

THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Volume 21, Number 2

November 1975

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

During a recession there seems to be more and more people concerned with the economy and fewer giving thought to the environment. There are always some individuals and organizations working to protect our air and water from pollution, establish greenbelts and buffer zones, save our wetland and estuaries, promote careful planning, provide parks, recreation areas, and wildlife refuges. Far too often these efforts are opposed by those willing to sacrifice the environment in order to create a few jobs, or get land cheaply - anything to "save" money and get a product sold to a consumer in order to make money regardless of whether the product is actually "needed" by the public. The environmentalist is often referred to as kook or eco-freak by persons who feel their livelihood or profit threatened by the methods of conservation. There was a time in the past when the few individuals who wanted to save some birds or other wildlife were probably considered at the least "odd" by the general population. That time has passed. A recent survey conducted last year established that a substantial majority of the people of Florida are deeply interested in the protection of the environment. Still there are those people who need to learn that the fight for the endangered species is largely a fight for man himself to live in a world worth living in. Our duty is to combat the special interests who think only of the profit today and fail or refuse to see how costly their actions can be to us all in the future.

What can we do as individuals to counteract the effectiveness of special interest groups who are only concerned with short-term effects of their acts? First, we must be informed about issues that will be affecting our lives and well-being and that of our children in the future. Second, we must let our elected officials know how we stand on environmental legislation through letters or phone calls. Third, we can keep a record of each elected official's voting record and consider this before voting. Fourth, we must work for and elect individuals who are at least sympathetic to the conservationist's cause. Fifth, we can demonstrate to our critics that our concern for the environment is every bit as practical - even more so, in fact - than their concern of the economy.

How can we counteract the arguments that environmental protection is too expensive? An article in the July issue of Audubon, titled "An Unwarranted Struggle: Environment vs. Economy" gives some information about this controversial matter and should be read for more details. I shall summarize a few of the points made there -- Environmental clean-up is not a nonproductive investment that will only increase the cost of goods and promote unemployment. In fact the money spent will stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Environmental damage has always been a cost of production. It is only now we are coming to recognize the magnitude of such costs and to realize that these costs of dirty air and water will have to be paid for by someone sooner or later. One lesson we must get through to our policymakers is that man must learn to estimate all costs in terms of natural depletion as well as financial outlay -- before he undertakes an environmentally damaging project. We must learn to point out to the environmental critics that the "continuing depletion of wetlands and estuaries is not simply a matter of disturbing a few birds, but of altering an ecosystem that nature spent eons designing -- an ecosystem moreover, that has several functions: To clean air and water, to provide nurseries for marine organisms, to furnish food for marine fisheries, to buffer hurricanes. We must remind man that nature does not work on a fiscal-year schedule, and that a corporation's deed to develop good results quickly in time for the next annual report, may cause damage that our ecosystem cannot repair for a decade, if ever."

Editor, Jeri Wylie

NOVEMBER MEETING

Program will be on Preservation of Spruce Creek, November 17. Bob Eikum, County Forester, and D. Walter Boardman, a full-time conservationist, will present slides and a discussion on the beauty and value of the Spruce Creek area. If you have not visited Spruce Creek in all her fall glory, you have missed a rare treat. Yes, fall does come to Florida. You see it in the Carolina asters and the goldenrod that drape the banks of the creek and in the touches of red in the maples. If you have not been in a canoe on Spruce Creek then the best thing to do is to come to the November seventeenth meeting at 7:30 p.m., and see slides made by Bob Eikum from his canoe. Bob and Walter will be there to discuss the dangers that threaten this beautiful area, particularly high density development.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE TO GET UNDER WAY SOON

Good news! John and Belinda Ferree have agreed to accept the responsibility of Chairpersons of the Conservation Committee. Anyone willing to work with this committee please contact the Ferrees at 677-0349. Some bad news: Belinda recently suffered a broken leg. We hope she will be up and on the go soon.

OSCEOLA FOREST PHOSPHATE MINING SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

The Florida Audubon Society and the Florida Defenders of the Environment have made a joint statement that the facts overwhelmingly indicate that the leases for mining phosphate in the Osceola National Forest should be denied. These environmental groups speculate that the proposed delay is politically motivated by a desire to avoid the consequences of authorizing the destruction of the Osceola National Forest one year before election time. These two groups have asked Florida's Congressional Delegation to investigate Interior Secretary Thomas S. Kleppe's decision for additional studies in the North Florida forest since an environmental impact statement already made shows conclusively that the leasing of the Osceola Forest for phosphate mining should be prohibited.

