

# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 14, Number 4

January 1969

MEMBERSHIP ALERT by Bea Pratt, Membership Secretary. The time has come again when we must declare those members who have not yet paid their membership dues for 1968-69 delinquent. This will be the last issue of THE PELICAN which will be mailed to such members. Please send your checks promptly so that you will not miss news of our activities.

Our present membership numbers 193.

We welcome the following new members who have joined our Society since the last issue of THE PELICAN:

Mr. Roger A. Briggs, 104 River Lane, Ormond Beach 32074, and  
Mrs. L. Menard, 1121 N. Halifax Ave., Daytona Beach 32018

\* \* \*

Starting a new calendar year, let us all mark several dates ahead and, be weather what it may, keep them; meetings, field trips or Wildlife series.

MONTHLY MEETING: January 20, Monday, in the Church House of Seabreeze United Church, within one block of Seabreeze Boulevard. Come before 7 PM if you wish to see study slides of birds of our area. For the 7:30 PM meeting our Program Chairman, Hazel Walker, has planned a trip to the Dry Tortugas, where last Spring Thelma Acosta took pictures which she will show us. Few of us have achieved that difficult, though not so distant goal, and helped the experts in banding terns. Which of us have, besides Thelma and the Hudsons? The December meeting was a Christmas party with decorations and refreshments, as well as some remarkable films from New Zealand. The study slides showed birds of our long beach.

WILDLIFE FILM SERIES: Bob Elliott, Chairman.

January 18 and February 1 are the two next ahead, remember, Saturday at 7:30 PM in Peabody Auditorium. Karl Maslowski was first on our 1969 series. Excellent pictures and lecture, but a most uninviting bit of weather for it. A good many with season tickets let them go to waste, but fourteen reserved for early dinner with the speaker at The Ridgewood. Call Bob Elliott by Friday if you wish a place set for 5:30 buffet.

FIELD TRIPS: From now until February 28 we are having a whole series of half-day field trips, each starting at 7:30 A.M. from the parking area near the Library on City Island. Note that for the benefit of those who cannot go on Fridays, we have rescheduled several for Saturdays. Dates as corrected: Friday January 17; Saturday January 25; Friday January 31; Saturday February 8; Friday February 14. Routes for half-days are decided no more than a day in advance.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING: Fort Lauderdale, Thursday January 30 to Sunday, February 2. At least six of our members plan to attend, with Thelma Acosta, our Recording Secretary, as official representative. For numerous details of the program see your last FLORIDA NATURALIST.

The trip to Alexander Springs should have been terminated at Deland. From Deland to the Springs we had constant rain. Clear weather from Daytona to Deland produced 60 species. I still feel a little damp from this one. (Impending hurricane cancelled the first date, October 18, and this day of deluge was our second attempt, on December 28. Our third try for a beautiful all-day trip to Alexander Springs, for this season, is not scheduled until March 28. By then it should include an hour for the boat trip there which gives us such good views of Limpkins. M.G.B.)

Our first half-day trip was quite successful. Holdens pond in the Tomoka Park area had quite a number of Green-winged Teal and Hooded Mergansers and Red-breasted Mergansers. The Wood Storks seem to be coming back to the marshland near the park. On our way through the park area we stopped to see the 2,000 year old Live oak, one of the loveliest I have ever seen. At high bridge we saw a Loon, which was the first for the year. The count for the day, January 3, came to 73 species. The count for the year comes to 151 species recorded on field trip days since the first, in October.

\* \* \*

Saturday, January 11, only a half-day trip, and almost no sun, but a fine trip inland, west and south, and 4 cars went. Combined list, 78 species.

\* \* \*

On December 27, the day HRAS did not take the Christmas census, as planned, 24 members in 6 groups, were jubilant over a record total of 61 species, near Ann Arbor, Michigan, but this included very unusual influx of 2,950 Snow buntings.

COLOR-MARKED GULLS. Have you spotted one? During last May through July, Ring-billed Gulls from three Great Lakes colonies were wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "safeflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify Dr. William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. The following information is desired: date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name. Assistance in this project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will be provided with information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.

Note: R. Branch spotted and reported to Professor Southern, one Ring-bill with bright blue plastic wing-marker, among dozens of unmarked gulls resting on our beach on January 5. He received prompt thanks. This bird came from Lake Michigan.

#### NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA "BIRDING"

By

Hazel Walker

I was happily surprised to see such numbers of birds in New Zealand and Australia, because I was with the usual Tour - geared to mileage, and it was also July and August (their mid-winter).

We began in the northern end of NORTH ISLAND New Zealand, in the largest city, AUCKLAND. It is so narrow here, that from the highest spot; ONE TREE HILL, one can see two Oceans. To the west the vast Pacific, and to the east the Tasman Sea that separates New Zealand from Australia.

ONE TREE HILL is famous as the last stand of the MAORIS, the native inhabitants found here when the English arrived. AUCKLAND has the feel of a small town, even though it spreads out over many miles, because most homes are one story, no apartments, and hi-rise buildings only in the business centers. It is indented with so many Bays, the pleasure craft seemed even more numerous than Florida's East Coast, and in these Bays the birds were very plentiful.

All over the docks (as tame as chickens) were Gannets and Great Black-backed gulls. In the whole tour I never saw the kind found along our East coast. As soon as we were in the suburbs, BLACK SWANS, FAIRY TERNS, and SWALLOWS were plentiful. BLACK SWANS are native, and I never saw a white one. The SWALLOWS were the WELCOME SWALLOW, so colorful they could pass for wet Bluebirds, (except their flight pattern). Far out along coastal drives where cliffs began SHAGS were active, and looked like Anhingas with shorter necks and heavier bodies. But the bird that was just everywhere, as aggressive as our Starlings, and also an invader, were the MYNA BIRDS. They are colorful and fine singers, but are sure to become a serious menace to other birds.

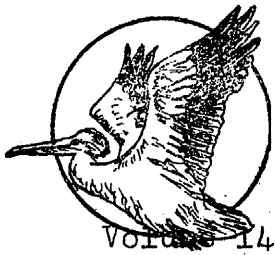
We traveled south, the entire length of both Islands, and both were entirely different. NORTH ISLAND has the soft rolling hills like England, with tidy farms, small towns and endless flowers. All the farms have kept ponds and natural hedge growth which is so good for birds. There seemed to be many SPARROWS, but the only one I could identify for sure was the HEDGE SPARROW. Its plump shape and conspicuous streaks closely resembled our Song sparrow.

It was exciting to see what looked like our Purple Gallinules in all these ponds, but closer view revealed differences. The overall body is the same iridescent blue, with under tail coverts white, but our Gallinule has more sparkling contrast. There is more bronze in the greenish back, the conspicuous white shield just above the red bill, and the bill is tipped with yellow instead of all over red. The legs also vary with ours yellow and theirs red. Although this bird is listed in the bird book as a Gallinule, it is locally called a SWAMP-HEN. The bill of the SWAMP-HEN seems thicker and the shape of a Coot.

There were many Coots, OYSTER-CATCHERS (acting like land birds as they do in the British Isles), and FAIRY TERNS that were even lined up on the roof of a Hotel where we stopped for lunch. Then I saw what I was sure was a TERN from its flight, but this bird was black, and sure enough! the bird book verified my guess - this was my first - WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN.

To be concluded next month.

Margaret G. Branch, Editor  
711 N. Halifax Ave.  
Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018



# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Volume 14, Number 5

Halifax River Audubon Society

Daytona Beach, Florida

February 1969

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** As in past years, Mr. Peterson will probably sign any of his books, if they are brought to the Auditorium. Those who intend to have dinner with the speaker (5:30 PM buffet at The Ridgewood) before the next Wildlife film at Peabody Auditorium at 7:30 PM on February 22, be sure to call Robert Elliott (255-7617). Remember this is a Dutch treat, with reservations for special table.

We have made progress on conservation. The committee is working on another sanctuary on the Halifax River and several other properties in our county. They are making a study of water pollution in the Halifax River. It is up to us to help this important committee with suggestions. Several members have written letters and sent telegrams covering conservation problems.

The Nominating Committee is to present the slate at our February meeting on the 17th. Please see that any suggestions reach Dorothy Dearborn, Willard Whiteman, or Frank Berger, chairman. (For election of officers at annual meeting, March 24).

**MONTHLY MEETING:** February 17, <sup>7:30 PM,</sup> Seabreeze United Church House, with preliminary study slides of our birds at 7 PM. Program will include two short reports on the recent Florida Audubon Society convention at Fort Lauderdale by two of our members, Thelma Acosta and Bea Pratt, of the six who attended.

