

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 13, Number 4

January 1968

FIELD TRIPS: To take up just where your December PELICAN broke off: On December 8 two groups went inland, and for one full-day trip, never got together. Three cars, rather belated, stopped short and picnicked at Lake Ashby just before the rain began. Twenty-seven observers had a combined total of 97 species of birds. Those in the late cars had been delayed by time well spent, watching the rare Red-cockaded woodpeckers they were so pleased to find.

On December 16 two groups set forth, one northward and one southward. It was a shortened half-day trip, but shorter for the ones who went north as the rain clouds reached them first. The combined total was 70 species. On December 23, half-day, 17 people in five cars travelled together, well bundled, and got 73 species.

Our Christmas ^{bird} count on the 28th proved, once more, how hazardous it would be to schedule many picnics at this season. Twenty people in 6 cars worked all day on the count, in five assigned sections of the charted 15-mile circle, and just half lunched in the cars while the others found dry restaurants or homes in their areas. Luckily, the rain was for only an hour or so around noon. Our total fell short of last year's by 20 or so. We had, in all, 105 species. That one bad day, among so many good ones we might have chosen, was the same date chosen for the famous Cocoa count south of Cape Kennedy. There, also, the total fell far short of ^{that} last year's, ⁽²⁰⁵⁾ and for the first time in years, California, not Florida, will probably report the highest count in North America.

On January 5, 18 observers in 5 cars, who were not afraid to dress warmly, had an enjoyable sunny forenoon. We looked in vain for Pine warblers, but listed Black and White, Orange-crowned, Myrtle, Palm and the Yellowthroat. Returned to the very spot where the Christmas census, a week earlier, got two Pileated woodpeckers, and found not even a sound of those, but we had seen Red-headed, Red-bellied, and Downy woodpeckers, and the Sapsucker, which makes many little holes that ruin the citrus and is hated by grove owners.

JANUARY MEETING: This month we shall wait and record whatever comes. Delays, perhaps only postal, are hard on the program chairman. The members at the December meeting enjoyed the program just as announced - life of the Wood Duck, and the Caribbean Islands. *Amateur - Slides - Too long*
(student movie)

WILDLIFE FILMS: The first of our films, "Wilderness Trails", on January 6, was great. More than 1200 people poured into Peabody Auditorium. The second film, January 20, is to be "Everglades--River of Grass", by Robert Hermes. How many remember his Venezuelan "Screen Tour" ten years ago this month in the crowded auditorium of the old Seabreeze High School?

FIELD TRIPS AHEAD:

Friday; Jan. 12; Juniper Springs (choice picnic place)

Friday, Jan. 19, half-day (somebody come and replace 2 of the regular cars over at Clearwater for the annual meeting of the FAS, to be reported next month.

Friday; Jan. 26, Moss Park (a new spot, for nooning)

Friday, Feb. 2, half-day

1st page = mg's

list for Jan, Nov & Dec

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: Membership fees are due in September of each year. Those of you who have not yet renewed your membership have been receiving monthly copies of the PELICAN. This issue, however, will be the last one mailed to delinquent members. If you have not received a ballot it is probably because you have failed to renew your membership. Memberships paid to date are 190. New members who have been welcomed into the group since the November issue of the PELICAN are:

- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Belby, Daytona Beach
- Mrs. Cecile V. Clement, Daytona Beach
- Mrs. Bertha Conklin, South Daytona
- Mrs. Robert D. Currie, Daytona Beach
- Miss June Ennis, Daytona Beach
- Miss Dorothy R. Griswold, Daytona Beach
- Miss Marjorie Hayle, Holly Hill
- Mr. Frederick A. Hull, Ormond Beach
- Mr. Robert Johnson, Ormond Beach
- Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Lynagh, New Smyrna Beach
- Mrs. Hans Mayer, Daytona Beach Shores *(Mrs. is not a binder)*
- Mr. Ferris W. Norris, Daytona Beach

* * * * *

Proposed change in the By-laws regarding change to Chapter Status

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 Change to read:

"The Society's membership shall be "two-way" and shall include membership in the Florida Audubon Society and the Halifax River Audubon Society, and shall pay dues as follows:

- a - Members of the Halifax River Audubon Society during the 1967-1968 membership year may, if they so elect, retain their relationship with the HRAS as Associate Members without voting privilege, and shall pay annual dues of \$2.00.
- b - All other members shall become two-way members and shall pay annual dues of \$5.00 per individual, or \$7.50 for family unit.
- c - All members who so desire may become three-way members which shall include additionally membership in the National Audubon Society, and shall pay annual dues of \$10.00 per individual or \$12.50 per family unit.
- d - All memberships shall include the official publications of those societies with which membership is maintained.
- e - Item c shall be renumbered as "e" without other change.
- f - Item d shall be renumbered as "f" without other change.

Please refer to the information given in the December PELICAN about the change from individual unit to chapter status in the Florida Audubon Society. Then study the proposed amendment to the By-laws, drawing a personal conclusion as to the course we should follow.

Finally, please vote on the enclosed ballot and mail it promptly. It is important for each member to express his will in this matter since it is a big step for the Society to take.

2d Ball - by Membership Chairman

TORTUGAS BIRD BANDING - APRIL 22-27 - 1967

By Thelma L. Acosta

Traveling down the Over-seas Highway to Key West via Greyhound bus, I was again impressed with the ingenuity of man, but it is the sheer beauty of the world which gives one that gasp of delight and an everlasting memory. I was on my way to join the 14th Season of banding Sooty (*Sterna fuscata*) and Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) Terns. This is a joint project under the combined direction of the Florida Audubon Society, the National Park Service and the Florida State Museum.

These terns nest mainly on Bush Key in the Dry Tortugas, named by Ponce de Leon, Las Tortugas - the Turtles - because of "the great amount of turtles which there do breed". The "Dry" was added later to warn mariners there is no fresh water. More than 150,000 of the terns have been banded to date. Their winter home is still unknown, but birds have been recovered during fall migration season from the West Indies, South America, and several countries of West Africa.

Bush Key is a few minutes boat ride from Garden Key, on which stands Fort Jefferson - now a National Monument - and 68 miles west of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. The Fort, now in ruins, was started in the mid 1800's by slave labor but never finished. For ten years after the Civil War it was used as a prison. Among the prisoners were Lincoln conspirators; the most famous of these was Dr. Mudd, who, knowing nothing of Lincoln's assassination, had set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth. Dr. Mudd's cell is marked as a point of interest for the very few tourists who make their way to this out of the way place. Later Dr. Mudd was pardoned in recognition of his unceasing work in fighting a yellow fever epidemic.

At the U. S. Naval Station, Key West, we boarded the small but sturdy Coast Guard vessel "Bush Key". Baggage, sleeping bags, water jugs, binoculars, camera equipment, bundles, cartons of Coke, and countless packages and boxes containing food for sixteen workers for a week was passed down by hand into the Hold. There it would remain dry in case of rough sea. The ride over was pleasant and some seven hours later we arrived at the old dock and unloaded. A small tractor with cart hauled packages and possessions to proper places.

We crossed a ramp over the moat which surrounds the Fort, which is about fifty feet high with walls eight feet thick. Then walked a long block through the parade yard, wound up spiral steps and towards a turret-like corner. This area was to be "home" for three of us for six days and, Russ Mason told us, seemed to be the driest part of the Fort in case of storm - fortunately there was none.

