, 1965, by Elizabeth McCandless: Glorious was the only way to describe this 5-day meeting of the Florida Audubon Society. Eight of your H.R.A.S. members attended - the largest group of any club there. (Bea and Al Pratt, Elizabeth McCandless, Velma Hayes, Lillian and Frank Crosby, Burnette Halliwell of Deland, and Chet Childs, hale and hearty. All left the plane at West Palm Beach and drove back to the Halifax area. Editor's note) The 2,000 acres of lush tropical gardens in and around the hotel were filled with birds and their songs, including ten hundred or ten thousand Palm Warblers, according to one's enthusiasm. They loved the beautiful grass and were quite tame. One of our members saw a Pigeon Hawk have one for breakfast.

Russ Mason and his staff gave a marvellous program. It is stimulating to meet leaders from all Florida and to exchange ideas. We were pleased to note that other clubs have picked up our half-hour bird identification for field trips, preceding monthly meetings. We learned again that the Audubon image should be conservation, and used as a continuing impact. Look for "Audubon Highlights" radio program on Thursday nights.

Ira Weigley said that field trips are for the "young in heart", and Lucille Ball, a guest and president of the Montgomery, Alabama Society, quoted, "There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval". There was very good fellowship in the exchange of ideas, and we were asked to emphasize conservation of man's whole natural environment, which means saving not only the wild life, but unpolluted water and air for very survival of man himself.

About the exciting birds, Magnificent Frigatebirds put on a daily show. Thirty-three West Indian (Fulvous) Tree Ducks wheeled overhead. A Sora put on a fan dance with tail spread. Quite often Smooth-billed Anis let us admire them as they sat high in bushes in a field, and that darling, the Cuban Emerald Hummingbird, showed off for all. The Western Kingbird and the Loggerhead Kingbird, endemic to that region, were frequently seen.

A single Red-legged Thrush walked slowly across the road and gave us a beautiful view of his funny stubby dark chicken-like body and large red legs and feet. As to warblers, the Kirtland's, Olive-capped, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and also Blue, and Cape May were among the outstanding ones. There were many Bananaquits, Bobolinks, and Baltimore Orioles. The Black-faced Grassquit is a funny looking, dark faced little fellow. We could go on and on, but we'll end with three birds unusual for the region - the Yellow-headed Blackbird, one Cinnamon Teal, and a flock of Cedar Waxwings.

You may be receiving a request soon asking you to mail letters to persons listed. It will tell of the proposed destruction of the natural features of the Loxahatchee River in south Florida. There is a good chance that we may be able to save this lovely wild river, whereas we failed as to the Ocklawaha. So let us get behind our F.A.S. president, Irwin Fritz, and do as he asks in this.

Membership Report: As of October 26 we have 147 members paid up.

New Members: Mrs. Charles L. Cawthon, Memphis, Tennessee
 Mrs. Sara White Cory, Ormond Hotel, Ormond Beach
 Miss Dorothy S. Davis, Princess Issena Hotel
 Mr. W. H. Giebel, Olds Hall, Daytona Beach
 Mrs. Charles A. Lovell, 41 Palmetto Dr., Ormond Beach
 Mrs. G. L. Schaller, Olds Hall, Daytona Beach
 Mrs. Anne D. Thompson, Olds Hall, Daytona Beach

Deaths reported: Mr. Harold Bradley, Canada
 Mrs. Eleanor M. Groom, Deland

Two of our members, Thelma L. Acosta, now a resident of Daytona Beach, and Lillian Shields of New York City, joined a group of 20 with two expert leaders for a birding trip, by chartered bus, down into Mexico on the Pacific side. They had a blissful two weeks. Here is Thelma's account of just one choice day.

ONE DAY'S BIRDING FROM THE BUCANERO HOTEL
SAN BLAS, NAYARIT, MEXICO, April 8, 1965

Most of us awakened at 5:00 A.M. to the ring of alarm clocks, the crowing of roosters and a chorus of barking dogs, to which the Boat-tailed Grackles added their cheerful addition.

