

interspersed with scenes of places that he has visited. Altogether, the promises to be an interesting and instructive evening. Come on out, enjoy the fellowship and increase your knowledge of this world we live in. Hope to see you then.

Carlton Smith, Program Chairman

CONSERVATION REPORT

The nation-wide situation, both on environmental issues and in the broad field of social progress is well portrayed by the following, taken from page 1 of the December 16 issue of AUDUBON LEADER:

"The anti-environmental policies of the Reagan administration provoke a mix of emotions in environmentalists. When Audubon members who consider themselves good citizens and reasonable people hear their cause derided by top U. S. officials they feel disheartened and disappointed, as well as angry. Audubon President Russ Peterson, a former Du Pont executive who held a top environmental post under two Republican presidents, put it this way in a recent speech:

"We wish we did not have to battle our national government on these critical issues. But the administration has left us no choice. It is time to take off the gloves and fight.

"We look forward to the day when we can once again sit down with our governmental leaders, as we have traditionally done with previous Republican and Democratic administrations, to work harmoniously and constructively toward the solution of those problems that threaten nature and our natural resources."

Here in Florida and especially in Volusia County we can say that our governmental agencies are willing to sit down with us and discuss issues. There is, however, one glaring exception. That is the Ponce de Leon Inlet and Port Authority. It may already, be too late to avoid an environmental disaster at Ponce Inlet that could have been prevented had the Authority acted as it was urged to by environmentalists.

As matters now stand, outside investors are seeking approval of high density housing developments both north and south of the Inlet. These are coastal areas, hurricane vulnerable and unsuited for the concentrations of people contemplated. Their highest and best use is as open space or parkland for the benefit of all people. A few years ago this land could have been purchased by the Ponce de Leon Inlet and Port Authority at a reasonable cost. However, that body was so engrossed in its efforts to establish a marina and boating facility amid the mangroves north of New Smyrna Beach that it paid little attention to the opportunity to bring lands on either side of the Inlet into public ownership. Those who are watching the situation closely are deeply frustrated by the attitude of the members of the Port Authority and its staff. It is unfortunate that the motion presented to the Volusia County Council to bring the Port Authority under the control of the Council failed by a 4 to 3 vote.

Walter S. Boardman
Chairman, Conservation Committee

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Our field trip of January 8 with 12 observers went to Blue Springs State Park near Orange City, but had to return to town after lunch because of a rain storm that came up. At the City Island starting point we saw red-breasted mergansers and oystercatchers, then at the Airport pond found widgeons and redhead ducks. En route, we added some birds, particularly red-headed woodpeckers. At Blue Springs, the ranger count for the morning was 7 manatees in the run, and we saw most of them. Before and after the program we saw quite a number of birds, including black-and-white warbler, yellowthroat, flicker, downy woodpecker, sapsucker, kinglet, titmouse, goldfinch, song sparrow and anhinga. When leaving the park we turned left on the dirt road and down at the river found 3 pileated woodpeckers. All in all we counted 44 species and most likely could have added more if we had been able to continue on to Botts Landing and Hontoon Island.

SCHEDULES OF COMING EVENTS

Monday, January 18, meeting at Seabreeze United Church at 7 P. M.
Friday, January 22, field trip to Merritt Island leaves City Island at 8 A.M.
Sunday, January 24, TV channels 7 and 24 will present at 8 P. M. "A Guide to Roger Tory Peterson".
Wednesday, January 27, "Gifts of an Eagle" with Kent Durden at the DBCC Humanities Auditorium 8 P. M.
Friday, February 5, field trip to Welaka Fish Hatchery leaves City Island at 8 A. M.

NEWS FROM OTHER FAS CHAPTERS

Ira Weigley is teaching a bird identification class for Seminole Audubon. The next class is February 11, 10 A. M. at FPL in Sanford. There will be a field trip to Blue Springs January 21 and to Merritt Island February 18.

New Smyrna Beach Audubon's next program will be at Southeast Bank, 200 Canal Street, January 20 at 7:30 P.M. Jerry Swanson of DBCC will talk on nuclear power. Their trip to Blue Springs will leave City Hall at 8:30 A. M. Jan.23.

Pelican Island Audubon Society, Vero Beach, participated January 3 in the 82nd annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. There were 39 counters and 141 species were counted. However, not many individual birds were seen, and robins had not even arrived.

In Duval Audubon's (Jacksonville) "Observer" Virge Markgraf writes: "The 1981 Christmas Bird Counts are over, and the birders all over Florida are complaining--No birds! Well, of course, there are some, but they're not as plentiful as they used to be. Lots of gulls, crows and blackbirds, but where are the Robins, down from 5,000 last year to 300? Even the omnipresent Myrtle Warblers are about a third of their usual numbers...."