My nook had three large open brick windows between me and the elements - but a breathtaking view of the azure, green, and intense blue of a tropical sea. I set up my camp stool; spread a thick padding of newspapers over the fine cement dust, after brushing pebbles and rocks aside, and unrolled my sleeping bag. In places the bricks in the fort walls were staggered forming small shelves, so on these I placed toilet articles and a small mirror. Since there was no electricity, except in the kitchen and dock area, I put a flashlight close to sleeping bag; and shoes and necessary items within easy reach.

Some 75,000 pairs of Sooty Terns nest on Bush Key or Bird Isle. Their nests are nothing but a slight depression in the sand and very close together, but out of reach of the changing tide. They lay a single white to light buff egg with a few tan or brownish spots. There is some low dark green ground cover, but few eggs were laid in this, also are Bay Cedar bushes and low twisted Mangrove trees, in which a few Noddy Terns nested.

Banding periods were 7 - 10 AM and 4 - 7 PM, the birds not being disturbed during the heat of the day, as eggs must be rotated as well as shielded from too much sun. Day and night there were black clouds of Sooties flying over the island and bay area, and a constant din of a not too harsh nor unpleasant cry. Sooties never seem to alight on the Mangroves and old dock pilings as do the Noddies. The Sooty, one of the most pelagic of terns; almost never enters the water, but feeds as it skims over the surface, while the Noddy settles on the water and feeds like a gull.

There were also a hundred or so Frigate Birds gliding on the thermal updrafts above the Fort. These predatory birds come during the nesting season to pirate fish from the Terns, as well as gobble up a few unwary chicks. A previous bander (Mrs. Lila Below) says she has seen one Frigate gulp down three chicks in quick succession.

Black nylon mist nets are set up between two aluminum poles about 12-15 feet high, these being moved every 40-50 minutes or so. The area is checked for eggs and markers of stones, driftwood, etc., are placed in a circle around eggs near the nets, as all possible is done to avoid stepping on them. The Terns fly into the nets and are removed almost as soon as they hit.

The lovely Sooty is a sleek black and white bird, as though in formal attire, and even a tussle in the net leaves them with barely a feather out of place. The majority were quiet and tractible when caught. There were some squawkers, however, who made concentrated efforts to inflict cuts on a nearby thumb or finger with a sharp, strong and slightly serrated bill. The second trip over I used band-aids on the most vulnerable places. Return birds (previously banded) are carried over to a Record Table where they are given a "Physical"-being checked for injury, missing flight feathers, growth and mold on feet and tarsus, etc. When brought in too fast for checking, the birds were gently tucked head first into one section of a cardboard liquor box perfect to hold a dozen. They did not seem to mind this.

New birds are banded on the right tarsus, then released. It was always with a thrill and feeling of exhilaration that I tossed up a Sooty to become airborne again - and a wish that I might follow as easily. Noddies, though more wary of the nets, were quite unconcerned by our work and we were able to get quite close for pictures. The Noddy Tern is also a beautiful bird - white forehead shading to a pale greyish head and a lovely soft brown body. I was excited over my first even though he regurgitated some fifteen tiny fish over my hands - taken care of by a quick rinse in the bay.

There were 15 "old" Sooties - a number of 29 year olds and one just two months short of 30 years. There were no old Noddies. Eleven banding trips averaged as follows:

Total birds handled.....	8398	Total new birds banded.....	5784
Each trip handled.....	763	Total new birds banded	
Returns handled.....	2574	each trip.....	526

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Jan 68

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February 1968

MONTHLY MEETING: The February meeting (third Monday) will be on February 19, 7:30 PM, Church House, Seabreeze United Church on Wild Olive Avenue. Nearly everyone comes before 7:00 PM, not wishing to miss the preliminary half-hour of slides which has grown to be an expected part of the program. This month Henry W. Dearborn will present, at 7:00 PM, slides of Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, and Waterfowl on Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. The sound film of the evening will be "The Touch of Nature", taken in the forest and fields of Minnesota. Our March meeting, being the annual meeting, is always an exception, with special arrangements.

ANNUAL MEETING: On Monday, March 18, the Annual Meeting will be held in the Social Room at Peabody Auditorium at 7:00 PM. You enter this hall from North Wild Olive Avenue only. The meeting will be a dessert, not a dinner. There will be no charge. However, free tickets will be passed out to members at the February monthly meeting. Those members who do not secure them at this time must send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to Mr. Willard S. Whiteman, 222 N. Hollywood Avenue, requesting them. After March 1st members may secure tickets for guests until the 200 seat capacity has been exhausted. Following the dessert the Annual Business Meeting will be held, and a movie "Birds of Africa" by Roger Tory Peterson", will be shown.

THE BOARD MEETING, being at 3:00 PM on the first Monday of each month, comes too early for Pelican announcement. Reminding must be by phone from the Secretary.

FIELD TRIPS AHEAD:

Saturday, Feb. 10, all-day, Cape Kennedy and Titusville.

Friday, Feb. 16, half-day

Friday, Feb. 23 (not Saturday), all-day, Lake Harney, Osteen and Henry Levi park.

Saturday, March 2, all-day, North, with picnic at Anastasia, below St. Augustine. Please mark your calendar, and come on out.

WILDLIFE FILMS: Three now gone by, with even greatest success (as to nearly 1800 attendance) by Robert C. Hermes, on the "Everglades - River of Grass", enjoyed by all. The next film will be on Saturday, February 17, at 7:30 PM, at Peabody Auditorium. Earl L. Hilfiker will show "Canyon Country", a film about the Southwest.

FIELD NOTES

By Margaret Branch

On Friday, January 12, we went to beautiful Juniper Springs, on a poor day. Twenty-four really hardy birders took the trip and enjoyed it, but after our hike at least half ate their picnic lunches warm in some one of the six cars. Overcast, foggy and chill to start, and before our early return mist had turned to rain. Juniper is a delightful spot in good weather, and even on such a day, the sheltering nature trail showed early signs of Spring. Fern fronds were unfurling delicate green, and two shy Hermit thrushes there, were one reward, on our day's list of 81 species of birds. There is a new charge of \$1.00 per car per day at Juniper Springs; also many campers loved to stay there by the month, and now a trailer, in the pleasant small camping section, is allowed for only a three-week period.

January 19 was "not especially productive" (George Murray's report) when 20 observers, southward and inland, saw 62 species. Two full carloads had deserted, going to Clearwater, across Florida, and on the Gulf, to attend the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society. Over there long and interesting indoor meetings alternated with field trips on three days of perfectly elegant weather. Lunch at Busch Gardens, outside Tampa, followed by wandering among large outdoor enclosures of colorful Australian birds, and watching the show by trained Macaws, was a worthwhile pause before Clearwater. In fact, the mono-rail trip alone is a wonder. The African animals seem all unconfined, and for some unknown reason two tall giraffes love to stand close and let your little cars slide slowly right under their chins.

At the Clearwater meeting anti-pollution was one pervasive topic, and crusading word. Bulldozers may be our biggest enemy, but pollution of air and water is the farthest spreading. It affects all wildlife, including ourselves. "Conservationists" are growing in numbers; amazingly, as people gradually realize dire threats to our human race, so rapidly ruining its own essential air, water and land.