Four motorcycles flanked the limousine as it drove to the Statler Hilton in Fort Lauderdale when Governor Kirk joined the Florida Audubon Society's annual convention for luncheon. That he is a dynamic, good-humored positive thinker is undeniable. He is a conservation nut, which pleased us. At a few off-the-cuff remarks, he said that Carol Beck, FAS member and State Biologist, could run his office any time when it comes to conservation.

**WILDLIFE FILM:** Two of the very best remain on our series of five for 1969. Roger Tory Peterson's, on The Galapagos, February 22, may bring a record crowd to Peabody Auditorium at 7:30 PM, as his last visit did three years ago. Pettingill will be the fifth, and already our dates and speakers are all set for next winter's five Saturday nights.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Half-day, as already announced, on Saturday, February 8, and Friday, February 21. Full-days on both February 14 and 28. Friday the 14th to Titusville and Cape Kennedy, but Friday the 28th to Per-simmon Hammock (far from the scheduled moon shot).

Approaching a certain pond this month, near Tomoka Park, six cars drew off, and parked behind the leader's, a short block back. Remember how those numbers of Hooded mergansers and Green-winged teal spooked and were up and gone in a rush? It was before most of us had reached those two 'scopes, all set up at the viewing point. Also, there had not even been time to carefully scan for those Fulvous tree-ducks, recently seen there.

\*\*\* Consider this sign a skull and crossbones, marking a poisonous and spoilsport message, for our carelessness and noise on field-trips has been quite disgraceful. Lag way behind, please, on a walk into the woods, or to a spot where binoculars are tensely levelled, or even stay back with the parked cars, to chat. Give our long-suffering leaders a chance to find, and coax, and show us the birds. Even with cars roll-

ing along slowly, some sharp ears are listening for bird sounds, too. These are stern reminders to myself, as well. Lower voices, no sudden gestures to point, slam no car doors, and never get ahead of the leader.

M.G.B.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES by Bea Pratt, Membership Secretary.

The Membership Campaign is still on. Any member may earn his choice of the bonus prints by submitting in the same mailing at least three new Joint Family memberships at \$12.50 each. We were told at convention that these prints are a good investment because the limited printing makes them unavailable in the future and the price rises proportionately. And we need the strength of increasing membership numbers. The new members receive both prints at no cost. Our present membership is 223. New members welcomed into the society since the last issue of THE PELICAN are: Mr. William H. Allen and Family, New Smyrna Beach; Bank of New Smyrna; Mrs. Nelson Canfield, Olds Hall; Mrs. J. A. Cleland, New Smyrna Beach; Mrs. Eva Colton, Princess Issena; Mrs. Esther H. Grover, winter visitor from Vergennes, Vermont; Mrs. Kathryne Jacobi, The Pendleton, Apt. 204; Mr. and Mrs. C. Winston Keith, 567 N. Beach St., Ormond Beach; Mr. Warren J. Lang, Box 1117, Port Orange; Mrs. Lillian Pollock, 99 S. Atlantic Ave., Ormond Beach; Dr. Frank A. Reynolds, 1184 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach; Mr. John F. Schoenherr, 311 Chardon Rd., Ormond Beach.

#### FIELD TRIPS OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

By - George Murray

The half day trip January 11 was quite successful, 81 species were seen. The Ring-necked ducks, Lesser Scaup, and American Widgeon are at the pond off Bellevue Avenue. The second stop on this road we saw Brown-headed Nuthatches, cavorting in the pine trees with Pine warblers, Bluebirds, Goldfinches, and Chipping Sparrows. These brown-headed pixies, or upside down acrobats, can be seen later in the day sitting on a pine limb watching the roaring whispering jets fly by. On their way to Miami via Cuba no doubt. Our next stop produced Redwings, Cowbirds, Rusty Blackbirds and Savannah sparrows mingling with the cows. Wasn't the aroma wonderful? On a road off the Tomoka farms road Carolina Chickadees, Towhees, Titmice and one lovely Yellow-throated warbler were seen. The Nuthatch and Yellow-throated warbler were first birds for two out-of-town Audubon guests.

In Ormond Beach on the same day Don Barmettler was entertaining some northern feathered guests who dropped in unexpectedly. Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were having a wonderful time at Don's magnificent buffet. Everything from soup to nuts. I wonder where the Pine Siskins will find such luxurious accommodations when they return North. The Pine Siskin is a first bird for our area. Records for this bird in Florida are: Miami 1871; lower Suwanee River March 26, 1890; Gainesville 1890; Cedar Keys 1906; Tallahassee January 6, 1907; DeFuniak Sprgs. 1909; Panama City 1926; the latest reported record by Sprunt was at Pensacola Jan. 5 through April 16, 1947. Don Barmettler has a new record for the books.

Our next trip was to the marl pits. Ten minutes after our arrival the Carolina Wren had steam coming from his tea-kettle. A more melodious tune you will never hear. Tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle is the way some people interpret it. I think Mrs. Carolina did the pouring for this reception. A portion of the marl pits at one time was used as a depository for second and third hand household appliances. I have heard it called a junkyard. We startled a Green Heron from the shore of a man-made lake. He seemed to have a little indigestion. His call resembles a full fledged belch. The Green Heron has seen some drastic

changes in his habitat. He really has something to belch about. A darter, or Anhinga, was flying over a stretch of water in the area, and a Red-tailed Hawk was seen flying in the distance. A Sora Rail was maneuvering in some cattails in a nearby pond. Finishing the trip at Ike's road we saw the Gnatcatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Titmouse, Towhee, Solitary and White-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher and Pine Warbler. We heard the giant Red Cap or Pileated woodpecker. It is easy to hear or see one of these Red Caps in the woods, but try and find one in a railroad station. The Pileated specializes in turning out king size toothpicks. Let the chips fall where they may. The count for this half day trip came to 74 species.

The trip to Port Orange bridge and the Inlet produced 76 species. Along our route we saw 6 species of sparrows. The Great Black-backed Gull and all the other gulls on our checklist were seen. The Oystercatcher was resting on the half-shell near the bridge. Three species of plovers were seen. The King and Clapper Rail were having a territorial dispute with a Coot at the pond at WROD radio station. A rear guard action affair. A cloud of Black Skimmers were seen flying over the waters of the Inlet.

#### NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA "BIRDING"

By - Hazel Walker (Concluded)

The National bird of New Zealand is the KIWI, a chicken size flightless bird with feathers more like a soft silky fringe. Like our own National bird, they are now found only in protected places, like the Wellington Zoo where I saw them.

SOUTH ISLAND is a little Switzerland, and has its own type of birds. Hundreds of plump GULLS were always standing all over the city parks keeping warm. They were all white except their pale gray back and wings, with brilliant lip-stick red bills and feet and legs. These were RED BILLED GULLS. Since all the cities were on the coast, many varieties of white Terns as well as CORMORANTS and SHAGS were numerous in this colder area.

Our trip to Ski country was to their western range they call The SOUTHERN ALPS. Our stop was in Hermitage Lodge on the slopes of the highest 12,350 ft. Mt. COOK. From here we made a side trip to the top of the 10,000 ft. TASMAN GLACIER. As we walked around on the crusty ice, huge dark birds circling overhead looked like Ravens to me, but the Naturalist back at the Lodge said they must be KEAS. These birds are the size of a Raven, but are a dark gray-brown, and the shocking thing about them is, they are a PARROT. They are only found in this high country, and are disliked by Ranchers for the same reason as Magpies are by our western ranchers. In all fairness though, their only crimes may be when the weather is extra severe, as it was at this time, and then they are forced to prey on sheep that are too weak to survive anyhow.

There was always bird action around the kitchen of the Lodge because the cook kept a feeding tray, but I never expected to see CHAFFINCHES and SILVER-EYES, that I associated with much milder climates.

The weather turned too severe for our return to Christchurch by air, which was fortunate because the bus took us through country active with HAWKS, with the SWAMP-HARRIER most numerous. On one lake there were 24 Black-Swans in one group.

Australia has several entirely different birds. Their National bird is the KOOKABURRA, a large noisy, mischievous rascal who loves to live near people and, of course, waterways, because he is the largest of all KINGFISHERS. MAGPIES in Australia are both BLACK-BACKED, and WHITE-BACKED. One large bird quite like a crow, with a white-tipped tail, was the PIED-CURRAWONG.