The 5:30 A.M. breakfast was a hearty San Blas one - the usual delectable tray of fruit - cantaloup, bananas and papaya, pineapple juice (none like it elsewhere), bacon, eggs, toasted buns, coffee, etc.

The drive up into the Canyon by Danny our amiable driver was lovely. Growth was lush, dense and tropical. Many varieties of palm trees - the very tall, straight Washingtonian, Coconut, as well as palms producing clusters of small nuts used for palm oil. The long slim-leafed fronds are used as "building material"; also spread on the ground as a drying place for laundry. Gumbo Limbo trees, some gnarled, some quite high, as if reaching for the sky from the thick jungle, added a fascinating touch of reddish color; and scattered among all were lovely flowering trees with exotic blossoms of crimson, gold, white, pink and lilac. Also, the Strangler Fig and many varieties of ferns and vines.

A few miles up we hopped out of the bus and strolled down leisurely searching for birds, but feasting on the view, soft air and clear blue sky. Looking into the top of one tree we saw an odd honeycomb of bees. It looked as if five huge sections of fungus were joined together at the bottom and fanned out at the top and simply buzzing with activity.

Plodding up the canyon now and then was a small burro with a Mexican astride, carrying his ever useful machete, and possibly a dog trailing along, or a Mexican woman balancing a bundle or basket on her head. And at times a lovely little palm home with quaint sun shelter of palm fronds for animals - the yard being neatly swept with broom palm.

Bird songs and calls were entrancing, some melodious, some sharp whistles, peeps and chips, some scolds and alarms - then too, the rat-a-tat of the gay woodpeckers. One handsome LINNEATED WOODPECKER let us approach within a few feet as he probed his stout bill deep into a limb for bugs. There were squawks and family squabbles among some of the gaudy and gaily colored PARROTS AND PAROULETS.

One lovely sight was a view of a MASKED TITYRA, nesting material in bill, as he (or she) dropped from branch to lower branch. On each stop it peered at us intently, tho with no great concern and at last flew away.

As we meandered down the canyon road, one hairpin curve after another, the "Birding" with Peter Alden was just plain "Terrific". Such magnificent plumage and glamorous names - some of the unusual were RED-CROWNED ANT-TANAGER, MOTMOT, RUSTY-BROWED GROUND SPARROW, COPPERY-TAILED TROGON, BAR-VENTED WREN, WHITE-THROATED ROBIN, SCARLET-HEADED ORIOLE, LONG-BILLED HERMIT HUMMINGBIRD, MASKED TITYRA, KISKADEE, PALE-BILLED, also LINNEATED WOODPECKERS, and a HAPPY WREN singing gloriously.

Thelma L. Acosta

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 11, Number 3

December 1965

"LAND BIRDS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW", by Roy Hudson, will be the subject of the opening instruction period at the monthly meeting on December 20, at 7:00 P.M. It is suggested that members all prepare by making a list of from ten to thirty birds, and studying the pictures and text in the field guide. Pictures from the Holden Collection will illustrate the program.

Following a brief business session, our first film for this meeting, "BIRTH OF A FLORIDA KEY", shows the "birth" of a mangrove key with a mangrove seed taking root, growing, trapping sand built up by wave action, and finally the moving in of bird and animal life and the growth of vegetation for the formation of a full fledged key. The second film, "NATURE'S HALF ACRE", features the plant, animal, bird and insect life likely to be found in any garden, field or woodland. This film is one of Walt Disney's True Life Adventure Series.

The above notice of films was received from Henry Dearborn, program chairman, who arranged for delivery, but is still in the Frozen North. The Dearborns are lingering to spend the holidays with children and grandchildren, in Maine and Massachusetts. The Pratts have left us, as Whitemans did last year, drawn northward by the same attractions. We are all looking forward to greeting the Dearborns and Pratts soon after the New Year.

