

The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
FEBRUARY 1996

Enviro-notes

Endangered Species Act protects US

The facts

- ✓ Over 40% of all pharmaceuticals used today are derived or synthesized from natural substances.
- ✓ Wetlands and forests, ecosystems that purify our drinking water and filter our air, are protected when we protect the habitat of endangered species.
- ✓ Endangered species protect us by identifying early warning signals - like a canary in a coal mine - that could be threats to human existence.
- ✓ Thousands of jobs in business like the salmon fishing industry depend on strong protection for endangered species. In many cases the Endangered Species Act brings economic prosperity.
- ✓ The Endangered Species Act Protects our private property and tax dollars from corporations who benefit financially from the destruction of the natural environment.

Please note!

There is some talk that SE Volusia Audubon will not participate in the Christmas Bird Count next year. Dave Hartgrove will investigate the probability of HRAS taking over this activity if they do not continue.

Lt. Col. Carl Lentz II, H.R.A.S. Field Trip Leader, Dies

On Friday, January 26th, Carl, as most everyone knew him, departed this earthly life to be with our Heavenly Father.

A memorial service for him was conducted at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Monday, January 29th. The church was literally overflowing. From about 15 minutes before time for the service, there was standing room only. Military Honors were also presented for him during and after the service.

For many years Carl was the organizer and leader of our HRAS field trips. The time he spent on these tasks, which he fully enjoyed, was enormous. For the

balance of this season, at least, his duties will be divided among volunteers from the Board of Directors.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow, Kay, daughter Linda Hubert and his sons, Dr. Carl W III, Laurence T. and their families. He will be sorely missed.

Late breaking news - Another long time member dies.

On the morning of this writing, the Daytona Beach News Journal reported the death of Mrs. Mildred Esten who was Membership Secretary of HRAS from before its incorporation in 1972 until April of 1990. She is survived by her husband, Windsor W.

Audubon's Strategic Plan: "CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION"

After more than a year's work, the National Audubon Society has completed a strategic plan that will take us well into the 21st Century. The process that led to the plan encompassed interviews, focus groups, and surveys that involved all of Audubon's staff and trustees, dozens of leading environmentalists, 700 Audubon chapter leaders and nearly 1,300 randomly-selected Audubon members.

The resulting plan maps Audubon's course for the next 25 years, dedicating the Society to bringing about a "culture of conservation." As approved by the national Board of Directors, the plan mandates that Audubon

focus its campaigns and resources on the conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

The plan also calls for expansion of the Society's educational programs to nurture appreciation of nature and promote understanding of the essential link between ecological health and the well-being of human civilization.

The final component of the plan specifies that Audubon will invest in growing and strengthening its chapter network and field operations, so that they can serve as the primary tool of the organization's environmental advocacy.

In the coming weeks, Audubon will provide chapter leaders a full summary of the plan.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Carlton M. Smith, Editor
542 S. Lanvale Av.
Daytona Beach FL 32114 -3943

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David Hartgrove
113 Centennial Ln
Daytona Beach FL 32119

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

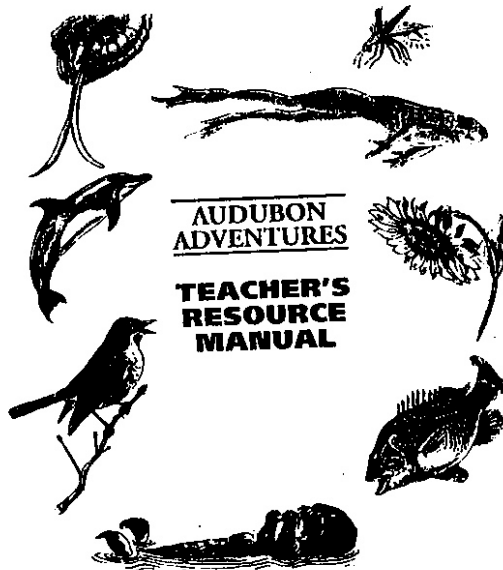


Fundamental Environment Concepts

At November's general meeting we had on display the Audubon Adventures teacher's Resource Manual. This school year 52 classes in the Halifax Area have been provided the Audubon Adventures kit by you members. We would like to share with you what we are learning about the new manual. We are very pleased with it and hope the subscribing teachers are also.

Participating teachers and pupils will have an opportunity to:

1. Develop an understanding of biodiversity and adaptations of organisms.
2. Give examples of ways people interact with and depend upon the environment.
3. Create drawings, charts, or stories that illustrate how people and other animals and plants live in



interactive and interdependent communities.

4. Identify a variety of short and long term changes in the environment and the causes of these changes.

5. Identify and explain the important elements of a habitat and name several kinds of habitats.

We look forward to a showcasing in future *Pelicans* some of the learning experiences provided in the new manual.

Financial support for this chapter project is still needed because response by teachers has been so great. Your check to the Halifax River Audubon Society (H.R.A.S.) sent to Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114 will be greatly appreciated.

Remember our slogan, "We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers." This is an excellent time to play Santa Claus to the next generation and for generations to come. Let your generosity now, show positive effects during future times in which we can not now see.

Thank you,
Glade

Field Trips

The trip to Orlando Wetlands Park on Friday January 26th was led jointly by Roy Stevenson and Glade Koch. Glade reports that it was an excellent outing enjoyed by 19 birders who recorded 55 species.. The guide provided by the park did a real fine job and made the trip very enjoyable to all. The highlight of the trip undoubtedly was the sighting of a flock of at least 170 Black-crowned Night Herons. Several of the birders also toured through the Black Point Drive on the way home.

Friday, February 2nd - Shiloh Marsh being closed, the group led by Glade again went to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge of which the Black Point Drive is the focal point. We again had a nice crowd, 4 cars with about 20 people. No alligators or Roseate Spoonbills seen but 53 specie, highlighted by an American Bittern and a Sora Rail. We had picnic lunch at the Preserve Headquarters with a nice time to discuss our sightings and unwind. This is most assuredly the best birding place in our area and a trip there is always enjoyable.;

Saturday, February 17th - We expect to return to Lake Woodruff Refuge, another excellent birding area. This time we will make special efforts to find Rails, Wrens and Sparrows. We hope to coax rails out of hiding. Carlton Smith will lead.

Saturday, March 2nd - Our annual trip to the Deland area to look for RED-HEADED WOOD-PECKERS and SAND HILL CRANES. The start of migrating birds should add to our enjoyment.

Lunch at Hontoon Island. Trip leader to be announced.

Saturday, March 23rd - Once again Captain Hopkins provides excellent birding on his 50 passenger pontoon boat touring the St. Johns River near Sanford. He will place us close as possible to the birds. Hope the PURPLE GALLINULE pairs are as prolific as last year. Call Roy Stevenson or Glade Koch for reservations.

Please remember that all our trips will leave at 8:00 A.M. (except those so noted) on the dates listed from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach. Cars not needed for the trip may be parked at the starting point. Those who do not drive are given the opportunity to share the cost of transportation with those whose cars are used. The suggested contribution is \$4.00.

Next membership meeting

7:00 P.M.

Monday, Feb. 19th
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Daytona Beach
Come and bring
a friend

Program

Birds under glass

by Vernon Brady, Taxidermist

Preserving specimens and on-line procedures

From:
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF
VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER
COUNTIES

OWENS AWARD

The first annual Bob Owens Award, established in 1995 to recognize private citizens' volunteer contributions to the environment, will be presented on February 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka to Robert W. Wiley, Jr. a computer specialist from the Sebastian area who, on his own initiative, developed a successful technique for replanting red mangroves. His system is being used in the Indian River Lagoon Shoreline revegetation program. Shirley Owens, Bob's widow, will present Mr. Wiley with the prestigious award whose criteria were based on the qualities displayed by Bob himself: a passion for and dedication to the protection and preservation of Florida's natural resources. *Editor's note: Bob was and Shirley still is a member of H.R.A.S. Until his death, we had a monthly report from him and/or Shirley on the activities of the SJRWMD.*

GATHER AT THE RIVER

Saturday, March 2nd, Coordinated by the SJRWMD, hundreds of business and civic groups and thousands of volunteers of 14 counties will conduct the largest waterway cleanup ever organized in the state of Florida.. Cleanup is scheduled from 8:00 A.M. til noon, with celebration parties in 4 different locations at 1:30 P.M.

To volunteer or get more information, call Lisa Bush at 736-5927, extension 2845.

Phone numbers for Florida's Senators and Representatives

Sen. Graham, Tallahas'e 904-422-6100
Sen. Mack, Ft. Myers 813-275-6252
Rep. Mica, Pt. Orange 904-756-9903
Rep. Brown, Orlando 407-872-0656
Rep. Fowler, Ormond B. 904-672-0754

Florida's entire Congressional delegation support bad environmental bill

Edited from *The Skimmer*, SE Volusia AS

Congress established the Coastal Barrier Resources System (C B R S) in 1982 to reduce wasteful federal expenditures, minimize loss of human life and property and reduce damage to coastal resources. Undeveloped areas can not receive federal flood insurance for new, private construction. Land owners are free to develop their property with private, state or local funds, but can no longer tap into the 50 taxpayer supported programs that offer private developers more than \$82,000 in subsidies for every developed acre of coastline.

Representative Tillie Fowler proposed HR 2100 "to correct mapping errors." which would delete 70 acres of undeveloped Florida coastline from the protective CBRS and allow them to be developed with your tax dollars, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reported time and again that these 70 acres were correctly mapped in the first place.

Although the Inlet property has been dropped from the bill, if the bill passes, it would be a dangerous precedent. The inlet property could be included in a bill any time in the future when a Member of Congress might decide to reward a favorite developer by granting access to federal and other subsidies.

Please call Florida's Representatives and Senators and let them know that a vote for HR-2100 or the Senate equivalent is a vote against Florida's taxpayers and its priceless coast.

BIRD SEED

Originally printed by
The Florida Naturalist
edited by Catherine Bidgood,
editor *The Skimmer*, SEVolIAS

A mix of wild bird seed is the most expensive and maintenance intensive way to feed wild birds.

How can that be? When you mix seeds, you allow birds to pick out what they prefer and that's exactly what they do. Cardinals prefer the sunflower, so they kick out the cracked corn, white proso millet, peanut hearts, milo and saflower. American goldfinches prefer sunflower hearts. They kick out the golden millet and niger thistle from finch mixes. And doves prefer the white proso millet but they'll eat just about anything that falls to the ground.

Offer any mix of seeds in your feeder and you'll get a mess on the ground. Unless you clean constantly, you'll quickly see birds (dogs, cats, mice, rats, and squirrels) feasting below the feeder. What can be "wrong" with that?

The birds that feed on the ground below the feeder may get sick. After all, they're feeding in an area that's drenched with bird droppings day after day. But what about the ground feeders - the cardinals, doves and sparrows? They will visit properly designed pole-mounted or hanging feeders.

But what about nutrition? It can't be good for birds to eat just one seed all day. It isn't, and they don't. Wild birds don't need a large variety of seeds at the feeder for good nutrition. And they don't need "fortified" seeds because they get their nutrition from natural sources which they actually prefer.

President of Fla Audubon to speak

Clay Henderson, president of Florida Audubon Society will be the guest speaker at the February 21st meeting of the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society.

Clay, a former protege, so to speak, of Dr. Walter Boardman who was a very active conservationist and an active HRAS member in his later years. He, Clay, was also a Commissioner and Chairman of the Volusia County Commission, served actively in The Nature Conservancy and the Save the Manatee Fund. He is a sixth generation Floridian and lives in New Smyrna Beach with his wife and two children. He became President of Florida Audubon this past year.

The Southeast Volusia Society meets at the Edgewater Library and their Feb. 21st meeting will start at 7:30 PM. They always welcome visitors from HRAS.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studies show that no seed mix satisfies all the birds in your backyard. For best results, experts recommend black oil sunflower in a tube or hopper feeder and white proso millet in a separate tray feeder.

Save yourself some money. Do your wild birds a favor. Don't force them to eat where they defecate. Offer separate seeds in separate feeders. Give it a try. You'll minimize waste, rodent visitors and disease transmission at your feeding station.

H.R.A.S. Officers & Boards 1995-96

President	Roy Stevenson	673-1838
	Business	252-0466
1st V. President	John Williams	255-8631
2nd V. President	Bill Francis	672-6897
Rc'd'g Secretary	Marie Oglesby	767-5553
Mbrshp Sec'y	Audrey Christie	255-7253
Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	Harold Nett	441-5584
Members at Large		
Carl Lentz		252-5053
Carlton Smith		253-3815
George Potee, Jr.		257-9842
Conservation Chr	David Hartgrove	788-2630
Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
Refreshments Chr	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Field Trips	Carl Lentz	252-5053
Hot Lines		
Bird Welfare	Roy Stevenson	673-1838
Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794

Errata

It was erroneously reported in *The Pelican* last month that Roy Stevenson has been our president since March 1987. It should have read 1984.
My apologizes, CMS, editor

Did you Know?
Frigate birds, which spend much of their time soaring, have the largest proportion of wingspread to weight of any bird. A Magnificent frigatebird with a seven foot wingspan has a skeleton that weighs less than 4 ounces.

Nuclear Testing

Have you wondered why the United States was strangely silent when France set off the recent nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific? Perhaps it is because the good old USA is going to do something

almost as bad. The first "Hydronuclear" blast, which involves high-sives and a nuclear component, is set for June 18th in Nevada..

- *The Skimmer*

Piping Plover Census

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's 1996 International Piping Plover census in the SE Volusia area, as reported by Debbie Thomas in the February issue of *The Skimmer*, was conducted the week of Jan. 15-21. By midweek they had already spotted 3 at the Smyrna Dunes Park. On Saturday morning 11 volunteers braved the cold and windy conditions and continued on covering most of New Smyrna's beach.

They spotted a Bonaparte's Gull, Black-backed Gulls, Blacked bellied plovers, Forster's and Caspian terns, Black Skimmers, Ruddy turnstones, Semio-palmated plovers, Willets, Snowy egrets, Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls, Sanderlings and an immature Northern gannet that was feeding with Brown pelicans over the river. No other sightings of the Piping plover but all reports are not in .

What Bird is this?

Last month's answer: CHIMNEY SWIFT *Chaetura pelagica*

Now try this one:

Small (4"), brownish, restless, with a finely barred, narrow, rounded tail often cocked upward. Feeds mainly on insects.

Is found year round in Volusia Co.as is its cousin with a shorter bill. This species is told from the aforementioned its longer bill, a solid rusty cap and a distinct white line over the eye.

ANS LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN *Cistothorus platensis*.

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Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

Next membership meeting
7:00 P.M.
Monday, March 18th
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
 Refreshments by Jeannie Riley
 and Glade Koch
Program
Mark B. Van Fleet
Artist and Photographer Extraordinary

His works emphasizes the culture of Native Americans and the drama of natural history and scenery. His works have been selected for showing in the last three Fall Festival of the Arts in Deland and has been juried into three other Fla. shows for the '95-'96 season. His work is now included in private collections as far away as Germany and New Zealand and is part of the permanent display at the Volusia Medical Center.