On January 26, 16 observers saw 81 species. The full-day trip to Moss Park was in unfamiliar territory. This County park, 10 miles south of Sanford, is fairly unadorned, and new, but we saw a lot of small birds there, and the trails along the lake, and especially among the fragrant pines, invite a return visit, perhaps for many warblers, in Spring migration time. On the return trip, by many twists and turns on backroads, one delightful find was a pair of stately Sandhill cranes. Their delicate gray, and the red top-knots, stood out against the blackened burned-over stretch, where they were feeding, quite close to the road. No doubt they enjoy roasted lizards and grasshoppers, and so on, in such a spot. Chilly again, but warming by noon.

On February 2, for only a half-day trip, an amazing 14 cars showed up by 7:30 AM, in spite of enveloping fog. George Murray fitted 22 people into 7 of the cars, and sent 3 north with the Ekdahls, and took 4 southward. Before the sun showed, at 9:00 AM, we had watched two Loons, very actively fishing in the Halifax. At the Ormond marl pits, in spite of noisy excavating machinery, at a safe distance, we heard a rare Sora's distinctive shrill plaint, and spied it lurking in the reeds and rushes near one remaining pond. The Clapper is the only rail we see even fairly often, having so little suitable habitat, on our trips. When Summer comes there are some remaining stretches of mud margins, beyond High Bridge, where on a quiet evening rail-watching is enjoyed from a car, along Bulow Creek. This foggy morning, later clear, gave searchers 82 species, including a lot of small birds in tall trees, Bluebirds on the wires, and Robins all over.

From now on we would like to make the first of each month the deadline for all material. We also hope to never again let unbelievable 205 slip by, meaning 105, and causing some knowing laughter, about our Christmas count. Prediction has now been confirmed, however; California was far ahead of Florida when Alan's "Cocoa Count" fell below 200, on the same unfortunate day that we also had set.

MEMBERSHIP -- How The Voting Went: 180 Ballots Mailed

Votes for Chapter Status with 2-or-3-way membership - 108
Votes against Chapter Status - 18

The Secretary has been instructed to apply for Chapter Status for the Association after the By-laws have been reviewed and brought into harmony with the State requirements.

The new schedule of dues will become effective in September, 1968. Remember that present \$2.00 members may, if they desire, continue to be \$2.00 members indefinitely.

We welcome the following new members who have joined us since the last issue of the PELICAN:

Mrs. Helen R. Boulanger, Daytona Beach
Mrs. Frank M. Crumback, Narberth, Penna.
Miss Ruth Gamerstfelder, Naperville, Illinois
Mrs. Lillian Gruber, Ormond Beach
Mrs. Louise Higgins, Daytona Beach
Mrs. Lucia Hitaffer, Daytona Beach
Mr. Norval D. Miller, Daytona Beach
Mrs. Harriet Osgood, Daytona Beach
Miss Hazel Rust, Naperville, Illinois
Mrs. Violet Watkins, Montreal, Canada

ISLES OF SCILLY

By

Katherine J. Smythe

It was my great privilege to spend a week on the Isles of Scilly in Cornwall in April of this year (1967).

One of the outstanding pleasures while there was a trip in a long open boat - which made me feel like a Viking - to see the seals and birds on the outer islands.

A bird sanctuary has been established on one of these islands - pretty barren! - and is off-limits to the general public through the nesting season. We could come close to it, however, and it was a memorable sight - white gulls sitting all over the sloping sides of the rock, like a great mass of snowballs.

The parrot-like puffins were swimming among the waves in little groups, near our boat, and the razor-bills with their peculiar head markings sat on the rocks along with the guillemots. These birds resemble penguins, tho' much smaller, because of their black coats and white underparts, and their tendency to stand upright. There were cormorants and oyster-catchers with not so red bills, and Great black-backed gulls in large numbers nesting on the reefs. These big gulls are by no means loved for they prey on the other birds' eggs and nestlings.

The birds in the Tresco Abbey Gardens were most alluring. There is a little kiosk where you may have your tea, and tables where you may sit - all very rustic. Here the feathered inhabitants come, and they are so friendly they move about the table eating the crumbs from your cake or "biscuit", often taking them from your hand. There were little robins, chaffinches, song thrushes and the beautiful songful blackbirds which have yellow beaks everywhere else, but here they are a real orange color. When the feast is gone, they sail off into the shrubbery near by and sing to you.

No bird song I've ever heard equals that of the song thrush of England. He resembles our wood thrush, only a bit larger, and you come upon him - or rather he finds you!, in all the gorgeous gardens. He will sit just over your head and pour out amazing music, seemingly just for you - a bit like our own catbird.

I was on the islands at the time when the Torrey Canyon was pouring its oil on the (very much) troubled waters. A man got onto our boat from one of the landings carrying a small corrugated box in his hand with the neck and head of a live guillemot protruding from it. He had found the bird covered with oil and was taking the poor thing back to Hugh Town to be cared for. The beaches of Scilly had suffered only a little from the oil, but we saw people scraping and digging on the sands of Cornwall's shores as we helicoptered across. In a window in Jermyn Street in London I saw a display of birds that had been engulfed in the dreadful stuff. They looked as if they had been mummified.

On my way home I had a couple of days in Iceland. I saw gulls and other seafowl nesting in little pockets in the lava that covers much of the area. These birds are accustomed to nest on the mountains, but because the season was very late the heights were still snowclad, and they were forced to take to the lower places. It was a very spectacular landscape with white spots everywhere.

* * * * *

Br-r-r-r
 When limbs have grown
 Too stiff to ski
 And break a bone
 In Minn. or Me.,
 And all is ice,
 And skies are gray
 It must be nice
 To flee to Fla.

Anonymous

Mrs. Ralph M. Branch, Editor
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Volume 13, Number 6

March 1968

ANNUAL MEETING: On Monday, March 18, the Annual Meeting will be held in the Social Room at Peabody Auditorium at 7 P.M. You enter this hall from North Wild Olive Avenue only. The meeting will be a dessert, not a dinner. There will be no charge. However, free tickets were passed out to members at the February monthly meeting. Those members who did not secure them at that time may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mr. W. S. Whiteman, 222 N. Hollywood Ave., requesting them. Beginning March 1, members may also request extra tickets, for guests, until the 200 seat capacity has been exhausted. Following the dessert the Annual Business Meeting will be held and a movie "Birds of Africa" by Roger Tory Peterson, will be shown.

MEMBERSHIP: The present membership is 214. Welcomed into the Society since the last issue of the PELICAN:

Mrs. L. S. Porter, Daytona Beach

FIELD TRIPS AHEAD:

Friday, March 8, half-day, starting 7:30 A.M., as usual.

Saturday, March 16, all-day, to Indian River groves and Titusville.

Saturday, March 23, half-day

Friday, March 29, all-day, to Alexander Springs (choice trip)

Saturday, April 6, half-day

Note: Rock Springs trip will be on Saturday, April 13, instead of April 12, Good Friday.

