

The PELICAN

Newsletter of

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
DAYTONA BEACH FLORIDA

Carlton M. Smith - Editor
Ph. 253-3815

JANUARY 1989

News from NAS

A Time for Change

by Peter A.A. Berle, President
National Audubon Society

NEXT MEETING

7:00 P.M. Mon. Jan. 16th
SEABREEZE UNITED CHURCH
501 N. Wild Olive Ave, Daytona Bch.

Martin J. Wittbold, past president of Volusia County Botanical Gardens, will be our guest speaker. Martin is a third generation horticulturist and has operated a nursery in Holly Hill since 1946. He and his wife Sarah were so impressed by Botanical Gardens they saw during a trip to Australia, that upon returning home, they started work on what became a career project. After several years of planning, organizing, promoting and finally developing, the Gardens at the old Dunn-Lawton Sugar Mill have become a reality. For this, if nothing else, we of the Halifax area owe them a debt of gratitude.

* * * * *

Attention, Cranewatchers!

Audubon's annual River Conference celebrates the arrival of the sandhill cranes on Nebraska's Platte River during their northward migration. This year's conference, held as usual in Kearney, Nebraska, will run from March 16-20. As always, the highlight of the conference will be dawn and sunset trips to the river for spectacular cranewatching. For information, contact Audubon's West Central regional office, 200 South Wind Place, Manhattan, Kan. 66502; (913) 537-4385.

A new era may have begun for those of us concerned about wildlife and the environment. On November 30th, the executive directors of four other conservation groups and I met with President-elect George Bush. Since the door to the White House was firmly closed to environmentalists during the Reagan era, this meeting was seen as a turnabout rich in potential for positive change.

During his campaign, George Bush promised to give his attention to a number of environmental problems that face the nation and the world. At our meeting, the new President reconfirmed his commitment to environmental protection. Most important, he promised to take seriously the many recommendations the conservation community made in "Project Blueprint." These suggestions on a wide variety of environmental challenges were compiled for the new administration by an unprecedented coalition of 18 major conservation groups.

We are cautiously optimistic that George Bush will distance himself from the failed environmental policies of the Reagan Administration and chart a new course.

The Audubon Activist Network, led by our Capitol Hill office, includes Society staff, chapter leaders, and dedicated grassroots conservationists in every corner of the country. During the last congressional session, you and your nationwide team helped rewrite the Clean Water Act, reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, pass new pesticide legislation, stall oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, save wildernesses and wetlands, and perform countless other miracles large and small. Our expert lobbyists emphasize that they can not get far without your support, and your support so far has been terrific.

The *Audubon Activist* and your chapter newsletter will keep you abreast of important wildlife issues as the 101st Congress gets rolling.

SEE PAGE TWO FOR INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT
WRITING TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

POWER IN YOUR PEN
MAKE YOUR LETTER COUNT

What is the single most important thing to do to influence Environmental issues? Write your elected officials

Here are some suggestions aimed at making your letter more effective.

Address elected officials as "The Honorable _____"; or "Dear Senator _____".

Hand written or typed letters receive the most attention. Phone calls, post cards written by you, petitions, computer generated mail, pre-printed post cards, in that order, have less impact.

Write your own words telling how you feel about the issue. Let them know how it will effect you locally. Talk about the personal experiences which make the issue real for you. Use facts and statistics if you know them to be credible. It is important to demonstrate some knowledge about the issue.

Write about only one issue per letter.

Personal letters that don't appear to come from an organized group are the most effective. Do not identify yourself as an Audubon member.

"Thank you" is an important statement. Be sure to thank the official who writes you back with specific information that they are doing all the good things you asked them to do.

Our officials welcome the input of those of us who have first-hand experiences about environmental issues. Your "Stock-In-Trade" is your vote. For this reason, it generally does little good to write to senators from other states.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOUR POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Write your Elected Officials today.

- Author Unknown

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IF YOU MOVE - PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS. IT IS OUR WAY OF KEEPING IN TOUCH.

Cowbirds Invade Sunshine State

By Drs. Thomas Bancroft and Wayne Hoffman
Audubon Research Biologists

Cowbirds, already sporting a bad reputation, are invading Florida, and scientists are concerned about the impacts of these aliens on long-time resident songbirds.

Brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were first found breeding in the panhandle of Florida in 1956. Since then they have spread through the panhandle and across north Florida. In 1985, a fledgling cowbird was first found in Pinellas County, halfway down the peninsula. We now regularly see brown-headed cowbirds in south Florida during the summer, although no confirmed breeding has been recorded south of Sarasota County.

Shiny cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*) were first recorded in Florida in 1985, when a male was found in the Florida Keys. Over the past 80 years, this species has expanded its range from South America by island hopping through the Caribbean. Although breeding has not been confirmed in Florida, shiny cowbirds have been seen in Florida during every spring and summer since 1985. We suspect they have laid eggs there.

Both species are brood parasites. They lay their eggs in the nests of other species, and the unwilling hosts raise the cowbirds' young. Often, when a cowbird lays her egg she will remove an egg of the host. Generally the cowbird egg hatches with or before the host's eggs and the young cowbird often grows faster than the host's young. Consequently the host raises fewer young of its own. Cowbird parasitism has been implicated in the decline of several threatened or endangered species. Kirtland's warbler, the black-capped vireo, and the least Bell's vireo have been hurt by brown-headed cowbird parasitism. Yellow-shouldered blackbirds in Puerto Rico have suffered from shiny cowbird parasitism.

Species with small, isolated populations are especially vulnerable to the recent expansion of the cowbirds' range. In Florida, that includes the Caribbean races of the yellow warbler and black-whiskered vireo, and the Florida races of the grasshopper sparrow and prairie warbler. Populations of all these species are believed to be in jeopardy. Already, Rich Paul, manager of Audubon's Tampa Bay Sanctuary, reports that populations of black-whiskered vireos have decreased there, and this coincides with the expansion of brown-headed cowbirds into these areas.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members and invite you to join in all our activities. New members for Jan. are: Ms Patricia Cleland, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Ms Deborah Harrell, Mr Rich'd Keldorf, Mr Charley Roberts, M/M Scott Sizemor, M/M Tho. W Smyth and Mr Richard Zellej.

