

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 1997

The Prez Sez

Happy New Year (1997) to all!

This new year began better than most for me as it was enjoyed by so many of you. The delay of the annual Audubon Bird count afforded me the opportunity to join in a new experience. I believe that life is a series of challenges and experiences. The more than you can cram into your life the more you have made it worthwhile.

Gathered in the pre-dawn foggy misty morning were all our bird count volunteers. Our leaders, Dave Hartgrove and Glade Koch, had maps and plans ready for our venture, or sortie. We were ready, good spirits, and even the weather cooperated.

My companion, Roy Stevenson, with his keen ear for bird calls - field glasses at the ready persistent command. "Look over there. Do you see what I'm seeing? How many? I know what they are, do you?"

Time passes so quickly. Although it will be some time before the complete count will be tabulated and you receive the results. Maybe you'll say to yourself, "I wish I had gone" and I'll say to myself, "I'm glad I went."

John Williams

Next Membership Meeting

7:00 P.M., February 17th
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Daytona Beach

Refreshments by
Karen Bryant
& Shirley Lane

Sharing the Prize

(Editors note: Jeannie Riley won the December door prize, a suet-feeder, and in turn presented it to her daughter in Grove City, Oh., after which she received this E-Mail letter.

Subj: Ccccoo!!!ldddd Brdng
Brrrr...Guess wot-I hung the suet-feeder you gave me on the extra hook in the backyard. About 20 minutes later, there was a female downey woodpecker pecking away-cool,huh? Tell the person(s) who gave that to you that I really appreciate it-The first Downey in my backyard. Also , female Cardinal and 2 Bluejays - they flew off with some peanuts I put out for them. Also, a BRIGHT red male cardinal in Jan's yard!

Christmas Bird Count

1996/97

by David Hartgrove

A damp and chilly fog greeted the 27 birders who turned out to participate in the first Daytona Beach CBCn 29 years. We assembled in the parking lot of the Publix at SR 40 and Williamson Blvd. at 6:00 AM, Saturday, January 4th. After some last minute exchanges of information we broke up into four pre-selected teams and began a long fun-filled day.

When the last CBC in this area was held in 1967, the center of the 15 mile diameter circle was at Nova Rd. and Eighth St. in Holly Hill. Since that time the Ponce Inlet CBC was started and its boundary overlapped the old Daytona CBC by several miles. In order to prevent that, we moved the center of our area to I-95 and the Tomoka River. This area encompasses a variety of habitats and therefore lots of different species of birds.

After spending the day in the field we reassembled at the Hooligan's Pub in Ormond Beach to compile information and enjoy a meal together. Unfortunately the place was jammed with Jacksonville Jaguar fans and their "exuberance" made polite conversation impossible. Next year we will try to arrange a pot luck supper in a more sedate location.

The teams counted a total of 99 species and 10,611 birds.

A list of the participants follows: Pat Anderson, Kathy Bernard, Allen Boshen, Marie Brocciale, Willie Burns, John and Fran Carr, Larry Griffin, Ruth Harding, David Hartgrove, Bill Hoppes, John & Ruth Hough, (Continued on page 4.)

Field Trips

by Glade Koch

All trips (except those otherwise noted) will leave from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach, promptly at 8:AM.

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.

Friday, February 7th, Volusia County Landfill, Tomoka Farms Road. Rd. Many of us find the facility to be well run and fascinating with great numbers of gulls, raptors (especially eagles) and waders. You may want to stop at a great hot dog stand with us for lunch, or bring your own if you had rather. David Hartgrove is the leader and Lois Pauchey leads the way to the hot dogs.

Saturday, February 22nd, Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas, FL. A special guided walk to be lead by park personnel to view a large man-made wetlands which lists 90 bird species and many animals. Glade Koch is leader. Lunch will be at the park shelter. We will depart City Island at 7:45 instead of 8:00 A.M.

Friday, March 7th - annual tour of the DeLand area, to find the red-headed woodpecker, Sandhill cranes, and other migrating birds. Dave Hartgrove will be the leader. Bring Lunch.

Friday, March 21st - Nature Trail Walks at Gamble Place on Spruce Creek with Georgia Zern. We should see warblers and other

colorful spring birds and plants. Carlton Smith, if he is along, may even point out the old oak tree from which he and others used to dive into the creek. We'll bring lunch to eat on the property. Note: There will be a \$2.00 fee for this trip.

Saturday, April 5th, Jean Riley will combine Sugar Mill Gardens with Museum of Arts and Sciences walk (Window on the Forest). Lunch will be in the museum Outdoor Theater. Expect to see colorful birds and hear their songs. There will be a \$1. charge for this trip.