The large parks in the cities were excellent birding spots, because everything seemed so fearless. In a Melbourne park I saw a dark gray bird the size of a blackbird, with a very conspicuous white eye, which was the APOSTLE BIRD. There were several varieties of pigeons, larger than our doves, but the only one I could be near enough to, to be sure of, was the WONGA PIGEON. Its head and breast was white, back gray, wings brown. Just forward of the legs the breast was very spotted.

A day in Sir Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary, outside of Melbourne, was opportunity for many species such as the EMU (like an Ostrich), Sacred Ibis, White-Spoonbill (they call Yellow-Bills), the tall stork-like JABIRU and AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD, and many ducks with the PARADISE the most colorful. The male and female have only a white wing patch in common. The male's head is dark iridescent, the female all white.

The LYRE-BIRD is one everyone hopes to see, and seldom can because they are so shy they seldom come out in the open, but anyone fortunate enough to hear its song will forgive this because their song is as varied as a Mockingbird, and as clear as a flute. Flying in flocks like Sparrows quite similar in size were CHESTNUT-BREADED FINCHES. Their backs were like a Sparrow, but the breast was very white and heads dark, and dividing the two, a half-inch band of coral pink like a neck-lace.

We visited a large sheep ranch which afforded opportunity to identify birds I had been seeing with sheep everywhere. It was one of the Plovers but larger than a Killdeer, the BANDED DOTTERAL.

But the greatest surprise in birds to people from other lands are their many PARROTS and COCKATOOS. I always associated these with warm climates, but in Australia they were down in the coldest part of Tasmania.

As we were going through a forest growth of Eucalyptus, a flock of Parrots swooped across in front of our bus just like Sparrows do along our highways. These were an overall soft green coloring, the REGENT PARROT. Later we saw the RAINBOW LORIKEET, mostly green with a blue head.

The brightest, with almost a patriotic scheme, was the EASTERN ROSELLA. The head was red, breast yellow, wings blue, and the back a honey-comb pattern of black and yellow. This is an Escapee gone wild long ago.

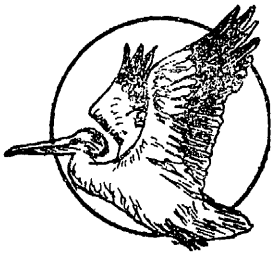
Cockatoos are regal birds, and seem so out of character flying around loose. They are great fruit eaters, and much disliked by the farmers. The GALAH has a pink head and breast with soft gray back and wings, but no crest. The MAJOR MITCHELL is similar in body but has added a dramatic flair, with a high crest of white, cross striped with one yellow and two red bars, (which in my opinion as far as color schemes go, is more garish than beautiful).

With this much in the dead of Winter, imagine what Summer could reveal!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

No reports of gannets off our coast, here, so far in 1969. Hundreds of robins, eating all sorts of tree and shrub berries such as holly, palmetto, cherry laurel, are crowding to drink and splash at bird baths with fresh water. Some flocks mix and vie with starlings or splash side by side. With some robins come waxwings.

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# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 14, Number 6

March 1969

FLORIDA AUDUBON CONVENTION: Thelma Acosta, official representative of HRAS, read an excellent report at our February meeting, which partly covered all Thursday noon to Sunday noon, beginning January 30, 1969. She began: "Six members of our Society drove down to the 69th Annual Convention of the FAS held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. From start to finish this was a dynamic and inspiring meeting. The theme was "Resource Conservation - A World-Wide Problem". She ended, "I hope many more of you will make an effort to attend all or part of the Annual Convention at Cocoa in January 1970". The new President is Dade Thornton of Miami's Tropical Audubon Society. The report detailed meetings; exhibits, field trips when she saw even Spotted-breasted orioles, six Everglade Kites, and most unusual visitors, Black-bellied tree-ducks. The second report, by Bea Pratt, is rescheduled for our March meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING: (Also March monthly meeting) Monday, March 24, in the Church House of Seabreeze United Church, our usual place, at 7 P.M. Election of officers. We are counting on 150 attendance. Our guest who will give the feature program "Portraits of Nature" is Mr. Burton G. Hubbard, recently a resident of New Smyrna Beach. He is a most accomplished photographer and will present his program (says Hazel Walker, an accomplished photographer herself) in a way that will surprise you all. Members and their guests, she says, should find this unusually enjoyable, and refreshments will be served.

DATES AHEAD: Wildlife Film, Saturday, March 8, 7:30 P.M. Mr. O. S. Pettingill, one of the finest, for our fifth and final film for this season, with "New Zealand Spring." Fine turn-out we had for Roger T. Peterson's Galapagos program. The main floor was already well filled by 7:15 P.M., and hundreds of extra tickets were sold. The audience, even including many youngsters, as it did, was hushed and fairly enchanted. About buffet dinner at The Ridgewood, for Mr. Pettingill, on March 8 at 5:30 P.M. (Dutch treat) - remember to reserve by Friday with Bob Elliott on Oakwood, 255-7617.

March 24, monthly and Annual Meeting, Church House, Seabreeze United Church. (The usual second Monday meant a conflict with Civic Music series).

FIELD TRIPS: All on Friday and all whole-day (bring noon lunch) just as shown in annual calendar folder. Saturdays are too often complicated by school groups and fishermen, at our spots, as Spring advances. March 7, Silver Glen Springs; March 14, Titusville; March 21, Lake Harney; March 28, Alexander Springs; and April 5, Faver-Dykes Park, near Matanzas Inlet.



FIELD TRIP NOTES  
By - Margaret Branch

February 28, good weather, birds, and more birds! Well over 100 species, believe it or not, on our all-day trip. However, this took a lot of searching, with spotting 'scopes, as well as good binoculars, by the forty members who were led to a great variety of chosen territory. Settled into ten cars, and with safe intervals between cars, all started off, by two different routes, at 7:30 A.M. Seldom can such a number find a spot to come together, much less all find birds, save at the carefully chosen noon picnic place, for which such a number of County or State or U.S. parks give us so many choices, and facilities, within reach. Osteen Marsh had much more water than a year ago. Best finds; there, were Dowitchers, Yellowlegs, a whole flock of Pintail ducks, White ibis, and one flying White pelican, a picture against the blue, and slow enough on the wing to be enjoyed. Lopez fish camp gave more ducks, and that pond behind the jet port, in spite of coming and going "Whisper" jets, still holds Ring-necked ducks, and common gallinules. We always stop to carefully look there for unusual visitors. None this time. Farther along Bellvue, but not out of sound of those jets, and with noisy trucks going close beyond our strung-out cars left on the wide margins, we can nearly always, in the quiet intervals, cautiously draw near to hear and see Brown-headed nuthatches, Bluebirds, Pine warblers, and more of our choicest, stubbornly holding to that diminishing patch of pinewoods.

Over in the boondocks, near a fishing site on Lake Ashby, we found a shady, cluttered farmyard, unwatched except for two chained dogs, where two odd fowls were kept, a peacock and a large and handsome turkey gobbler, displaying for our admiration. Evidently these were lavishly fed, and several small free-loaders, unpenned, were taking advantage. From beyond the slimpsy fence, hoping the dogs would stay quiet, we spied Hermit thrush, cardinal, blue jay, robin, White-throated sparrow, and ovenbird, also Black and white warbler just outside. We are daily hoping that warmer weather will come, and with it Parula warblers. So many chilly weeks of North winds make us feel peevish, until we stop to be thankful for what we have, thinking of deep snows, ice and sleet nearly all over the country, and the rains and mudslides in California. I hope the poor giraffes at the proliferating show places have escaped, this cold winter, sore throats and pneumonia. More and more exotics are brought in, as our native birds and animals are dispossessed. But, along with the interloping House sparrows and starlings, our blackbirds and Mourning doves seem to promise ever greater numbers, and may someday both be used for many a tasty meat pie.

February 8, half-day trip inland, fine to start, but cloudy by 11:15 A.M. Seventy-seven species checked before rain began. In this case we managed to escape bad weather by only one-half day. Several weeks, preceding, had a pattern of Friday all fair, Saturday all bad, and all but one found our choice lucky.

February 14, whole-day. Pretty windy and chill (next day, with even tornado alert, would have been very much worse), but caravan took off for the Cape, two weeks ahead of schedule, gracefully giving way to that trip to the moon which chose that same February 28, but after all, was delayed to March 3. Avocets, dowitchers and whimbrels were chief finds at Port Canaveral. After the noon picnic at Titusville park there was good birding across the bridge, on Merritt Island, and

a new nest with two adult eagles nearby was the top find, beyond all ducks and ibis.