The December meeting was held at Mission Inn, Howey-In-The-Hills. I had almost forgotten how beautiful that place is.

The Dept. of Environmental Regulation (DER) has conducted three public workshops on proposed changes to the state's Water Quality Standards with the goal of revising the anti-degradation procedures. The wheels are turning slowly.

It is becoming more and more apparent that if we are to successfully implement our Growth Management Plans, closer coordination among State, District, Counties and Municipalities will be necessary.

There is much more going on. Among which are the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition Plan and the projects proceeding under the Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) act. The Indian and Wekiva Rivers are the two closest to Volusia County.

The present board seems to be trying to do the right things and deserves our support.

NAS Television

Wildlife Poaching Subject Of Spring TV Special

The next Audubon Television Special goes behind the scenes to look at the men and women who enforce the nation's hunting laws. "Poaching and Trafficking in Wildlife" takes viewers to the Great Smoky Mountains, where undercover Fish and Wildlife Service agents halt illegal hunting of black bear, which were being sold as food, jewelry, and other products for substantial profit. In Utah, game wardens making spot checks find that one out of every four hunters violates federal laws. And waterfowl hunters are filmed slaughtering hundreds of geese, in some cases many times the allowable bag limits.

Other segments focus on the problem of hunting in national parks and the role of illegal hunting, collecting, and trading in jeopardizing endangered species. "Poaching and Trafficking in Wildlife," narrated by Richard Chamberlain, airs on SuperStation TBS on Friday, March 3 at 10:50 p.m. (Eastern); Saturday, March 18 at 8:05 a.m. (Eastern); Tuesday, March 21 at 9:50 p.m. (Pacific); and Sunday, March 26 at 10:00 p.m. (Eastern). The show will premier on Public Television Stations during Summer 1989. Don't miss this important special.

Trips leave the East end of the County Courthouse parking lot, City Island, 8 A.M. on scheduled dates. Cars will be pooled when possible. Our next scheduled trip, Saturday, January 20th and will be to Blue Spring Park near Orange City. (See Article on Manatees below).

GENTLE GIANTS THE WEST INDIAN MANATEE

Looking like a cross between a seal and a baby hippo, the Manatee has become one of Florida's biggest tourist attractions. Its new found stardom may have come just in time, as its survival is entirely in the hands of humans. Large numbers of them are killed every year, slashed or crushed by powerboat propellers or barges or flood control gates. Fish hooks and line also take their toll.

Recent studies have estimated three of four manatees in Florida carry the scars of outboard motor propellers. While endorsing boating and other outdoor activities, we should also encourage responsible behavior in the natural habitats of our wildlife, be it on the land or in the water.

ADOPT YOUR OWN MANATEE

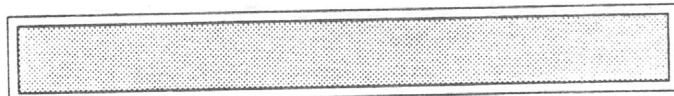
Florida's Save The Manatee Club, of which singer Jimmy Buffett is chairman, invites you to adopt a manatee. By making a donation that goes toward scientific research, educational programs and legislative efforts to help the manatee survive and thrive, you can become a proud parent. Donors receive "adoption papers" for an individual manatee. The papers also include information about the particular animal you have adopted. Club members also receive five newsletters a year. For more info about the program, write to: Save the Manatee Club, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland FL 32751. - Reduced from an article by Bob Epstein in the 1988 Winter edition of Outdoors Magazine.

THE AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT 1988/1989, which is fast becoming the authoritative reference on wildlife management in the United States, is hot off the press. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is featured, a little-known but extremely important agency within the Department of Commerce. NMFS is responsible for one-fifth of the world's most productive marine waters, which includes fisheries and estuaries. As in other volumes, issues within the major natural resources agencies—Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, to name a few—are also covered.

A "Conservation Challenges" section has been added to keep the book's reporting on the cutting edge. This section features exhaustively researched chapters on topics that are making headlines today or that will be hot ones tomorrow. One stand-out chapter is on the Platte River, which is at the center of an emotionally charged water battle between the states of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado, and environmental groups. Other fascinating topics include plastics pollution, international trade in wildlife, restoring the Everglades, and the impacts of the 1985 farm bill on wetlands.

Chapters on wildlife management issues of fourteen species are also provided, including flamingo, moose in Alaska, desert tortoise, North Atlantic right whale, Bachman's warbler, and Eskimo curlew. Ten appendices listing key federal agency contacts and detailing budget information complete this 815-page book.

As with the 1987 volume, the 1988/1989 report is a co-publishing venture between National Audubon and Academic Press, Inc. To order, call: 1-800-321-5068. Both hardcover and softcover copies are available. The 1987, 1986, and 1985 books can still be purchased.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
542 So Lanvale Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32014

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

National Audubon Society



Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

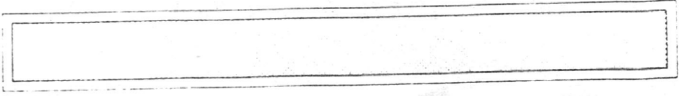
Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