Saturday April 26th, Annual St. John's River Cruise with Capt. Bob Hopkins out of Sanford. Cost, \$9.00. Glade Koch and Ror Stevenson, leaders. Lunch at the dock, if you like, is not expensive and very good. We have reserved 30 passenger spaces. Please call your reservations to Glade at 253-8438. We leave at 7:30 instead of 8:00 in order to see more birds.

Saturday, May 3rd, St. Augustine Alligator Farm. Admission is \$10.95. Wonderful photo opportunities for nesting waders! The boardwalk puts us really close up. Call Glade for information.

Saturday May 10, Migratory Bird Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave Hartgrove is leader. We will cover Volusia County and need your help. It will not be as hard a day as the Christmas Bird Count. (See article by David Hartgrove, this issue.)

Saturday May 17th, Lois Pauchey will lead us to Ocala National Forest's nesting holes of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. This will also be a chance to tour this beautiful portion of the U.S. Public lands. Bring Lunch!

The Ten Commandments for Birdwatchers

Marylou Weiner

1. Be Prompt.
2. Wear comfortable but natural color clothing (khaki, navy, dark green), avoid white. Don't wear noisy jewelry.
3. Bring binoc's you are comfortable with, and maybe a field guide also.
4. Children under ten and pets are best left home.
5. Always stay behind the leader.
6. Try to stay together as a group and keep chit chat to a minimum.
7. Close any gates you open and always ask permission before going onto private land.
8. Take nothing but photographs and memories and leave nothing behind but footprints.
9. Help others in locating a siting.
10. Enjoy yourself and experience the wonder of the natural world around us.

"Wings over Florida" is the name of a new birding certificate by The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. The program is designed to help recreational birders to become more proficient in identification. Certificates are awarded for 4 levels for number of species recorded:

Chickadee - 50 thru 149, Frigatebird - 150 thru 249, Bunting - 250 thru 349, Caracara - 350 + -
Birding Projects Mgr., 620 S Meridian St., Tallahassee FL 32399

Envir-o-Notes

Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler Counties

A friend lost

T. J. Wetherell passed away in December. He was a long time resident of the Halifax area and an especially good friend to the ECVF. He worked hard in support of EC's original Eight-Point Program to restore the Halifax River and to require the removal of the Port Orange Causeway when the bridge was replaced in the 1980's. He was also a key figure in the establishment of the University of Central Florida's Walter and Betty Boardman Endowed Professorship. He will be greatly missed.

Shirley Owens honored

Shirley Owens (an active member of both HRAS and the Sierra Club) is the recipient of the League of Women Voters' 1996 Timima Littner Cohn award for "contributing significantly to the quality of life in Volusia County by serving as a leader in educating the public in the sound management of natural resources." She and her late husband Bob were early proponents of the St. John's River Water Management District's creation and of its land-buying preservation program. In his letter of support for her nomination, SJRWMD Executive Director Henry Dean stated that Shirley fondly considered "an adjunct member" of the WMD staff.

Year end victories

Thanks to all who worked hard to secure some environmental wins in December. The SJRWMD Board of Governors voted December 11th to publish its Spruce Creek/Tomoka River Basins Rule and on December 19th the Volusia the Volusia County Council unanimously disapproved rezoning a parcel within the North Peninsula State Recreation Area to allow home construction. Both issues face threatened legal challenges so continued vigilance is crucial to preserve these victories.

The Mud Flat Stories:

by Willie Burns

On one of our field trips to Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, we observed a cormorant with a problem. We had paused to eat lunch at one of the parking turnouts, and the cormorant was working the small canal in front of us.

His repeated dives into the murky water of the narrow canal were not very productive. After several dives that only resulted in catching one small fish, he finally managed to capture a fairly large one.

The fish was big enough that swallowing it gave him a dilemma. He struggled to turn it to a headfirst position, even dunking it into the water in his futile venture. It seemed that he had really failed when he dropped it into the water.

After four or five quick, frantic dives he was able to recapture the fish. Our bird, however, had learned from his mistakes. After only a few attempts at positioning the fish he swam to shore. With difficulty he waddled up the bank to the short grass at the edge of the road.

He then proceeded to use the ground to help turn his prey. The struggle soon changed to trying to swallow it. His relief was obvious.

As we drove away, he was squatting comfortably on the shoulder of the road. His wings were partially spread to dry his feathers in the sun. With his wings not fully open and his long beak drooping over his bulging tummy he was the picture of a tired but happy gourmand. It had been very hard work for a fish dinner.