- Richard Dowling
- George R Edwards
- Mrs Constance Eggleston
- Dr. C. W. Fain, Jr.
- Mrs Deborah H Goodenow
- Kathleen Haberman
- Mrs John P Hilton
- Mrs Harold Hopkin
- Mr. Don Mathews
- Joan A Maxwell
- C A Migliaccio
- Kathy D. Pageau
- Mrs David Pummer
- Mrs Isabelle Quagliata
- June E Reed
- Mrs E L Richards
- Mrs Mary A H Robertson
- Mrs Sharon Rosenthal
- Fifth Grade SD Elem. Schl.
- Faye Stevens
- Michael Turner
- Daniel Wozniak
- Mrs Sharon Yglesia

Say's Who?

"If a species goes out of existence every 20 seconds, Surely a new species must come into existence every 20 seconds."

- Rep. Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho

We welcome our new members

Reported during January and February and invite you to join with us in all our activities. We think you will enjoy our programs based upon preservation and restoration of our natural environment.

- D. Balko
- Ms Debra J Brooks
- Mrs Karen Bryant
- N Bushoven
- Mrs Hal Butts
- Ms Dawn M Crandall

What bird is this?

Common on lawns of sparse grass under scattered trees. In winter it flocks with others of its species in hedgerows or weedy fields. Black bill and very white eye stripe separate spring adults from other rusty capped of its kind. Immatures and winter adults, with lighter bills and dull streaked crowns, are told by the contrast between its gray rump and brown back. Normally found in our area in winter through late March. Length 4 3/4 in. Find answer in this column below.

Scenic no more

The billboard industry is celebrating a new federal law that allows billboards along commercial and industrial segments of "scenic byways." Although a 1991 law banned billboards on the byways, the Federal Highway Administration, in implementing the law, gave the states the option to allow Billboards - and scenic byway signs - on the segments. That policy is now law. "What all this means is, the 'buy' in the Scenic Byways program will come back to life," says Nancy Fletcher president of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America. One consolation: Rep. Bud Shudter (R-Pa.), Chairman of the House Transportation Committee who received \$65,000 from billboard interests in his last campaign, failed to convince Congress to allow billboards on all scenic highways.

- "Common Ground", Jan./Feb. 1996

Phone numbers for Florida's Senators and Representatives	
Sen. Graham, Tallahas'e	904-422-6100
Sen. Mack, Ft. Myers	813-275-6252
Rep. Mica, Pt. Orange	904-756-9903
Rep. Brown, Orlando	407-872-0656
Rep. Fowler, Ormond B.	904-672-0754

CHIPPING SPARROW

pezzella arborea

From the *Indian River Lagoon Update*, Winter 1996.

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, March 23rd - Once again Captain Hopkins provides an excellent tour on his 50 passenger pontoon boat sailing the St. Johns River south from the Osteen Bridge area near Sanford. He will place us close as possible to the birds. Hope the PURPLE GALLINULE pairs are again prolific.

The charge is \$9.00 per person and includes complimentary coffee and ?. We are scheduled to board the boat at 9:00 A.M. Call Roy Stevenson or Glade Koch for reservations.

Friday, April 12th - Dave Hartgrove will lead us on the back roads of his favorite birding spots around Oak Hill Migration should be near its peak.

Saturday, April 27th - Lois Pauchey leads us into the wilds of the Ocala National Forest to search for RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS. The two prior trips on which she has led us there have been successful.

SCRUB JAYS, towhees and migrating birds should be plentiful.

Saturday, May 4th, will be our final scheduled trip of the season. ST. AUGUSTINE ALLIGATOR FARM, which is being mentioned more and more in birding magazines as an excellent place (rookery) to observe egrets and herons nesting and in various stages of raising young.

We will lunch at the farm to swap tales of what we have seen.

Please remember that all of our trips will leave at 8:00 A.M., on the dates indicated, from the

Stormwater runoff Florida's largest Contaminator

Stormwater runoff is Florida's largest source of estuarine sediment contamination, according to the *Florida Coastal Sediments Atlas*.

Contaminants include lead, zinc, mercury, cadmium, copper, chromium and various other organic types.

Efforts by local, county, state and federal agencies have slowed coastal contamination. Environmental protection programs have increased efforts to control urban stormwater, agricultural land runoff and atmospheric deposition. Monitoring the effectiveness of these controls is a challenge that will face the state for many years.

Sediment monitoring efforts, in combination with other assessment activities, are essential in assessing the success of Florida coastal ecosystems.

The atlas is a joint effort of Thomas L. Seal, Fred D. Calder and Gail M. Sloane of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Steven J. Stropp, Ph.D., Taylor Engineering, Inc., Jacksonville Fla. and Herbert L. Windom, Ph.D., Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Savannah, Ga.

parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach. Cars not needed for the trip may be parked at the starting point. Those who do not drive are given the opportunity to share the cost of transportation with those whose cars are used. The suggested contribution is \$4.00.

Funding uncertain as budget debate looms

A project officer's remarks on the E P A's budget -

Fiscal Year 1996 for the federal government began Oct. 12, 1995. Since this date, federal agencies have received their fiscal '96 appropriation or operated under a continuing resolution. There have also been two (or maybe 3 by now - Ed.) furlough's for nearly a month's duration, requiring federal employees to go home. The current continuing resolution allows EPA to operate at 14 percent below the fiscal year '95 and expires March 15. The outlook for FY '96 will hinge upon whatever arrangement Congress and the president can agree upon. If current trends continue, the implementation oversight funds (\$300,000 for four years) slated for IRLNEP could be in jeopardy.

In the midst of this controversy it is interesting to note that one of the current and future priorities for the EPA pertains to Community Based Environmental Protection (CBEP).

The CBEP concept stems from the realization that EPA can be directly involved in only a fraction of all communities. Therefore, most of EPA's limited resources must be used to promote place based environmental protection by community leaders.

EPA strives to create a framework where community leaders can lead restoration efforts, while EPA provides tools, assistance and information as needed. This is exactly what the NEP is all about.

Seeking redheads and yellow bellies

I do not remember who gave me this newspaper clipping and for that I sincerely apologize. However, I think it is interesting and hope you will also. The author, whose picture was shown, was Jim Fry. CMS-Editor.

One of the goals that I and many other birders have each year is to see all seven of Ohio's woodpecker species in a single day. They are the yellow-shafted flicker, the yellow-bellied sapsucker, and the downy, hairy, pileated, red-headed and red bellied woodpeckers. Seeing all seven can most likely be done in central Ohio during the spring migration. Both the Red-headed woodpecker and yellow-bellied sapsucker can best be located then.

The breeding population of red-headed woodpeckers in Ohio is mostly migratory. In some locations, they are permanent residents. One is Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County. I also know of a small woodlot in southern Ross County where one or two pairs can be observed each winter.

In his book *The Birds of Ohio*, Bruce Peterjohn says, "During winter, red-headed woodpeckers subsist entirely on acorns, beechnuts, and waste corn. Hence their winter distribution patterns are unpredictable and depend on the availability of these foods...."

While yellow-bellied sapsuckers do not usually winter in Ohio, some are found on the Christmas Bird Counts each year.

The best place to look for one in central Ohio is near the pond in Green Lawn Cemetery and Arboretum in Columbus. During the six years of field work on the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (1982-87) sapsuckers were located at five places. They are in Ashtabula and Geauga counties in the far northeastern Ohio. Some nesting was confirmed.

The red-bellied woodpecker's back is striped with black and white. The red-headed has solid black and white on the back, the white being the wing patches. The head is entirely red. On the red-bellied, there is red on the back of the neck, but it extends over the crown to the bill on the male.

Audubon's "6 Goals for '96"

- Protecting America's birds.
- Rescuing endangered Wildlife.
- Saving the Everglades and wetlands.
- Preserving Forests and Wetlands.
- Strengthening grassroots activism.
- Educating the public

"Protection of the environment is the key to lasting political peace and economic development of the hemisphere."

- Warren Christopher

Conservation issues

From *The Skimmer*, newsletter of Southeast Volusia Audubon

Flagler County has been chosen to develop a model beach policy for coastal Florida counties. State agencies selected Flagler as the Guinea pig to develop regulations for protecting the beach and dune system, property and lives, and establishing policies for cleanup and rebuilding after destructive storms.

The effort is timely. Late last year, Hurricane Opal devastated sections of panhandle seashore where construction had been allowed close to the beach at the expense of primary dunes. In contrast, in parts of the beach where construction had been landward of the primary dune system, primary property damage was light, despite being hit by equally severe storm waves and hurricane winds. In those less damaged areas, the dunes and vegetation absorbed the most powerful impacts of the hurricane winds, sparing manmade structures. Fortunately, for panhandle residents trapped by massive traffic jams, the winds of Opal dropped significantly just before the storm reached land.

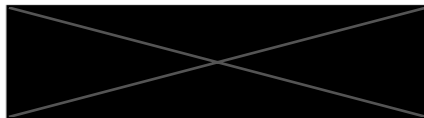
At present, sea level is rising about an inch a decade, measured at Mayport., near Jacksonville, and the rate of rise is expected to continue accelerating in the coming century as the climate warms. Concurrently, more weather extremes and more powerful storms are probable as another effect of greenhouse warming, in the view of many climatologists.

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A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
APRIL, 1996

Careless laws our undoing?

*From the Molly Ivins column in the
Daytona Beach News Journal,
March 13, 1996*

Careless legislation will get you if you don't watch out. Now we are re-learning this sad lesson.

The environment seems prone to little legislative jiggers that get slipped into this and that. A bill passed last year was supposed to exempt timber companies from normal environmental standards for the purpose of "salvage logging" - that is, cutting trees that are infested with bugs or damaged by fire. Until the end of this year, timber companies do not have to comply with certain laws that protecting water or endangered species. AND they are clear-cutting large swaths of in the national forests, including extensive clear-cutting of old growth forests in the Northwest.

--- This kind of logging is helping to pollute the beautiful Elk River in Oregon and is blamed for some of the flooding in that state this spring.

Activists have used environmental requirements to tie up timber companies in courts for years. Now, there is a backlog of permits for cuts in national forests that goes back for years. In fact, some of them go back so far that they were granted before foresters knew much about how to protect species and streams. With the allie-allie-in-free buried in last year's bill, timbermen are now doing clear-cutting that they could have never gotten permission for in recent years. Estimates are that over 600 million board feet will be logged that was not previously authorized.

Chapter Fund Drive For *Audubon Adventures*

Florida's "Walk for the Earth" continues

By David Hartgrove,
H.R.A.S. Conservation Chairman

The walk, starting in extreme south Florida and headed for Tallahassee the our state capital, was in our area of concern, the Ocala National Forest, for three days, March 23, 24 and 25.

A demonstration to protest the use of a portion of the Ocala National Forest as a Navy bombing range drew 175 people on Saturday the 23rd. About 90 people joined the walk for that day, including students from Seabreeze and Spruce Creek High Schools, DeLand Middle School, St. Augustine and Jacksonville.

Sunday's evening meal was a delicious vegetarian chili, compliments of Clancy's Cantina in Port Orange.

Saturday, April 6th, the walk is scheduled to pass through Perry for a demonstration at the Buckeye Paper Mill, formerly Proctor and Gamble. The Fenholloway River, flowing nearby, was recently reclassified by the State of Florida as an "industrial river." This will allow the continued dumping of dioxin contaminated wastes into the river, which flows on into the Gulf of Mexico. Care for-shrimp, anyone?

Please see "WALK" Page 3.

Now On !

Recently we asked teachers who subscribed to *Audubon Adventures*, National Audubon's environmental education newspaper for late elementary pupils, their likes and dislikes about the program.

One teacher said she wished for more classroom time since the children are very interested in each issue. Teachers said "Very readable," "The illustrations are good," "Children love to read about animals and nature," "Pupils enjoy all parts of *Audubon Adventures*,"

Here are two quotes, unsolicited, written on the bottom of our questionnaires: "Thank you for your involvement in schools. We appreciate your efforts." "We appreciate those who supply *Audubon adventures* at our school.

This summer, this column will feature excerpts directly from *Audubon Adventures* so readers may get a taste of parts of this fine publication of which we are very proud. I am sure we will find ourselves learning from these bits of A.A. also.

If you would like to help with *Audubon Adventures* subscriptions for area fifth graders, (Six issues, teacher's guide, and a poster),

please mail your check of \$5.00 to:

Halifax River Audubon Society
Glade Koch, Education chair
128 Fiddlesticks Circle
Daytona Beach FL 32114

H.R.A.S. Officers & Boards 1995-96

President	John Williams	255-8631
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Refreshments Chr	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Field Trips	Roy Stevenson & Glade Koch	

Hot Lines

Bird Welfare	Roy Stevenson	673-1838
Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

Pete Dunne's BIRDING TIP

From *WILD BIRD* Magazine Apr '96

You may have watched experienced birders and wondered how they do it. - how, in heaven's name they can identify a hawk flying three time zones away and make it stick, or glimpse a thrush's tail and know precisely which thrush it is. Part of the answer is skill - the ability to note key field marks, integrate them quickly, and come up with a sound identification. Part of it is luck. However, luck has a partner that bolsters the odds in a birder's favor. That factor is probability - the pre knowledge, based on experience, that what you believe a distant bird to be is statistically sound.

It's simple, really. Experienced birders familiar with the nuances of a particular location and the seasonal distribution of birds, never approach an identification with blank slates in the way beginners must. They do not look at a bird and say, "What's that?" They

know through experience that certain species are more common than others. They go into the field and anticipate seeing *this* bird in *this* location at *this* time of the year under *these* conditions.

So, if a spot breasted-thrush pops up in front of experienced birders in say, New York state in December, they do not need to consider all five possible thrush species before making an identification. Because the only thrush likely to be seen in New York in the winter is the Hermit Thrush, they play this card first and then check to verify their first bet. If it isn't the expected bird, then and only then, do they consider the other possibilities.

Getting a handle on probability takes time, and relying too much on probability prompts observers to overlook - and misidentify - unexpected vagrant species, but it sure does seem impressive.

Pete Dunne is the Director of Cape May Bird Observatory, organizer of the World Series of Birding and the author of several books, including *The Wind Masters* and *Before the Echo*.

Environmental Calendar

Note: No HRAS membership meetings 'til October

Apr	Wed.	10	7:00 PM. Environmental Council of Volusia & Flagler Counties, 724 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach (Reid Hughes Office)
	Fri.	12	8:00 AM. HRAS Bird Trip - Leave from courthouse parking lot, City Island. Dave Hartgrove to lead to his favorite birding spots around Oak Hill.
	Sat.	13	Walk for the Earth Rally, Tallahassee
May	Wed.	24	7:30 PM Sierra Club (VFSC) meeting, Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 56 N. Halifax Ave., Ormond Beach.
	Sat..	27	HRAS Bird Trip, Ocala National Forest for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers.- Lois Pauchey leading, leave from Court house prkg lot, City Island at 8 AM or Publix prkg lot, Williamson & 40, Ormond Bch, 8:30 AM
	Sat.	4	8:00 AM. HRAS Bird trip - St. Augustine Alligator Farm -
	Sat..	11	11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FAS Baby Owl Shower - Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland.