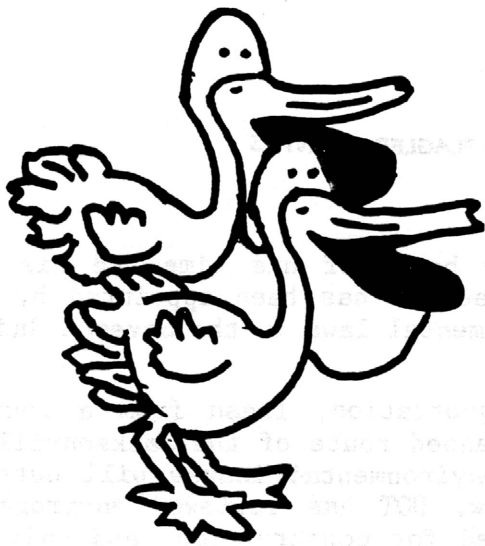
LOCAL CHAPTER

HALIFAX RIVER A. S.
DAYTONA BEACH
FLORIDA

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Local Chapter Code
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FEBRUARY 1989

AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Clean Air Key Issue in '89

Activists are suiting up for one of the big battles of the coming year: getting a new and better Clean Air Act passed by the 101st Congress. In a seemingly endless effort, environmentalists have been working to amend the bill with provisions for controlling acid rain, airborne emissions of toxic chemicals, and urban smog.

The "tough birds"—Audubon activists—fought hard in 1988 and made significant gains, particularly in the House. More than 218 representatives—the magic majority of House members—signed the Vento-Green letter urging the House to move ahead on clean air legislation. Although House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, from the auto-producing state of Michigan, had refused to let a strong bill out of committee, it looked as if a compromise was still possible in late 1988. But the final agreement was too weak to protect the environment and public health, and environmentalists were unable to support it.

The work of Audubon activists in pushing forward this critical legislation cannot be underestimated, according to Audubon's grassroots coordinator Connie Mahan, and it will be even more so in the new term. She says, "We're very close to getting a clean air bill. If our clean air "tough birds" can stick with it and not lose heart, I believe we can win this issue in 1989."

Information, Please

OK. You've always wanted to know the answer to the question, "Are there special contact lenses for nighttime birding?" Who do you call for the answer? You could ask your friendly chapter bird expert. Or, you could call Information Services at the New York office of National Audubon.

Information Services handles a whopping 30,000 inquiries a year, from queries about bird behavior to requests for background materials on acid rain. During the school year, about half of the calls and letters come from students, mostly in the elementary grades. The topics of

NEXT MEETING

7:00 P.M. Mon. Feb. 20th
SEABREEZE UNITED CHURCH
501 N. Wild Olive Ave, Daytona Bch.

Lt John Moran, Inspector for the Fla Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, will be our guest speaker. He has been with the G&FWFC for 14 years and is expected to talk about some of his experiences on the job. We expect to have a very enlightening evening that should broaden our views on the relationship between hunters and anti-hunters. We have large numbers of both classes within our membership and both have their niches in the preservation of wildlife and the protection of the Environment for the benefit of both wildlife and humans.

Bird Slides will be shown at 7:00 P.M. as usual for instruction in identification. A short business meeting will precede the program.

* * * * *

BIRD NOTES

By Mary Keller

One of the many winter visitors to Fla. every year is the Common Loon. It spends its entire life on the water. It only comes ashore to breed, moult or if it is injured. This bird can stay submerged for 15 minutes. It has enlarged air sacs extending from the lungs. When under water, it relies on oxygen which is bound into the blood of its muscles. It propels itself through the water with powerful webbed feet. The wings are used as rudders. The feet are set far back under the body and once on land, it can not walk or take-off to fly.

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Information Services handles a whopping 30,000 inquiries a year, from queries about bird behavior to requests for background materials on acid rain. During the school year, about half of the calls and letters come from students, mostly in the elementary grades. The topics of interest include wildlife, endangered species, pollution, and other environmental issues. We fulfill hundreds of requests from teachers who are looking for educational materials for classroom use. We provide reading recommendations, information on the Society and its programs, and back issues of AUDUBON magazine.

And then, of course, there are birds. The general mail consists of questions about bird feeding and bird species—the favorites are bluebirds, purple martins, and hummingbirds. Of the approximately 6,000 phone calls received annually, problems with pigeons and woodpeckers are scattered throughout the year, while calls about injured and baby birds predominate in spring and summer. When it comes to the feathered tribe, no question is too silly. One caller even wanted to know if birds will eat spaghetti with clam sauce.

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* * * * *

MARCH BOAT TRIP

The Saturday, March 4th Field Trip will be a full day on the St John's River. In order to reserve a pontoon boat, reservations will be needed. If you wish to go, call C. Lentz at 252-5053 by Feb 20th.

SLUDGEBUSTERS II: Dennis Bayer, who has donated many hours of his time and his legal expertise to environmental organizations and their causes, has been appointed by State Attorney John Tanner to prosecute violators of environmental laws in the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

SMOOTHING THE ROAD: The Florida Department of Transportation, fresh from a round of battles with angry residents lining the previously planned route of the Jacksonville-to-Tampa turnpike, has announced that "in the future, environmental issues will determine which projects will be built and where." Till now, DOT has reviewed environmental concerns only after a specific route has been proposed for construction, and only on a project-by-project basis. Traffic planners will soon start identifying environmentally sensitive areas before land is earmarked for new roads.

'SLOW GOING' FOR MANATEES: Environmental Council President John Baker and County Council Member Deanie Lowe are among community leaders who have been seeking the Volusia Legislators' aid in securing a full-time Marine Patrol officer to police the Tomoka River and enforce speed limits, to protect the manatees who frequent the area, and a full-time manager for the Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Adding momentum to a long-time dream of designating the Tomoka a manatee sanctuary is a recently released report from the Marine Mammal Commission which recommends slower speeds and idle zones for boaters.