Answer on Beach Driving flies in face of science

Editors note - For those of you who may have missed this letter to the editor in the News-Journal of Jan. 4th by our Conservation Chair David Hartgrove, it is copied herewith. - cms

In the Dec. 30 "Dear Desi" column a reader asked about restrictions on beach driving. The answer provided by the assistant county attorney was that "we have to provide for the wash-back of the hatchlings in November and December ..." and we have two endangered species of birds that nest on and near the beach during the winter and spring months., the piping plover and the least tern. "

This answer is graphic proof that the folks seeking to further restrict beach driving aren't about to quit now and pesky things like scientific facts aren't going to stand in their way.

Any recent turtle hatchlings that wash ashore are struggling desperately to get back into the water. They do not lie around on the beach for several days R&R before returning to their only food source.

Piping plovers are one of the rarest birds in North America. But they do not nest on the beaches of Volusia County. In fact, they probably never have nested here. A few do winter in the area, and it's a lucky person who sees one.

Least terns begin nesting in April, but not on our beaches. Having adapted to human encroachment, they now rest on flat rooftops. River Point apartments on South Beach Street host the largest local colony. There have also been groups nesting atop City Island Library, Walgreens at Beville Road and Clyde Morris Boulevard and the Jail on Indian Lake Road. They winter in Brazil.

The Endangered Species Act is an invaluable tool in providing protection for threatened wildlife. If anything, it should be strengthened. Here, it is being cynically used to attain a desired result while giving politicians cover from irate voters.

DAVID HARTGROVE
Daytona Beach

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
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H.R.A.S.

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1996-97

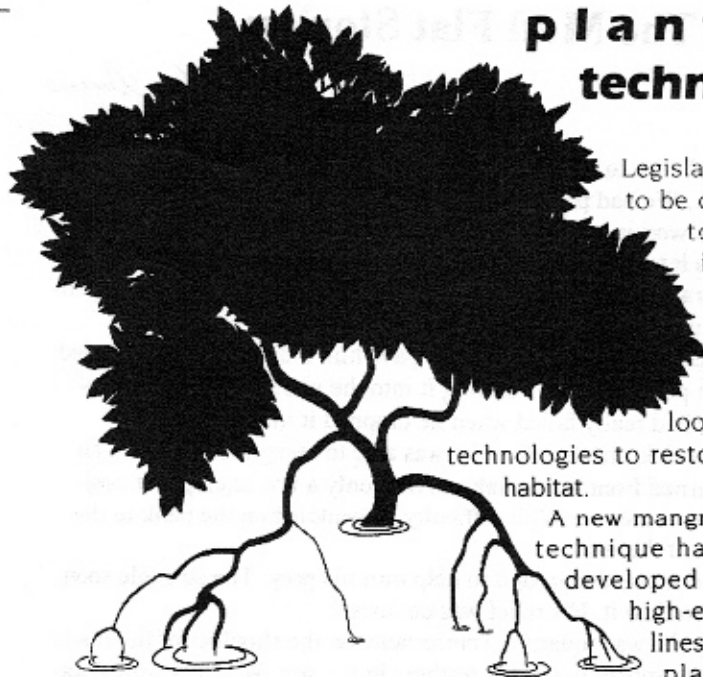
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- Members at Large**
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- Audrey Christie 255-7253
- Roy Stevenson 252-0466, 673-838
- Conservation Chr David Hartgrove 788-2630
- Education Chr Glade Koch 253-8438
- Refreshments Chr Lois Robinson 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 253-3815

Christmas Bird Count (Continued from page one)

Glade Koch, Jack Lahart, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Jan Petito, Morrell and Lois Robinson, Mary Jean Rogers, Barbara Samler, Eugene Speck, Roy Stevenson, Debbie Thomas, Jeri Wiley, and John Williams.

Many thanks to the folks from Flagler, South East Volusia, and West Volusia Audubon Societies who traveled here to join us and a special thanks to team leaders Larry Griffin, Glade Koch and Gerri Peevers.

Citizen perfects new mangrove planting technique



While the Legislature appears to be offering relief to citizens interested in pruning mangroves, some citizens are looking for new technologies to restore this vital habitat.

A new mangrove-planting technique has now been developed for use on high-energy shorelines where newly planted mangroves have traditionally washed away.

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March 1997

The

Prez Sez

Springtime is here! We have all been enjoying our visitors from the south. The Robins, hundreds, maybe even thousands of them are passing through on their annual trip north. They are a remarkable adaptable species. Their early morning songs and their flights from treetop to treetop has been a sign of spring. Other signs of springtime all around, budding trees, wildflowers and lawn weeds. The robins are so busy searching our lawns, taking every berry they can find from certain trees. Watching their antics in the birdbath, causing me to make refill after refill, is rewarding. They drink from their own bathwater. They drink and wade at roadside puddles left by the rain. I wish them a safe trip and look forward to seeing them again in Nova Scotia where they seem to stay longer than they do here.