February 21, half-day, less cold, brisk wind from ocean, bright sun. Five cars went to the more sheltered inland (not to beach as planned) where a walk on woods paths was pleasantly warm. Purple gallinules at Lake Helen were the first we have watched in several years, anywhere near this far north.

February 28 started a series of all-day trips; As shown at the start of these "Notes"; Observers and birds grow more numerous, as interesting migrants begin to reach us from farther south, from now until well into May. Most exciting in April. Connie Ekdahl will generously lead any number of cars, but, arranging four to a car beforehand, between drivers and riders, shortens the caravan and greatly simplifies matters. There is generally room to welcome unexpected extras who drop in about 7:15 A.M.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES: We have achieved an upturn in membership, having passed the highest membership enrollment we have ever had, which was 251 members. The ever-increasing need for conservation awareness and action demands that Audubon membership continue to increase. Keep Halifax River Audubon Society among those who grow with the times by bringing in a new member before the end of this season.

In  
March  
1969 was  
245  
without  
FAS

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

Mr. O. D. Bluthardt, 2421 S. Palmetto Ave., South Daytona  
 Mr. & Mrs. Byron K. Brown, 1054 Fourth St., Daytona Beach  
 Mr. & Mrs. John D. Byrd, 934 Daytona Ave.; Holly Hill  
 Mr. Edgar A. Chibouk, 71 Crestwood Circle, Ormond Beach  
 Mrs. Eileen Cooper, RR 1, Selleck Ave., New Smyrna Beach  
 Mrs. John D. Cox; 134 Boynton Ave., Daytona Beach  
 Dr. Charles Fain, 320 Harvey St., Daytona Beach  
 Mr. William H. Fink, 1908 Marilyn St., Daytona Beach  
 Mr. Ernest J. Fischer, 211 Cypress St., Daytona Beach  
 Mrs. John J. Griffin, 705 N. Peninsular Dr., New Smyrna Beach  
 — Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Kittredge, 642 N. Halifax Ave., Apt. 2, D.B.  
 Mrs. Norville Manning, 310 E. Pike St., Cynthiana, Ky.  
 Miss M. Kathleen Montpelier, 734½ N. Grandview Ave., Daytona Beach  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Moon, RR 2, Port Hope, Ontario, Canada  
 Mr. Robert L. Stevenson, 124 Putting Green Lane, Ormond Beach  
 Mr. W. B. Tate, 1040 Michael Road, Daytona Beach  
 Miss Stacey Eldora Wesley, 353 McLeod St., Daytona Beach  
 Miss Mary Ann Whitaker, 317 Auditorium Blvd., Daytona Beach

A Reminder from the Florida Audubon Society requests that all checks for payment of Joint or Two-Way Dues be made out to "Florida Audubon Society" and mailed to P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida 32751

RARE BIRD ALERT can function surprisingly well, here, also, as now shown by the numbers who promptly managed to go and see the Pine siskins at the Barmettler's feeders, at least ten miles north of the majority of us. Too bad that the Curve-billed thrasher identified by the Orians on February 28 was far inland from the Halifax, on a field trip, with most of us out of reach. A member in Ormond reported one of these visitors from the West, some ten years ago. It would seem to be too late to find the five male Baltimore orioles that we now know

were staying for weeks with a non-member who lavishly cut her oranges in half, just for them; to wedge into tree crotches well above her cat. Not too late, even now, to watch for circling, plunging and flying gannets, far out beyond the surf, on their way North toward the Buonaventure Island, and to alert for those.

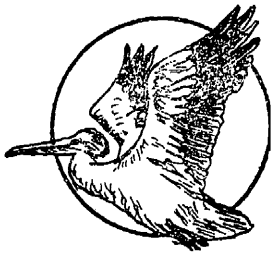
Cheerful Message from Ralph B., as the space flight begins, March 3.

Let us bird watchers all be reassured, today, and remember that you heard it here, in THE PELICAN, first. We'll find another planet to despoil, as time is running out here, fast, man fast ruining this one for fish or fowl. The farm agent, who has been around only about 50 years, has improved our habitat so well his role might be changed to testing farm foods and protein for the residue pesticides he used to improve the crop. The space vehicle will hardly be bothered by high-flying birds or bugs when you can drive 1,000 miles in an auto and not have your windshield besmirched by bee or butterfly. The Ides of March make one do wishful thinking, but some, like Gebhardt Rasch, still keep their feet on the ground and grow fine cabbage and odorous garlic, and not spray or dust once, while smiling all the while.

To quote another paragraph from Mrs. Acosta's report:

"The convention was strenuous in that the hours were long, but it was thrilling and inspiring. It left you with more of an awareness of conservation developments and needs in our State and Nation - AND the fact that we must all work together to save and protect our National Parks and Sanctuaries from encroachment, and our cities, streams and waterways from pollution. Life itself depends on it".

Mrs. Margaret G. Branch, Editor  
711 N. Halifax Ave.  
Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018



THE PELICAN  
Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 14, Number 7

April 1969

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: To the officers and members of the Halifax River Audubon Society, I wish to thank each and every person, especially those that have taken part in the programs during the last year. I am finishing my sixth year as President, and have enjoyed the many accomplishments that our members have enjoyed and made possible. It has been gratifying to see the membership grow from around 75 to an all time high of 271.

One of the big features is the growth of our Screen Tours. We used to worry if we would come out in the black. I know our then current chairman, Connie Ek Dahl, aged a few extra years as the overflow at old Seabreeze High School's auditorium grew until we took the bull by the horns and moved to the Peabody Auditorium and began to earn some real money, as our Treasurer's report will show.

Our trip directors over the years have done an outstanding job both in planning the trips and carrying them out. We have embarked on a conservation program which I am sure will bring gratifying results in the future. Our monthly programs over the years have been very instructive. The half-hour slide bird and flower programs were helpful and appreciated, and our chairmen deserve our thanks. The movies have been excellent. There have been many excellent slide lectures given in schools and various clubs that were very educational.

I hope these activities will continue and increase over the coming years and more people will feel that they should become active and serve on one of our committees.

I have purposely omitted names, but I wish to thank all my officers and committees, and I hope you will give enthusiastic help to Mrs. Beatrice Pratt, our new President, and the other officers and committees to make the Halifax River Audubon Society one of the most active and best societies in the State.

Thanks,

Chester H. Childs

\* \* \* \* \*

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick W. Vichert on March 8th, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Dorothy. Fred and Dorothy have been very active in the club ever since they came to this area some years ago and frequently drove a lead car on the field trips. (Editor's note: With the approval of Mrs. Vichert, memorial contributions received by our HRAS Treasurer, are all being forwarded to the Sanctuary Fund of the Florida Audubon Society).

NEW OFFICERS:

President - Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt  
 Vice President - Mrs. Fred W. Vichert  
 Vice President - Mrs. John Walker  
 Membership Secretary - Mrs. Bertha B. Conklin  
 Recording Secretary - Mrs. Thelma Acosta  
 Treasurer - Mrs. Nan Thompson  
 Members-at-Large: Mr. George R. Single, Mrs. George R. Single, and  
 Mr. Willard S. Whiteman.  
 Pelican Editor - Mrs. Ralph M. Branch  
 Program Chairman - Mrs. Hazel Walker  
 Conservation Chairman - Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gillette  
 Youth Education Chairman - Mr. F. Beacom Rich  
 Field Trips Committee - Mr. Conrad H. Ekdahl, Mr. George Murray and  
 Mr. Willard S. Whiteman  
 Nature Theater Chairman - Mr. Robert G. Elliott  
 Special Project Committee Chairman, Mr. Chester H. Childs, Mrs. Nan  
 Thompson, Mrs. Thelma Acosta, Mrs. Dorothy Vichert, Mr. Willard S.  
 Whiteman, Mr. Conrad H. Ekdahl and Mr. Donald J. Barnettler.

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership has climbed to an all-time high of 271 mem-  
 bers. Joint and two-way members, please remember to renew your member-  
 ship when you receive the renewal notice. Make all checks payable to  
 Florida Audubon Society and mail them to P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland,  
 Florida 32751.