COUNTY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER SPRUCE CREEK VILLAGE PROJECT - DECEMBER 4

The proposed Spruce Creek Village project would be a high density development to be completed over a 20-year period on approximately 866 acres in the Spruce Creek area south of Port Orange. Supposedly it would be an adult multifamily housing development of 4,200 units, shopping centers and motels. On July 3 the County Council

to approve the development of regional impact (DRI) report because the fact that the county planners and the Volusia County Task Force have opposed the development. The opponents of the approval charge that the DRI was based on percolation tests done during a dry period, rather than a period of average rainfall to measure the development's proposed drainage and sewage treatment and disposal systems' capabilities. Councilman Joseph Benedict and Mrs. Barbara Kelly voted against approval of the DRI. Mr. William Keller was ill and absent. What are some of the objections to this project? In the first place no need was established for this project, and development of a major project with no strong marketing base may increase overall housing vacancies in the county and result in a premature change in land use. Other objections are that the project exhibits great potential for unfavorable impact on the environment and natural resources of the area; that the effectiveness of the waste water treatment plant is based on an unrealistic assumption that all aspects of the plant would work effectively at all times. If it does not, the county will have to provide sewerage facilities. Other costs the taxpayer of the county might have to face are those costs of additional roads, water, if it is not adequate for all the projects being built in the area, and county bus transit. One of the county planners summed up the objections in this statement, "Any reasonable man reading this information would oppose approval of this development." On December 4 the County Council will vote on a "development order".

ALL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Four trips so far this fall. The usual number of birdwatchers are on hand at the starting point, City Island parking lot, at 7:30 a.m., every Friday, to enjoy a full day of fun studying the birds.

On October 10, our first trip this fall, we drove up to Washington Oaks Park, Mantanzas Park, and Anastasia Park. We saw 54 different species on that day - the most pleasant surprise was spotting 30 or so dowitchers on the beach at Anastasia Park, near the fishing pier.

On October 17, our second trip, was south to Titusville marshes along A1A. We saw a total of 46 different species. We had a pleasant surprise to see about 16 - 18 roseate spoonbills in Titusville. They were quite close and obligingly quiet and within easy photo range for those with cameras - a really pleasing sight.

On October 24, our third trip, we drove west to Alexander Springs. On Route 44, a short distance west of Crow's Bluff, we parked our cars just off the road, and with no binoculars and with our field glasses, we easily saw 18 - 20 sandhill cranes, some within photographic range - a rare treat. At A1A there is an untouched wilderness and whether you are a birdlover, or an amateur botanist, you are bound to get a real charge from hiking their nature paths.

Our fourth trip was to Lake Harney, on October 31. We saw 51 different species. Our trip was made up of 14 persons and four cars, a very pleasing and manageable group. We saw a flock of over 100 white ibis at the dairy farm on Tomoka Farms Road and also another 100-plus white ibis on the Lemon Bluff Road, near Osteen - surely no shortage of white ibis in this county. We also saw two limpkins at the boat ramp at Lemon Bluff. Limpkins are generally hard to come by, due to their special diet of snails that are found in fresh water marsh areas.

If you are looking for a pleasant way to spend a Friday in the country, come join us.

Bill Ford, Leader

November 1975...
 ...you probably know of the excellent work Mrs. Keller has done in saving sick and injured birds. This area is in need of someone to receive and care for ailing birds. Her only reward is the joy of returning a wild creature to the wild. This lady has accomplished much with her own resources, but occasionally needs outside help. If anyone has a freezer of any size and are not using it and would like to donate to a very worthy cause, please call Mrs. Keller, 252-2794. The freezer is needed to keep food for the birds.

SIERRA CLUB HAS LOCAL CHAPTER

A local Sierra Club has been organized and meets every fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The club supports the environmental cause, and schedules programs and outings each month. For information call Dr. Rusty Taylor, membership chairman, 672-3137. We of the Audubon Society welcome another conservation organization to the area. Since both clubs have common interests and goals let us work together in our fight to protect the environment.

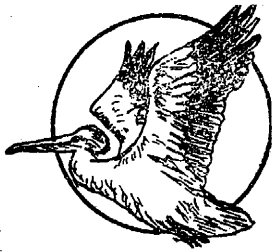
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Halifax River Audubon Society
 Daytona Beach, Florida

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CHRISTMAS AND ENERGY

As we approach the Christmas season, let each of us consider what we can do to save energy. Though we are not hearing as much about the "Energy Crisis" as we were it is still with us. What are some of the ways you can think of to celebrate a traditional Christmas and yet save on energy? The best gifts you can give to your family and friends are those that save energy rather than items that waste it. Conservation of resources doesn't have to mean doing without, just doing better. Let us all have a Merry Christmas and plan for many more to come!

Jeri Wyly, Editor

DECEMBER 15TH PROGRAM TO BE A SURPRISE!