Aside from that, I wish to thank Big John for donating our February door prize. Also thanks to Ben Savagno of the Main Street merchants for the donation to our Audubon Adventures. We welcome having merchants support us. Again, our thanks.

John Williams

BOARDMAN POND OBSERVATION PLATFORM
a "Window to Wildlife" at Bulow Creek State Park



Ranger Charles Dutoit of the Fla. Park Services was our speaker for the February 17th meeting. His presentation, on the need for the building of the Boardman Pond Observation Platform, was more than excellent. It inspired the presenting by our Conservation Chair David Hartgrove to the HRAS Board of Directors of the following resolution.

The following PROCLAMATION, PROPOSAL AND MOTION

was presented at the HRAS Board of Directors meeting on February 24th and was passed unanimously.

- WHEREAS: Dr. Walter Boardman long held the position of Conservation Chair of the Halifax River Audubon Society, and
- WHEREAS: His long and hard fought battle to save from development, the area now known as "Boardman Pond" in the Tomoka Basin GeoPark was successful in part because of his association with this organization, and
- WHEREAS: An effort is being mounted to enhance access to this rich birding habitat by constructing a platform and foot trail, and
- WHEREAS: This worthwhile endeavor finds itself in need of donations to see it through to completion,
- THEREFORE: Be it here resolved that Halifax River Audubon Society shall, forthwith, make a donation in the sum of five hundred dollars to the "Help Save Our Park" committee for the express purpose of completing the project and that the donation be made in the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Boardman and our recently departed, long time historian, Harold Nett.

S/ David Hartgrove

**H.R.A.S.
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President	John Williams	255-8631
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Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

**Next
Membership Meeting**

**7:00 P.M.,
February 17th
Seabreeze United
Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Daytona Beach
Refreshments by
Shirley Owens &
Rose Cooney**

Field Trips

by Glade Koch

What a beautiful day February 22nd was! Our group of birders (three carloads) who walked the dikes at Orlando Wetlands Park enjoyed. In addition to 51 species of birds, 17 alligators and many turtles were seen sunning themselves. We were impressed by the abundance of marsh birds and raptors in this beautiful 16,00 acres of prime habitat. The marsh vegetation management of this unique wildlife sink polishes over 13 million gallons of Orlando's effluent daily.

The park's very knowledgeable guide, Dot Freeman, with her enthusiasm, knowledge and skill, made this an even richer hunt. What a treat for city dwellers! If you missed this trip, we hope you make it the next time it is scheduled.

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"Wild Wings: Headed South " now Head North

In November of 1996, hundreds of thousands of students in over 1,000 schools, 650 in North America and 350 in the United Kingdom, took part in three days of live electronic field trips for "WildWings: Headed South." The world's first live, transatlantic, natural history broadcast, "Wild Wings" brought students face to face with the awe-inspiring spectacle of the migrations of thousands of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, and Whooper and Bewick's Swans. The National Audubon Society (NAS) broadcast also introduced budding naturalists to ten special Snow Geese, tagged with radio satellite collars by Dr. John Takekawa and colleagues with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Now, these students and thousands of others around the globe will be able to learn more about the mysteries of migration as "WildWings: Headed North" follows the ten geese on their return journey north, beginning March 10.

This next chapter is an exciting and educational natural history odyssey that makes migration come alive for students through an interactive website, posters, curriculum and videotapes, available through the NAS Communication and Education Group.

"Wild Wings: Headed North" will now make it possible for students in Audubon classrooms to accurately chart the progress of the Snow Geese via satellite technology. Each goose's movements will be posted on individual satellite maps, available on the "Headed-North" website, updated twice each

week," said Sandy Cheiten, NAS Project Coordinator. "Students will not only see exactly where each of the geese is going, but they'll also be able to share their own observations of migrations in their area with the thousands of other students taking part in "Wild Wings" via the internet."

Each class will take part in discussions and lessons prompted by observations and questions from U.S. Geological Survey Field Biologist Dr. John Takekawa and California Audubon's Research Director, Dr. Mini Nagendran, who will file reports on the website's "Field Biologist's Journal" section several times every week. Classrooms met John in November during the process of collaring the Snow Geese. Students will learn firsthand what its like to track these wonderful birds and why it is important.