FIELD NOTES

By Margaret Branch

To the Cape on February 10 two dozen of us went, well bundled. Canaveral Basin, much deepened and changed, nearly all for ships, small boats and fishermen, still has some edges, bars and banks for the special birds we go so far to see. We found Marbled Godwits, with bills turned up, Whimbrels and Long-billed Curlews, with bills turned down, hundreds of Black Skimmers, and you know those queer bills they have. Too early for the Black-necked Stilts, and we looked in vain for the Avocets. Back at the park in Titusville, near the causeway to Merritt Island, the picnic hour was sun-warmed. Titusville ponds, after lunch, added to our list, but far from all we hoped to see there, since this season some were opened for hunters, and some dry. Lopez fish-camp, on the way down, added a lot of the more than 90. A wonderful day.

As for Friday, February 23, you all who decided against going to find Lake Harney really missed something that day. Only four cars went, 15 of us. Pontiac led off, at 7:30 promptly, Chevrolet next, then Cadillac, and the Merrills' Buick caught up shortly after. "Intermittent showers" descended, as predicted, and we hear they cancelled the races, but we dodged the showers, staying warm and dry in the cars, even when crossing the Osteen Marsh. At that point windshields could scarcely work hard enough to let us keep to the road, amidst thunder and lightning, but we were confident we could look for Limpkins there on the way back, as we did. A few hours later all that water had drained from the raised highway into the thirsty marsh, largely covered with browned water hyacinths. Our two 'scopes out, and trained on two Limpkins, we were even more pleased to have an American

Bittern, rare on our records, flap slowly by, below us, and alight to vanish among those browns of just his tones, within view but invisible. Meantime, over on the shore of Lake Harney, our goal, we prepared to forget scheduled Henry Levi park, lunch in our cars, for it was getting way past noon and another, lesser shower was coming on. A Good Samaritan, just out of pure kindness, drove his truck close up to call careful directions to a new picnic place, not even completed, quite a little way around the lake. He was there, waiting to be sure we had found it, before waving and driving away, in the sprinkling rain. Our delay had been to have each car stop, in turn, to watch an eagle's next spotted by No. 4 in Car No. 1, through a narrow opening in the trees, as we were rolling past - watchful, and not too fast, for an eagle had been seen around there earlier. "Stop! Back up! I see the nest!" And one eagle was on it, big white head and neck alertly raised, with the other parent near by, to fly over us. Not far along the road we were glad to see a "Wildlife Sanctuary" sign. After our sheltered picnic the rain was all over, and birding good there, too. Fifty or more White Pelicans (wing spread 9 feet) were resting in several clumps on the far bank. We used the 'scopes for those. Our day included a Glossy Ibis, two Sandhill cranes, four eagles, five different woodpeckers and six different sparrows, and the grand total was exactly 100 species - or 101, if that little dark bird in early morning, over near the Martin house at the Yacht Basin, was a Purple Martin scout.

HOLDEN SLIDES were successfully shown, with commentary (less than a fourth of our collection, for any one program) four times in February. On February 2, Branch and Walker to a large and appreciative audience for the Golden Age Club on City Island. On February 5, for the Ormond Shores Civic Association, at the Ormond Beach National Bank, Branch, alone, but with great help from some of those Seabreeze Shores people. On February 15, Branch and Walker were guests at a very enjoyable covered dish supper before the program for the Wilbur Improvement Association. On the 27th Walker's new car took the two clear over to Mt. Dora on a beautiful day, to present a matinee program at the Ice House Theater for the Mt. Dora Audubon Association.

POST F.A.S. CONVENTION TRIP TO MEXICO By Elizabeth McCandless

We are on the plane!! The date - January 21, - the destination, Mexico City, the people, 9 F.A.S. members (two from here - Velma Hayes and Elizabeth McCandless), plus Russ Mason and Nina Steffee. In Mexico City we were joined by Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, Audubon members from California. After a needed night's rest at the Metropole Hote, Mexico City, a bus took us northwest about 200 miles to San Miguel de Allende, where we had rooms at charming Pasada de San Francisco facing the park in the center of town with its enormous trees and dominated by the cathedral.

Our purpose was to welcome the newest F.A.S. chapter, and the first one in Mexico, that of San Miguel de Allende.

The gracious hospitality extended to us by this fairly large group of Americans is a delight to remember. They are going to be real conservationists and a challenge to us. Not having much space we cannot give names except to say that Mrs. Lillian Birkenstein is their president.

Every day their own cars were at the hotel at 9 A.M. to take us along the back roads that we Audubon people love. Every afternoon and/or evening we were graciously entertained in their homes. It was heavenly.

As to birds, the enchanting Vermilion Flycatcher just seemed to be where we were, Inca Doves also. The high dry plateau of central Mexico has been divested of most of its great trees because of the natives' fuel and farming needs. Birds perched as high as they could, but they were often near the ground.

Today the lovely mesquite trees are protected by law. Say's Phoebes blended their color with the desert landscape. There were Black Phoebes also, and many Cassin's Kingbirds. In the desert near Dolores Hidalgo, the Spa of Taboada and in San Miguel, we saw Golden Fronted Woodpeckers, Audubon's Warbler and Bronzed Cowbirds, plus many, many others.

In the desert near San Felipe, a Blue Mockingbird sat and stared at us. Phainopepla were seen at the Spa of Taboada, the Blue Grosbeak also. In all, 110 species were seen including many that we have also in Florida. It was a glorious four days for us F.A.S. people, and we are proud of our new chapter.

STEEL BANDS AND BIRDS OF PARADISE By Lillian Crosby

After a long beautifully warm autumn in Florida during which we had forgotten there was cold or rain, Frank and I boarded a little yacht at Port Everglades last December 23 in a cold, blustery downpour and headed out into an Atlantic storm for the West Indies and South America. The boat (it was so small it is difficult to call it a ship) had less than 200 passengers. As the roaring Atlantic tossed it hither and yon on its broiling breast, the vessel took on an air of vast surprise and consternation. Its accustomed run had been in the calm blue waters of the Mediterranean cruising the Greek Islands out of Piraeus, port of Athens. This was her first taste of the mighty and violent Atlantic. It protested with creaks and groans, pitching and bucking every nautical inch. On the fourth day, however, the fight was won and we came to anchor in the quiet blue translucent waters of the harbor at Gustavia, capital of St. Barthelmy, a tiny jewel of an island affectionately called by those who know her as St. Barts. This harbor is so shallow that few tourists ever put in here, and even our small ship could not tie up at port; we had a mile of run by tender to our taxi on the pier. Unfortunately, our driver spoke French almost exclusively, but we did manage to communicate to him that we wanted to see birds as well as Dutch architecture, miniature mountains and the Rockefeller homes and yachts.

"There"! he exclaimed pointing dramatically and bringing his decadent car to a jolting halt at the topmost part of a cliff overhanging the sea. Something rustled in a nearby scrawny bush and with a whirr of wings vanished faster than Hamlet's ghost. I was, however, only sighing with relief that we were not already in a watery grave. The Sherrys from New York, who were with us, were not only French-speaking but bird-wise, had spotted some beautiful frigate birds and we sat very quietly while they came flying in, and Mr. Sherry took movies of them.