Our first Audubon Wildlife film of the series at Peabody Auditorium will be on January 8, "Teton Trails". Do you have your series ticket? Three dollars for five remarkable evenings, all between January 8 and March 19, with none of the hardships involved in making these pictures in wild places.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: Membership fees are due in September of each year. Those of you who have not yet renewed have been receiving monthly copies of THE PELICAN. This issue, however, will be the last one mailed to delinquent members. Mail your renewal in today! Number of unpaid members on November 24 was less than 20 of 183 listed members.

New Member: Mr. Orval D. Hinman, New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Pratt, Membership Secretary, asks that we print this stern note. With husband's stout aid, she mails out about 200 copies of THE PELICAN each month. For December Velma Hayes and Connie Eggleston have taken over the task.

FIELD TRIPS by George S. Murray, field-trip director.
Merry Christmas to all our birding friends!

A half-day trip on November 6 was curtailed considerably by precipitation that began about a half hour before the scheduled end of the trip and lasted the entire day. However, 77 species of birds were seen before 18 observers in five cars called it quits. The Western Kingbird has come into our territory again as well as the Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). These and the Short-billed Marsh Wren were the birds that offered much pleasurable study on November 6.

A full-day trip to Washington Oaks State Park, and the Guano river section on November 12, produced 80 species observed by 30 people in 8 cars. The Guano river area, while being quite a distance, still may hold possibilities if we could choose the right date when the mosquitoes (Anopheles) aren't around. It is held in great esteem by other Audubon groups and should be kept in mind. On this trip a Western Sandpiper tried to confuse two experts, Roy Hudson and Connie Ekdahl, but was unsuccessful. If we could see more of these species in our territory it would be less confusing.

November 19 to Duda farms was a memorable day for 32 observers in 8 cars. We were met by our friend, the ornerythologist Ira Weigley, and he was able to show our group just about all the ducks that are listed on our check list, and one that isn't. The one that is not included is the Fulvous Tree Duck. There are 19 different species of ducks on our check list, this includes the 2 Mergansers. We saw 15 species out of a possible 19, so you can see the day was not a total loss. The total number of species for the day came to 101. Many thanks, Ira, our group really appreciated your efforts. (Editor's note: The other group of cars first stopped at Tangerine to get Mrs. Rae Moody who guides us to "Duda", her special birding preserve, where she had routes mapped to best finds and where Ira awaited us.)

We saw many changes on our trip to Cape Kennedy on November 26, but if the tidal basin is not disturbed more than it is now, the birding should be good in the future. Planning on lowest tide there, at 9:30 A.M., 24 observers in 6 cars observed 94 species, the Avocets, Marbled Godwits and Whimbrels were the exotic ones among many Black Skimmers and Dunlins. Enroute home by way of Titusville and ALA we saw 9 different species of ducks and 2 Eagles.

The next "PELICAN" will report on projected field trips of half-day December 4, full-day trip to Melaka Fish Hatcheries December 11, half-day trip on December 18, and Christmas bird count on December 28, or 29 if weather changes plans for 28th.

* * * *

George Murray's phone number is CL3-1147. December 4 was a soft-ly gray day and many birds late in appearing, before 10 A.M., but it was a lovely day to be out and afoot and looking for them. Five car-loads left the bridge at 7:30 A.M. or soon after, and before noon had found a fair number.

AUDUBON CHATTER - Elizabeth McCandless. Various Halifax River Audubon Society members have visited South Florida in the past month. One couple saw an even dozen Sandhill Cranes in the grassy flatlands along U.S. 41 south of Sarasota. Some ^{stood} ~~quite~~ near the road to permit their brilliant red top-knots to be admired. The huge dignified birds with their floppy tailfeathers seem to prefer to travel in pairs. Their coarse heavy squawk on taking off into the air comes as a surprising contrast to their dignity.

In Corkscrew Swamp, two HRAS members, even though told to watch for a knot on a tree at a certain place, could not believe it was a sleeping Whiporwill until the "knot" breathed, thus ruffling the feathers a bit, the black and brown feathers matching the tree bark perfectly, with the head tucked under a wing.