Students will also learn about the effects of weather on migration, learn about cultural landmarks on the route of the migrating Snow-Geese and be asked to make predictions about the progress of the birds based on weather and other factors.

"This is the first time students can see what we are learning about-migration as it happens," explained Dr. Takekawa. "By tracking the Snow Geese with us during this USGS Biological Research Division project.

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. It is supported by 550,000 members in 518 chapters nationwide.

Our Neighbors speak out

These conservation notes are taken from Lee Bidgoods column in the Feb. issue of "The Skimmer," newsletter of the SE Volusia Audubon Society.

Scientists of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) have observed in the past century that storms have become more severe in North America, South Africa and Australia - as predicted by global warming models. Standard 100 year storms are becoming more frequent than every hundred years. In between storms, droughts are more severe. - - -

Sea level lags behind weather changes as the vast oceans warm up and expand, augmented by glaciers now melting worldwide. Florida's low-elevation coastlines make it the most vulnerable of states, well-understood by property insurers, but denied by most Florida politicians who fear that by admitting the threat of rising seas and more violent storms would depreciate property values - their own or that of their constituents. This unexpressed conspiracy of silence may doom future Floridians to flooded, storm-torn coastlines. It's up to grassroots activists to insist on energy conservation and renewable energy development, locally and nationally. Otherwise the Everglades will be lost to a rising sea, whether it's polluted or not.

Environmentalists are often criticized as fear-mongering extremists when they object to plutonium being launched into space, whether as the power plant for a space probe exploring the far reaches of our solar system or as part of the Star Wars notion of orbiting giant laser machines to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles.

Plutonium is one of the most toxic elements ever discovered. A pound of it, equally distributed in the earth's lower atmosphere, is enough to give lung cancer to everyone on earth.

There are some 33 derelict Russian satellites leaking radio active coolant in a "parking" orbit 600 miles above the earth.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
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AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Recent responses of 5th grade teachers to our Audubon Adventures (AA) questionnaire have been arriving. Here are some comments:

"The topics this year correlated beautifully with the curriculum."

"Our class liked very much the issues on fish and bird migration."

"Issues helped prepare pupils for the science aspect of the Iowa performance (Standardized test)."

"The Resource Book is quite beneficial."

Teachers are requesting us to subscribe for them in 1997-98. If you would like to help HRAS to provide AA to these fifth grade classes, you may make your check to H.R.A.S. and send it to Glade Koch, H.R.A.S. Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114. The subscription cost this year is \$35 per class. However, your check in any amount will be very gratefully received.

Please feel free to call me anytime at 253-8478.

Glade

Bird Rehab Supplies Needed

Mary Keller can use any of the following supplies in her bird rehabilitation project. Baby bird season is fast approaching and she wants to be ready!

■ Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Hand Feeding Formula

■ Old towels and wash cloths

■ Paper towels, white only (dye sometimes fades onto birds)

■ Small plastic berry baskets (like strawberries come in). These are used to make individual nests and put in incubators.

■ Heating pads

■ Surgical Gauze (gauze in box)

■ Small finger mullet, fresh or frozen

■ Small cans of cat food (any brand, any flavor) Birds do better on cat food than dog food.

■ "Stick to Self Only" tape. (Regular tape is very hard to get off bird feathers or skin)

■ Large ceiling fan for bird room.

■ Small oxygen tank with gauges for birds with respiratory problems

If you can furnish any of these items, you may take them to the meeting on Monday, March 17th or call Marie Oglesby (767-5553) who will be glad to pick them up and take to Mrs. Keller.

SPECIAL!

We are planning a picnic at Angelo's for April. Come to our Mar. 17th meeting or watch next month's Pelican for details, date, time, etc.

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The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

We, the Halifax River Audubon Society have such a short season, October through March, that perhaps we should add at least another month to our meeting schedule. This, however, would necessitate a change in our by-laws. I would like for you, if you will, to notify me or any member of the board, whose name and phone numbers are listed on page two of this newsletter, of your feelings in the matter. Perhaps next season we can get the necessary action to accomplish this.