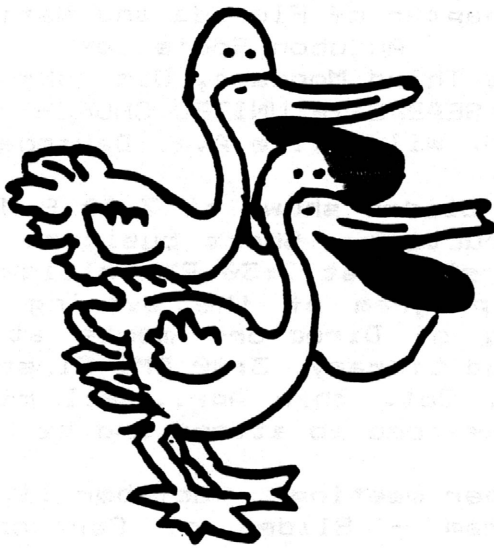
ORMOND RESCHEDULES 'RIVERS' HEARING: Bellemead Development Corporation will present a new, revised version of "The Rivers" site plan to the Ormond Beach Planning Board on Thursday, March 9th, at 7:30 P. M., in the City Hall auditorium. Bellemead already has been granted zoning that would allow an eight-unit-per-acre density but needs a special exception for multi-family configurations, in order to stack 737 units on the buildable portion of the tract. Bellemead has, since the neighboring John's Island property was purchased for parkland, repeatedly insisted that it does not wish to sell the land; but city, county and state officials agree with conservationists that the tract would be a perfect addition to the contiguous Tomoka State Park/VOLT Property/Bulow Creek State Park complex.

THE UNDEAD MARINA: On January 30th the New Smyrna Beach City Commission conducted a special meeting to tend to some administrative matters and, in a very special order of business, voted to ask Mary Hansen, an attorney who communicates the "Volusia County Association for Responsible Development"'s views to government agencies, to take whatever steps short of litigation may be necessary to see that the DER permit to dredge and fill for the once-defunct county marina does not expire. Stay tuned.

National Audubon Society

Wetlands High-Priority Issue Campaign

Frank (Dusty) Dunstan, Vice President for Sanctuaries, has been appointed Coordinator of our wetlands campaign. The wetlands effort, which will be the most comprehensive of our high-priority campaigns, involves every element of our organization. Dusty's first task will be to assemble a working staff group to define achievable objectives at every level and put together a working plan. Dusty led a similar effort when the Platte River campaign was organized. We hope chapters concerned with the wetlands protection will play a major role in this nationwide effort. Many chapters have for years been involved in wetlands protection and we will be asking you to share your expertise.



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APRIL 1989

BETTY BOARDMAN OAK DEDICATED

RE: THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

NAS Hqs have been buzzing with activity since the Valdez disaster of Mar 24. Dave Cline, in the NAS Anchorage office has been the busiest of all. Among their many other activities, his office is helping coordinate the collection of absorbent rags for use in the bird rescue center. Response is terrific.

Px contact in Valdez re bird and mammal cleaning can be made by calling 907-835-4512. Bring your own accommodations in the form of an RV with plenty of water, food and warm clothing. The weather is cold, wet and miserable.

NAS Pres. Peter A. Berle says, the Valdez incident has exposed not only the oil industry's inability to protect the Alaskan environment, but also the statewide problems in their Alaskan operations. The lack of responsible foresight for this incident extends to the industry's stubborn refusal to look beyond the earth's rapidly diminishing oil supplies for answers to long range energy needs.

The AK environmental community will soon announce the creation of a Prince William Sound Cleanup fund and will seek contributions nationwide. The Audubon action plan calls for a comprehensive survey, study, plan and action to prevent and/or clean-up future catastrophies.

A letter to our representatives is the most effective tool we have to prevent the Valdez disaster from repeating itself in history.

LORD, LET ME CARRY, WHERE I GO,
SOME LITTLE JOY TO ALL I KNOW.
LET THESE, INTO MY LIFE BE WROUGHT;
A LITTLE FAITH, A LITTLE THOUGHT,
A LITTLE MIRTH, A LITTLE GRACE
TO GLORIFY THE COMMON PLACE;
LORD LET SOME LITTLE SPLENDOR SHINE
TO MARK THIS EARTHLY COURSE OF MINE
AS HERE TODAY, WE MARK THIS TREE
TO HONOR BETTY BOARDMAN'S SOUL,
NOW FREE!
AND RECOGNIZE BY HER EXAMPLE AND
CONCERN,
A LEGACY EXISTS FROM WHICH WE ALL
CAN LEARN.
BLESS US LORD AND BLESS OUR LAND,
AND THOSE, LIKE THE BOARDMAN'S,
WHO EXTEND A HELPING HAND

With these words, John E. Evans, former Exec. Manager of WESH-TV and now a writer for the Daytona Beach News-Journal, opened the ceremonies honoring Betty Boardman for her contributions to the environment, to the community, to her friends and neighbors and to her husband, in the life they fully shared through the causes they supported.

The occasion was the dedication of the "Betty Boardman Oak" at Bulow Creek on Walter Boardman Lane, the afternoon of Sunday, April 9th.

Florida Audubon Society, at its board meeting earlier that day, adopted this resolution which was read by Reid Hughes:

"Whereas, Elizabeth K. and Walter Boardman have worked tirelessly to protect and embrace the world's natural beauty and to safeguard our environment and natural

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TIPS FOR LETTER WRITING

When writing to any office holder - Write as an individual. Include your name and address on your letter so that your rep. can reply. Identify the issue clearly. Be brief and to the point. Use your own words. Give your reason for writing. Share your expertise if you have special knowledge. State effect of legislation on your community, state or country. Be courteous, do not demand or threaten. Ask questions, you have a right to know what your rep. thinks about issues important to you.

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"Whereas, Elizabeth K. and Walter Boardman have worked tirelessly to protect and embrace the world's natural beauty and to safeguard our environment and natural resources - we do therefore,

Commemorate the dedication of the Betty Boardman Oak on Walter Boardman Lane in Volusia County Florida to her and the Florida Audubon Society hereby pays honor to her memory on this date and joins in the dedication of the Betty Boardman Oak."

Volusia County Commission Chrmn Clay Henderson, with four other commission members present, read a resolution, passed by the council, dedicating and naming this tree in Betty's honor.