The season of preparing for the Birth of the Christ Child Jesus is upon us, we spend a great deal of our time preparing and making surprises for our loved ones and friends. The nice thing about this job of Program Chairmanship I have prepared a surprise for you for this coming meeting. Several of our members have prevailed upon me to change the program and have what is going to be presented. This is the nice thing about the agenda, we have left it free, therefore it can be fluid.

I hope this has whetted your appetite and you will come to this meeting and see for yourselves. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone "A MOST HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON".

*

Alpha S. Little, Program Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS

Balinda and John Ferree were hosts November 28 for the Conservation Committee. Other members of the committee are Louise and Henry Bonner, Don Barmettler, Marion Fisk, Jeri Wyly and Margaret Longdon. The immediate task of the committee will be collecting information about such environmental problems as pollution of all types, land use, and conservation of resources.

* A short business meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will follow the surprise program.

To The Man-of-War-Bird

Thou who hast slept all night upon the storm,
 Waking renew'd on thy prodigious pinions,
 (Burst the wild storm? above it thou ascended'st,
 And rested on the sky, thy slave that cradled thee),
 Now a blue point, far, far in heaven floating,
 As to the light emerging here on deck I watch thee,
 (Myself a speck, a point on the world's floating vast).

Far, far at sea,
 After the night's fierce drifts have strewn the shore with wrecks,
 With re-appearing day as now so happy and serene,
 The rosy and elastic dawn, the flashing sun,
 The limpid spread of air cerulean,
 Thou also re-appearest.

Thou born to match the gale (thou art all wings),
 To cope with heaven and earth and sea and hurricane,
 Thou ship of air that never furl'st thy sails,
 Days, even weeks untired and onward, through spaces, realms
 gyrating,
 At dusk that look'd on Senegal, at morn America,
 That sport'st amid the lightning-flash and thunder-cloud,
 In them, in thy experiences, had'st thou my soul,
 What joys! what joys were thine!

Walt Whitman

Note: Man-of-war-Bird is also known a Frigate-Bird. It is usually found farther south in Florida. Reg Hicks and George Murray saw several on a trip recently and Mr. Hicks got several fine photographs of them.

A smooth-billed Ani was seen by Bill Ford and Mary Lynch on Monday, December 1, at the Daytona Beach Regional Airport. This bird is elusive and a great deal of patience is required in spotting it. It hides in weeds and low bushes. After watching for this one for two hours, Mary and Bill saw this one for only 15 seconds!

VICTORY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

On April 4, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the EPA's ban of the production of the pesticides, Aldrin and Dieldrin. As a result of the court's decision, Shell Chemical Company, manufacturer of the pesticides, decided to discontinue the manufacture and sale of Aldrin and Dieldrin for use in the United States.

Chemically related to DDT, Aldrin and Dieldrin pose a cancer hazard for man because they cause cancer in laboratory animals. Since 1970, the Environmental Defense Fund has sought a total ban on these pesticides which are among the most hazardous chemicals in the environment. EPA's October 1974 ban of future production, sale and use of Aldrin and Dieldrin was a major victory in this campaign. (Summarized from "The Coot Call".)

At our request, Harold Nett submitted the following account of sightings made on a recent trip:

I went on a trip of three weeks in June to the Scandinavian countries. Fortunately I took binoculars along although I had no European bird book. I didn't really see too many kinds of birds--the trip concentrated on palaces and castles mostly--but some of those I did see might be of interest.

Oystercatcher--similar to the American Oystercatcher, seen near Bergen and along one of the fiords in central Norway.

Coot--like the American bird but a different species, at the Botanical Garden, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Hooded crow--a bird about the same size as our crows, with gray and black plumage, that is quite common all over the Scandinavian countries.

Fieldfare--a large thrush, also common. It has a gray head, brown back and striped breast.

Chaffinch--a little bird about 6 inches long, very tame, quite gaily colored with a pink breast and blue head.

White wagtail--it has a black throat, chin and nape, the rest of the head is white. A very cute and friendly little thing, 7 inches long (or 18 centimeters, to get metric).

Tufted duck--at a town called Stavanger, our first stop in Norway. He resembles a lesser scaup and has a tuft or crest on his head.

Also magpies (also in the American west), a couple of species of gulls, storks, tits only tentatively identified, jackdaws, etc. I can recommend the Copenhagen Zoo for its bird collections and the Botanical Garden in the same city for bird-watching. There is also a Zoological Museum I did not get to.

We hope that you other travelers to far-off corners of the world will give us your accounts of the unusual sightings you have made.