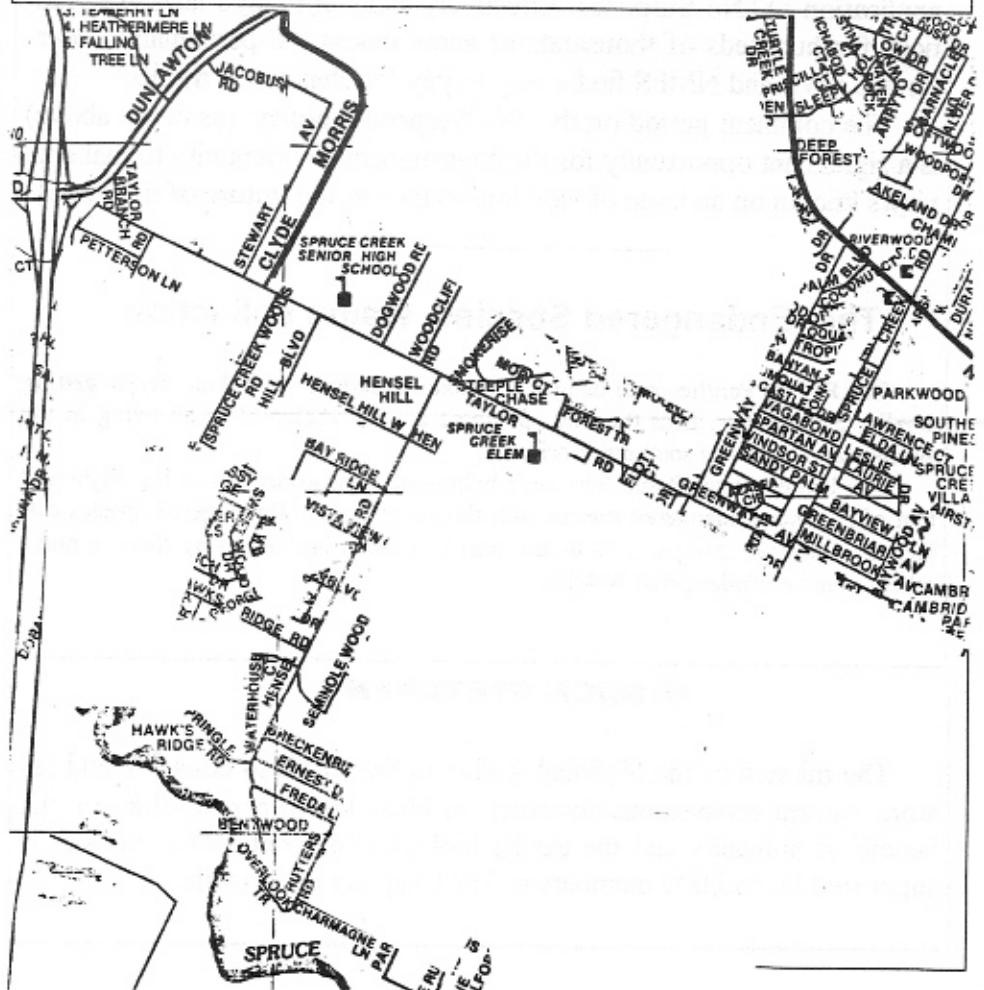
Using only their first names, I would like to thank them for their devotion to our chapter: First is Carlton for our newsletter; Angelo and Bill for their committee work; Marie - outstanding as Secretary; Jeannie for her Membership activities; Morrell as Treasurer and his wife Lois with her assistants providing you with a table of treats; Great praise must go to Glade with Education and Field trips., each which should be a full time job but she takes care of both extremely well; David is in a class by himself as Conservation Chair; we then have our new Historian followed closely by Audrey and Pat who do masterful jobs in any task they are called upon to perform; Mary K. who is well known throughout the Halifax area for her care of injured birds; and finally, our leader for many, many years - Roy Stevenson. I extend to them your and my heartfelt thanks.

I hope to see you at Angelo's picnic.

Picnic at Angelo's

All Auduboners invited
Saturday, April 19th, 1:00 pm
6065 Hensel Rd., Port Orange, (see map below)

Now is the time for all birders, experts or neophytes, to meet and eat. Meat to be provided, bring a side dish, salad, vegetable, dessert, drinks, or anything else desired. Some chairs available but bring your own if you like. There are usually a fair number of birds in the area as Angelo's property is very near to Spruce Creek. **Hope to see you there!**



From National Audubon Society via E-Mail 3/28/97

"No Surprises" policy challenged

Last week the federal government settled a lawsuit that challenged the Administration's "No Surprise" policy. As a part of the settlement, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NMFS have agreed to put this policy out for notice and comment for the first time since August 1994. (According to it,) the Services must publish a notice in the Federal Register within 60 days; the public will then have 60 days to submit written comments about the policy.

The "No Surprises" policy assures a landowner who holds an Incidental Take Permit that no additional land use restrictions or other financial obligations will be required for the conservation of a species covered by a properly functioning Habitat Conservation Plan. If "extraordinary circumstances" arise, and the unpredictability of natural systems assures that they will, the primary financial responsibility for making any needed changes rests with the federal government--the permit holder will not be required to commit additional funds or land or submit to additional restrictions on land development.