HALIFAX RIVER AUD. SOCIETY AT WORK

Your society is glad to announce that it was able to make donations to the following environmental causes this past season:

Seabreeze United Church	\$200
Botanical Gardens of Volusia	100
The Nature Conservancy	100
Museum of Arts and Sciences	25
National Audubon Society	50
Florida Audubon Society	50
Volusia Country Library	60
Friends of Vol. Co. Library	30
Environmental Council	25
ENFO	100
Audubon Adventures	60
(school children's program)	
Program for Belize	50
(1 ac./pristine rain forest)	
TOTAL	\$850
- Vivian F. Smith, Treas.	

EDITORIAL

Summer is once more upon us and the prime season for that enemy of Nature & Wildlife, the "Developer". Remember, when they do wrong they are stealing the very future from us; from your children and grandchildren, from the State.

Protection of the environment begins with you. J.L.?

JAMES SUPPORTS SUBSIDIES FOR ITT DEVELOPMENT: Congressman Craig James has announced his opposition to including ITT's Hammock Dunes development in a protective zone that prohibits federal subsidies to encourage development. The Department of Interior, apparently oblivious to the inconvenience that bearing the entire cost of the development would cause ITT, had proposed to include 4,383 acres in Flagler County in the Coastal Barrier Island Resource System, because parts of the five-mile oceanfront property are undeveloped and flood-prone. The CBIRS law was passed in 1982 by Congress to reduce the public's expense when storms damage or flood property on barrier islands. Congressman James compared the public underwriting of insurance for oceanfront development to other federal programs to subsidize farm programs, equating the public necessity for food crops to providing homes with an ocean view.

COUNCIL APPROVES RIVER STUDY: The Volusia County Council has approved a two-year study of the Halifax River and waterways within the Ponce De Leon Inlet and Port Authority taxing district, to evaluate the rivers and estuaries in the district and determine how flushing action and water quality may be improved. The action was taken in March, the same day the Council declined to distribute the tax funds collected by the Authority over decades to the individual cities within the district for expenditure on strictly local projects.

POLITICOS SHY AWAY FROM SHILOH ISSUE: While environmentalists, including the National Audubon Society, have voiced their opposition to locating the proposed \$58,000,000 Spacesport Florida at the location known as Shiloh, elected officials have been slow to recognize the growing evidence that situating the spacesport at a wildlife refuge would be a disaster. If the site is chosen, it would set the dangerous precedent of giving chunks of national parks for commercial ventures.

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October meeting October 16, 1989
program - Slides of Carlton and Vivian Smith's trip to the Canadian Rockies in 1988 - Angelo Cerito

The Pelican, is published monthly, Oct. thru Apr. Deadline for submissions is the 1st and publication the 10th of each month in season.

I would like to call attention to the wonderful refreshments at our final meeting before the summer hiatus. Those that were present know how good they were! The ladies responsible for them were Audrey Christie, Emaline Lufkin and Vivian Smith. To each one, Thanks!



The PELICAN

Newsletter of
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

CARLTON M. SMITH - Editor
Ph. 253-3815

OCTOBER 1989

AN OPEN LETTER TO
HON. THOMAS KENT WETHERELL
District Representative, District 29
Fla. House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Wetherell:

It is hoped that by this time you will have decided to co-sponsor Rep. Stan Bainter's Bottle Bill in the House. The last reliable report indicates that almost 3/4 of Florida's populace supports such a bill. Just in case you have not yet made up your mind, please consider the following:

The membership of Halifax River Audubon Society will average better than 400 (currently 412) dues paying members. Assuming that the average family of our members is only 3, we represent better than 1200 of your constituents. Besides Halifax River there are two other very active Audubon Chapters within your district. These are in addition to the other Environmental Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Club, Numerous Garden Clubs, Beautification Boards and other Citizens Against Throwaways. In toto, we are a large number of your constituents. It is said that this large number is almost 100% behind a meaningful bottle bill. It appears to me, that if you wish to serve your constituency well, you will be anxious to have your name appear as one of the sponsors of Repr. Bainter's Bill and to do your best to see that it is not this time killed in committee.

I thank you.

Carlton M. Smith

WALTER BOARDMAN LEADS
IN ENDOWING AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

From the Day. Bch. News-Journal 9/24

During a reception at the Halifax Club honoring Dr. Steve Altman, the new president of UCF, Dr. Walter S. Boardman, a strong environmentalist (and an active member of H.R.A.S.), presented Dr. Altman with a "down payment" of \$25,000 to help establish the first endowed professorship at the UCF Daytona Beach Campus. The check was a portion of his \$50,000 pledge for an endowment to be named for him and his late wife, Betty. It will allow UCF to hire a nationally renowned expert in environmental studies, who will become part of the public administration program faculty here.

The funds must be matched by \$50,000 in community donations in order to qualify for a matching grant of \$50,000 from the state.

John E. Evans, Emcee for the occasion, used the opportunity to boost a fund-raising event to help raise the money. They are planning a roast which has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, Nov. 7th, at the Ocean Center. County Council Chrmn Clay Henderson confirmed that "in a rare moment of unanimity" the entire (County) Council has agreed to be the subject of the roast. Larry Updike, director of the Ocean Center, was present and was among those chuckling at John's remark that "the roast might be held on the center's ice skating rink, as the council members are so used to skating on

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I thank you.

Carlton M. Smith

Carlton M. Smith, Editor

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER THREATENED

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, on behalf of the Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club, Atlanta Audubon Society and The Wilderness Society, served the U.S. Army and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notice of intent to file suit for violations of the Endangered Species Act concerning mis-management of Red-Cockaded Woodpecker habitat at Ft. Benning Ga.

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(More news will be forthcoming as to how we might participate in this worthy cause, so stay tuned, or probably more timely, watch the News-Journal for further details.) cms

The organizations allege that the U.S. Army is allowing burning and clear-cutting that is destroying foraging habitat, buffer areas and colony trees and that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service is in violation by failing to enforce the act.