Report Card

The League of Conservation Voters issued its first report card of the 104th Congress, rating legislators by their votes on environmental issues. Among the Fla. results listed are: Senators: Bob Graham - 100%, Connie Mack - 7% Representatives: Corinne Brown - 85%, Bill McCollum - 8%, John Mica - 0%, Tillie Fowler - 0%. In addition to Senator Graham, Representatives considered to have voted in favor of the environment 100% of the time were Carrie Meek, Alcee Hastings, and Peter Deutsch.

Phone numbers of Florida's Senators and Representatives

Sen. Graham, Tallahassee	904-422-6100
Sen. Mack, Ft. Myers	813-275-6252
Rep. Mica, Pt. Orange	904-756-9903
Rep. Brown, Orlando	407-872-0656
Rep. Fowler, Ormond B.	904-672-0754

Field Trips

Thank you Captain Hopkins, for a very fine field trip - adventure by pontoon boat on the St. John's River! We always appreciate the Captain's information and knowledge of the river and the wildlife. At least six eagles, osprey, many egrets and herons, tree swallows and two purple gallinules delighted the boat full of slightly chilly "Auduboners". Many interesting sightings along the trip were enjoyed. There was a lot of interest when the Captain told the group of the State of Florida's plans for newly acquired lands along the trip course. Perhaps next year we will be able to make a stop to enjoy a hike on brand new nature trails before returning to Sanford.

-Glade K.

Friday, April 12th - Dave Hartgrove will lead us on the back roads of his favorite birding spots around Oak Hill. Migration should be near its peak.

Saturday, April 27th - Lois Pauchey leads us into the wilds of the Ocala National Forest to search for RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS. The two prior trips on which she led us there have been very successful.

We also hope to see Scrub Jays and towhees. Migration should be near its peak also.

For this trip only, meet at our regular place, the Courthouse parking lot, leaving there at 8:00 A.M., or the Publix Shopping Center parking lot, near corner of Williamson Blvd. and Highway 40, Ormond Beach. Leave there about 8:30.

Saturday, May 4th, will be our final scheduled trip of the season. ST. AUGUSTINE ALLIGATOR FARM, which is being mentioned more and more in birding magazines as an excellent place (rookery) to observe egrets and herons nesting and in various stages of raising young.

We will lunch at the farm to swap tales of what we have seen. Please remember that all of our trips will leave at 8:00 A.M., on the dates indicated, from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach. Cars not needed for the trip may be parked at the starting point.

Those who do not drive are given the opportunity to share the cost of transportation with those whose cars are used. The suggested contribution is \$4.00.

 "Walk" from page 1.

The walk ends Saturday, April 13th, with a rally on the steps of the Old Capitol in Tallahassee. There will be interesting speakers and entertainment with a chance to meet and greet some great folks. Velma Frey of the Prairie Home Companion fame and other notables will be there and taking part in the ceremonies.

Contact me at (904) 788-2630 for information. Please try to be there!

Long Time President Roy L. Stevenson Steps Down

Roy L. Stevenson, President of Halifax River Audubon Society from March of 1984 until March 1996, at the April board meeting of the Society, delivered the following message.

To all members of Halifax River Audubon Society:

On January 28, 1972, The State of Florida issued HRAS a Certificate of Incorporation. With this "Articles of Incorporation" we became a society for one reason, to carry out the idea of environmental conservation. This would naturally include the furtherance of the cause for conservation of all natural resources.

While serving as President of your society, I have made it my duty to become aware of the environmental needs of our community. I have strived to work for, and with, the major conservation and environmental projects within Volusia County, and within the framework of Audubon standards and goals.

It has been indeed an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president.

I wish to thank you,
 s/ R. L. Stevenson

For The Birds

If you want proof that environmental protection policies can be effective, witness the resurgence of the American peregrine falcon. Twenty years ago, these magnificent birds were on the brink of extinction, with only 39 known pairs in the U.S. and Canada. Today there are about 1200 pairs and the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service has proposed that they be removed from the endangered species list. The decline in their population was blamed on the widespread use of the now banned pesticide DDT.

Submitted by Jeannie Riley



HRAS PICNIC Come one!

Come all!

Saturday, April 20th, Halifax River Audubon Society is having a picnic. All members and their families are invited to attend. This is a chance to meet and mix with other nature lovers without the formality of an organized meeting. So come on out, you might be surprised at the friendliness you will encounter.

The time is 1:00 P.M., the date as above, the place - Angelo Cerrito's home, 6065 Hensel Rd., west side of Port Orange. (see map this page). If you get lost, his phone no. is 767-5397.

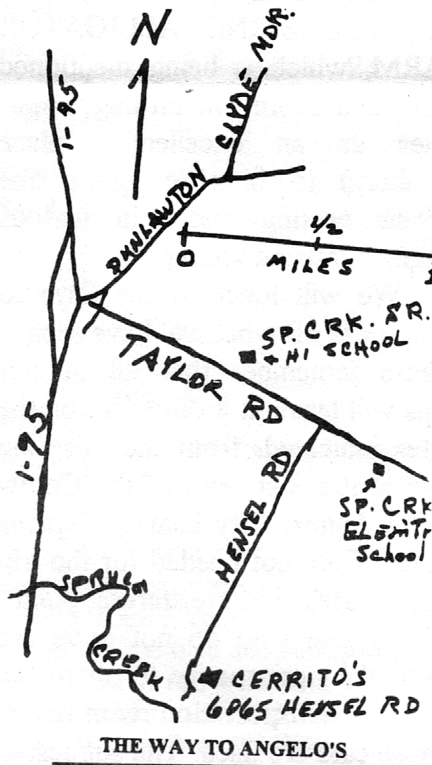
The meat course will be prepared by Angelo. Bring a side dish with enough to share.

Beverages will be furnished by the club. Weather permitting, we will be outside so bring folding chairs or something to sit on. There will be a few seats available but not enough for everyone.

Angelo's home is near Spruce Creek so there will most likely be a chance for birding and maybe a walk down to the Creek's edge.

So come on out! This is an opportunity that comes only once a year. If you want to get involved with others who believe that we should all be good stewards of the earth's environment, to see that future generations are provided as many of the good and beautiful elements of life that we enjoy, this is for you.

Hope to see there!



What's wrong with the Endangered Species Act? Not much-and here's why

Excerpts from an article in the Jan/Feb issue of Audubon Magazine by T. H. Watkins

The Endangered Species Act has become a symbol, a convenient stick with which to beat the environmental movement - nowhere more so than in the current congress.

Critics claim the act not only cripples economic development, it does so while failing accomplish what it was designed to do: save species. But in fact, several species have fully recovered - including the American alligator, the Palau dove, and the brown pelican.

Of the 909 species listed, more than 41% are stable or improving - including the Humpback whale, Bald eagle, and Southern sea otter.

Though several species are still in danger, notably the San Joaquin Kit Fox, Karner Blue Butterfly, the Red Wolf, and the Snail Kite, - The fact that more than 99% of all our endangered species continue to exist is one of the great successes of the program. Nuff Said!

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Carlton M. Smith, Editor
542 S. Lanvale Av
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The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
MAY 1996

President's Message

May is the beginning of our chapter's summer vacation. It may be a holdover from the time when Daytona Beach was known only as a winter retreat for our northern friends, but according to our by-laws, our member's meetings are scheduled for the months of October through March. However, we do try to keep the newsletter going year round so that we may keep active on environmental issues.

You might use this time to join with other environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy or The Museum of Arts and Sciences in their activities.

I hope you will be returning to our scheduled meetings in the fall and that you might bring fresh thoughts and suggestions by which our group may continue to protect, aid and better the environmental safeguards needed by today's expanding world population.

To continue to seek and enjoy the gift of nature, our wildlife, constantly gives us much about which to wonder and admire.

John Williams

Walkers for the Earth Report

Edited from an editorial in the *News-Journal* by HARVEY BAKER

Field Trips

As reported by

Glade Koch

Thanks to Lois Pauchey for her great efforts toward Saturday April 27th's Ocala National Forest trip to search for Red-cockaded woodpeckers. She did an advanced trip a few days before, and she played her audio tapes to coax the wary colony members, but to no avail.

We saw Scrub jays and heard quite a few Bachman's sparrows, but birds that day were not showing themselves. Two large Gopher tortoises were perhaps our best sitings for the day.

Flowers pleased us very much, and we enjoyed being on our public lands and the lovely late spring weather.

Forest Service Staff members said that later in May might be a good time to see the Red Cockaded.

Lois is going to keep trying to seek them out this year. As you may recall, she has showed them to us for the past several years and has learned quite a bit about this endangered species.

For most of us, April 15 means taxes, and taxes have a bad name. For many of us Florida's environmental shortcomings are also taxation. For an intrepid group who completed a 725-mile Walk for the Earth, April 15th *meant* taking a message of Florida Environmental shortcomings to each of 160 lawmakers *then* in session in Tallahassee.

Since Feb. 24th the walkers *had* walked and listened from the Everglades to Tallahassee. About 30, swelling to 80 to 120 on weekends, camped three fourths of the time. The day leader had to leave the walk for a few days because of kidney stones; a blister bus offered relief to the footsore, but generally health was excellent. Bobbie C. Billie, walk leader, a Seminole Independent Nation leader, had walked every step of the way. Will Currie of Daytona Beach Community College was walk videographer. Beth Erlich of Ormond Beach served as camp cook and *Dave Hartgrove, of H.R.A.S., served as one of the advance men.*

Lawmakers *heard* of mindless over-development around Miami and Orlando, of thick black smoke from huge cane fires in sugar fields, of miles of toxic slurry left in Settling ponds after phosphate mining, of seriously dropped water levels. Farm workers *had* told of high rates of cancer and of inability to know what pesticides had been recently sprayed over fields in which they worked.

Frequent town meetings allowed area (*Continued on page 2*)

Fish are Wildlife Too

Many people think of fish only as another kind of meal to put on the table. But the big billfish of the open ocean are wonderful animals

The Swordfish is as well-fitted for the life of a hunter as a hawk or a tiger. Its large eyes enable it to follow prey down into deep water, where light is poor. When it reaches those depths, it can warm its brain to withstand the very cold water that would stun or kill many creatures used to the warmer temperatures near the surface. See page 4.

Many Volusians seem blind to area's natural beauty

Clay Henderson, president of the Florida Audubon Society

In Brevard County, just south of Volusia County, residents embrace turtles. For several years, their tourist campaign slogan was "our turtles are neither Ninja nor Mutant." They learned some time ago there was room on their beaches for turtles and for people.

For some reason many Volusians seem to want to chase this area's nesting sea turtles back out to sea. These are reminiscent of those same voices who nationally embarrassed our country with talk of opening a "manatee cannery" to solve our manatee problem. Those people do not yet understand that what makes Volusia County special is its beautiful natural places that attract tourists and new residents, as well as rare species.

Our quality of life in Volusia County is dependent on the quality of our environment.

At a time when Congress is re-examining the Endangered Species Act, it's important for us to see that what is special about our community is that we share it with many threatened or endangered species.

As we see eagles, manatees, wood storks - and even nesting sea turtles - in and about our urban environment, we should appreciate the simple fact that what is rare has the most value.

We should be proud that we share this community with as many as 200 threatened or endangered species, because it differentiates us from other places.

Some of us may loudly complain that people are more important than endangered species, but the clear evidence is that for the most part we are learning to get along with each other.

Indeed, most of us want to get along with each other. When we see wood storks and roseate spoonbills, it is a gentle reminder that we have kept our waters cleaner than most.

When we protect manatees, we save human lives from boating accidents as well.

Who in our community is not proud that bald eagles, our national symbol, are routinely in the skies above our urban areas. The recovery of the bald eagle stands as evidence of the prudence and success of the Endangered species act.

Now it is time for us to protect nesting sea turtles. And if we make ourselves better a beach or resort destination (just as they did in Brevard, then isn't that a rewarding byproduct?

There have been many recent days where, as a result of a judge's order, no car has been seen in sight on Volusia County's beaches.

People who get to see that sight understand the real attraction of our area. We have a beautiful beach that is our greatest natural asset. Unfortunately, we manage it as a giant parking lot.

Now is the time to preserve our beach for residents and tourists to enjoy and for turtles to nest. Land along the beach will never be as inexpensive as it is now. It is clearly in our economic interest to invest in our beach by purchasing sites for off-beach parking and parks.

This is not a novel idea. It is used at almost every other urban beach in Florida, which coincidentally has more public beaches than any other state.

The bad part about our local debate about turtles and driving is that many are looking at short term expense of our future.

Fifteen years ago, the Florida Audubon Society called for an end to driving on all of Florida's beaches. Looking back,

those places such as Brevard and Jacksonville are glad they listened to this call.

It is time for reasonable people to come forward and participate in a habitat conservation plan for our beach.

We can't do it overnight, but as Central Florida's population grows toward 3 million people, we'd better do it for our own selfish reasons.

And when it's done, we can thank the turtles who have been nesting on our beach long before any of us existed.

(Continued from page one)

residents to tell of their problems while city residents have bemoaned congested roads and lack of adequate mass transit.

About 175 people kept a vigil in Ocala National Forest to protest a bombing range and the use of live ammunition. A vigil protested contamination of a river by a paper company near Perry.

The last three miles and a rally on the Old Capitol steps, where lawmakers were welcomed, climaxed the walk. Lobbying was set for April 15th.

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Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

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Eva Armstrong
Larry Thompson

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Tampa Bay Sanctuary

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Tampa, Florida

Rich Paul, Sanctuary Manager

Ordway-Whittell

Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary

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Dr. Paul Gray

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Clay Henderson, President

Center For Birds of Prey

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Maitland, Florida 32751
(407) 644-0190

Reese Collins, Curator

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Lake Region Audubon Society
115 Lameraz Road
Winter Haven, Florida 33884
(813) 324-7304

Babson Park Nature Center

200 N. Crooked Lake Road
Babson Park, Florida 33827
(941) 638-1355

Turkey Creek Sanctuary

1502 Port Malabar Blvd. NE
Palm Bay, Florida 32905
c/o Margaret Hames
(407) 724-1516

Doc Thomas House

Tropical Audubon Society
5530 Sunset Drive
Miami, Florida 33143
(305) 666-5111
Don Chiquina, Executive Director

For The Birds

An experience by Jeanie Riley

Read On-

I had a wonderful experience in Boston Mass. this past winter.

While visiting at a friend's home, her son came running in and told us that a big bird was flying around in the air over their house.

I rushed outside and a peregrine falcon was descending from the sky with a pigeon in his talons. He landed near the house and my friend called the police and reported the incident.

The police came and were backed up by three cruisers. While staying their distance, they put keep out tape around a large area.

It was a great happening for me. I was in awe at this spectacular event.

The officer in charge had a computer device which picked up a signal from a computer chip on one of the falcon's legs.

Meanwhile this peregrine was devouring his lunch. He appeared to be very tame but no one was really near him. and he just enjoyed his lunch.

The officer said, because of the band on his leg, that probably this bird was one of those that were relocated to new nesting areas during construction of a new tunnel to Logan Airport. He said that they have had other sightings and believe the birds have stayed in the area. Everyone stood around and watched for a while. The falcon seemed to like the attention but kept his eye on all of us.