Since this policy was announced, hundreds of HCPs have been negotiated and/or approved--the majority include "No Surprises" assurances. A growing number of these plans are very large--covering thousands of acres--and may last for as many as 100 years. This broad application of "No Surprises" effectively locks in today's land use practices for hundreds of thousands of acres unless the perennially underfunded FWS and NMFS find a way to pay for changes as needed.

The comment period on the "No Surprises" policy (as noted above) is a significant opportunity for the environmental community to make its views known on an issue of vital importance to the future of the ESA.

The Endangered Species stamp collection

The Florida Panther is in danger of becoming extinct. Its habitat keeps getting smaller and smaller. Less than 60 panthers are now believed to be living in the swamps and forests of southern Florida.

The United States Postal Service is helping to raise awareness of its plight and that of 14 other Endangered species with the issuing of the Endangered Species collection of postage stamps. Let's do our part by purchasing and using them to make others aware of Endangered Wildlife.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. The Society is supported by 550,000 members in 518 Chapters nationwide.

Save for reference

The following Names, addresses and phone numbers are offered for your information by our Conservation Chair David Hartgrove.

Re

Endangered Species Act -

Sen. Connie Mack
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515
Ph. (202) 224-5274

Sen. Bob Graham
524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515
Ph. (202) 224-3041

Re Wildlife Refuges Bill (HR 952)

Congresswoman Corrine Brown
1610 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington DC 20515
Ph. (202) 225-0123

Congresswoman Tillie Fowler
413 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515
Ph. (202) 225-2501

Congressman John Mica
336 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515
Ph. (202) 225-4035

For all pending legislation or policy

Dept. of the Interior
Secretary Bruce Babbitt
1840 "C" Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Ph. (202) 208-7351

Environmental Protection Agency

Carol Browner, Administrator
401 "M" Street
Washington DC 20460
Ph 202-260-4700

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Av
Washington DC 20500

H.R.A.S.

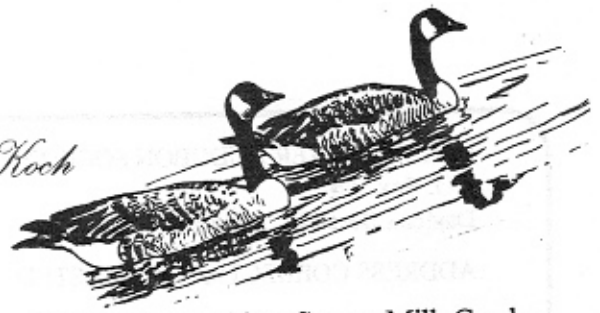
Officers & Boards

1996-97

President	John Williams	255-8631
1st V. President	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
2nd V. President	Bill Francis	72-6897
Past Pres.	Roy Stevenson	252-0466, 673 1838
Rcrd'g Secretary	Marie Oglesby	767-5553
Mbrshp Sec'y	Jeannie Riley	767-9803
Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	
Members at Large		
Carlton Smith		253-3815
Audrey Christie		255-7253
Pat Mihalic		
Conservation Chr	David Hartgrove	788-2630
Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
Hospitality 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

by Glade Koch



Saturday, April 5th, Jean Riley will combine Sugar Mill Gardens with Museum of Arts and Sciences walk (Window on the Forest). Lunch will be in the museum Outdoor Theater. Expect to see colorful birds and hear their songs. There will be a \$1. charge for this trip.

Saturday April 26th, Annual St. John's River Cruise with Capt. Bob Hopkins out of Sanford. Cost, \$9.00. Glade Koch and Roy Stevenson, leaders. Lunch at the dock, if you like, is not expensive and very good. We have reserved 30 passenger spaces. Please call your reservations to Glade at 253-8438. Note, We leave at 7:30 instead of 8:00.

Saturday, May 3rd, St. Augustine Alligator Farm. Admission is \$10.95. Wonderful photo opportunities for nesting waders! The boardwalk puts us really close up. Call Glade for information.

Saturday May 10, Migratory Bird Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave Hartgrove is leader. We will cover Volusia County and need your help.

Saturday May 17th, Lois Pauchey will lead us to Ocala National Forest's nesting holes of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. This will also be a chance to tour this portion of the U.S. Public lands. Bring Lunch!

All trips (except those otherwise noted) will leave from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach, promptly at 8:AM.

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.

Tid-Bits

Florence Waldman and Dorothy Weller took a ride over to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Reserve on Wednesday, March 26th.