EXXON OIL SLICK

"You don't know what you've got until it's gone." - Joni Mitchell

Exxon told its credit-card holders recently that "progress has been good" in the cleanup of Alaska's Prince William Sound since the tanker Valdez ran aground March 24th, spilling 11 million gallons of oil. "Essentially all the oil on the water had been removed or had dissipated" by Mid-May, Exxon says; sea otters are being returned to the ocean; "fish have escaped immediate harm"; and "the rate of progress is increasing." "We will not be satisfied until the cleanup is complete, the company intoned. In fact, with winter weather expected, Exxon stopped work in mid-September. We are now sure to be told in further detail of the mighty corporation's valiant struggle to save the sound.

Hogwash! Virtually every assertion by the company is an outright lie or a deliberate distortion. The ugly slicks may be gone, but nobody knows just how much of the oil has formed clumps and sunk below the water's surface. Some scientists on the scene believe that at least half the aromatic hydrocarbons found in crude oil have dissolved in the water. Such compounds may take up to 50 years to decompose - and no one is certain what their effects will be on the food chain. The efforts of Exxon rescuers and volunteers may have given the TV crews some heart-warming footage, but it is likely that the sound's otter population of 6,000 to 10,000 was wiped out.

The word "cleanup" cannot be applied to the high-pressure water sprays and oil skimmers on 730 miles of spoiled shoreline. According to Charles Wohlforth of the Anchorage Daily News, "The oil...[has] easily defeated the workers' efforts." Buried beneath the beaches rocks to a depth of several feet, it seeps to the surface again with each tide. Restoring the shoreline to pre-spill conditions would be "impossible without dismantling the wilderness," Wohlforth reports. Instead, as the Exxon president told Congress in July, the company's goal is to treat

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* * * * *

FIELD TRIPS

Trips leave the East end of the County Courthouse parking lot, City Island, 8 A.M. on scheduled dates. Cars will be pooled when possible. Our first scheduled trip will be Saturday, October 14th, to Zellwood and Wekiva Springs State Park (See PROGRAM enclosed).

For the trip to Paynes Prairie on November 4th, Arrangements have been made to have a ranger meet with us there at 10:00 AM. In order to assure us having enough participants to warrant his time and effort, Please make advance arrangements by calling me at 252-5053. - Carl Lentz

"heavily soiled shoreline segments" until they are at a "stable level." In plain English, this means helping the soil solidify into asphalt... "a beach of fine gravel, glued together into a single hard pavement." They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.

If future Valdezes are to be deterred, Congress and the public must demand tough enforcement of standing environmental laws, rescind the tax deduction for cleanup expenses and mandate penalties that will make pollution truly bad for business.

- Adapted from an Editorial in
"THE NATION" of September 1989



The PELICAN

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NOVEMBER 1989

Your action still needed to put Two Forks issue to rest Billion Dollar Boondoggle

Some Post-Convention Thoughts

by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

Think big. Challenge the system. Fight for what you believe in." These fighting words were uttered by John Turner, the new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in September, at the National Audubon Society Convention in Tucson, Arizona.

Coming from a public official, those words are refreshing and should give us all hope that a new wind is blowing in our nation's capital. We will need our government's support—engendered by a renewed commitment on our end—if we are to fight effectively against an increasingly virulent anti-environment campaign by some narrow-minded interests on several specific environmental issues.

- After EPA chief William Reilly began a review of the Two Forks Dam project in Colorado that is likely to result in the project's veto, the Denver Water Board and other Two Forks partisans joined forces to mount an intense, multi-million-dollar lobbying effort to have Mr. Reilly's decision reversed. Only the overwhelming grassroots opposition to the project, led by Audubon, saved the day, and on August 29 EPA announced its intention to proceed with the veto process.

- Shrimp fishermen in the Gulf Coast refused this summer to install the simple devices known as TEDs—Turtle Excluder Devices—that can routinely save thousands of endangered sea turtles from drowning. Even though TEDs are required under federal law, the shrimpers blockaded ports and threatened violence to protest the rule, forcing the Administration to postpone enforcement. The National Audubon Society has called a boycott of shrimp in order to pressure shrimpers to obey the law.

- Before they had ever seen a single second of footage from "Rage Over Trees," the Audubon Television Special about ancient forests, the logging industry launched a massive publicity blitz to prevent the public from seeing the program and judging for itself. Our sponsor dropped

For more than a decade, the Two Forks dam and reservoir has been, in the eyes of the Denver Water Board, the only solution for providing additional water supplies for Denver and its suburbs. Yet a combination of smaller projects and conservation strategies could easily guarantee sufficient water for the area—and for far less than Two Forks' \$1-billion pricetag.

Moreover, the environmental cost of the proposed project would be staggering. At the proposed dam site on the North Fork of the South Platte River below Denver, a 30-mile stretch of the river, Cheesman Canyon, would be flooded. Cheesman Canyon is a world-class fishery and recreation area. As the project diverted waters from the Platte, it would at times virtually dry up the riverbed downstream: the critical Big Bend section of the central Platte, where a half-million sandhill cranes—90 percent of the world's sandhill population—depend on the river's steady, shallow flows in order to roost during their migration. Two Forks would also adversely affect several endangered species of birds, including least terns, whooping cranes, piping plovers, and bald eagles.

EPA chief William Reilly

Under a cloud of controversy, the Corps of Engineers proceeded to issue a permit for the proposed project in late 1988. Then came Mr. Reilly's landmark decision in March to invoke the EPA's authority to intervene under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. President Bush, to his credit, stood by Reilly's decision in spite of intense pressure from dam partisans. After a long summer of waiting and worrying, environmentalists were rewarded with the decision to continue the veto process, as announced by Lee DeHihns, the EPA Regional Decision Officer.