When he was tired of it all, he took a few running steps and ascended into the air with a probably six foot wing spread. He was so

glorious and regal that I will never forget him. It was nice to learn that other areas in the U. S. are out there doing good.

Backyard Birds

Carlton & Vivian Smith

Listed below are some of the birds (those that we can recall) seen or heard (H) in our back yard during this spring's migration. Our home is not large, located on a 65' x 160' lot, one block west of Tuscanwilla Park in Daytona Beach. At our age, our recall is not what it was and we have not kept a list, but here, for what it is worth, are those we have been able to identify .

Painted Bunting
Cardinal
Gray Catbird
Chuck-wills-widow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Mourning Dove
Great-Crested Flycatcher
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
American Goldfinch
Common Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Blue Jay
Northern Mockingbird
Common Nighthawk (H)
Barred Owl (H)
Screech Owl (H)
Northern Parula
American Redstart
American Robin
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Chipping Sparrow
European Starling
Summer Tanager
Brown Thrasher
Tufted Titmouse
Red-eyed Vireo
Cedar Waxwing
Whip-poor-will (H)
Woodpecker, Downy
Woodpecker, Pileated
Woodpecker, Red-bellied
Woodpecker, Hairy
Wren, Carolina

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Oceans Day - June 8th

The oceans' Creatures account for most of the Earth's biodiversity. Fish, for instance, are the most varied class of vertebrates, with more than triple the species diversity of birds and often traveling on long-distance migrations similar to birds'. National Audubon Society is about wildlife conservation. Fish are wildlife, too. With that concept in mind, and combining our strengths in science-based policy reform, grassroots advocacy, and education, Audubon's Living Oceans Program was born.

Audubon's Living Oceans Program and Education Department Staffs worked together to produce this special module of Audubon Adventures on the world's large ocean fish. The oceans' magnificent giant fishes, including the tunas and billfishes, are among the most highly evolved, and most overexploited wildlife in the world. Many populations have declined 60-90 %. Because of their biological significance at the apex of the oceans, food pyramid, conservation of the world's highly migratory large marine fish is essential to maintaining the health and integrity of marine eco systems. Audubon's Living Oceans Program has joined with six other conservation organizations to strengthen management for the world's large ocean fish.

Ocean Wildlife Campaign partners include Audubon, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society/New York Aquarium, and the New England Aquarium. Our aims are to reverse the declines in large pelagic fish populations and set in place mechanisms for their rebuilding. Orchestrating our activities in national and international arenas, we are able to leverage our collective skills in law, political action, science, education, and marketing to achieve sustainable use and conservation of these creatures.

H.R.A.S. members and friends are asked to please consider a tax-deductible gift of \$35.00 to subscribe for Audubon Adventures for a fifth grade class in the Halifax area. Your gift in any amount is greatly appreciated. Checks should be made to the Halifax River Audubon Society and mailed to :Glade Koch, HRAS Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Cir., Daytona Beach FL 32114. Thanks!, *Glade*

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
June 1996

The Prez Says

I never cease to be amazed at nature. Many times I have wondered if God is Nature or Nature could be God. Nature's behavior is seldom questioned. To challenge the way it behaves is not possible or wise.

Why would so many of our manatees perish this year and have we really found out the true cause? Why would one of the most endangered sea turtles deposit her eggs at Ponce Inlet while that city is challenging government? Why does some remote area erupt with destruction and/or death to its people? Yet we are given sunsets for artists to enjoy.

These thoughts I had after my pair of mockingbirds dismantled their carefully built nest and moved it — to where? Had they seen a hawk nearby and chose to relocate? Did they outwit nature?

I wish I knew more about nature.

John Williams

Florida Audubon Society

New Address

1331 Palmetto Ave

Suite 110

Winter Park FL 32789

Humming Birds in Florida?

Yes, but usually only the Ruby Throated is found in central and south Florida the year around. These mites are Florida's smallest birds, so small that casual observers often mistake Hawk-moths for "hummers"; both the moths and the birds hover over flowering plants as they feed on nectar and small insects.

You can attract these iridescent jewels to your yard if you plant shrubs that produce tubular red or orange flowers. Favorites are Cardinal Plume, Florida Honeysuckle, Scotchman's Purse and Shrimp Plant. Mandarin Hat (*Holmskioldia coccinea*) a Himalayan shrub, is a hummingbird favorite that would be an interesting non-invasive addition to your yard, if you can find it in a nursery. Rubythroats go crazy for its abundant flowers that resemble small coolie hats. Another attractant is a nectar feeder stocked with a mixture of 4 parts water to 1 part sugar. Sterilize the water by boiling before adding the sugar. Honey is a no-no! Be sure to clean the feeder weekly in summer and twice a month in winter to avoid fungus growth. It is not necessary to add red food coloring to the mix. It is advisable to continue feeding all year, as there are times when natural foods are not plentiful.

Occasionally other hummingbird species stray into Florida. When they are discovered the birders' Rare Bird Alert travels by phone all over the state and beyond. Birders will travel to see a Roofs, Black-chinned, Cuban Emerald, Bahama Woodstar or a Buff-bellied, all of which have been identified in Florida. (From *The Peligram*, newsletter of The Pelican Island Audubon Society, 4/96)

Everglades sparrow losing ground

From The *Daytona Beach News Journal* 6/9/96

Everglades National Park (AP) - The Cape Sable seaside sparrow's symphony of Clicks and buzzes could be silenced if destruction of its wetlands in the Everglades continues.

It echoes the call of the last American species to be lost forever: The Cape Sable's cousin, the dusky seaside sparrow. Displaced by the destruction of wetlands and pesticide spraying around Kennedy Center, the last dusky died in 1987.

... More than half the Cape Sable sparrows have vanished in the last three years. Of the population of more than 6,000 that had held steady for 15 years, only 2,500 remain.

(See SPARROW, Page 3.)

In
Memory
of

Louise Bonner

Long time Audubon
Supporter
Died April 25th, 1996

Memorial Service

2:00 pm, July 9th

Unitarian Universal Society Church
56 N. Halifax Dr.
Ormond Beach

Eagle rescues continue

Edited from an article in *The Flagler Audible*, 4/96

The Florida Audubon Society recently released an immature Bald Eagle back to the wild at the Volusia County landfill.

The eagle, found in south Flagler County, has recovered from lower back trauma after being struck by a car in October 1995. It has been banded for future identification purposes.

The eagle was first admitted to Marineland of Florida for treatment. It was unable to stand and received emergency care before being transferred to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. It became the center's 146th eagle release since its institution in 1979.

Immature eagles are mottled brown in head and overall body color. They normally achieve their characteristic white head and tail, yellow beak and eyes by their fifth year. This released bird is thought to be a female about 2 years old.

Florida boasts the largest eagle nesting population in the continental U. S., with over 830 active nesting pairs. The Audubon Eagle Watch program allows for such pairs to be consistently monitored. The population at the Volusia landfill is an active Eagle Watch site.

A typical eagle's rehabilitation costs \$8 a day or \$3,000 by release time. Donations to help with their undergoing rehabilitation at the Center may be sent to Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland FL 32751 or by calling 1-800-874-BIRD.

During 1995, 555 birds were admitted. These came from 38 Florida counties and four other states (Georgia, Louisiana, New York and Ohio.) Of these admissions, as of late March, this year, 202 had been released back to the wild. In addition to 16 Bald Eagles, this total included 91 Screech Owls, 23 Barred Owls, 16 Great Horned Owls, 16 Red-tailed Hawks, 12 Red-shouldered Hawks, 10 Barn Owls, 5 Osprey, 6 American Kestrels, 4 Coopers Hawks, 1 Short-eared Owl, and 2 Vultures. The public is invited to visit the Center from 10am to 4pm Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Condors come Home! Nine to be released near Grand Canyon

Condensed from *National Parks magazine* 5/96

The California Condor was nearly extinct in the 1980's, when just nine individuals existed in the wild. The last time one was seen soaring above the Grand Canyon, Calvin Coolidge occupied the White House. 70 years have passed since the giant avian scavengers vanished from Southwestern skies.

The expected release during coming weeks of nine of this "Flagship" endangered species to the Vermilion Cliffs area of northern Arizona is a biological milestone.

The Vermilion Cliffs are upwind of the Grand Canyon within a rugged section of desert controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. It is believed that it will be only a matter of months for the first group of "founders" to drift into the chasmic airspace that fills this natural wonder of the world. If the winds continue to blow favorably, it is conceivable that the big birds will also wend their way northward into Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, to Zion National Park, and perhaps to the red sliprock cathedrals of Bryce Canyon National Park.

According to biologist Bert Harting, a consultant with the Peregrine Fund, which helped write the environmental assessment that cleared the way for the condor's homecoming, the vast mosaic of public land in northern Arizona and southern Utah is extraordinary condor habitat because it is so remote. He says that National Parks and wilderness areas, especially, are vital components of the recovery zone because they provide adequate refuge for a bird that can cover 100 miles in a daytime reconnaissance. The Grand Canyon itself is 100 miles long and 50 miles wide at its broadest point.

"With this release and further augmentations in the years ahead, the goal is to establish a regional population that will eventually be self-sufficient and self-perpetuating." Harting further says that "Once that objective is met, the condor's status will be downgraded from endangered to threatened. I don't think that anybody wants to see that happen more than the biologists who have invested years of their lives into the project"

During June, five male and four female condors will be brought to the Vermilion Cliffs and left alone in holding pens to acclimate them to their new surroundings. By early summer the doors will be opened to release the birds. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says that even President Clinton is keeping a keen eye on the bird's progress.

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Hot Lines		
Bird Welfare	Roy Stevenson	673-1838
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Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

Releasing balloons into the sky is a bust for the environment

Excerpt from *Dear Abby* By Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby: Balloons released into the air often travel many miles before returning to earth, and their effect on wildlife can be deadly. Animals eat the balloons, which cause intestinal blockage and eventual starvation. They also get tangled up in the strings and, unable to free themselves, die a slow and painful death because they can't reach food or water. Also, balloons are not biodegradable. Those colored bits of faded plastic you see littering the beaches are going to be there for a long time, if they don't get caught in some fish's throat first.

I read in my local newspaper that some states - New York, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, New Jersey, Kentucky, Virginia and California - have enacted laws specifically to curb or eliminate the release of balloons.
- FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT, BURNSVILLE, MINN.

DEAR FRIEND: I'm delighted to help you spread the word to my many readers, who are committed to preserving our environment. We all should be!

Nature's Architecture How to increase your nest-spotting chances

These hints were found buried in Scoop Baslee's column "Outdoors" in the *Daytona Beach Sunday News-Journal* of June 2nd. I have lifted them word-for-word as he gave them.

1. Using a good field guide, pick out a few common birds that inhabit the area you will be visiting. Knowing their feeding and nesting habits will help you pinpoint likely nest sites.
2. Ask a local naturalist about common bird species in the area and the types of nests you might find.
3. To get a better view of hard-to-reach nests, mount a signal mirror on a nearby sturdy but dead branch and then use the branch to get a periscope view.

(from SPARROW, page 1)

"This bird, more than any other species, is the proverbial canary in the mine," said Craig Johnson, supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's South Florida Ecosystem office. "It's survival is so closely tied to those wet prairies around the edges of the Everglades.

The sparrow thrives in rockland marshes and marl prairie where vegetation grows atop and not on thick muck. These marshes are dominated by softer grass, not the razor sharp wiregrass like most of the Everglades

Because their surface was drier and close to higher ground along the coast, these were the wetlands among the first destroyed. An estimated 90% have been - either converted into farms or residential developments or permanently drained by canals and drinking wells.

The last of the dry marshes are in the Everglades National Park, in the lower part of the adjacent federal wilderness, or the Big Cypress National Preserve.

These are the last places on earth for the Cape Sable Sparrow.

Audubon News West Volusia Chapt.

On Saturday, May 11th, West Volusia Audubon Society participated in the North American Migration Count, a national county- by- county bird tally. Approximately 20 WVAS members took part in the day-long effort.

The annual event, designated as International Migratory Bird Day, celebrates the return of neo-tropical migrants - those birds returning to us after a sojourn in South or Central America. If the date seems late-ish to those of us in Florida, it is appropriate from a wider geographical viewpoint.

Man's destiny is tied to nature's destiny and the arrogance of the engineering mind does not change this. Man may be a very peculiar animal, but he is still a part of the system of nature."

- Marston Bates in *The Forest and the Sea*

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



If you, or any of your friends, would like to be a part of presenting *Audubon Adventures* to every fifth grade class in the Halifax area during this next school year, Be our guest, Read on!

Only thirty five dollars buys a subscription for a class (up to 32 children), a teacher's guide, a membership certificate and a poster for the entire school year. Each child receives his own copy of a newspaper introducing, him or her, to some of the mysteries of the natural world in which we live.

This, friends, is exciting and lays the groundwork of trying to have our next generation much more knowledgeable about the environment than we, or any preceding generation to date. We read almost daily of the depletion of our natural forests, our wetlands, this or that species of plant or animal life, and/or the depletion of the ozone layer, which act alone threatens the existence of the human race.

If you wish to be a part of this, make out your check payable to Halifax River Audubon Society for any amount you feel that you can afford. Mark it "For Audubon Adventures," and send it to Mrs. Glade Koch, Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Cir., Daytona Beach FL 32114.

Your good feeling will last all 9 months of the 96/97 school year.



ECVF

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

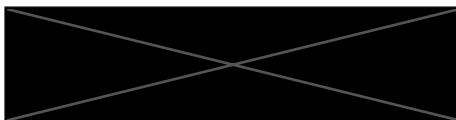
COASTAL ALERT: Governor Chiles has apparently reversed the State of Florida's earlier opposition to Representative Tillie Fowler's H. R. 2100, the bill that would remove certain undeveloped coastal properties, including tracts in Volusia County, from the Coastal Barrier Resources System and allow them to be developed with taxpayer-subsidized coastal flood insurance. Passage of H. R. 2100 by the 104th Congress was never in doubt, but environmentalists had counted on Governor Chiles to urge President Clinton to veto the bill. H. R. 2100 undermines the interests of U. S. and Florida taxpayers, and our environment. Contact the President's advisor on environmental issues, Katie McGinty, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, at (phone) 202-456-1414 or (FAX) (202) 456-2710 or (mail) Room 360, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20503.

ORMOND DEVELOPERS WEAKEN WETLANDS PROTECTION: As expected, the Ormond Beach City Commission voted 3-2 June 4th to amend the city's comprehensive plan so that protection for isolated wetlands could be relaxed. Commissioners Carl Persis and Jeff Boyle voted to maintain stricter environmental protection, but Mayor Hood and Commissioners Schechter and Kelley approved of lowering the City's standards. Proponents insisted that the change will affect only a very small area within the City; but the new standard will apply to parcels that may be annexed in the future.

1996-97 ECVF OFFICERS: The Officers and Executive Board elected at the May membership meeting are: John Baker, President; Gwen Straub, Vice-President; Pat Williams, Treasurer; Robert Haviland, Corresponding Secretary; Brynn Newton, Recording Secretary; and Members-at Large Lee Bidgood, Mercedes McCallen, Rita Alexander, and Joe Jaynes.