Next day we were in Guadeloupe at Pointe-a-Pitre, and we toured this island which is in reality two, each part joined by a bridge over

a tiny river. Here we saw some birds from a distance: "Egg birds", our guide told us triumphantly, feeling sure he had pleased us. This was confusing until we learned this was the local name for the Least tern. A little dull brown bird, "chipping" on the wing, we were informed was a rain bird, or "oiseau de la pluie", as the French call it. Actually, it is known to the world as the Lesser Antillean swift. We couldn't understand why this swift should be called the rain bird until the following day on the great green fruitful English island of Dominica, our guide informed us that their mountains trapped the rain before it reached the French island of Guadeloupe, and their droughts ended only with a fitful wind change that affected the flight of the swifts.

Whether this was fiction or not, we never had a chance to learn, but it did remind us of our taxi driver at Port of Spain in Trinidad who promised us very solemnly that he could take us to an eyrie where there were Birds of Paradise. I remembered Bob and Muriel Elliott recounting how they trekked up the mountains on Little Tabago with two knowledgeable guides for a day to find these elusive birds originally imported from New Guinea. They heard them but didn't see them. Bob is an authority on these islands, so when he told us there were none on the other Lesser Antilles, I believed him. When I protested with the taxi driver, Elsie Gooderham, from Toronto, Canada, assured us that she and her husband had seen them on Trinidad four years before.

We, of course, ended up by "doing" the famous Caroni Swamp, and Elsie's Birds of Paradise turned out to be the magnificent Scarlet ibis. Ornithologists should be pleased with Trinidadians for making the Caroni a tourist attraction. Indifferent persons suddenly become "bird-minded". The swamp is a colossal and beautiful sanctuary traversed by boats where birds and wild life abound.

We had a letter of introduction to Richard and Margaret French, of Point-a-Pierre here, both of whom I understand are accomplished ornithologists, and it was a great disappointment not to be able to meet them. A crewman on our ship had mistaken my arm for a hawser rope and pulled upon with such alacrity that he had dislocated my shoulder. Naturally, my activities were curtailed from then on. Another disappointment was being unable to visit Spring Hill Estate in Trinidad of which the F.A.S. recently promoted purchase as a nature center from Mrs. Asa Wright, and which is rapidly becoming world famous.

The highlight of this trip was the jungle river cruise in Surinam, S. America, up river from Paramaribo, to Moengo. We moved so slowly up this fascinating river, and we were so close to shore, that we could view native villages and see flora and fauna from our deck chairs. If there is dress confusion in our modern mini-skirted world, it is nothing to the individualism expressed in the topless and sometimes skirtless dress of the handsome brown women in these jungles. Many of them paddled their dugout canoes out to our ship and then came alongside, waving and calling to us. The captain didn't stop.

Rain forest abounds on both sides of the river, dense but full of birds, crocodiles, alligators, snakes, and other aquatic creatures. I once was surprised to see crows but a fellow-passenger informed me they were Black hawk-eagles. We had seen Kiskadees at Paramaribo in profusion, but there seemed to be none here at this time, even in the native villages. Through binoculars we spotted Swallow-tailed kites, and many egrets and herons such as we have in Florida. Scarlet macaws, White-throated toucans are here in profusion but we couldn't find them. There are so many things you don't "see" the first time. You feel a strong compulsion to return really to have time to see these wonderful birds: such as the Blue-chinned sapphire hummingbirds and Blue-crowned motmot, and hear again the thudding, lilting melody of the steel bands. The Caribbean does something to you.

Mrs. Ralph M. Branch, Editor
711 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018

Volume 13, Number 7

April 1968

MONTHLY MEETING: The final meeting, until next Fall (probably October), will be on Monday, April 15, in the Seabreeze United Church House at 7:30 P.M. Holden slides at 7:00 P.M., preliminary.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS: Half-day on Saturday, April 6, and a final one on Saturday, May 4 (as per calendar). The three remaining full-day trips (bring lunch) are to be Saturday, April 13, to Rock Springs (a long trip and shifted from Good Friday to following day); Friday, April 19, to Mead Gardens, Orlando; Friday, April 26, to Washington Oaks State Park, north on Route 1A.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The annual meeting of HRAS was held, for a change, in the Social Room at Peabody Auditorium with seating for 200. Free tickets were issued for members and guests; and all seemed to approve of the refreshments at seven, then business, including election of officers, then Roger T. Peterson's splendid film of African birds, with good sound-track commentary. The Dearborns and the Whitemans, with opportunely visiting granddaughter, took all charge of the affair, planned by both outgoing and incoming presidents, but carried out under Chester Childs, incoming, as C. Ekdahl was still convalescing in the hospital, at the time, after an operation (now all recovered but being extra careful).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Officers

- President Chester H. Childs
- Vice President Mrs. Ralph M. Branch
Educational Division
- Vice President Mrs. John Walker
Public Relations Division
- Membership Secretary Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt
64 River Shore Drive, Ormond Beach
Box 5474, Daytona Beach 32020
- Recording Secretary Mrs. Thelma Acosta
- Treasurer Mrs. Nan Thompson
500 Eastwood Lane
Box 1246, Daytona Beach 32015
- Historian George L. Williams

Members at Large

Willard S. Whiteman, Mrs. Fred W. Vichert, George R. Single

George Murray will plan field trips and be co-director with C. Ekdahl and others. He is in increasing demand by out-of-town visitors, in between times, also, as birding guide.

MEMBERSHIP: Halifax River Audubon Society was represented by Mrs. Thelma Acosta, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Alvin Pratt, Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Nan Thompson, Treasurer, at a recent Membership Workshop conducted in Maitland by the Florida Audubon Society's Membership Chairman, Mrs. Betty Bryan. Details of recording and filing data on joint memberships were studied.

ALERT: All our members who are now members of the Florida Audubon Society or hold Florida and National Joint membership should renew their memberships when regular statements of dues are rendered. This will automatically include local Halifax River Audubon Society dues, and there will be no direct billing from us. Mail all checks to: Florida Audubon Society at P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida. All other members will receive from us with the first Fall PELICAN, and the year's Calendar, a green application blank which should be completed by those who are going to join the Florida Audubon Society along with the Halifax River Audubon Society at \$5.00, and a white application for membership which should be completed by those who wish to remain \$2.00 associates, or to subscribe to the PELICAN for \$1.00 without membership privileges.

APRIL FIELD NOTES
By Margaret Branch

Saturday, March 16, trip to Lopez fish camp, Indian River groves and Titusville was very rewarding, though windy. Including the visiting Orians' and two other Wisconsin licenses, six cars went and 92 species of birds were checked. One of the U.S. Government protected Titusville ponds, with good cover toward the road, showed us a regular cloud of birds circling above it as hundreds were "spooked", only to settle in again. They were mostly various herons and egrets, but included white and glossy ibis, also cormorants, in crowds beyond counting.

That half-day on Saturday, March 23, was another very windy one. Cold wind, too, beach sand blowing, so the trip to the Inlet was almost all inland, or along the river. Small birds were hiding and it was difficult to find even one Titmouse and one Parula warbler, also two lingering robins. We totalled 66 species. A remarkable number of Willets were flying about one mud and sand-choked cove near the lighthouse, calling excitedly. If they intended nesting there they may be rudely disturbed by all the dredging activity threatened after May 1. So may the shore and water birds left to roost on the wide mudflats there, though many thousands will soon have gone north until Fall.