Regarding the Halifax Audubon Society's program for 1975-76, please make the corrections as follows:

Membership Secretary..... Harold Nett
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Ormond Beach, Florida 32074

February 1977

further urged that the remaining lands be used for public recreation and environmental purposes and that the Canal Authority be abolished by the Legislature. The major battle has been won, but the war is not yet over. Legislation must be passed by both the Florida Legislature and the Congress before the canal project is finally ended and the restoration of the Oklawaha River is begun.

COMPLETE RESTORATION OF KISSIMMEE IS NEEDED

In 1963 the Corps of Engineers dug a straight ditch through the meandering Kissimmee River and added six dams to replace the natural flood control thus lost. (It doesn't pay to play with Mother Nature.) The project was an ecological and engineering disaster and in 1976 the Legislature established a council to recommend and implement approved approaches to restoring the river, its floodplain and habitat. The original mistake was wasteful both in tax dollars and of the environment. There are several suggested plans for restoration; many of them would cause additional waste. Urge Representatives Conway, Brown, and Bell, and Senator Dunn, to support complete restoration.

IAN MCHARG, RENOWNED ECOLOGIST TO SPEAK AT PEABODY

Ian McHarg, a distinguished lecturer, author, ecologist and landscape architect, and Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architects at the University of Pennsylvania, will lecture March 17, 8:00 p.m., at Peabody Auditorium. Dr. McHarg has undertaken a number of ecological studies for metropolitan regions in the United States and abroad. Best known for his book, Design With Nature, he has also written Ecological Determinism, Plan for the Valley, An Ecological Method for Landscape Architecture, Man and Environment, and many others. His work has been made noteworthy by guest appearances on the "Today Show" "Mike Douglas"; and "Public Citizen" in Life, Time, Readers' Digest and others.

Dr. McHarg is a dramatic and stimulating lecturer. It will be interesting to hear what he has to say about our little piece of the earth. His topic is "Planning for Survival" based on his book, Design With Nature. Daltons Book Store in Volusia Mall is stocking this book.

FIELD TRIP NOTES - 23 Birders went on the trip. Weather cool, clear.

Our field trip of January 22 was a great success. One of the Delton Museum is an outstanding ornithologist, who identified many birds for us. Our route led from Baytona and Smyrna to the Log Cabin Orange Groves, then to the Black Point Wildlife Drive, and we wound up at the North Shiloh Marsh section of the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. A total of 82 species were recorded. At the Log Cabin Groves Mr. Brothers pointed out a gorgeous painted bunting up in a tree; other birds there included sapsucker and yellow-rumped warblers.

At our first stop at Black Point, we observed a bald eagle with a great horned owl sitting at the eagle's nest. As we drove on the drive, we saw 9 species of ducks and numerous waterfowl. Mike identified for us an orange crowned warbler, which is a comparative rarity. We proceeded to Playlinda Beach but found nothing there. Finally, at Mid Shiloh Marsh there were a profusion of small birds.

The flock of 30 or more avocets were at some distance, but we could make out their appearance with the scopes. Then a bald eagle flew low across the marsh, the coots scuttling in terror at its approach. The eagle caught a coot, but was set upon by a red-tailed and a marsh hawk so dropped it.

WATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

The proposed water management ordinance has been under review for the past several weeks by the County Attorney's office. County Counselman Bill Maddox, Chairman of the Advisory Committee (which has been working on this ordinance) expects to call the committee back into session within the next few weeks to attempt to produce a draft for nonfinal approval. A public hearing on the ordinance has been set for January 15. (Reprint from the Volusia County Voter)

FLIGHT OF THE BROWN PELICANS

In 1968 the state of Louisiana imported 465 brown pelicans from Florida, and things apparently were going very well until just a short time ago. We are now informed that more than 300 of these birds are dead. The probable cause is pesticides. On July 10 only 45 pelicans were found during an annual check that ordinarily revealed a count of 175 to 200 birds. Six of the dead pelicans were sent for analysis. Seven pesticides were identified. These were endrin, dieldrin, toxaphene, DDE, BHC HCB, heptachlor epoxide, as well as many polychlorinated biphenyls.

The food fish utilized by the brown pelicans were analyzed and the accumulative effect of the chemicals were shown. Endrin turned up in only one species, croaker, but the other fish - anchovy, spot, mullet, ribbon fish, and menhaden - contained traces of DDT, DDE, PCB's, dieldrin, toxaphene and HCB, although not all of the fish contained all of these chemicals.

Allan Himminger, Chief of Refuge Division, said, "It's the old food chain (story) all over again". From the information we have received, apparently it is not only the pelican that has been the victim of the pesticides but also the sea food industry is in a steady decline. There have been fish kills, oyster and shrimp kills. (Reprint in part from :The Coot Call")

Pelican subscriptions of \$2 are due and can be paid to Treasurer, Mrs. Windsor Esten, 195 Valencia Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32074.

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