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The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
July 1996

Nat'l Forest values Iceland gull in central Fla? No, not really!

It is difficult to overstate the contribution National Forests make to the nation's biological wealth. The 155 forests and eight national grasslands in the system provide habitat for more than 3,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians, and for 10,000 plant species on which these animals depend.

The 191 million acres in the National Forest system help conserve a vast array of habitat types, from tropical rain forests to deserts, alpine meadows to Arctic tundra. They support habitat for 32 percent of all remaining ancient forests; and hold 80 percent of elk, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep habitat outside Alaska, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The 15,000 miles of streams that flow through National Forests make up for more than half of all freshwater salmon habitat, according to a report by the National Audubon Society.

The value of this diversity of life can hardly be overestimated. Biodiversity is the ultimate source of food, fiber, clean water, clean air, and fertile soil. It is the fabric of life on earth. Even the American Medical Association has weighed in to this effect, with a resolution last December about the importance of protecting biological diversity for the yet-to-be-discovered cures nature may hold. "Human health is inseparable from the health of the natural world," said Dr. John Scott, President-elect of the National Association of Physicians for the Environment. From Biodiversity comes spiritual renewal and wilderness recreation. The same habitat that shelters the bobcat and the wild coho salmon produces pure water and nourishes the human soul.

Gerri Peevers of Flagler Audubon, recently called Dave Hartgrove to report the sighting of what may possibly be an Iceland Gull at Matanzas Inlet. In almost no time, Dave, Dr. David Stock of Stetson University and Dr. John Eggert of Daytona Beach Community College formed a threesome and armed with a Peterson's and National Geographic field guides, were up there looking for it.

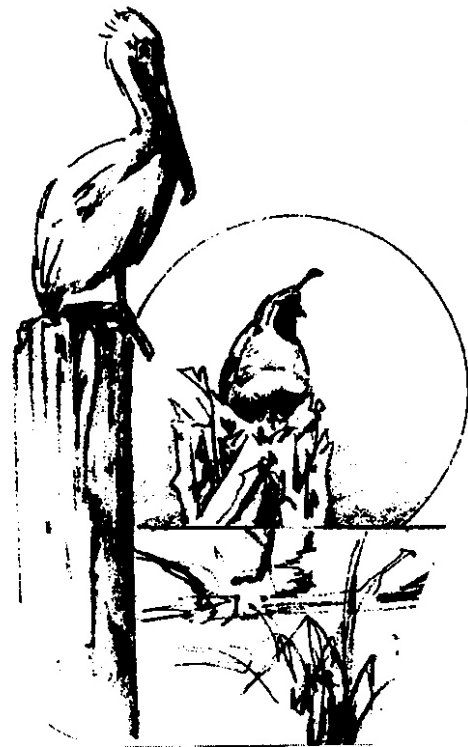
In trying to identify individuals in a large group of gulls resting on a sand bar, they finally came to this individual. It was smaller than a Herring gull and seemed to be larger than the Ringed-bills which composed the majority of the flock. It stood out because it was a white gull with pink legs standing apart from the others.

The folded wings were a very light gray in color, could almost be described as translucent, not as dark as the Ringed-bills or Herrings but darker than the rest of the body.

They thought it could be an Iceland gull but knew that was next to impossible because the Iceland had only been identified twice in Florida and both those times during the winter months.

They ended up by calling Mrs Peggy Powell in Jacksonville, who is the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) member who is relied upon to verify rare sightings, particularly of gulls, along this part of the Florida coast.

Mrs. Powell came down to see it also. She said that in all probability it was most likely an albino Ring-billed; however, due to the unusual striations on its bill and a small dark spot also thereon,



a Leucistic (Grk: form of white) albino.

So now we have it. All four agreed that it was most likely a Leucistic Albino Ring-billed gull. That is now where it stands. The Central Florida east coast escaped the rarity of being visited by an Iceland gull during the summer. We, the natives, probably could not have withstood the notoriety nor the flock of birders that would have undoubtedly invaded our area if it had been an Iceland Gull.

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**Sierra Club Meeting
7:30 PM, Wednesday, Jul 24th**

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House,
56 N. Halifax Dr., Ormond Beach.

Margaret Hodge, Volusia County Recycling Coordinator, will speak on the county's residential and commercial recycling program and answer questions about the three "R's" of waste management. i.e. "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". H.R.A.S. has no meeting in July so take advantage of their invitation to attend.

**In case you
missed it!**

From the article "Out of the woods" in the Jul.-Aug. issue of the *Audubon* magazine

For the past decade, a battle has been raging in the northwestern United States over the future of the area. Will this region become a monument to logging's excesses or a legacy of old-growth forests to be passed on to future generations? Politicians and industrialists have characterized the conflict as one that pits well paying jobs against the values of preservation. This is a false choice. John Muir once reflected that it is possible to have both beauty and bread. Now, in towns across Oregon, loggers turned entrepreneurs and mill-hands turned high tech workers are exposing the fallacy of a myth that claimed you couldn't have work if you didn't sacrifice nature.

What's happening in the four states that constitute the Northwest - Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, at first glance, is hard to believe. For a decade, elected officials have made political hay out of the purported conflict out of jobs in the timber industry and tough environmental regulations. Few talked less softly than George Bush. In 1992, while running for the office of the presidency, he railed against the Endangered Species Act, calling it a sword aimed at jobs, families and communities of entire regions like the northwest. He warned that the area, under a Clinton presidency, "would see no timber workers, only a bunch of owls."

If so, the rest of the country ought to consider breeding owls. Since the late 1980's, the northwest has successfully moved from dependence on extractive industries to a modern, diversified economy that is based upon technology, tourism and professional services and draws heavily on the spirit of entrepreneurial self-reliance. Today, the area shows an economic growth rate more than twice the national average, with the number of jobs increasing by 940,000.

The Prez Says

There are so many times daily that we see different images that cause our memories to reappear in our mind. We usually hold all these, good or bad, bottled up. Some of these memories could be shared but we are afraid to do so because we feel that other persons may not be interested. Of course that is not true. For instance, my son wants me to record on audio tape memories of my 4 1/2 years of army life that occurred during the 40's.

My favorite memory is of my 2 week camping trip at the age of eleven. I will always remember that new learning experience.

Send your favorite memory to our editor, Carlton Smith, to publish and share with our 400+ members. As Mr. Bob Hope always said, "Thanks for the memories," and I will add, "especially for those wonderful bird trips."

John Williams

It is often joked that economists can't agree on a thing, but most have now agreed with a report from the U of Mont. that debunks the myth that conservation costs jobs. _ (NUFF SAID -Ed.)

**Calling all birders -
eagle information
wanted!**

Roy Stevenson requests that any birder, knowing the location of 1 or more eagle nests in Volusia county or its near environs, to give him a call. His Phone numbers are listed in the box in column one, this page.

Project EAGLE

Saturday, July 20th
8 am to 1 pm

Help keep Florida's public land and waterways beautiful! join the *Fla. Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Keep Fla. Beautiful, Silver Springs attraction, local businesses and volunteers* in cleaning up four of central Fla.'s Wildlife Management Areas.

Help is needed. To volunteer, call the FG&FWFC, (352)732-1225. There is something for everyone to do. You may choose an area or they may assign you one. Equipment needed are boats, 4x4's, nets, poles or long trash sticks, gloves, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Drinking water and trash bags will be furnished.

Staging and collection sites are as follows:

■ LK GEORGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA).

North end - *Pine Island Fish Camp* - take U.S. Highway 17 to Seville; at the caution light go west on C.R. 305/Lake George Rd., follow to the end. This is Pine Island

South end - *Intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and S.R. 40* - take U.S. Highway 17 or S.R. 40 to their intersection. The staging and collection site will be located at the NE corner.

■ MIAMI CORP. WMA. - Take S.R. 415 to Osteen, then take Maytown Rd East to the WMA check station located at the intersection of Maytown Rd and Lk. Harney Road.

■ TIGER BAY WILDLIFE AREA- From Deland - take U.S. Highway 92 east about 10 miles, or from Daytona - take U.S. Highway 92 west about 5 miles, to the south entrance to the Tiger Bay WMA which is located on the north side of the highway.

■ RELAY WMA - *Relay WMA Campground on Rd 4*. - Take S.R. 11 about seven miles north of S.R. 40 to the entrance of Relay WMA. Turn into the entrance which is Road 4. Follow the road past the check station until you come to the campground.

Did you Know - -

That 60 million people in the United States are active birders?

That over 90 million Americans feed birds?

Figures are from *WildBird* magazine which states that birding is not only fascinating and rewarding, but also ecologically sound.



"To: Halifax River Audubon Society, an Audubon Adventures Sponsor
From: Dr. Carl Safina, Director Living Oceans Program
and Tolbert B. Spence, Vice President of Education"

"People from all over the world have started to care about what happens to large pelagic fish. In this country, private citizens formed environmental programs such as *Living Oceans* of the National Audubon Society, to help educate others about the declining fish populations. The *Living Oceans* Program, in turn, has joined five similar organizations to form a group called the *Ocean Wildlife Campaign* to increase their political strength. This large group urges congress to pass strong laws and tries to persuade government agencies to enforce them so that the oceans and their living creatures will flourish again"

Following our last month's *Pelican* article, the Education Chair chose this excerpt from *Audubon Adventures* to share with you the quality of our National Audubon youth educational program.

Thanks are extended to you readers who responded to our donation appeal for the Chapter's environmental education project for upper elementary grades in the Halifax area. Here is how all our readers can aid in this valuable effort.

If you wish to be a part of this, please consider a tax-deductible gift of \$35.00 to subscribe for *Audubon Adventures* for a fifth grade class in the Halifax area, (Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated.) Checks should be made payable to the Halifax River Audubon Society and mailed to Glade Koch, HRAS Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Cir., Daytona Beach FL 32114. - Thanks, *Glade*

From *The News-Journal*,
an editorial - 7/12/96

Bridge permit refusal a welcome surprise

Bucking a state hearing officer's ruling in a permit dispute is an unusual move for a Florida regulatory agency.

The St. John's River Water Management District governing board took such a step this week by refusing to give state road builders permission to rebuild a pair of bridges over Rose Bay. The board's decision was as welcome as it was unexpected.

If an appeal court or the governor and Cabinet stand by the water management agency's decision, the state Department of Transportation will have to redesign the U.S. 1 bridges to make them less harmful to the 113-acre bay. A favorable outcome also could force the road-building department to give more weight to environmental concerns when replacing other aging bridges in the state.

Many coastal Florida bridges, including the twin bridges over Rose Bay near Harbor Oaks, were built in environmentally less enlightened times. Roadbuilders constructed earthen causeways much of the way across water

bodies, then installed short spans. Such causeways impede water flow and hinder a water body's ability to cleanse itself.

The causeway across Rose Bay, built in 1957, traps dirt and pollution. A thick layer of silt covers the bay's naturally sandy bottom. Harbor Oaks homeowners and activists working to clean up the Halifax River system, of which Rose-bay is a part, asked the DOT to remove the causeway and build longer bridges. The request coincided with the scheduled replacement, for safety reasons, of the old bridges. The water district board in 1994 refused to give the DOT permits for the bridge work unless they granted the request.

The state hearing officer assigned to resolve the dispute between the water district and the DOT sided with road builders. Because the causeway isn't the only cause of the once-sparkling bay's degradation, she said, DOT should not be required to move it.

St. Johns governing board members were right to reject that reasoning. Under current environmental regulations, the DOT would not be able to get a permit to build a causeway and short bridges. Now that the bridges are reaching the end of their safe usefulness, the causeway should be dredged away so water can flow freely again in and out of Rose Bay.

Plenty of birds use tools, as do other animals, but New Caledonia crows apparently take tool use to a level of technical sophistication not seen before in birds. Ecologist Gavin R. Hunt of Massey University in New Zealand recently reported that he saw the crows use twigs or barbed leaves to probe for bugs in wood or under leaves 52 times. Not only that, on four occasions he saw the birds actually make their tools, pulling a twig from a tree, stripping its leaves and shaping a point at the hooked end of the stick (where it had been attached to a branch). Also, he observed that the crows are careful with their bug-finders, carrying the tools around with them or leaving them "in a secure position on their perch."

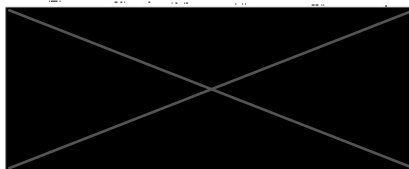
Some examples of cruder avian tool use: The brown-headed nut-hatch dislodges bark from trees by prying pieces off with other pieces of bark. A red-tailed hawk carrying a struggling snake in Arizona was once seen dive-bombing rocks, narrowly missing them in order to smash its prey to death..... and some crows in the U.S. use cars as nutcrackers by putting Walnuts where the nuts will be run over!
-National Wildlife, June/July 1996

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Carlton M. Smith, Editor
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We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
August 1996

The Prez Sez

From Cohasset, MA

I hope that all of you are enjoying your summer vacations as I am mine.

Do you know that there are 9 different species of Sparrows and there are 33 named Warblers on our Florida field list? This checklist will enable you to have a means or goal to enhance your knowledge of the many gifts of Nature's birds.

The field checklist of FL birds may be obtained by a telephone call to any of our listed people in "The Pelican," our monthly newsletter. You may also receive the checklist by attending our next general meeting, October 21st. We always meet at 7:00 PM, third Mondays, October through March, at the Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Av., Daytona Beach. We have an entertaining time complete with a guest speaker, refreshments and door prizes. All we need is your presence. Bring a friend. I hope to see you both then.

John Williams

Roger Tory Peterson Dies

Mangroves replenish lagoons ecosystems



Adapted from an article from the Indian
River Lagoon National Estuary Program

They often appear as scraggly plants with tangled aerial roots that branch off their trunks downward or have finger-like projections protruding from the soil around their trunks. These interesting plants are mangroves and they are vital to the health of south Florida's lagoons.

Mangroves nutrient-rich leaves form the basis for the nourishment of microorganisms in the lower food chain, eventually leading all the way up to humans.

Only three types are native to (areas around our part of Florida). They are the red, black and white. Red mangroves have the distinctive prop roots that help stabilize shorelines by serving as storm buffers by baffling wind and wave action in shallow shoreline areas.

Mangroves trap and cycle various organic materials, chemical elements and important nutrients in the coastal ecosystem. They improve water quality and clarity by filtering runoff and trapping sediments and debris. Mangroves have adapted to live in salty environments.

World famous Birdwatcher died in New York Sun., Jul.28

Excerpted from an editorial in
the *Daytona Beach News Journal*,
August 2nd.

His *Field Guide to the Birds*, Eastern and western U.S. editions, Published by Houghton Mifflin, between them had sold several million Copies.

His early work tapped into a broad public interest in nature that publishers did not think was there, his later work contributed mightily to sustaining the nation's environmental consciousness. He wrote, illustrated or edited nearly 50 books about animals, plants and nature and contributed to many more.