The all-day trip to Alexander Springs on Friday, March 29, couldn't have had more beautiful weather, for a lovely spot. About 20 took the \$1 boat trip from the Springs on a stretch of that delightful little river, a whole boatload. That was after 32 of us (9 cars) had gotten together to picnic in the roomy shelter with plenty of tables. The nature trail is lush, with fresh green foliage all around and above, in such contrast to the parched miles of most of our route to the west. It looks as though, already, after more than a hundred years of lumbering, draining, fires and drought, the water table in much of Florida is now approaching that dismaying drop in southern Arizona and Texas, where over grazing (another of our reasons, too) has made deserts. Alexander Springs is one oasis.

On the way over, there were two real finds. Our first swallow-tailed kites of the season, soaring over west of torn-up Dupont Road and, on a side road where we walked, a young Barred owl, sitting on a high stump, gray-brown like his plumage, and watching us all with his deep brown eyes. The boat ride gave us several close-ups of Green herons, 3 limpkins, 3 alligators, many turtles, a bittern, and two saw our first Prothonotary warbler, for our trip-days record of the season.

MEXICO-SOUTH TOUR
November 3-28, 1968
By Ethel Monroe

A record-breaking list of 422 birds was identified on the 2000-mile "Mexico-South" bus tour taken by Lillian Shields and me last November. There were only six birders and one camera "bug" participating, besides Catherine Noble, director, and Peter Alden, ornithologist. The tour was planned to cover all the varied types of habitat south of Mexico City and alternated between cool highlands and humid jungle.

From Mexico City the route took us through the central highlands covered with pine and oak forest, into the arid mountain region of Joshua trees, cactus and mesquite, up into a cloud forest, then made a twisting and curving descent into the lush tropical region along the Gulf of Mexico. From Vera Cruz the route led southward through a moist lowland area of palm forest, sugarcane fields and banana, coconut, pine, apple and cocoa plantations.

Leaving the lowlands we again climbed into a region of forest-covered cinder cones to Lake Catamaco, formed by a horseshoe ring of volcanoes whose eastern slopes mark the northernmost extension of the tropical rain forest. From there, into the rain forest of Palenque for four days, where our interest was divided between its distinctive bird life and the ancient Mayan ruins. Our wanderings over the ruins were under the guidance of Sr. Ruz who had assisted in their excavation.

Leaving Palenque we crossed the Tehuantepec Isthmus to the Pacific coast, noting the gradual change as lush, well-watered land on the eastern slope gave way to the semi-arid, then arid, western slope and coastal plain.

From Tehuantepec we traveled south over a scenic mountain road through pine forests to San Cristobal de las Casas, situated in a fertile basin not too far from the Guatemalan border. This was one of the more interesting stopovers. It is a city of unspoiled Spanish Colonial architecture with narrow winding streets and arcades, low houses with grilled windows, and elaborate churches. The atmosphere now is definitely Indian. There are several tribes in the region, all speaking their own Indian languages and wearing their own tribal dress. One tribe is distinguished by knee-length tunics of black wool; another by black and white tunics with white bandanas worn pirate-fashion around their heads. Still another tribe, seen barefoot and barelegged on the highways and in town, wears white shirt-length tunics and wide-brimmed straw sombreros decorated with clusters of various colored ribbon.

In this area sugar cane, coffee, tobacco and flowers were the crops we saw growing. We enjoyed the aroma of roasting coffee in the towns we passed through, and also the sight of the flower sellers; carrying huge, flat baskets on their heads filled with carnations, roses or calla lilies.

Returning to the Pacific coast after three days' birding around San Cristobal we spent some time at the once-busy port of Salina Cruz. There only we found elegant terns, a brown booby and a Pomerane jaeger, all scattering at the appearance of a Peregrine falcon.

Our next stops were Mitla and Oaxaca, and between these two cities and Mexico City lies some of the most rugged mountain terrain in Mexico. This again was arid highland, and the slopes were covered with giant cacti of several varieties and huge agave plants, some wild, some cultivated for the production of fiber and the three native Mexican intoxicants, pulque, mescal and tequila.

Birds abounded in these varied habitats, and Peter knew what to find where. Astonishingly, at times, a particular bird would be waiting for us - for instance the Pink-headed warbler, very rare, and found only in one spot in Mexico.

The easily seen flocks of parrots and parakeets, the spectacular "banana bill" (Keel-billed toucan), the oropendolas and caciques, with their long, stocking-like nests, were numerous, always exciting interest.

Myriads of butterflies and hummingbirds were attracted to the abundant wild flowers along the roadsides.

Twenty-three species of hummingbird were identified. Also on the list were 37 species of warbler, 10 orioles, 16 tanagers, 4 grosbeaks, 6 buntings, 12 wrens, 26 flycatchers and kingbirds, 21 hawks and falcons, 4 kites, 13 woodpeckers, 7 woodcreepers and 7 jays, including the Magpie jay of the Audubon commemorative postage stamp.

The trip allowed time for many other interests besides birding, and we enjoyed the dancing and music at native restaurants; museums; Indian and Spanish art; visiting historic places and just stopping to enjoy the beauty and the grandeur of gorgeous mountain scenery.

A few memories at random:

Motel Posada Loma at Fortin de las Flores, surrounded by seven acres of tropical garden where whenever we entered the dining room we were given orchids to wear. Also, the early morning view of Mexico's highest mountain peak, Mt. Orizaba, with its perfect snow cone glowing pink in the early morning sun.

Local color at a seafood dinner in a dirt-floored pavillion on a lagoon near Vera Cruz where there was lively dancing and singing to two loudly competing Mariachi bands.

A horse in a field carrying four riders - cattle egrets.

The architectural skill of the ancient pyramid and temple builders at Palenque, Mitla, Monte Alban and other archeological sites, now completely forgotten by their descendents.

The collections of intricately-fashioned gold, silver, jade, crystal and pearl jewelry and art objects from Monte Alban which escaped the looting of the Conquistadores.

Some of our cherished garden flowers in their native state, such as dahlias, cosmos, calla lilies, zinnias, marigolds.

The Indian waitress in native dress at the Tehuantepec hotel carrying her loaded tray on her head.

Language difficulties, such as experienced by one gal who asked the maid to bring her a cake of soap and was served a bowl of soup (sopa) in the bathroom.

The three-day religious fiesta at San Cristobal which was ushered in by the explosion of rockets and firecrackers at 5:00 A.M., and advertised throughout the day in the same manner. The evening torchlight procession to the cathedral.

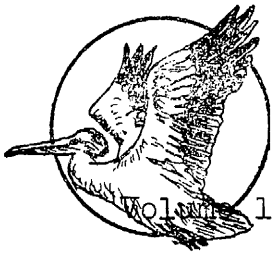
Barefoot Indian men and women trudging mountain roads carrying enormous loads to market on their backs and heads, with babies tucked in among the vegetables.

Back-country bathing and laundry facilities - any trickle of stream that happened to be handy.

Wood fires in bedrooms in the highlands and air conditioning in the lowlands.

A tarantula in our bathroom at Palenque and the hysteria it caused.

Flushing a limpkin on the shores of a lake while on a boat trip and learning that it was a lifer for all but the Floridians.



THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Volume 14, Number 2

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida
November 1968

MONTHLY MEETING: Monday, November 18. Feature film: THE BALD EAGLE.