BAD NEWS

As reported in the newspapers, the U. S. Postal Service is socking it to non-profit organizations. The cost of our newsletter is rising to 5.9 cents a piece, up from 3.8 cents. Just a very few years ago we were charged 1.7 cents per piece.



THE PELICAN

Information Bulletin

Halifax River Audubon Society
Daytona Beach, Florida

Harold J. Nett, President
441-5584

FEBRUARY 1982
VOL. 27, NO. 4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 -- MEMBER'S MEETING

Our program this month will be a selection of bird slides by the writer along with the slides donated to the club last year by Bob Coyle. Many of these slides are of birds not generally seen in this area and some few are exotics. So come to the meeting, meet a few strangers (birds of course) and maybe they will become familiar friends of the future.

Carlton Smith, Program Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CLEAN AIR OR DIRTY AIR

The National Audubon and other organizations have sent out messages calling for citizen opposition to H. R. 5252, known as the "Dirty Air Bill". Earlier in the present session of Congress, the Traxler-Hillis bill (H. R. 4400) was introduced. It was intended to gut the Clean Air Act of 1970. There was vigorous opposition. The Administration then announced a new, improved bill, H. R. 5252 by Luken and others. The "improvements" proved to be on the negative side!

Many Audubon members are writing Congressman William V. Chappell, (Rayburn Building, Washington, D. C. 20515), asking that he oppose H. R. 5252 or simply stating that they want stronger, not weaker, controls over air pollution.

Members of the Volusia Delegation to the Florida Legislature are supporting a resolution which will call upon Congress to enact a stronger clean air act. It is anticipated that they will prevail and it is hoped this will have an influence upon the Florida members of Congress. We can be proud of our Volusia Senator and Representatives in Tallahassee.

PONCE INLET - High Density Housing or Natural Seashore

On the local scene, environmentalists are uniting in a campaign to assure the protection of the whole Ponce Inlet area from destructive "development". It is a place where storm-driven tides pile up sand or sweep it away; where sea water mixes with brackish flow of the Halifax River; where seabirds can rest or feed; where mangrove islands and salt-tolerant plants strive to maintain nature's balance. It is an area unsafe for permanent residents; where the highest and best use comes from leaving it alone. It also has the potential for its undoing at the hands of opportunistic developers.

POWERLINE UPDATE

Thanks to the widespread support and the strong position taken by the Volusia County Council, the dual 500KV powerline will probably be located along a more westerly route away from suburban areas. FP&L has not withdrawn from its desire for the original route, but will accept the proposed alternate if the hearing officer so recommends. It still has to be watched!

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HRAS was asked to name a person as coordinator of the effort to gain support of the Endangered Species Act, which, like the Clean Air Act, is under fire from the Reagan Administration. Mrs. Angelo Cerrito has kindly consented to undertake this responsibility. Let us give her our full support.

Walter S. Boardman, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING NOTES

Our field trip of January 22nd took us to Black Point Drive in the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge and Hoeck Drive in Canaveral National Seashore. Among the 65 species of birds seen were white pelican, pintail, green-winged teal, canvasback, shoveler and other ducks, red-tailed hawk, some shore birds such as greater and lesser yellowlegs, least and semi-palmated sandpipers, gulls, egrets and herons of course, a great horned owl in the eagle nest on Black Point Drive. On February 5th the trip was about as productive, with 64 species, beginning with several at our starting point. Highlights were hooded mergansers at Beach Street (Riverside Drive) in Holly Hill, sora rails at the Tomoka River Bridge, a flock of an estimated 50 bluebirds and towhee along Dupont Road, a few water pipits plus rusty blackbirds, white ibis, wood storks, snipes galore and as a climax two bald eagles soaring high over the Welaka Hatchery ponds.

Larry Griffin reports a bald eagle at the Colony Club South, a horned owl a couple of miles south of there, also some cedar waxwings.

Mrs. Patton called from Port Orange, to the effect that the birds she loves to see have not come as usual to visit in her yard. This confirms observations made in the Duval and Pelican Island Societies' newsletters in regard to a scarcity of birds this winter. Our field trips to Merritt Island have not found too many individual white pelicans, ducks and shore birds in the flocks there, though we have checked off a fair number of species.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Monday, February 15, 7 P. M. at Seabreeze United Church, N. Wild Olive near Seabreeze Blvd., monthly members' meeting.
- Friday, February 19, 8 A. M. a field trip to Juniper Springs leaves City Island.
- Wednesday, February 24, 8 P. M. at Humanities Auditorium, Daytona Beach Community College, Stephen Kress will present the feature "Bird Islands of the North Atlantic". Admission is \$3.00, information from the Museum at 255-0285.
- Friday, March 5, 8 A. M. a field trip to Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge leaves City Island.

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HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

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