Peterson saw himself first as a painter, second as a writer and third as a naturalist. His bold precise paintings and clear writing style inspired, indeed helped create, generations of bird watchers. But it was also as an eloquent champion of the outdoors generally that he won many awards from conservation organizations both here and abroad, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from then U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the admiration of the world.

"Woods! Birds! Flowers! Here are the makings of a great naturalist," so read the caption under his high school photograph in Jamestown N.Y. in 1925. He became a great naturalist and more. He was one of the pioneers in teaching 20th-century Americans to walk more gently upon their land.

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To BIRDERS!

From Glade Koch

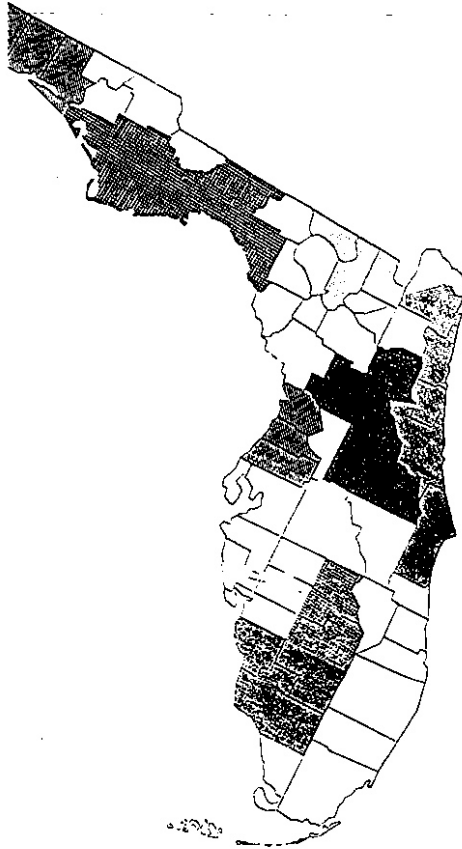
Do you ever examine carefully the Swifts flinging themselves high above us in our Halifax area skies? Perhaps not because these "twinkling, spurting" swallow-like birds with their "loud rapid ticking or chipping" notes (R.T.P.) we presume to be Chimney Swifts.

However, during late May among the dark Chimney Swifts observed in the Spruce Creek - Hensel Rd. Port Orange skies White throated Swifts were reported. White throated Swifts have not been reported in Florida before. However we would like very much to verify them in our area.

The large white throat patch easily distinguishes the "White - throated Swift" from the dark Chimney Swifts you usually see with your binoculars.

Please call me if you see this wonderful bird. - Glade

Black Bear Populations in Florida



The Florida Black Bear
Edited from Florida Environmental Notes by FAS

When thinking of Florida's wild frontier, most people conjure up visions of alligators, egrets, great blue herons and the majestic birds of prey. However, Florida is also home to a large mammal that most folks seldom see, the Florida Black Bear.

Florida has listed the black bear as a threatened species since 1978. Today, an estimated 1,500 bears live in the state, a number considered by many officials to be the minimum necessary for long term survival. The major threats to the Florida black bear are loss of habitat through development, and to a lesser yet significant extent, habitat fragmentation and road kill. Male bears require a home range of 35 to more than 185 square miles. It is estimated that for each one mile of roadway constructed, 209 acres of black bear habitat is lost or degraded.

Highway mortalities have been increasing every year. In Florida, statewide, twelve chronic roadkill problem areas have been identified. Nine of the twelve areas are located on highways in Marion and Lake counties. Highways with the highest black bear roadkills are SR 40 (Marion and Lake counties), SR 19 (Marion and Lake), SR 84 (Collier), SR 46 (Lake), and U.S. 41 (Collier). At least 78 bears were killed on roadways within the Ocala National Forest between 1981 and 1990, 45 of those occurring in the last two years.

Cars are non-selective. They will kill old bears, young bears, female bears and cubs. Many times a bear will be killed and for the next week her cubs will try to find her, oftentimes being hit themselves.

In 1994, the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with environmental groups and other state agencies, constructed the first bear underpass at SR46 in Lake County. Since then, five bears have been recorded using the underpass and no deaths occurred in the 1 1/2 mile fenced area to either side. Monitoring of underpass use has lead to a broader study to track the travel habits of bears in the Wekiva River Basin. "I think that you will see more of this around the state," said DOT secretary Ben Watts, "What we have to do next is show the taxpayers that it works.

Facts about Florida's Bald Eagles

Bald Eagles are native only to our continent and are one of the largest birds in North America. At one time, these majestic creatures could be found throughout the continental United States. During the 1950's, however, the eagle population declined due to the widespread use of the insecticide DDT. This prompted the need for federal protection, which has resulted in the overall recovery of the species. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is moving with plans to "down-list" Bald Eagles in most parts of the country to the status of threatened. The State of Florida so lists them, that is, to threatened.

Today, excluding Alaska, Florida has the largest breeding population of Bald Eagles. The nesting period extends to October 1st through May 1st, with individual pairs returning to the same nesting territory year after year. Most nests are located in the highest pine or cypress tree near water or pasture land. Nest building, breeding and egg laying generally occur in November, with incubation lasting for 33-35 days before eaglets emerge. Clutch size varies from two to four, commonly two in Florida.

Young Bald Eaglets, also called immatures, are the fastest growing bird in North America., hatching at 1/4 lb. and increasing up to 12 lbs, in three months. Females are larger than Males. Immatures are uniformly brown, with dark beaks and eyes. They begin learning to fly and hunt at only three months of age. The brown head and tail gradually whiten by the age of five, while the beak and eyes change from dark to yellow.



Threats to Bald Eagles include gunshot wounds, poisonings, and collisions with cars and powerlines. Loss of nesting and foraging habitat through land development and mitigation also seriously jeopardizes nesting success for eagles in Florida. These birds are strongly territorial and known to engage in battles over nesting habitat, causing injury and even death. Although this type of defense is now uncommon elsewhere, the state of Florida has witnessed an increase in eagle mortality and injury due to territorial disputes during the last decade.

Due to Florida's rapidly changing environment, eagles are now nesting in urban areas. This increased exposure to human activity and its resulting pressure on the eagle population prompted the EagleWatch Program.

Call Roy Stevenson to report nests, known or unknown. His Ph. Nos. Res. 673-1838 Work 252-0466

The EagleWatch Program of the Florida Audubon Society seeks information about Bald Eagles, nest locations and possible threats to or disturbance of nesting activities. The program is designed to educate volunteer participants in general eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nests.

This data is used to augment the Mid-Winter Annual Bald Eagle Nesting Survey and to document urban and rural nesting activity.

Objectives:

- **Compile EagleWatch data for general publication.** The causes and effects of nesting success or failure of Bald Eagles remain vague, and in some cases, unknown.
- **Place a strong emphasis on the monitoring of urban nesting activity.** Long term urban nesting success is currently unknown.
- **Identify potential threats to nesting success.** Nearly all threats are related directly or indirectly to human activity.
- **Expand the EagleWatch program on a statewide basis.** The expansion of this volunteer nest watch program may result in reducing the threats to eagle nesting activities

Why Audubon?

1. Help protect wetlands, ancient forests, fisheries and other wilderness areas.
2. Effective advocacy from Congress to the Courts has helped win victories for wildlife.
3. Excellency in Education is Audubon's hallmark: ecology workshops, classrooms, television, publications and our electronic network of activists.
4. The strongest environmental network of any in America, over 500 local chapters.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



For millions of years, corals have been building wondrous cities under the sea. These tiny animals live together in groups and make a constantly growing calcium skeleton to protect them. The process is very slow, but corals have constructed islands and added to continents. Most corals, which take many fantastic shapes and colors, are found in shallow tropical waters near land. A coral colony is called a reef. The reef in this painting is typical of those found in the Caribbean islands.

Put on a mask and snorkel and dive down to investigate a coral reef. You'll be amazed at the variety of life: hundreds of species of wildly colored fish, strange and beautiful sea fans, anemonies, urchins, shrimp, starfish, and crabs. And, of course, the

mollusks, which produce those marvelous designs we know as seashells.

The coral reef is one of the richest life zones on the planet, providing food for millions of people. Reefs also help protect islands and coastlines from destructive storm waves.

Coral reefs around the world are in trouble. They are dredged to make way for ports and other development. Rivers carry silt and pollutants from land, which suffocate the delicate corals. Divers and commercial collectors carry off rare reef animals. Many people just don't realize that the coral reef is not only beautiful, but important to the ecology of both land and sea.

National Audubon Society

Now for you adult Auduboners! You and/or your friends are urgently requested to help H.R.A.S. to furnish every 5th grade class in the Halifax area, wishing to participate in the Audubon Adventures program this next school year, the chance to do so.

Only \$35.00 buys a subscription for a class of up to 32 students, a teacher's guide and materials for the entire year. Each student receives their own copy of the newspaper *Audubon Adventures* which introduces them to the mysteries of our natural world.

If you wish to be a part of this, make out your check for \$35.00 or any amount you feel you can afford,, make it payable to Halifax River Audubon Society, mark it for "Audubon Adventures" mail it to Education Chair, Mrs. Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114. You'll be glad that you did and so will the children.

A Night on Turtle Beach

David Hartgrove, Conservation chair

On most Wednesday nights during sea turtle nesting season, I can be found on the beach at Canaveral National Seashore. I've been doing this since the call for volunteers first went out in April of 1990.

At our first orientation meeting, the Ranger warned us saying, "They don't call that body of water Mosquito Lagoon for nothing." He was referring to the body of water just west of the seashore. Some nights the mosquitoes aren't too bad and we can avoid wearing the "Tyvek" suits. Made of plasticized paper material, they're tough and provide good protection on the areas that are covered. It is unnerving to open your mouth and swallow several mosquitoes. They and their cousins, the "No-see-ums" draw substantial contributions of blood from the folks working to protect the turtle nests from another seashore denizen, the raccoon.

Prior to the advent of the volunteer program it was estimated that 85 percent of the nests were being lost to predation by raccoons. By the end of the 1990 season that number had dropped to 15 percent.

The way we protect the nests is by placing a 4 ft. by 4 ft. piece of screen over the nest and securing it in place with long steel stakes. This screen has openings that are 4" wide by 2" high, large enough to allow the babies to get out but small enough to keep exploratory paws from getting in.

We then place a wooden stake with information about the date, species, grid number and who the persons placing the stake were.

When raccoons do get into a nest, they seldom get all the eggs. But they have long sharp claws and they break open many of the eggs still in the nest. When this happens, the yolk runs down over the rest of the nest and a fungous forms that destroys the remainder. Often we arrive within minutes after the raccoon

family has begun to feast. In that case, we can dig up the surviving eggs and after removing the traces of yolk, rebury them in a specially marked nest.

Sometimes it is necessary to relocate a nest for other reasons. If the nest is laid too close to the tide line it should be moved. Sea turtle eggs can withstand minor inundation but frequent soaking kills a nest.

Once in a while a turtle will go so far into the dunes that her nest will be in danger from the dune plants. The roots of sea oats and beach morning glory spread out soaking moisture. Sea turtle eggs provide both moisture and protein. Relocating a nest is a major decision and must be done within six hours of its being laid. Otherwise the eggs can be damaged by the act of moving them.

Volunteers don't work alone. Each year the Seashore hires seasonal rangers and they are in charge of the decision making, safety, etc. I've worked with six-different rangers over the years and have enjoyed my experiences with each of them.

The 24 miles of the Seashore are covered by teams from the north end at Turtle Mound and from the south end at Playa Linda. We use 4-wheel ATV's to enable us to cover the distance and carry all our supplies. Often we are able to meet at the Volusia-Brevard county line for "lunch" around 3 A.M. The stargazing is phenomenal, especially in late July and early August during the Perseid meteor shower. The milky way is dazzling and a pair of binoculars reveals the individual stars and several of the moons of Jupiter. Birding on the beach pretty much has to wait for dawn but I have seen Black-crowned Night Herons and Black-bellied and Wilson's Plovers.

This can be very rewarding work, even with the bugs. Once, several years ago, Ranger Nate Cranston and I relocated a nest that was way up in the dunes. It was the nest of a 'Green' so we were especially concerned about its chances of surviving. The Greens are

listed as "endangered" while the more numerous Loggerheads are listed as "threatened." Greens are larger. They dig deeper and lay more eggs. On the average, Loggerheads lay around a hundred eggs per nest. This Green nest yielded 176 eggs.

During the latter half of August, we begin excavating the nests that have hatched. This means digging up the nest and counting both the empty shells and the ones that didn't hatch. Care must be taken when performing this task. The unhatched eggs smell every bit as bad as you might imagine and breaking one with your finger nail can leave, shall we say, a most lasting impression.

But, back to the Green nest. As I said, we re-located 176 eggs from a nest that surely would have been lost to roots. When I went back to excavate it, I counted 174 empty shells. Perhaps 2 of those babies will survive to adulthood and return to lay another generation. But that's two that probably would not have made it if we hadn't been there.

Several weeks ago, we had to relocate the surviving eggs in a predated nest. Of the 73 eggs we removed, 15 had shells so thin that they nearly collapsed when touched. Is it possible that sea turtles are being effected by DDT in much the same way that birds were before its use was banned in this country? Could this have been caused by a calcium deficiency in this particular turtle?

As I said, this is really rewarding work and I look forward to spending more nights on the beach in the future. Demand for volunteers exceeds supply so if this sounds like an adventure that you would like to participate in, call me and I'll be happy to give you the information of how to go about it.

How about an Audubon membership as a gift. Call Jeanie Riley for an application. Help our chapter grow!

A Spruce Creek Editorial

Got a tool?

From *The News-Journal*,
an editorial - 7/12/96

Bridge permit refusal a welcome surprise

Bucking a state hearing officer's ruling in a permit dispute is an unusual move for a Florida regulatory agency.

The St. John's River Water Management District governing board took such a step this week by refusing to give state road builders permission to rebuild a pair of bridges over Rose Bay. The board's decision was as welcome as it was unexpected.

If an appeal court or the governor and Cabinet stand by the water management agency's decision, the state Department of Transportation will have to redesign the U.S. 1 bridges to make them less harmful to the 113-acre bay. A favorable outcome also could force the road-building department to give more weight to environmental concerns when replacing other aging bridges in the state.

Many coastal Florida bridges, including the twin bridges over Rose Bay near Harbor Oaks, were built in environmentally less enlightened times. Road-builders constructed earthen causeways much of the way across water bodies,

then installed short spans. Such causeways impede water flow and hinder a water body's ability to cleanse itself.

The causeway across Rose Bay, built in 1957, traps dirt and pollution. A thick layer of silt covers the bay's naturally sandy bottom. Harbor Oaks homeowners and activists working to clean up the Halifax River system, of which Rosebay is a part, asked the DOT to remove the causeway and build longer bridges. The request coincided with the scheduled replacement, for safety reasons, of the old bridges. The water district board in 1994 refused to give the DOT permits for the bridge work unless they granted the request.

The state hearing officer assigned to resolve the dispute between the water district and the DOT sided with road builders. Because the causeway isn't the only cause of the once-sparkling bay's degradation, she said, DOT should not be required to move it. St. Johns governing board members were right to reject that reasoning. Under current environmental regulations, the DOT would not be able to get a permit to build a causeway and short bridges. Now that the bridges are reaching the end of their safe usefulness, the causeway should be dredged away so water can flow freely again, in and out of Rose Bay.