* * *

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is expressed to Mrs. George L. Williams on the death of her husband George, who was our Trip Director for many years and was loved by all. He died on November 5 after a long illness.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP: Memberships paid to date 131, 69 of which are joint or three-way memberships. Joint and three-way memberships must go through the business routines of National Audubon and Florida Audubon, and are then reported to HRAS once a month. Because of this delay it is not always possible to publicly welcome new members promptly. We do welcome you to full active participation in our Society from the moment you pay your dues. New members this month are:

Darrel Carnell, 719 Main St., Daytona Beach
Mrs. C. C. Shaeffer, 218 N. Riverside Dr., Edgewater
Mrs. L. O. Van Sickle, 60 N. Ridgewood Ave., Ormond Beach
Mrs. Harian Wilson, 1213 Essex Dr., Daytona Beach

PROGRAM FOR THE SEASON: Refer to the blue folder mailed in September to every member of record last May or since then. This, alone, should be used to mark all the dates ahead, with one correction, noted below. It was beautifully prepared during the Summer by President Chet Childs and Tour Leader George Murray, working for us all, including many scattered, presumably care-free, so far away. Mark the day of the Annual Meeting in March to be the 24th, as the 17th ran into an impossible conflict. Hazel Walker hopes to secure the very special film for the later date that was already promised for one week earlier. About the busiest one of us all, she had all the Monday programs set for the season, well ahead, as well as travelling the farthest, to Australia and New Zealand. No, Bea Thomas and her daughter got that far, too. Hazel saw a great deal in three weeks, but Bea's party in three months reached even more places, and probably her Solomon Islanders were even wilder, by far, than Hazel's Fiji Islanders. Later issues of THE PELICAN will try to give you more details, if both adventurers will oblige us.

BY-LAWS: Please put your copy of these By-Laws of HRAS in a safe place to keep for future reference. Our new status as a Chapter of Florida Audubon Society requires that we replace the even longer Constitution and By-Laws authorized to be made under Bob Henderson's direction quite a few years ago. By-Laws can have surprising power on occasion. Within the past year it has been interesting to me to watch this being proved in three quite different organizations, but all three with fast-growing membership, obligations and treasuries, things which lead to more formal direction and to By-Laws.

The By-Laws have been carefully reviewed by the Board of Directors who recommend their adoption. PLEASE READ them carefully, and be prepared to vote on them at the meeting on November 18. There will be no further reading of the By-Laws at the meeting, but time will be given for questions and comments.

By-Laws Committee: Chester H. Childs, President, Ex officio
 Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt, Chairman
 George R. Single
 Mrs. Nan D. Thompson

WILDLIFE FILM SERIES: By now you know what a fine series this will be, and which speakers are scheduled. The five Saturday nights are all during the season when most members and public will be on hand to make the biggest possible audience in our fine Peabody Auditorium. No change in prices. Season tickets still \$3.00 which (but not single tickets) include the youngsters you care to bring and supervise. Elizabeth McCandless has charge of the season tickets which are now ready. Any member who sells 10 tickets will be given one free. Single tickets are not sold until the night of each event, beginning in January, at the box office. Since the Screen Tours (old name) were transferred to Peabody, already so successfully promoted that the audience overflowed the old Seabreeze High School auditorium, they are our principal source of income, and the reason that our treasury has grown in the past few years. This big venture has taken careful but daring planning, and quantities of volunteer work and willing workers. See the public pour in at Peabody, but don't think it merely happens. Send self-addressed stamped envelope and \$6.00 for two tickets to any of the officers (see blue folder), or phone Elizabeth if you would like to help sell them, and ask her about that. Anyone who would provide transportation, or knows anyone who would care to arrange some scheme, would find a number of willing purchasers of tickets at The Princess Issena, and perhaps at the Ormond Hotel. Bus service is to be only for concert nights at Peabody, not even Tuesdays for the Tourist Club this year. Hard to understand how the bus lost money on Tuesdays, the way the Auditorium was packed, but Ann Odsted says so. She would like to sell a lot of our tickets, with transportation. Besides managing the Wildlife Series on Saturdays, Bob Elliott has promised to run the films for all our monthly Monday programs, since Carleton Smith can't be with us this year.

FIELD TRIPS: As scheduled, all November trips will be full-day and on Friday. George says the one to Lake Harney should be rich in birds, but could be a bit difficult due to new bridges, now in, but untried by us, and picnic spot with no tables, or facilities, to our knowledge. Years ago Lake Harney was one favorite trip, for days before many of us went. These trips take a deal of prospecting, to schedule and to lead, and one reason for planning on half-day ones, for all of December, is to get home for a warm lunch, when weather may be cold. Good birding calls for far trips, with so many of our favorite spots, closer by, vanishing, submerged (often literally so) by Progress. See (or don't see) Bethune Point - McDonald Ponds - Reed Canal pond - WROD south lagoon, and now our Inlet.

About the October field trips, which have been three, due to one cancelled for fear of Hurricane Gladys, impending. We could not guess that she would brush us so slightly, to the North, and so tardily, after that beautiful, though rather too windy Friday was just over, here and at Alexander Springs.

George Murray is impatient to have his total combined list lengthen out, which will be of all species seen, and reported, on field-trip days October to mid-May. He claims the list is, so far, a bit short of last year's by this date, but does concede that it contains some quite notable items. And, of these, thrushes found by Ira Weigley, who joined

the group at Mead Gardens, in Orlando, on the second trip, were both the Veery and the Swanson's. And a late Summer Tanager and an Ovenbird were spotted by two new and valuable members, Doctor Dilley and Marian Wilson. We do appreciate good spotters. Not many specials, rare for us, are as easy to see as the 20 White pelicans, overhead, that the Whiteman car reported, on its divergent way homeward, after our picnic lunch at Titusville. Beyond the bridge, there, the Merrills spotted a Western tanager, on a wire. That makes at least three recently reported, one above Ormond.

On the first trip 21 people went, only 12 to Orlando, and on October 25, 6 cars and 19 people. All good trips.

Vicherts report good birding on the road to Bulow Plantation, especially warblers. Our list already has quite a number of the usual ones, beside that Ovenbird, and on October 16 a Nashville warbler, looking carefully all over a grapefruit tree for insects, gave a close-up view to report, eye-ring prominent.

RARE BIRD ALERT: After years of speaking of it, at last we are to have one. Ethel Monroe is organizing it, and everyone interested in being notified, and telling others, promptly of where, when, and what, so they may not miss trying to see it, should speak to Ethel.

BOOK REVIEW by Nan Thompson

THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS WERE THERE -- by Margaret Millar

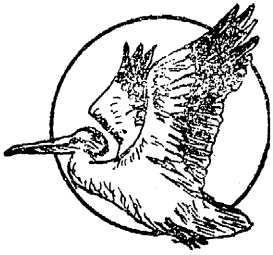
I really stuck my neck out when I enthusiastically recommended this book to someone who immediately said, "Please do a recommendation and brief review for THE PELICAN."

I take a dim view of myself as a book-reviewer; but I can most heartily recommend this delightful book to everyone, whether he be a birdwatcher or not. In fact, it was recommended to me by a non-birder who found it so fascinating she could not put it down.