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

Mrs. C. Marie Betts, Daytona Beach  
 Mr. William W. Ford, Daytona Beach  
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman P. Kraeuter, Holly Hill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Llewellyn S. Lewis, East Greenwich, R.I.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth M. Linard, Ormond Beach  
 Mr. C. H. Mannar, Ormond Beach  
 Mrs. Anna Belle Oppenheimer, Daytona Beach  
 Miss Judy Munn, Daytona Beach  
 Mr. R. L. Voges, Daytona Beach  
 Mr. L. P. Zumstein, Daytona Beach

Bertha B. Conklin, Membership Secretary

HELP! Please help to gather as many cancelled United States Commemor-  
 ative and Foreign stamps as you can. These stamps are sold by Florida  
 Audubon and the money realized is used to finance the Bald Eagle Pro-  
 gram in the State. Clip them with a border of envelope around the  
 stamp, so that the stamp is not damaged. If you have time, it will  
 help to have them soaked off. If not, just save them and bring them  
 to the meetings in the Fall. We would like to have a bushel or more.

Mrs. Willard S. Whiteman, Chairman

\* \* \* \* \*

You can transform a short-legged hound with long ears into that  
 high-flying bird we all know so well - by taking off one letter.

## FIELD NOTES

By - Margaret Branch

A. HOME GROUNDS, April 3. Loud and clear, today, our Carolina wren, morning and afternoon, has been announcing his return. Where has he been, for so many weeks of chill winds? Maybe only a mile or two inland, in better shelter. Summer heat, at last; and we hope his song will greet us each morning, and that our "wheep", the Crested fly-catcher, will be next to come, loudly announce himself, and stay. Now the tiniest transients, flitting busily as they search for food in the tallest trees, are most exciting, but so frustrating to study! We do wish Purple martins would take the apartments awaiting them on the riverfront and, like the Mockingbirds and the Cardinals, be another daily joy to see and to hear. Starlings and English sparrows, as everywhere, are in over-plentiful supply, and, personally, we could spare about two dozen Mourning doves, and several extra Blue jays, too. Nice to be reminded, by his frequent loud remarks, that old Red-bellied woodpecker is always somewhere about, ready to fly over, just like the Flicker, and bluff all others from any preferred fresh offerings on the feeders. However, we could well do without his drumming on new aerial, or old eaves trough, before 6 A.M.

B. FARTHER AFIELD. Numbers of people and cars, starting out weekly at 7:30 A.M., have picked up. Numbers of species found also count up nicely. But a number of drop-outs have, this season, been sorely missed. This has been a winter of our discontent because of hospitals all too much in demand. Even now, nobody knows when Nancy and Keith Whitehouse are due back from two Galveston hospitals. Ask us for their addresses.

Yes, smaller numbers went, on shorter trips, those chilly weeks, with Flu prevalent, but not one weekly trip was cancelled. One was certainly cut short, when a deluge began at noon, but nobody had ventured, rashly, many yards from the dry autos, nor spread any picnic cloths, that time. The first three field-trip days in March each gave us over 100 species, next two trips only in the 90's, for all the care George Murray took, to compile all cars' reports. His official total for field-trip days to date, October to April: 172. *(his entire trip days 228 Total was 182)*

The four remaining trips, as listed in your blue program folder, are all full days, on Fridays, with picnic get-together for all groups at: April 11, Rock Springs (across, a far piece, to the West); April 18, Mead Gardens, Orlando; April 25, Washington Oaks Park (after Matanzas and Crescent Beach, near St. Augustine), and finally, May 20, Juniper Springs, both invite good swims, too, which could make you miss a few birds. Bath houses are provided, and water very clear, and same temperature year-round, flowing. Off-day, non-official trips have resulted in quite a number of extra species being seen. Some of our trips remaining, listed above, may add Burrowing owl and Caracara, for instance (seen by only two) to our season's record, we hope. And a lot more of us hope to see Swallow-tailed kite, and the Barred owl, adult and baby, that Henry Dearborn photographed a week ago. We are awaiting the Painted buntings, very soon due to pause at our feeders, perhaps going only north of Atlantic Beach, to nest. Please report if they visit you. Several people are eager to see them. Least terns are beginning to come, some to spend the Summer. Such a pleasure to watch, hovering quite close (where one is having an ocean swim) to dart down for a minnow, and fly with it to present to the mate, waiting near the water's edge. An occasional Barn swallow is glimpsed fast flying Northward, maybe zig zag, for food on the wing, but always to the North, to nest.

A CALL TO ACTION! Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt, President.

The word "conservation" is heard throughout our land today with an urgency that must not be ignored. We need the concern and cooperation of each of our members in meeting our conservation problems. The local Conservation Committee, Mrs. Fred W. Vichert, Chairman, can supply details on request. I quote from the Florida Conservation Digest: "There is greater reason to hope that we can save our wild alligators now than ever before, especially if conservationists make all the noise they can through personally visiting and calling (or writing) their state ... lawmakers and urging immediate action on the following bills." Especially urgent now are bills which will soon be introduced to the Florida legislature and need wide public support NOW. Will YOU phone or write (a card will do) to your lawmakers requesting their full support for immediate action on all these bills?  
S.B. 940 (to be introduced by Senator John Ducker) which deals with the prohibition of broadcast use of persistent pesticides (D.D.T., Chlor-dane, etc.)

There are five bills being introduced by Senator Warren Henderson designed to prohibit the sale of Alligator products in Florida and other protective measures for this endangered species. Companion bills will be introduced into the House by Representative Bill Fulford. You may contact your Florida senators and representatives asking their full support for "The Henderson Package" of legislation to protect the Alligator.

Below are the addresses of your lawmakers: Please save and use them!

Florida State Senate: Frederick B. Karl and C. Welborn Daniel,  
Senate Chambers, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Florida State House of Representatives: William R. Conway,  
James H. Sweeny, Jr. and William M. Gillespie  
House Chambers, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

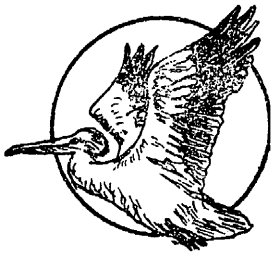
We still hear the frequent comment, "Oh, you are the bird-watchers Bird-watching is pure joy and serves a constructive purpose, but Audubon is so much more. We are enclosing a brochure which outlines the wide scope of Audubon interest. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY and pass it on to a friend who still thinks we are interested only in birds.

Have a happy Summer and return in the Fall with enthusiasm for the whole spectrum of Audubon activity.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our 1968-69 season ended March 24 with one of our finest as well as exceptional monthly programs. Mr. Burton Hubbard, an accomplished photographer for years in both slides and movies, excelled even himself with fades and lap dissolves as smoothly as any movie could do. His special equipment of two Carousel projectors synchronized to a magic box (a dissolve control) made the smooth effects, but machines are only as good as the man behind them, and even accumulating and arranging such excellent slides shows a skill few of us even appreciate. We are most grateful for a superb program by one of our own members.

(Signed) Hazel Walker - v. p. & program  
Chairman  
Mrs. Margaret G. Branch, Editor  
711 N. Halifax Ave.  
Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018



# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 15, Number 1

October 1969

WELCOME to the start of a new Audubon Season, even if for some the start is simply reading The Pelican and the Program. Hurry home, we need you!

Mrs. John (Hazel) Walker promises interesting programs for the monthly meetings. The first meeting will be October 20 at 7:00 p.m. The field trip committee has put together the usual fine schedule of field trips which start October 3rd, and we have an interesting and varied program of Wildlife Films outlined for January and February.

If you read your full program, you will note that the Audubon movement is "broadening its perspective" and that the total environment is of major concern. The Fall Conference of the Florida Audubon Society which will be held at Palm Beach on November 6th to 9th, is planned to teach us How To Use Our Influence Effectively. A variety of interests will be studied in special group meetings.

Eight of our members have already indicated their intention to attend these important sessions. Will you join us, too? Registration forms were included in the August-September Naturalist.

Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt, President

Keep these dates: September 29, 3:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting  
Important!! Oct. 3, 7:30 a.m. First field trip - to Mead Gardens  
Oct. 20, 7:00 p.m. First monthly meeting

\* \* \* \*

Welcome back to Daytona friends and members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY. We hope the season is bigger and better than ever. There will be the usual half hour opening for getting better acquainted with the birds we see in our vicinity, and the feature programs will take us to more far-away places. As the world gets smaller, its wonderful to know how other countries do their birding. A happy winter to you all.

Hazel Walker, Program Chairman

WILL WE GET A BUSHEL? Commemorative and Foreign cancelled stamps, of course! Bring yours in to the meetings -- they are a real bonanza to the Florida Audubon Eagle Program.