Plenty of birds use tools, as do other animals, but New Caledonia crows apparently take tool use to a level of technical sophistication not seen before in birds. Ecologist Gavin R. Hunt of Massey University in New Zealand recently reported that he saw the crows use twigs or barbed leaves to probe for bugs in wood or under leaves 52 times. Not only that, on four occasions he saw the birds actually make their tools, pulling a twig from a tree, stripping its leaves and shaping a point at the hooked end of the stick (where it had been attached to a branch). Also, he observed that the crows are careful with their bug-finders, carrying the tools around with them or leaving them "in a secure position on their perch."

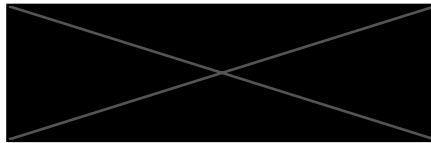
Some examples of cruder avian tool use: The brown-headed nuthatch dislodges bark from trees by prying pieces off with other pieces of bark.

A red-tailed hawk carrying a struggling snake in Arizona was once seen dive-bombing rocks, narrowly missing them in order to smash its prey to death...and some crows in the U.S. use cars as nutcrackers by putting walnuts in the automobile ruts where they will be run over. *-National Wildlife, June/July 1996*

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Carlton M. Smith, Editor
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Daytona Beach FL 32114-3943

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The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies
We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
September 1996

The Prez Sez

Our vacation days are over; the days are becoming shorter. Memories of this summer will, however, last forever.

The one I enjoyed, though not completely, was a Wallace Bay field trip in Nova Scotia. A chance to see a rare Spotted Redshank along with Lesser Yellowlegs and quite a few Greater Yellowlegs. Although the Spotted Redshank has only been found a few times in the province, the chance of seeing this species appears to be increasing. The last time one was discovered in Nova Scotia was in 1995 (per experts) on the Nova Scotia Bird Society's Wallace Bay Field Trip. This year, the Wallace Bay outing took place July 14th. No Spotted Redshank was seen but the people present said it was one of the best field trips of the year.

This is by way of saying welcome, join us on a local field trip. It can be fun. Field trip schedules are published in *The Pelican* and also in the *Daytona Beach News Journal*.

Ridleys - Believe it or not!

By Beth Libert, Pres., Volusia Turtle Patrol, *Turtle Tracker*, V2#2

On May 14, 1996, at 1:30 p.m., a beachfront condominium resident in Ponce Inlet had just finished watching *The Young and the Restless*, and went to her balcony to smoke a cigarette. When she saw the small sea turtle with a round flat shell emerging from the sea in the middle of the day, knew that it was unusual and called the Volusia County Beach Department. When Ranger Bill Sorrentino arrived, he knew immediately that this turtle was somehow different.

I was varnishing a boat on the river when my pager went off. As soon as Bill said "small turtle," I had an eerie feeling that this was a Kemp's Ridley. I assumed it was a stranding, but when Bill said she was nesting, I couldn't get to the truck fast enough.

I arrived at about 2:00 p.m., and the turtle was still digging her nest cavity. From a safe distance she looked like a Ridley. After she started to lay her eggs, I got closer and confirmed it was indeed a Kemp's Ridley. I called other Turtle Patrol volunteers, Steve Johnson, the County's Protected Species Specialist, and the news media.

After she laid and covered her eggs, we measured her and held her until Steve, a sea turtle biologist, arrived to confirm the species.

She returned to the water at about 2:45 p.m. We then located the clutch of eggs which was not easy because the sand was blowing so hard that the body pit and tracks were already gone.

The nest was not laid very high, and the high winds were pushing the tide higher than usual. It also was near a vehicle ramp that floods at high tide

because of grading. Naturally we were concerned for the safety of the nest, so I called David Arnold and Blair Witherington of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for advice on whether to relocate the nest. DEP said leave the nest in place, and if necessary, it could be moved at a later date. We marked the nest and measured back-up reference points.

We checked the nest at about 6:30 p.m. and found that it was about to be inundated by the high tide. I immediately made the decision to relocate the nest. As we removed the eggs from the original nest, we saw that the bottom of the nest cavity was already soaking wet. We relocated the 108 eggs to the 4700 block of Ponce Inlet.

At the new location, the nest was washed over by high tides only twice. Hurricane Bertha never even touched it.

On July 17, 64 days after the nest was laid, 77 hatchlings emerged from the nest. They were promptly collected and a random 30 hatchlings were weighed and measured. The hatchlings were a charcoal-black color. Some were shaped like loggerhead hatchlings, while others were almost perfectly round.

The hatchlings were released except for three that were too weak to make it out to sea. These three were held for two days and released along with others recovered from the nest excavation the early morning of July 20.

A total of 80 live hatchlings swam out to sea. They will mature in 7 to 125 years. It is up to the citizens of Volusia County to ensure that these rare turtles have a suitable habitat in which to nest when they return. Let's all hope that they do.

**H.R.A.S.
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Treasurer Morrell Robinson
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Historian Harold Nett
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George Potee, Jr. 257-9842
Audrey Christie 255-7253
Roy Stevenson 252-0466,
673-1838

Conservation Chr David Hartgrove
788-2630

Education Chr Glade Koch
253-8438

Refreshments Chr Lois Robinson
760-8480

Field Trips Roy Stevenson
& Glade Koch

Hot Lines

Bird Welfare Roy Stevenson
673-1838

Injured Birds Mary Keller
252-2794

**Field
Trips
1996-97
Season**

Glade Koch

We begin the schedule of HRAS field trips early with a new chapter experience, the USFWS Fall Migratory survey Saturday, September 21st. Dave Hartgrove will be our leader. Please see his story in this issue of The Pelican. Bring lunch.

• Friday, Oct. 4th. Dave Hartgrove will again lead us on back roads west of Daytona Beach to search for native passerines. There will be an excellent probability of seeing fall migrants. Bring lunch.

• Saturday, October 19th. Jean Riley and Roy Stevenson will be our leaders for a combination trip to two locations - Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens and the Museum of Arts and Sciences, "Window on the Forest," the ancient remaining hydro-hammock on Museum grounds. What fall warblers and other migrants are to be found in these wooded areas inside city boundaries? Bring lunch.

• Saturday November 2nd. Mary Lou Weimer will again lead the annual "Turkey Hunt." We will visit woods and fields off Tomoka Farms Road so you will be hungry for the lunch that you bring.

• Saturday, November 16th. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Preserve. A favorite bird trip for fall, winter or spring is this USFWS reserve, where zoology students conduct study projects for university credit. Reptiles and birds are abundant. We'll look for rails. Bring lunch.

**St. Johns River &
Environmental**

Protection

By Rep. John Mica

During the past two years, I have been working to create a seamless environmental preserve along the St. Johns River that would connect the Ocala National Forest to the Wekiva State Park. With rapid growth and development in Central Florida, this natural resource is being encroached upon by urban sprawl and, unless preserved, will be lost for future generations. With the assistance of the St. Johns Water Management District, 14,000 acres of land have been acquired for this project. I have secured federal participation to help purchase the remaining 4,000 acres to complete the environmental corridor. Our action will preserve this environmentally priceless natural reserve for future generations and protect our endangered watershed.

Working with the local community, we have assisted efforts to clean up Lake Macy in the city of Lake Helen. Mary, which supplies water to the Deltona chain of lakes, has become polluted over the years. We have been working since 1993 with local, county and state agencies to restore the lake and its water quality.

- From his recent newsletter reporting on some of his work and the progress of the 104th Congress.

**Join Audubon
Today!**

Receive a navy Blue Backpack, Free! Starting dues are only \$20.00 for 1 yr (43% off the Basic rate) Call Jeannie Riley today. Ph. No, 767-9803 She will send you a special application blank

Audubon's National Wildlife Campaign takes flight

There is a widespread belief that the National Wildlife Refuge System suffers from a narrow national and local constituency and is in dire need of a broadened base of public support. National Audubon plans to kick off its NWR Campaign during the week of Oct. 5-13. It is National's hope that Audubon Chapters all around the country will partake in the inauguration of this vital campaign by participating with local refuges during this week. This is a great opportunity to reach out to a broader public with our message, i.e. the Audubon Mission. HRAS's geographical location, near to Pelican Island, Cape Canaveral and Lake Woodruff Wildlife Preserves, places us in a very unique position to make a contribution along with our neighbors, Flagler, West Volusia, Southeast Volusia and Pelican Island Audubon Soc'ties. Let's meet and mix in '96!

The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies

We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
October 1996

The Prez Sez

Welcome Back -

to a new beginning of our short year of regular meetings, the third Monday of each month October '96 through May of '97. We hope that more of you, our valued and supportive membership, will be attending than in the recent past. We have over 400 members, as of this writing, and are lucky if we have 10% appear for a meeting. That is less than the percentage of qualified voters that elect our public officials.

Our Board and General Membership meetings are open to the public. Perhaps some members will call us. We hope you will. Call any of the officers at the numbers listed in the Pelican every month. We will be glad to hear your comments. They will be addressed at our board meetings and discussed, examined, and a plan for action will follow.

Knowing what you want is very important to our goals. Perhaps the day, or time, or place of our meetings is a problem. Tell us! Perhaps your inability to get to the meetings is a problem. Tell us! Perhaps you have ideas for invited guests. Tell Us! There could be many other problems of which we are not aware. Tell us!

To sum it all up, we need your thoughts. We hope to see you at our meetings.

John Williams
President

Harold Nett Dies

Longtime Audubon Veteran

Ex H.R.A.S. President

**Next Members Meeting,
7:00 PM, Oct. 21st
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.**

Refreshments by
Lois Robinson

Program
**Mark Van Fleet
Artist and Photographer
Extraordinary**

Harold J. Nett, 87, of Sunny Shore Dr., Ormond Beach, a former employee of the Detroit Post Office Department, died October 5th at Memorial Hospital.

Harold moved to this area in 1973 from Detroit MI, his birthplace. He was a long time member of H.R.A.S., was always active therein and served as its President for several years.

He is survived by two sisters, Madeline Mulvaney of St. Clair Shores, MI and Mary DuMahaut, Daytona Beach. His remains were returned to Michigan in care of Kaul Funeral Home, St. Clair Shores.

The following was written by Mrs. Earl B. Keller of Holly Hill, a pioneer veteran in the care of wounded birds and an Honorary Member of H.R.A.S.

"Mr Nett, who died last week, was one of the nicest men I've ever met. He will be missed. He was quiet, shy, and truly loved birds. I met him through the wild birds I care for. He had offered to take the birds of prey to Maitland, (the Fla. Audubon) Birds of Prey sanctuary when needed. He made these trips, at no expense to me, many times until his health failed.

The Audubon Society needs more people like him, people who want to make a difference in all of nature for the good of nature. He was a special person".

Mary Keller

Notice Apology Explanation

Due to printer troubles, the wearing out of old equipment, your editor has not been able to meet publication schedules this month. That is the reason for this late, shortened version of your newsletter. I'll try to do better hereafter.

- cms

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

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Newsletter Editor Carlton Smith



**Field
Trips
1996-97
Season**

Glade Koch

• Saturday, October 19th. Jean Riley and Roy Stevenson will be our leaders. We will search Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens for Migrants. At the present writing, Warblers, Black-throated Blues and Redstarts are being seen there. We will also visit the Museum of Arts and Sciences "Window on the Forest," the ancient remaining hydro-hammock on Museum grounds. Will the Barred Owl who is often seen there, be on hand? We hope to search the area around the Port Orange bridge and Jeannie reports that the Eagles are back at their nest on the north edge of New Smyrna. Maybe we will have time to get down there also. Be sure to bring lunch. What fall warblers and other migrants are to be found in these wooded areas inside city boundaries? Bring lunch.

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Please remember that all our trips will leave from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach at 8:00 A.M. (except those so noted) on the dates listed. Cars not needed for the trip may be parked at the starting point. Those who do not drive are given the opportunity to share the cost of transportation with those whose cars are used. The suggested contribution is \$4.00.

**A Call to Action
"Save Our
Everglades"**

The Everglades and its endangered species are worth fighting for! Refuse to let "Big Sugar" and its willful pollution continue destroyin 3 to 5 acres of the Everglades every day.

On November 5th, Florida voters will consider initiatives meant to reverse their steady destruction. They would make "Big Sugar" responsible for its willful pollution of one of the world's most remarkable ecosystems., and one of Florida's most critical sources of water and recreation.

Florida's citizens, as a rule, seem to be in favor of making polluters pay for their environmental destruction by:

➤ Paying a penny-a-pound fee on raw sugar to fund Everglades clean up and restoration.

➤ Creating a trust fund to Save the Everglades before they die, but the powerful sugar industry is waging a massive television campaign to defeat the initiatives. "Big Sugar" has already spent \$15 million on paid media, and has vowed to spend up to \$100,000,000 in all to preserve their "right to pollute".

This is a crucial moment in our history. Will polluters be held responsible for destroying wildlife and natural resources? Will the Everglades and creatures like the Florida Panther survive into the next century? Will a greedy industry be allowed to distort the truth and thwart the will of the people?

As Marjory Stoneman Douglas said almost 50 years ago, "There are no other Everglades in the world." Without our help, there soon may be no Everglades at all. All of us must do our part!

**Get to the polls and vote on
Nov. 5th and vote "yes" on
Amendments 4, 5 & 6.**

**Join Audubon
Today!**

Receive a navy Blue Backpack, Free! Starting dues are only \$20.00 for 1 yr (43% off the Basic rate) Call Jeannie Riley today.

PH. NO. 767-9803

She will send you a special application blank

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Carlton M. Smith, Editor

542 S. Levee Ave.

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AUDUBON ADVENTURES



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

As you read this, perhaps some fifth graders in the Halifax area are opening their "Audubon Adventures" for the first time this school year. This year a complete package will arrive all at once. Instead of receiving bi-monthly mailings as before, the teachers, therefore, can choose when to use each topic with the class. They are: (1) Animal Communications, more than meets the

eyes and ears. (2) Marine Mammals, an Evolutionary Emigration. (3) Snakes, life styles of the thin and squamous. (4) Pondering Pond Life. (5) Songbirds, avian rites of spring. 6. Wildflowers, late bloomers.

The package also contains, besides the 32 copies of each issue, a new Teacher's Guide, a Special Issue and a poster.

last year, 36 classes were enrolled. This year, there are 52. Each class subscription costs \$35. Your help with this very successful project is very much appreciated. So again, we remind you that your check, made payable to Halifax River Audubon Society, sent to Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach, 32114, will be much appreciated. - Glade

The Pelican

Newsletter of the
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National and Florida Audubon Societies

We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers
November 1996

The Prez Sez

I wish to thank all of our members and guests who attended the October 21st general meeting. I was impressed. We had an interesting program supplemented by our refreshment committee. All agreed that it was super.

There was only one comment re our request that you call and tell us your ideas or make suggestions as to the meetings. I guess that we are going the right way.