AUDUBON CHATTER (Continued). All hawks should be carefully scrutinized. One, sitting atop a dead tree near the road south of Arcadia turned out to be a Caracara, with black crest atop a white head, and the face quite red at the sides of the yellow beak. His black body and wings both became white near their ends - a fierce and stunning bird. The rare Cabot's Tern was reported at Sanibel, the one with the yellow-tipped bill. Magnificent Frigate birds are seen daily in South Florida. There were Anhingas on nests or feeding their chicks in Myakka State Park.

FINDING BIRDS AROUND THE WORLD by Lillian Crosby

When Frank and I took off last June for our round-the-world trip, we did not expect to see many birds in such a short time on such a long trip. Our first experience was with a Gould Petrel which followed the boat several days out from Los Angeles from which port we sailed.

In the Hawaiian Islands, our first port of call, we were delighted to see the Papuan Mynas covering the ground as Starlings often do in this country, to which family I was told the Mynas belong. Many of these birds were black with a metallic sheen and were tame and unafraid. We saw other Mynas in Japan, China and the Philippines, and although we specifically made a point of visiting the famous botanical gardens in Singapore as George Murray urged us to do, we looked very hard indeed but found no birds although there were great "flocks" of monkeys begging for peanuts.

We left our boat at Bombay and flew to New Delhi in northern central India and it was here, where the love and reverence for all life is so much a part of this country's religions, that we were most fascinated with the affluence of bird life. Again we found an abundance of Mynas. Here we saw the golden-crested and the saucy and incredible Hill Myna. From Delhi we flew to Agra, the world center for semi-precious stones, and we loved trying to identify the birds around the Taj Mahal. Our guide pointed out a "purple sunbird" whose beautiful blues and purples rival the gem decorations in the magnificent Taj Mahal. Here too there was a bevy of brown-throated Spinetail and Indian crested Swifts. Another striking bird in India is called the Drongo. It is similar to our crow but ranges in size from that of a Starling to that of a large Jay. Their stout arched bills are slightly hooked and notched, their feet stout and short, and their tails are long and deeply forked. We saw them sitting on the ruins of a wall across the yellow river directly opposite the beautiful Taj Mahal.

Traveling by car twenty-five miles into the hill country from Agra to visit the Walled City, we were astonished to see handsome peacocks wandering about. The beautiful trains measured 92 inches, we were told. Frequently we had to turn off the road onto fields to avoid hitting the sacred cows that wander freely all over India. Sometimes, not far distant, we could see the brown and blue Argus Pheasant which we were informed had only recently come to India. A fascinating study for some aspiring ornithologist would be the migration of birds from war-torn countries, such as those of Indo-China, into nearby peaceful areas.

On our second visit to Delhi, we went to the new zoo. Here we saw the famous white tigers whose story was told in a recent issue of the National Geographic Magazine. When a certain maharaja, who had turned over his land to the new Indian government as requested, found he could not make ends meet on his small government pension, he requested permission to trap white tigers and sell them to zoos around the world. He was permitted to do this providing he gave the first two, male and female, to the government, and these we saw in the New Delhi zoo. They were great, magnificent, white, sleek creatures, very intelligent and greatly loved their keeper, a young Indian man whose every command they obeyed. Among the birds in the zoo was a beautiful crane which neither I nor Frank, nor our scholarly native guide, could identify. However, after consulting many books we have decided the unknown bird was a Sarus Crane which stands from four to six feet on its great pink legs and holds its red-cheeked head majestically in the air in great disdain of poor humans.

This was the end of our birding for some time as Frank took to his bed stricken with "Mahomet's Revenge", along with many other inexperienced travellers, in the Clark-Shirraz Hotel.

Editor's Note: Frank Crosby is bound and determined to go and see far places, even if he suffers for it. He finds that getting back to the United States, and going through customs in a wheeled chair, makes that usual ordeal quick and easy when one is convalescent. So, the Crosbys fly into India though it is 100 degrees, and the same for Egypt, and survive unseasonable pneumonia weather in London, as mere incidents in a wonderful trip, with two more sea voyages added to the earlier ones.