Now all that is needed is the final decision to veto Two Forks. But it may not be that easy. The project's backers are stepping up their campaign. We need to make our position known—loudly and clearly. Write to Mr. DeHihns *today* and let him know you want Two Forks vetoed. For good! DO THIS BEFORE NOV. 15th.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSSES NOV. 17th.

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- Before they had ever seen a single second of footage from "Rage Over Trees," the Audubon Television Special about ancient forests, the logging industry launched a massive publicity blitz to prevent the public from seeing the program and judging for itself. Our sponsor dropped funding for Audubon's entire television series, and several companies pulled their advertising, as a direct result of this campaign. Nevertheless, the show did air, and millions of people will have the chance to express their opinions--the democratic way.

Against the well-financed forces of industry and business, Audubon's greatest resource is its members. Audubon activists have turned the tide on Two Forks, and can also do so for sea turtles and ancient forests.

The need for our commitment to the environment has never been greater. At the recent Audubon Biennial Convention, Paul Ehrlich, the well-known scientist and population expert, asked everyone to give at least ten percent of his or her time to working to make the planet more livable. I say let's go for twenty percent.

For more than a decade, the Two Forks dam and reservoir has been, in the eyes of the Denver Water Board, the only solution for providing additional water supplies for Denver and its suburbs. Yet a combination of smaller projects and conservation strategies could easily guarantee sufficient water for the area—and for far less than Two Forks' \$1-billion pricetag.

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PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSES NOV. 17th.

Write to: Lee A. DeHihns, Regional Decision Officer, c/o Mary Alice Reedy, Record Clerk, EPA Region VIII (8WM-SP), 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colo. 80202-2405.

What to say:

- Request that EPA veto Two Forks permanently
- Two Forks would degrade critical wildlife habitat on the Platte River in Central Nebraska, severely affecting almost all the world's sandhill cranes as well as endangered whooping cranes, bald eagles, least terns, and piping plovers.

OFFICERS

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 missions is the 1st of the month.

IF YOU MOVE - PLEASE LET THE EDITOR
 KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS. IT IS OUR
 WAY OF KEEPING IN TOUCH.

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 County Courthouse parking lot, City
 Island, 8 A.M. on scheduled dates.
 Cars will be pooled when possible.
 Next scheduled trip - Osteen and
 Lake Woodruff, Nov 18th. Please
 note also, the trip to Shiloh Marsh
 and Black Point will be Dec 1st, be-
 fore the next issue of the Pelican.
 - Carl Lentz

AREAS OF GREAT CONCERN

NOTICE! IMPORTANT NOTICE!

It has come to the attention of your
 officers that someone is calling
 people in the Halifax area offering
 a FREE GIFT to the person called for
 making a donation to Audubon by way
 of their credit cards. On at least
 one occasion the person calling has
 also asked for their Social Security
 number. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS IS
 A SCAM to obtain a person's credit
 information for illegal use. We do
 not know of anyone connected with
 Audubon, National, State or Local
 engaged in such an activity.

- Roy Stevenson, President

SO. FLA. BEACHES BAN PLASTIC

Both Hollywood and Miami Beach have
 passed ordinances that ban plastic
 straws, cups and lids from their
 beaches and bars merchants from sel-
 ling or giving them to the public.
 The major reason for this is the
 cost of cleaning up the beaches but
 it is also hoped that it will de-
 crease the number of animals choking
 to death on plastics. - ECVF

ORMOND DEVELOPER GIVEN LEEWAY

Despite the adoption of all the re-
 commendations of the Environmental
 Council Advisory Board by the Plan-
 ning Board of Ormond Beach, concern-
 ing the protection of the Tomoka
 River and its marshes, their City
 Commission has dispensed with many
 of the safeguards and given prelim-
 inary approval to the Broadwater
 Development near Airport Rd. Almost
 half of this project is within the
 100-year flood plain. -ECVF

SJRWMD LOWERS WETLANDS THRESHOLD

At a recent meeting, the St. John's
 River Water Management District Gov-
 erning Board "conceptually approved"
 new rules reducing the size of wet-
 lands developments requiring permit-
 ting from 10 acres to 1/2 acre.
 That's the way to go, SJRWMD!

TREES

The tree is the pillar and arch of
 the forest cathedral; the home of
 birds and beasts, their shelter and
 larder. The tree holds back pound-
 ing rain and rushing water. HELPSAVE



The PELICAN

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DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

CARLTON M. SMITH - Editor
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December 1989



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

SONGBIRDS LOSING GROUND

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Next meeting - 6:30 PM December 18th
POT LUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER, bring a
favorite dish and some to share!
Bring your own service. Coffee/tea
will be provided. We will be enter-
tained by the "Blue Plate Special
Kitchen Band." This band is led by
Charlotte Cole and has 15 members.
They will be our guests for dinner
so come and be prepared to have a
good time. No Bird slides tonight..

FIELD TRIPS

Next trip will be Dec. 16th to New
Smyrna/Edgewater. Meet at the east
end of the Southaven parking lot.

Chandler Robbins, biologist at the
Patuxent Wildlife Resource Center,
co-author of the Golden field guide
"Birds of North America," is of the
opinion our songbirds are declining.
His basis for this is the diminish-
ing number that birdbanders are get-
ting in their nets. He says that
the downturn began in the summer of
1979 and that since 1980, there has
been a steady decline. He has been
studying the data for 22 years. The
trend is clear for birds that winter
in the tropics, some of them showing
a loss of 30%.

This has been evident to birders
who have been watching the Fla scene
over a long period of time. We now
have Robbins' scientific assessment
to back up our casual observations.
Thrushes, warblers, vireos, tanagers
and flycatchers are getting scarcer.
These are basically tropical birds
that come north only to breed and
then return to the tropics.