By now the elections are over. Radio, TV and news items are gone. Good bye! Soon the holidays will arrive and each of our cities and their residents will strive to add to the holiday spirit.

However, it is time for the "Snowbirds." Should you see any or know of any, bring them to our November meeting. We want them to feel at home.

Make someone happy this Thanksgiving with a letter, card or telephone call. They will be thankful

**Next Members Meeting,
7:00 PM, Nov. 18th
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Refreshments to be
served by Mary Lou Weiner
and Marie Oglesby
Youall come, you Hear.**

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

Many Thanks to Pat Halliday

You may well remember several general meeting programs featuring photographer Pat Halliday's wonderful bird slide collection. Last Spring Pat gave the HRAS slide library slides that she culled from her collection as she built it over the years. We then chose from her rejects additions to our collection and there were many "keepers".

Dave Hartgrove and I prepared the October general meeting's brief bird identification exercise from her new slides. At November's board meeting, delight in these slides was very freely expressed.

We will have many more "keepers" from Pat's camera in the future.

Thank you, Pat

Thanks also to Jean Riley who helped pick and choose our new "keepers".

Hot Line News

Upon checking with Mary Keller, the "Bird Lady" who cares for injured birds, the following are some of her needs:

Heating pads, Towels, Cotton blankets, Bandages, gauze
Self-adhesive tape, Plastic gloves

Perhaps you may be able to donate some of these items. If so, bring them to our next general meeting, or bring them along on our next field trip. - Thanks

(Editors Note: The ECVF newsletter this month so clearly states the recent environmental successes and defeats that it is printed herein verbatim - CMS)

"The Rivers" hits snag.

On November 6th the Ormond Beach City Commission voted 5-0 to deny Bellemead Development Corporation's request for a ten-fold increase in housing density on a 76 acre parcel abutting the Tomoka Geo Park. In June, the commissioners had avoided a final decision by transmitting the proposal to the Department of Community Affairs for comment. The DCA, like the City planning Staff, recognized multiplying the number of houses with their concomitant lawns and paved areas would have adverse impacts on the adjacent wetlands and wildlife corridor. The Bellemead property juts into the Tomoka Basin wildlife and conservation corridor that was acquired by the public at the expense of millions of dollars and enormous effort. Whether the unanimous was due to the fiscal and environmental facts of the matter or the number of citizen's protests, the commissioners' stand for the public interest deserves congratulations and support.

(Continued on Pg. 3)

*HAVE A
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING*

**H.R.A.S.
Officers & Boards
1995-96**

President John Williams
255-8631
1st V. President Angelo Cerrito
767-5397
2nd V. President Bill Francis
672-6897
Rcrd'g Secretary Marie Oglesby
767-5553
Mbrshp Sec'y Jeannie Riley
767-9803
Treasurer Morrell Robinson
760-8480
Historian -----

Members at Large

Carlton Smith 253-3815
George Potee, Jr. 255-7253
Audrey Christie 252-0466,
Roy Stevenson 673-1838
Conservation Chr David Hartgrove
788-2630
Education Chr Glade Koch
253-8438
Refreshments Chr Lois Robinson
760-8480
Field Trips Roy Stevenson
& Glade Koch

Hot Lines

Bird Welfare Roy Stevenson
673-1838
Injured Birds Mary Keller
252-2794
Newsletter Editor Carlton Smith



**Field
Trips
1996-97
Season**

Glade Koch

• Saturday, November 16th. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Preserve. A favorite bird trip for fall, winter or spring is this USFWS reserve, where zoology students conduct study projects for university credit. Reptiles and birds are abundant. We'll look for rails. Hope you will also have time for a picnic lunch with us. - Glade Koch, leader.

• Saturday December 7th - Glade Koch and Jean Riley will lead us around the Black Point Observation Loop at Merrit Island National Wildlife Preserve. We hope for a good representation of wintering waterfowl. Bring lunch if you will be able to stay beyond 12:00 noon.

• Saturday, January 4th - Christmas Bird Count. See Dave Hartgrove's piece, this issue.

Please remember that all our trips will leave from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach at 8:00 A.M. (except those so noted) on the dates listed. Cars not needed for the trip may be parked at the starting point. Those who do not drive are given the opportunity to share the cost of transportation with those whose cars are used. The suggested contribution is \$4.00.

**H.R.A.S.
Christmas Bird Count
To Begin Again**

- David Hartgrove

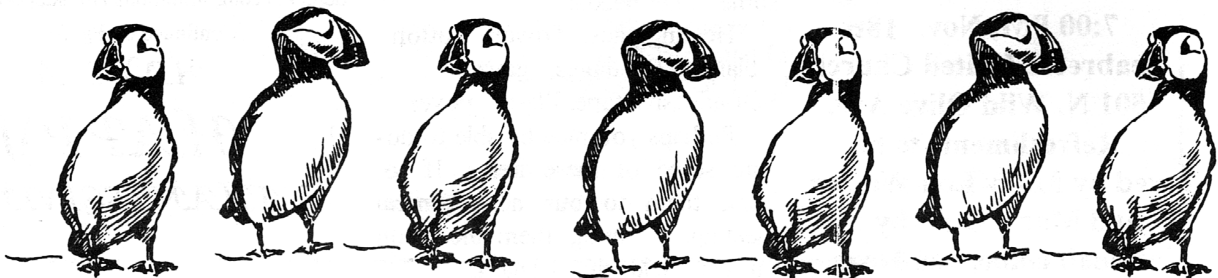
December 28, 1967, was a damp and blustery day. Eighteen members of Halifax River Audubon Society set out that morning to conduct what was to be the last Christmas Bird Count in the Daytona Beach area until now. On January 4th, 1997, we will have the first CBC in this area in 29 years.

More information will be available at the November and December general meetings. There is no better way to spend a day than out in the field looking for birds. Back in 1967 a total of 107 species were seen. From 13 Horned Grebes to various numbers of Savannah Vesper, White Throated and Song Sparrows. These sparrows are becoming much harder to see as their numbers decline.

I hope that you will plan to participate. The more eyes and ears we have, the more birds we will find,

We will work in a circle 15 miles in diameter whose center will be the intersection of Nova Road and Eighth Street in Holly Hill. This was the area covered by that last count and it seems fitting that we pick up where our predecessors left off.

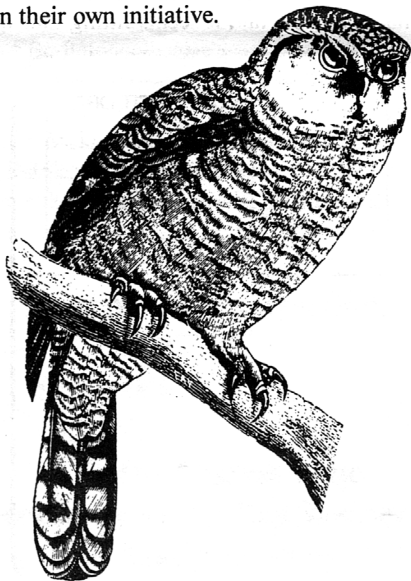
Unlike our more relaxed field trips, this will be a dawn to dusk outing with assigned areas covered more carefully. CBC's around the country provide some of the most reliable and important data documenting the status of bird populations.



sea turtles who nest on our Atlantic shore because the deaths would be merely incidental to an essential enterprise -- driving automobiles in the sand. The endangered Sea Species Act lawsuit against the County previously scheduled for December 1st is expected to be dismissed by Middle District Federal Judge Anne Conway as moot: the County's violations will no longer be against the law because the Fish and Wildlife Service's changes the law. The human plaintiffs in the lawsuit appear poised to take the next step of suing the Fish and Wildlife Service for its disregard of the Act.

VOTERS VETO MEANS FOR EVERGLADES RESCUE

By huge majorities, Florida voters approved constitutional amendments expressing a desire to clean up the Everglades but defeated Amendment #4, the Penny-a-pound fee on cane sugar proposal. The outcomes means that the people want to "make the polluter pay," although it is not known with what, and to establish a Trust Fund for Everglades restoration, without providing anything to deposit in the fund. By additionally improving Amendment 1, the "tax cap" provision, the voters substantially curtailed a constitutional right that had been reserved to the people, citizens' power to pass laws on their own initiative.



What good is a Wetland?

Florida Panthers - Less than 60 of them left in the Everglades

The Florida Panther is in danger of becoming extinct. Its habitat keep getting smaller and smaller. Less than 60 adult panthers are believed to be living in the subtropical swamps and forest land of southern Florida, the land known as the Everglades.

Now the U.S. Postal Service is helping to raise awareness of the plight of the panther and 14 other endangered species by issuing the first set of photographic stamps - The endangered Species Collection. Call 1 800 stamp-24 for info.

Contrary to popular belief, healthy wetlands are not major breeders of pests or reservoirs of disease. In fact, wetlands are essential to our lives and to our economy.

They purify our drinking water, protect us from floods and help support fish, waterfowl and other wildlife. Wetlands also provide a sense of wonder.

While we like to think that we protect wetlands by law, we really don't. We've destroyed more than half of our original supply of wetlands, and we are destroying them still.

Where wetlands have been created by engineers as compensation for the destruction of natural wetlands elsewhere, they have largely been an excuse for business as usual.

Wetlands are 'good' in ways that can not be quantified or even communicated unless you already understand. A wetland should be more than just protected. It should be visited often and long.

Healthy wetlands are more eloquent than any human, and their goodness is there for anyone who wishes to know it. A wetland should be more than just protected. It should be visited often and long. It should be paid attention to..

Excerpted from an article in *AUDUBON* magazine November /December 1996 issue. -cms

Destroyed Road to be rerouted.

Gulf Islands resources to benefit from realignment

For nearly a year, National Park Service officials have worked to restore Highway 399, the hurricane-damaged road that cuts through Santa Rosa Island, part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Now a dispute over relocating the road has finally been resolved.

When Hurricane Opal thrashed through the seashore last October, demolishing the highway, the Park's resource management team and NPCA and other groups immediately saw an opportunity. The original road had been laid straight as an arrow close to the primary dune line, preventing the natural development of secondary dunes, which help to protect the island from severe storm surges. Because the road had to be rebuilt anyway, the groups contended that it ought to be pulled back from the shore and made curvier to promote secondary dunes and provide wildlife habitat.

The park officials initially sought to rebuild the road along the original route. But information developed by the resource management team and the grass roots efforts NPCA and other conservationists finally turned the tide.

Four areas of the road will be realigned and three of the four relocations will have parking lots (to prevent roadside parking). For the fourth area they are simply moving the road to get it away from the beach. Now the primary dune line will be intact in many areas and be much better able to withstand hurricanes.

Areas where the original route was maintained are already showing their fragility. In one location, a small lake of water trapped between the dunes and the road has inundated nests of endangered loggerhead turtles.

The road should be reconstructed by next October. Over the next year, NPCA will work with the park to encourage habitat restoration and the construction of walkways to the beach. - Excerpted from *National Parks* magazine Sept/Oct 1996.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

NOVEMBER 29TH

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



The topics for 1996-97 are:

- **Wildflowers**
- **Animal Communications**
- **Marine Mammals • Snakes**
- **Songbirds • Pondlife**

Call us toll free if you have any questions about the Audubon Adventures program:

1-800-813-5037

Choose one:

- \$15.00 Individual Student
- \$35.00 Classroom of 32

Benefits:

- A **Teacher's Resource Manual** and six separate editions of the **Audubon Adventures** student newspaper all packaged into one compact storage container.
- A parchment classroom certificate suitable for framing.
- How to set up a classroom nature center and bird feeding station.
- A toll-free-hotline for assistance and referrals to Audubon chapters and environmental educators.
- Through your local chapter, notification of upcoming field trips and informative monthly meetings in your area.
- Special membership opportunities with an educator's discount.
- Invitations to the Audubon Ecology Workshops for Educators and other special events.

Do you know of a child or a class that would like to have *AUDUBON ADVENTURES*? Consider the offer above.

The HRAS Board is deeply committed to providing the program to every classroom that will use it. We think there is no better way to get the young folks of today involved in this National Audubon Program.

We are also aware that this very

fine environmental education program is being reviewed. for improved effectiveness. and it's cost will probably go up next year. Enrollments by teachers for "Adventures" this year have seen a great jump over last year's. We are indeed pleased! However a hole in our financial picture has been created by this "jump". We are studying together how to keep up with it in the future.

We want to be ready for this future greater enrollment.

This years Teacher's Guide has already been greatly upgraded. Please come to our November meeting and see the new packets for children, teachers or parents.

One way you can help the program, of course, is to make out a check for \$35 or any amount that is suitable to you, to Halifax River Audubon Society and mail it to Glade Koch, Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Cir., Daytona Bch FL 32114

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Daytona Beach FL 32114 -3943

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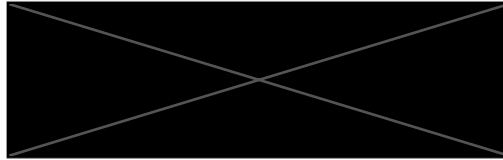
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AUDUBON ADVENTURES

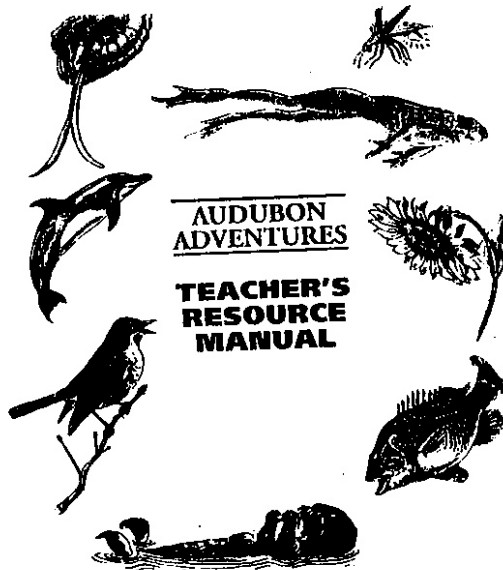


Fundamental Environment Concepts

At November's general meeting we had on display the Audubon Adventures teacher's Resource Manual. This school year 52 classes in the Halifax Area have been provided the Audubon Adventures kit by you members. We would like to share with you what we are learning about the new manual. We are very pleased with it and hope the subscribing teachers are also.

Participating teachers and pupils will have an opportunity to:

1. Develop an understanding of biodiversity and adaptations of organisms.
2. Give examples of ways people interact with and depend upon the environment.
3. Create drawings, charts, or stories that illustrate how people and other animals and plants live in



interactive and interdependent communities.

4. Identify a variety of short and long term changes in the environment and the causes of these changes.

5. Identify and explain the important elements of a habitat and name several kinds of habitats.

We look forward to a showcasing in future *Pelicans* some of the learning experiences provided in the new manual.

Financial support for this chapter project is still needed because response by teachers has been so great. Your check to the Halifax River Audubon Society (H.R.A.S.) sent to Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114 will be greatly appreciated.

Remember our slogan, "We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers." This is an excellent time to play Santa Claus to the next generation and for generations to come. Let your generosity now, show positive effects during future times in which we can not now see.

*Thank you,
Glade*