Mrs. Willard Whiteman, Chairman

1968-70 Screen Tour Tickets -- FLASH! Please mark your calendar now! The dates are January 3, 17 and 31, and February 14 and 28. Five fine films for \$3.00, students \$1.50. Our objective this year is "standing room only at Peabody". More detail in the next Pelican.

Alvin R. Pratt, Ticket Chairman



MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: When the Halifax River Audubon Society became a Chapter of the Florida Audubon Society, all those who were then members were given the privilege of retaining associate membership at \$2.00 per year, which includes a subscription to The Pelican and all membership privileges except voting. Membership renewals are now due for these associate members.

Pelican Subscriptions, which are available to those who cannot become members but who retain an interest in our society, are still \$1.00 per year.

For both these classifications, use the white card which is enclosed and send your dues or subscription promptly to Mrs. Bertha B. Conklin, P. O. Box 4456, South Daytona, 32021. Do not delay; you may forget!

All joint or two-way members will be billed from National or Florida when renewal is due. These memberships include local membership and a subscription to The Pelican. Use the tear-out Membership Application in your Program if you desire to join either of these plans for the first time; or use it to enroll a new member. Checks for these plans should be made payable to Florida Audubon Society and mailed to Maitland. "Every member get a member" will be our goal for the year and we can watch our Halifax River Audubon Society grow!

Mrs. Bertha B. Cronklin,  
Membership Chairman

GREETINGS, kind friends, from your CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN. First of all, thank you so much for attending the June hearing to study Pollution of the Halifax River. Mrs. Bertha Conklin, Mrs. Nan Thompson and Mrs. Thelma Acosta, supported by Mr. Childs have been "holding the fort" in my absence from Daytona and they have done a grand job this summer.

Mrs. Conklin was appointed to the Volusia County Air and Water Pollution Study Committee. This is good for our cause, as we will know exactly what is or isn't being done to solve our problems.

Your Chairman circulated petitions to the Isaac Walton League, Power Squadron and others interested in the alleviation of the polluted condition of the Halifax River, which ultimately led to the June meeting with the County Commissioners.

There has been correspondence with Mr. Partington, of the Florida Audubon, keeping him posted, and also with Mr. Vincent Patton, Director of the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control.

I sincerely hope that many of you can attend the Fall Leadership Conference at Palm Beach. I hope to see you there or shall look forward to seeing you at our November meeting. Please introduce yourself and let me know your interests and concerns. I do not know many of you personally and I would like to know you well enough to call you all by name.

Mrs. Joseph R. (Dolly) Gillette, Chairman  
Conservation Committee

Wilson's Petrel - a rare find!

On May 30th, while walking the beach in the late morning with my husband we spotted a swallow-like bird rolling and fluttering at the edge of the incoming tide opposite Imperial Drive, Ormond Beach. It was a strange little bird about seven inches in length, all black except for a white rump, with a tiny hooked beak, tubular nostrils and yellow webbed feet. It was alive, quivering with exhaustion. We brot it home, and after cleaning off its sand-plastered feathers and nearly blinded eyes as well as we could, we identified it from our bird books as a Wilson's Petrel. While it was still alive, this identification was verified by several other members of Audubon.

Due to its state of utter exhaustion, and its inability to eat, the Petrel died by nightfall. We preserved its body, and Mrs. Pratt kindly took it to Mr. Russell Mason in Maitland. Mr. Mason said it was a perfect specimen in excellent condition. According to information in Alexander Sprunt, Jr.'s "Florida Bird Life", these square-tailed Petrels are so rarely seen in Florida that the first inland record was established at Bivan's Arm, near Gainesville, on June 10, 1948. Some years ago, Mr. Rubert J. Longstreet identified a Wilson's Petrel found alive on the beach on South Atlantic Avenue.

In "Birds of America", Mr. H. K. Jop reports that the Wilson's Petrel breeds in the Antarctic. They must have tremendous stamina, for in stormy weather they remain on the wing day and night. In calm weather, they "walk" on the water, picking up bits of refuse or marine life. It is our belief that this particular bird may have been blown off course by some distant storm, and brot to our shore by a wind force from which he was too exhausted to escape.

Allistene S. Starkey

Can you imagine calling our "Here Buddy" and having a beautiful Purple Gallinule eagerly respond by running straight out of the swamp toward you? It was strange to me as I had heard for so long of the bird's shyness and relative rarity. "Buddy" and "Mama", as Mrs. McLain of Lake Helen calls her Purple Gallinules, have been nesting at the McLain's Pond for about five years. George Murray knew of "Buddy" and "Mama" and suggested to Dorothy Vichert, Bea Pratt, and me that a visit to the birds would be something a little different from the usual way people seek out the Purple Gallinule. We were so surprised that the birds did not need much coaxing at all. They responded immediately to their names and to the promise of bread in Mrs. McLain's hand by trotting across the lily pads, yellow legs flying in every direction, and cackling all the way. And as soon as the bread was snatched, Mama would skitter back to her nest among the water plants. Buddy, however, would take his time leisurely eating his reward under the shade of the pier.

The Purple Gallinule is a beautiful and elusive marsh bird. It is a rare treat for a bird watcher to see one. But for Mrs. McLain of Lake Helen, the Purple Gallinule is just another mouth to feed.

Anne Wilson

(daughter of member Mrs. Marion Wilson)

## "The Apartment of Progne subis"

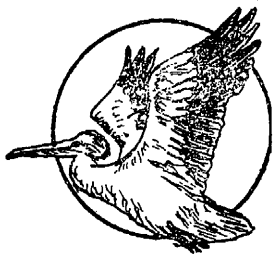
To the east of the Halifax River Yacht Club is situated an apartment house in the low, low income bracket. There are twenty one-room apartments, all unfurnished. They do not have bathroom facilities or wall to wall carpeting, but we can guarantee that at the end of their rental season they have wall to wall sticks, grass, mud, and a few twigs. The apartments have communal porches on four sides of the building which the occupants can enjoy. The contractor and builder, Willard Whiteman, constructed the building so that each apartment has air-conditioning of a sort.

Maintenance is free and is offered once a year. Last year we got there too late to make the renovations as some of the apartments were already occupied. That was one time we missed receiving our good housekeeping seal of approval award. This year we found the wall to wall sticks had grown from floor to ceiling. I suspect that Progne sublets his apartment to Passer domesticus, Sturnus vulgaris and their references. On the porches and in the apartments we found a cozy bloodthirsty group of ticks awaiting us. I distinctly heard the leader of the group give the battle cry, Transfusion! Transfusion! I began singing, Here a tick, there a tick, everywhere a tick, tick, and secretly wishing that they had stayed over on McDonald's Farm. I was sure my singing would discourage them; it works most of the time, but these anemic little devils kept marching on. They don't ask for your blood type. I often wonder what they do toward the balance of nature, and if it is absolutely necessary. I might say that tick picking is not about to become a national pastime. Those ticks really bug me.

Before we started our cleaning project, I heard this conversation between a young aide and the dockmaster. The aide was telling of an elderly man who came to the yacht basin and asked if the Martins had moved into their new home. The aide told the dockmaster that he informed the old gentleman there were no new homes in the area, and he knew of no person by the name of Martin living in this vicinity. The dockmaster had some explaining to do on this subject.

The Martins (Progne subis) did nest here, but in fewer numbers. We did have some vacancies. The insect population (excluding ticks) was less this year due to dry weather through the early spring and summer months. This may account for the vacancies.

George Murray



# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 15, Number 2

November 1969

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A HOT LINE FOR CONSERVATION WILL be organized by Mrs. H. B. Monroe as she up-dates the RARE BIRD ALERT. You will be given an opportunity at the November meeting to sign up for both or either of these programs.

The Hot Line for Conservation needs the support of every member. Frequent requests are received for prompt mass support of or opposition to specific programs affecting our environment. At these times numbers count heavily.

The Rare Bird Alert was considered to be of value last year in spreading the news of the location of unusual birds quickly to those interested: We had a group of Pine Siskins winter here last year. In the Spring, a Wilson's Petrel was blown in on the storm winds exhausted beyond the point of recovery.

George says: "Stress nature conservation in your conversation. Transpose your conversation into active conservation."