Mrs. Millar, a popular writer of mystery stories, and her husband Ken, also a writer but I do not in what field, moved to a house in Santa Barbara, California, which was situated between Refugio Canyon and the sea. The Canyon was the habitat of many species of birds, and Mrs. Millar, at 40 years, became an avid birdwatcher, joined the local Audubon Society, and began making notes and keeping records.

This book is the result of those notes, her log of the arrival and departure of various species and most delightful anecdotes of the behavior of her wild creature friends. Mrs. Millar has a marvelous sense of humor, so her book is filled with many a chuckle over the antics of her neighbors.

Thos 1-7 man.



THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 14, Number 3

December 1968

MONTHLY MEETING: We hope that everyone can see the program this month because it is very unusual. It will be "The Birds from the Lands Down Under." This is a film taken in Australia, and birds shown are different from any of those found in other parts of the world. Because of the length of the film, we will have an intermission, and this will provide an opportunity to make our meeting a little more festive with punch and cookies. Mr. C. H. Ekdahl will have charge of the preliminary period of slides before the meeting.

Hazel Walker, Program Chairman

* * *

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Helen Margaret Hale on November 25, and extend our deep sympathy to her husband, Myron C. Hale. The Hales have been winter residents in this area for some years and were active members in our society.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP MUST GROW! Will YOU find someone who would be willing to invest \$12.50 a year to help save our natural heritage through the program of the Audubon Society, and ask him to use the enclosed yellow card to enroll? A \$12.50 Joint Family membership will give a family full membership privileges in the National, Florida and Halifax River Audubon Societies, which includes subscriptions to the National Audubon Magazine, The Florida Naturalist, and the Halifax River Pelican.

The prestige of Audubon grows with increasing numbers as it fights to save for us and for posterity some of the beauty and majesty of our land and to protect us from the ravages of pollution of our environment caused by thoughtless "progress".

The gift prints for new members are donated by two outstanding nature artists, Don R. Eckelberry and Guy Coheleach, through the Frame House Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky, because of their interest in the conservation program of the Audubon Society. Present members may also earn the prints by submitting to Florida Audubon Society in one mailing five \$12.50 new memberships.

We need your cooperation in helping Audubon membership to climb. Halifax River now has 171 members. Why not double that number?

New members welcomed into the society since the last issue of THE PELICAN are:

Mrs. Marguerite Blume, The Princess Issena Hotel
Mr. Charles C. Chapman, 1917 Myrtle-Jo Drive, Ormond Beach
Dr. Frank Dillie, 615 Braddock Avenue

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Barnettler who are working on listing our first Eagle Sanctuary in 1968, and MANY THANKS to the sixteen members of HRAS who wrote on behalf of Conservation measures after the November meeting.

Dorothy Vichert, Conservation Committee

WILDLIFE FILM SERIES: Please try to sell your Wildlife film tickets before our December 16 meeting, and if possible bring in what money you have on hand. You still can keep your unsold tickets or pick up additional ones. Remember, for every 10 tickets sold you can receive one free ticket. Mrs. Elizabeth McCandless will give you your free tickets at the December meeting.

All members who wish to make reservations for the dinner at the Ridgewood Hotel, January 4, 1969, previous to the Wildlife film, "A Naturalist Afield", presented by Karl H. Maslowski, should call Mr. Robert Elliott at either 255-7617 (residence) or 258-2621 (office), not later than January 3. The dinner is Dutch Treat.

Chester H. Childs, President

CHRISTMAS WEEK there will be an all-day bird trip, Saturday, December 28, in lieu of the Christmas Count.

FIELD TRIPS OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

By

George Murray

The trip on November 1 to Faver Dykes park, which was new to most people, did not produce many outstanding birds. The birds seen were of the small variety. Ike Merrill caught up with the group and located the Long-billed Marsh Wren. This was a first bird for some new members as well as for Ike. This wren is quite active, and even when you know where to look for it, you only get a fleeting glance if your're lucky. Some people end up by saying "there it wasn't". After lunch, that favorite word, we were successful in locating the Carolina Chickadee, Black and White warbler, Myrtle and Palm warblers, Pine warbler and the Yellow-throated warbler. As we left the park we saw a fine group of Wood Storks overhead, thanks to Ike again. I still have hopes that Faver Dykes park might produce more in the Spring if we get there earlier in the morning. Coming home by way of Crescent Beach and ~~All~~ we saw some shore birds which brought our count to 75 species. The Long-billed Marsh Wren, Wood Storks and the Short-billed Dowitchers seen at Crescent Beach were the outstanding birds to some members.

The trip to Lake Harney via the Oak Hill road is a treacherous one to plan. With water on both sides of the road lined by cypress trees, and no facilities available, it is a little on the rough side. About two extra feet of water would make the road to the improved bridge impassable. In this respect we were fortunate. Our trip was on November 8, the deer hunting season started the ninth. The hunters were traveling the roads to set up camp for the big day. This is a trip that could be changed at the starting point depending on the weather. I have been trying to get the club into this territory for

two years and finally succeeded. I expected to see more ducks than we saw, but the ducks seem to be staying in the north longer this year. We did see the Mottled, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal. Don Barmettler drew our attention to an adult Bald Eagle soaring in the sky. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were on the shoreline along with the sewing machine birds, the Short-billed Dowitchers. Rusty Blackbirds were seen on the way to the lake as were the Pileated Woodpecker and the Red-headed Woodpecker. Eighty-one species were seen on this trip.

The Duda farms trip produced 79 species of birds and loads of carrots. The ducks were few in number again, but we had a late record for the Black-necked Stilt. The Water Pipits were quite abundant. The Bald Eagle and the Marsh Hawk were seen flying over the fields. The Brown-headed Nuthatch was seen on the way to the farms. A stop at the Wekiva river produced the Limpkin and the Anhinga. I was on a private trip to Duda farms about two or three years ago. We had a scope set up and were studying some Widgeon or Baldpate ducks. A farm worker came by in a truck and asked "Whatcha lookin' at". We told him we had some Baldpate ducks in the scope, and he came over and took a look. After studying them for a while he got back in his truck and drove away. Fifteen minutes later he came back and asked us if he could take another look at those bald headed ducks.

We had a lovely day for the Cape Kennedy trip, and the number of species seen came to 90. At the harbor we saw some of the exotics, the Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Great Black-backed Gull, and quite a gathering of Black Skimmers. On a pond near the harbor seven or eight Avocets were seen. On the way home from Titusville we saw quite a few Shoveler ducks and American Widgeon. All the herons and egrets were seen, and one American Bittern took to the air from a reedy section along the road. The ponds seemed to be filled to capacity with Coots. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen by another group in a territory near the Banana river. On a side road along a railroad line we saw an immature Bald Eagle, a few Glossy Ibis, a small flock of Goldfinches, and seven or eight White Pelicans, or *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* as some people call it. The Greeks had a word for it, and the White Pelican got it. I can easily see why he changed his name. Erythro as you know translates to red. Rhynchos translates to beak.

Until we all meet up with Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer we wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

George

FIELD TRIPS through December are all-day trips, refer to your trip schedule.

TRIP CHANGES: Friday January 10 to Saturday January 11
 Friday January 24 to Saturday January 25
 Friday February 7 to Saturday February 8