The reason for the drastic reduc-
tion in numbers of migrants in Fla
is the destruction of the birds'
wintering grounds in the Caribbean
and Central America. Vast areas of
the New World tropical forests are
being destroyed. The Nature Conser-
vancy estimates that 74,000 acres of
tropical forests are cleared every
day. That is 50 acres every minute.

The soil of tropical forests is
poor at best because there is no
leaf litter, therefore no humus.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

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- Member-at-Large Mrs. George Christie
(1333 Margina Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114, 255-7253)

Chandler Robbins, biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Resource Center, co-author of the Golden field guide "Birds of North America," is of the opinion our songbirds are declining. His basis for this is the diminishing number that birdbanders are getting in their nets. He says that the downturn began in the summer of 1979 and that since 1980, there has been a steady decline. He has been studying the data for 22 years. The trend is clear for birds that winter in the tropics, some of them showing a loss of 30%.

This has been evident to birders who have been watching the Fla scene over a long period of time. We now have Robbins' scientific assessment to back up our casual observations. Thrushes, warblers, vireos, tanagers and flycatchers are getting scarcer. These are basically tropical birds that come north only to breed and then return to the tropics.

The reason for the drastic reduction in numbers of migrants in Fla is the destruction of the birds' wintering grounds in the Caribbean and Central America. Vast areas of the New World tropical forests are being destroyed. The Nature Conservancy estimates that 74,000 acres of tropical forests are cleared every day. That is 50 acres every minute.

The soil of tropical forests is poor at best because there is no leaf litter, therefore no humus. When trees are cut, the soil is subject to erosion as torrential rains fall, carrying away the thin top soil and sparse nutrient. We need tropical plants for adequate gene pools and and germ plasmas for agriculture. A broad spectrum of medicines have been derived from tropical plants. Many more are waiting to be discovered if they do not become extinct first.

The loss of our "native" birds is of genuine concern to us. What will happen when there is no place for them to return to?

Next meeting - 6:30 PM December 18th
POT LUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER, bring a favorite dish and some to share! Bring your own service. Coffee/tea will be provided. We will be entertained by the "Blue Plate Special Kitchen Band." This band is led by Charlotte Cole and has 15 members. They will be our guests for dinner so come and be prepared to have a good time. No Bird slides tonight..

FIELD TRIPS

Next trip will be Dec. 16th to New Smyrna/Edgewater. Meet at the east end of the Courthouse parking lot, City Island, at 8 A.M. Cars will be pooled.
- Harold Nett

SOCIETY'S PROBLEM?

The problem of "Murky Waters" is not confined to our oceans and industry. Pollution is a people-problem that reflects how we are brought up at home. If we throw our garbage into our neighbor's yard or scatter beer cans in our forests, how can we expect industry to abide by rules of safe conduct and refrain from dumping toxic waste into our



Reduced from
an article by HRAS
member EVE HANNAHS in
The Florida Gardener Nov89

What is just over three feet tall, weighs from four to seven pounds and has white plumage except for a short black tail and black borders on the outside of the wings? Further description could include black legs, flesh colored feet except during mating season, then bright pink. The large bill is black in the adult and the bald head and neck are covered with black scales, giving common names of ironhead or flinthead. Other names are wood ibis or wood stork, the latter being more widely accepted. The high stepping bird, unattractive on the ground, is transformed to a creature of beauty while soaring on five foot wings at altitudes of up to 2,000 or more feet.

Nesting populations are found in coastal SC, GA and FL. The largest colony is found in the Big Cypress at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, owned by National Audubon Society. The ancient cypress trees are festooned with heavy nests. Birds carrying arm sized branches to reinforce them is an unforgettable sight. On occasion, if disturbed by high winds or other unsettling factors, the parents will desert the nests of chicks or eggs, producing a feast for waiting fish crows.

The gregarious birds, earlier this century, nested in flocks of up to 14,000 in a single south Fla colony; by the 1930's 20,000 birds nested in the Big Cypress region. Now because of decline in population, they are considered endangered. Loss of habitat and changes of water tables are responsible. The birds feed in water from 6 to 20 inches deep, always muddy as they activate the bottom to startle the fish. As the bird wades, the slightly opened bill is moved from side to side and when touching a fish, snaps shut.

The sexes are not distinguishable by appearance. Male birds stake out their claim and defend it from other passing males with much clacking and bill thrusting. An approaching female spreads her wings and gapes her

PROTECTING BIRDS
BEFORE THEY'RE GONE
From Oct/Nov Audubon Adventures

The best time to protect a species is before it becomes endangered. The NAS has an early warning system, the Blue List, for birds at risk because of habitat destruction, use of pesticides and other threats.

Because Habitat is so crucial to the issue of endangered species, would it not be a good idea for HRAS to survey important natural areas in our vicinity threatened by development? Let your officers know how you feel and volunteer to help.

Some birds now on Audubon's Blue List are:

grasshopper sparrow	
American bittern	least bittern
horned grebe	sharpshinned hawk
Cooper's hawk	red-shouldered hawk
northern harrier	piping plover
upland sandpiper	roseate tern
yellow-billed cuckoo	black tern
spotted owl	short-eared owl
whippoorwill	common nighthawk
loggerhead shrike	scrub jay
Bewick's wren	Bachman's sparrow
ruby-throated hummingbird	

mouth. She too is chased away initially, but is later accepted. Mating is a noisy affair; while paired the male clatters his bill and strikes that of the female.

Two to five, usually three, eggs are laid one to two days apart, resulting in the chicks hatching on separate days. As they grow so rapidly, it is the survival of the fittest unless there is ample food. By nine weeks the birds are ready to leave the nest. Immature storks retain their yellowish bills and feathered heads at least until the third summer. Life expectancy is at least ten years.

Wood storks are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1981, and in some states, including Florida, by the Endangered Species Act. In winter months the birds may be seen in Everglades National Park. [Though seen in our area almost year round, they are not now known to nest here. If you have information to the contrary, please advise. - Editor]

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