MONTHLY MEETING: Our feature film for November 17, Church House, Seabreeze United Church, N. Wild Olive Ave., "Islands of the Sea", will take us to the little known islands of Galapagos, Guadeloupes, Falklands and Midway. Here are found strange birds and animals that exist in no other places. Timely local birds, by slides, from 7 to 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP: We are pleased to welcome the following new members into our HRAS membership:

Mrs. Winsor W. Esten, Ormond Beach  
Dr. David Goddard, Daytona Beach  
Mrs. Richard S. Graham, Daytona Beach  
Mrs. Warren E. Hall, New Smyrna Beach  
Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Hartman, Daytona Beach  
Mr. James R. Maxwell, Jr., Ormond Beach  
Mrs. Knight C. Smith, Oak Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sullivan, Daytona Beach  
Mr. Robert J. Waterfield, Ormond Beach

Bertha B. Conklin, Membership Secretary

## Rubert J. Longstreet - 1892 - 1969

## In Memoriam

We, the members of Halifax River Audubon Society, are saddened by the passing of one of our original members, Rubert J. Longstreet.

Born on our own South Peninsula, he was brought up at Coronado Beach. He rowed across the river daily to achieve his early education in the schools of New Smyrna Beach. In 1916 he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from Stetson Academy, and the next year a Master's degree from the same institution, now John B. Stetson University.

This uniquely Florida personage devoted his career to the field of education. From the early 1920's to 1949 he served first as teacher and then as supervising principal of Seabreeze High School. After his retirement he moved on to Stetson University, where he was part of the faculty and of the administration for almost fifteen years. It would be impossible to measure his far-reaching influence on thousands of men and women throughout his memorable career.

One of his many students gave these as Rubert's rules for success

1. Keep working.
2. Pay your bills.
3. Mind your own business.

Precepts we can all observe with profit.

From early boyhood Rubert's avocation was the close study of both the land and sea birds in his area. His deepening study as he matured made him into one of Florida's respected ornithologists. He was a founder of Halifax River Bird Club; for many years he was secretary, and for more years a very competent president.

In broader fields Mr. Longstreet became associated with the State Florida Audubon Society. He served as its president for six years, and for twenty-two years he was editor of FLORIDA NATURALIST, the state society's publication. Under his own motivation he composed a fine book, FLORIDA BIRDS, which gives annotated descriptions of 150 common Florida species. This book he completely revised in 1965. Rubert's knowledge in ornithology will be shared with others indefinitely.

Tribute will be paid to Rubert J. Longstreet by hundreds of respectful and admiring boys and girls, many of whom are now honored citizens in their own communities.

Members of the Halifax River Audubon Society wish to show their grateful appreciation for services performed throughout a long, dedicated, and always noble life. Their memories of such a life will never pass away.

For PELICAN readers, and especially for all who knew R.J., may I be allowed to add two comments? Beacom Rich, one of our HRAS ex-presidents, who was with him so often over the years, was the especially proper person to write the above memorial from all of us. But who else, for all the sides of him that the papers covered, is going to mention those undergraduate days at Stetson University when I first knew him? The picture, repeated, showing him as a little Napoleon, in stature and stance, left out his splendid deep voice, both speaking and singing. I remember he sang one of the principal roles in "Pinafore", and dominated the absolutely thrilling quartet, in moonlight serenading below the windows of what then was the only dormitory for girls.

Beacom Rich has scars to show for the day, some years later, when he joined the Longstreet expedition to Pelican Island to band some of the 7,000 then at home there. They got 600 banded, and the leader (R.J.) asked Beacom why he did not know enough to tackle a pelican from the rear.

\* \* \* \* \*

MARKED GULLS: Last winter several were seen in this area and reported rather indirectly. We give you the following specific request for gull reports from Dr. Southern: "During May through July of each year for a five year period, Ring-billed Gulls (Larus delawarensis) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name. Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking."

And, another request. On page 16 of the September 1969 AUDUBON, in "Where Have All the Pelicans Gone?", we are asked to report any orange-marked pelicans we see, where, when and by whom, to SPRUNT, Box 231, Tavernier, Florida. Pelicans with markers of any other color than these, from the Carolina coast, or with yellow from Pelican Island not far from us in Florida; would be most unlikely here. Two of these have already been reported, and acknowledged, which Dorothy Vichert and Chet Childs saw at our Inlet.

1969-70 SCREEN TOUR TICKETS: Have you marked your 1970 calendar with the most important dates of the coming year: January 3, 17 and 31; also February 14 and 28. These are MUST dates - Five pictures for only \$3.00 - Students \$1.50.

I will have tickets on the little round table at the rear of our meeting room. So please come early and lets do a big business at the November meeting.

Our objective this year is "Standing Room Only at Peabody". Will you please help me to meet this objective by not only buying your own

ticket NOW, but also by taking some additional tickets and selling them to your friends, particularly those who have never seen our pictures.

I have the record of those who sold tickets last year so if you should forget to see me, I will stop around some evening at about 11:45 P.M.

So that my work can be kept at a minimum and the record of cash received and unsold tickets returned (if any) can balance out at the end of the season, will you please help me by:

1. Those requesting tickets by mail please make checks payable to Halifax River Audubon Society, and enclose self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of tickets.

2. Those selling tickets please return cash and unsold tickets (if any) to ME. If you have other people selling for you, have them settle with you and then you settle with me.

You buy and sell the tickets and I will cooperate with you in every way, by telephone, personal visit on my part, anyway to achieve "STANDING ROOM ONLY AT PEABODY".

Alvin R. Pratt  
64 River Shore Dr.  
Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074  
Phone 677-0289

Al Pratt - Ticket Chairman

FIELD TRIPS  
By Margaret Branch

Storms and bad predictions cancelled the first weekly trip of the season, scheduled for October 3. Hard rain proved it well forgotten. Hot, hot by afternoon, but the forenoon of October 10, only warm, found three cars on the road, joined by a fourth before noon picnic at Anastasia Park, near St. Augustine. Stop at Matanzas had been good for two rewarding species. Three female Painted buntings were found by directions of park ranger Tom Henry. Better than even exchange, George Murray informed him of the seldom seen Solitary sandpiper that Helen Scott had spotted, on the shore side of park headquarters building for his group. And, next, Crescent Beach had an oystercatcher and a Marbled godwit. Gulls, terns and nearly all shorebirds still very sparse, but many more expected, soon, from the North. Day's total, 64 species.

October 17 had pretty thick fog at 7:30 A.M., persisting but thinning, and making us hear more birds than we could see, on a walk in "Ike's Woods", west of Ormond, while the sun was breaking through, slowly. All clear, and a beautiful day, though more memorable for wildflowers than for birds, that trip to Juniper Springs, lovely place for our picnic, and walk, after, along the trails. There, a Pileated woodpecker was seen, close and noisy. Only 46 species total. And, as on the 10th, only two or three cars, with four in each, started out, but more cars joined. The list included 5 warblers, including Worm-eating, and, on return, the Hooded, discovered by George in his own backyard, a secluded, undisturbed spot that shy birds like, where his sharp eye and ear note them, close.

The Titusville trip, including Merritt Island duck ponds, gave us another total of 64 on October 24, same as the one of October 10. In spite of high winds, it was a fine, warm day and a good trip, with quite a few different ducks, including the ones at Lopez Fish camp, which also gave us one Glossy ibis, and the coots were innumerable, plus a few Common gallinules. Best item of all: 2 adult eagles.

Last October trip, we salvaged a very enjoyable forenoon, trying for Lake Earney but finding it too flooded to even get near our picnic place. Six cars turned, carefully, on a road with water close up on both sides, and we lunched in or near our cars, and just in time, before the heavens opened. Expecting to at least spot more birds, such as maybe White pelicans, from the cars, by pulling aside on the broad, high causeway, crossing Osteen Marsh, no! We had to slowly cross, there; with every window closed, and blinding rain pouring down it. Again, there were beautiful shows of wildflowers (in the forenoon), and our numbers of observers are increasing. Norma's keen ears added, for bird calls, and newly joined experts are most welcome. Dorie Henter-shee, with her 'scope, is one, who knows her "Down East" birds well. She scared up an American bittern for the group, in the marsh walk before Titusville, and in the same place, got us the Clapper rail. As to ears, however, that new extension of the jet runways at Daytona Beach Airport has brought deafening noise to the edge of our cherished pinewoods on Bellevue Avenue, and even taken a big chunk of the trees there where we always expect to see, and first to hear, woodpeckers, Brown-headed nuthatches and Bluebirds. Noisy trucks there, too, and roaring past our spot where all the cars can pull off to park, on the verge of Tomoka Farm Road, truck route to the new city dump. Once off farther into the wild, that last day before the hunting due November 1, we all watched two deer, right on and near the raised road where we lunched. And, on another quiet road, nobody knew nor cared when our little caravan stopped short to enjoy an unusual show. In the background, also not caring about us, were adult White and Wood ibis, but right close to our eyes, eagerly feeding on some feast that the wet green field was providing, about 15 youngsters were moving and flying about, busy with their long down curved bills. Drowned grasshoppers perhaps.

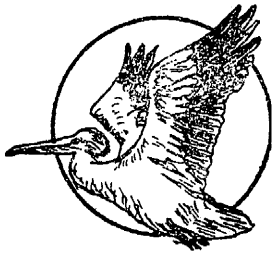
TRIPS AHEAD: As your green calendar shows, there are four in November, all on Friday, all-day, and always good ones. Nearly 64 species even in this shortened day. When the wind blows we find sheltered places, as on this last trip where so many Bluebirds and Palm warblers were to be seen, busily flying about at the edge of one little wood. And the hunting we do is fun, with good leaders and companions.

STAMPS: This is to remind you to save all your memorial stamps for the Bald Eagle Fund of FAS. Olive Whiteman will be glad to soak them off, if you clip only enough of the envelope not to injure the stamps. And she will turn the lot in, in good shape, to Haitland.

Thelma Acosta and Isabel Barbee are off for six weeks on a cargo ship. Anyone who would like to send a message to await them may phone Elizabeth McCandless for dates and places along the South American coast.

Mrs. Margaret G. Branch, Editor  
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# THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 15, Number 3

December 1969

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Christmas is a season for giving! "Give the Alligator his hide for Christmas" is a slogan that is being widely quoted these days. Give a little of yourself -- your thought, your time, your wealth, to the effort to recover from the effects of "progress" and carelessness an environment in which all God's creatures can live a full and purposeful life in harmony with each other and with nature. In thus giving, you will receive the joy of knowing that you have helped to make Christmas and the good life possible for future generations of man and his fellow creatures. Merry Christmas to All.

Mrs. Alvin R. Pratt, President

MONTHLY MEETING: Our December 15 program takes us to a famous "Wildfowl Trust" in Slimbridge, England - located in the southwest Gloucestershire marshes. Here 122 permanent and migrating ducks, geese, swans and rare species are studied for their needs and preservation. Holden study slides 7 to 7:30 P.M., Seabreeze United Church, preliminary to regular meeting hour of 7:30. Mr. Chester Childs to preside in absence of Mrs. Pratt.

Hazel Walker, Program Chairman

MEMBERSHIP: During this past month we have received ~~five~~ new members and wish them a warm welcome into our HRAS group:

Dr. and Mrs. Don W. Bears, Daytona Beach  
Mrs. Ralph Hentershee, Port Orange  
Mr. F. Parker West, Ormond Beach  
and the Ormond Hotel.

Our membership is now 184. Let's keep it growing!

Bertha B. Conklin, Membership  
Secretary

## FIELD TRIPS

By Margaret G. Branch

Four December Fridays will offer the last all-day field trips until March. The first two months of 1970 are likely to have weather even more difficult for planning on nooning for group picnics so cozy as our dear shepherds so carefully try to provide for their docile but not-so-hardy flock. Not much like those Sierra Club adventurers, for instance, who tramp for miles over the hills, even in snow or sleet, with rations in their packs. Even this past November did not provide ideal Florida weather for us. Every one of our four Friday trips found four or five carloads enjoying themselves in spite of a

day wet or windy - or wet AND windy. Luckily it rained for half a day at most, and with all safely sheltered in cars, and the other half day well worth the trip. November 21, going, hopefully, as far to the warmer South as our farthest HRAS trip takes us, we checked about 70 species for a fine, though windy, day of birding. Ducks, in great variety, though not in expected numbers, were viewed, from the road, in the "Titusville ponds", really on Merritt Island, across the causeway from Titusville, and on the road to that city's former playground beach, Playa Linda, once our birding spot, now all shut off by the space program. At the ponds coots were abundant, too, and a flight of White pelicans, overhead, a thrill to watch. At Canaveral Basin, where the white ones are expected, only Brown pelicans had been seen. But there we found fifteen avocets, life-birds for several in the party, to bring so close with the 'scopes, and whimbrels, among the numerous more usual birds in the coves and shallows the disruptions of that whole area have left for them.

We seem never any more to see a raft of the only ducks that used to be numerous on the Halifax, the Lesser scaup. Flocks of those were fed near the sea wall where pollution, heaviest from the Yacht Basin nearby, has driven all away. Incidentally, HRAS is really working on the problem of pollution of the Halifax, and, at last, so are a lot of other people. Ask our membership secretary, Bertha Conklin, or other members on the committee, about a certain meeting all might well attend, on December 19, across the river. That is four days after you may see her at the HRAS monthly meeting.

A few Red-breasted mergansers, Lesser scaup, Ring-necked ducks and Pied-billed grebes will be regulars for our half-day trip lists in January and February, fairly close to home. Each time we may count on Sanderlings, Ruddy turnstones, Ring-billed gulls (carefully scanned for those color-markers) and Royal terns, while feeling pretty sure, too, of Horned grebes and Forster's tern, and hopefully looking for those handsome Hooded mergansers. Binoculars up too, to spot the white tail of an Eagle, whenever wide, dark wings are spied aloft, usually proving to be only vultures, Turkey or Black, or a Red-shouldered hawk. Red-tails are so much rarer, here, than the Red-shouldered. Just the opposite in Michigan. The list lengthens, every time, with a certain few checks for memorable close-ups and rare specials, among the 70 or so. George Murray reports the total of species for field trip days alone, this Fall, is 139.

On November 28 the find was ten Sandhill cranes, in a big field well aside from a herd of valuable Black Angus cattle. Scouting trip had also had a fine view of two Pileated woodpeckers at the wooded edge of that field. When leads are unexpectedly offered, and appreciated, our scouts (just now especially meaning George Murray with Ike Merrill) follow them up. This time our special permission to trespass, and welcome, was due to Elizabeth McCandless, who knows the owner of that ranch -- that well-fenced one, over on the St. Johns River. Our most recent trip reached a spot, over inland, that the State has now begun to appreciate and to fence in, Wekiva Springs.

Such a run-around! Foiled by new fences across dirt trails, before we finally found one way still open for our five cars to reach the very attractive place where the springs boil up. Only for a walk, and good look at another Hermit thrush. No picnic tables there, as yet, and, anyway, by noon rain was threatening, so we felt safer having lunch at Rock Springs, where very evidently, many of the tables, including some shining new ones, are used, under shelter, in Summer. The neat sign about "No liquor", and the usual other lines, added "Please do not cut melons on the tables". One frustration we run into, more and more, is where not only homes, but private fish camps, trailer camps and even so-called marinas have to be coaxed to allow even this small bit of the public to have a look-see, without fees, at a piece of water. Mrs. McLane, over at Lake Helen, is one who welcomes us, to see her pet, though wild, Purple gallinules. We plan to supplement her coaxing stale bread, on our next trip there, for two pairs of tame table ducks of some neighbor along the shore are greedily joining her gallinule family parties, when she calls.

A full-day trip will be a surprise - destination not yet decided - (for any member) instead of regimented Christmas count, on Friday, December 26. Don't forget your lunch, and bring your Christmas cookies.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS: While Mrs. Pratt and I are visiting with our families over Christmas, Norma Ekdahl will take care of tickets for the Audubon Wildlife Films at the December 15 meeting. Norma has all of my records and is familiar with the entire ticket situation. We will be back from the North before January 1, and I will immediately take care of any ticket deliveries, etc., that are on hand. Norma and I will definitely take care of your requests for tickets, so keep the telephone ringing and the mail man busy.

Al Pratt, Ticket Chairman

MANY THANKS to all who have brought in stamps for the Eagle program. Keep them coming! We want Commemorative and Foreign stamps. Regular United States postage and Christmas stamps are too numerous to be of value.

Mrs. Willard S. Whiteman, Chairman

REMINDER: The first wildlife lecture on January 3 will be before you receive your January PELICAN, so this is to remind you to have a Season ticket before that date. For the first speaker, Mr. Wilfred E. Gray, Ralph and Margaret Branch will be reserving tables for final number wishing to be with Mr. Gray at the Ridgewood Hotel at 5:15 P.M., for the early dutch treat buffet before the program. Please reserve, through us, by January 2. The tickets, to be bought at cashier's desk in dining room, just before the line forms, are \$1.75. We are allowed to head the line, which lengthens and moves, starting at 5:30, only behind a few early-dining residents. The speaker needs to get to Peabody Auditorium in plenty of time, unhurried, to see that equipment is all ready, hence the early buffet.

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