In a tree, a short distance down trail from the entrance, they spotted a limpkin. After observing it for a time they continued further down the road and spotted another at water's edge with four young. This bird shortly took wing and flying past our two entranced observers and the one still in the tree, glided down to the water's edge, snatched something (probably a snail) therefrom, flew back and fed it to the immatures. Needless to say, Florence and Dorothy were quite excited. It made their day! *CMS*

Road kill being tabulated on the WWW at

<http://earth.simmons.edu/roadkill/roadkill.html>

This project which is coordinated by "Dr. Splatt" (aka) Brewster Bartlett a Science teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. is beginning its fifth year of operation. The project is designed to show the diversity of animals that are killed on highways and to bring about awareness of fragmented wildlife corridors in the participants community.

"Dr. Splatt's" site, Roadkill 97, is one of the Environet Monitoring Projects for 1997 which now include AtRain, BatNet, BirdWatch, CoyoteHowl, InsectWorld, Lichens, Insects, Plants, and WhaleNet, among others.

Note: The 1996 tab on Fla Key Deer recorded 100 Roadkill deaths.

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Audubon Adventures



Bird migration in full swing

Have you said something like this, this past week? "We saw black and white warblers and several Redstarts in the yard yesterday!" Turning to our latest issue of *Audubon Adventures* on migration, we find fifth graders in our area are probably reading the following migration facts.

American Redstarts, small red and black birds, migrate in flocks at night to nest in northern forests. We may see them during these days in parks and yards when they land to feed."

"Northern Harriers (Marsh Hawks) are leaving northern South America for their nesting territories in North America. In migration, they fly low over marshes hunting mice and birds. Small migrants who migrate during the night escape these hawks.

Some birds migrate only during the day, others fly at night. Many, during migration, fly only at night.

How do they keep from getting lost? They use the sun as a guide or chart their flight by the stars. Some use rivers and mountains as guide posts.

A strong magnetic field lies near the North Pole and birds may have an inner compass that keeps them pointed north. We still have a lot to learn as to how birds find their way. Some teachers are currently writing to us "Please sign us up again."

Would you like to help us fill their subscriptions? Your check made to HRAS (marked for Audubon Adventures) would do it. \$35.00 subscribes for one class. Any amount, however, will be greatly appreciated. Please mail it to Glade Koch (Education Chair) 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach 32114.

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 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

One of the most unlikely triumphs of park defenders last year was the stand-off we achieved with proponents of RS 2477, the so called "Roads Through Parks" law. Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and one of the fiercest supporters of RS 2477, has taken up the fight again, and we need your help right away to beat his challenge back..

S 2477 refers to one sentence in a Civil War-era law, long since repealed, that continues to offer park opponents an opportunity to claim road right-of-way through the heart of many western parks. Claims of right-of-way that were made before the law was repealed in the 1970's are still valid. And some western counties and states, in search of a way to take control of federal parkland, have seized on the law to cut swaths through many of our parks, particularly in Alaska and Utah. Senator Stevens' amendment would automatically give away these rights-of-way by deferring all decision-making to the states. Please call your senator, NOW!



DOUBLING OUR ENJOYMENT

Saturday, April 5th, nine HRAS Auduboners had a beautiful two mile walk at Spruce Creek Preserve. The 150 acres surround the historic Gamble Place and is managed through a cooperative agreement between the Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Florida Nature Conservancy.

Not only did Georgia Zern, Gamble Place Coordinator, guide us to the creek and its nearby low wetland forest, but also the preserve's sandy highland. We saw the results of Central Burning Management with its new carpet of Pink, white and yellow flowers and "teen-age pines".

Guide Georgia also helped us see a great deal of the three different Natural Habitats. She also pointed out gopher tortoise and armadillo homes, fox squirrel habitat, and many plants, both edible and non-edible. We saw Ospreys and Red-eyed Vireos.

We next drove into the City of Daytona Beach to the Museum of Arts and Sciences Nature Walk. There Georgia, still leading us, pointed out the contrasts between the area we had just been and the unique Coastal Hydric Hummock with its underlying limestone and high canopy of tall trees in Tusawilla Forest. We walked the Nature Trail to the Window in the Forest, a small arena where Georgia listed for us the unique plants present in the hummock and how it fits into the Florida scheme of nature.

We ate the lunches we had brought along and were very grateful to our guide for her knowledge, enthusiasm, cooperation and flexibility. Our thanks go to Georgia and her beautiful new spring trees, wild flowers, ferns and shrubs, and for the part that the Museum of Arts and Sciences has played in keeping a little bit of nature in mid Daytona Beach.

H.R.A.S.

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Audrey Christie	255-7253	
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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

Spring migration in full swing

Sightings at the C.M. Smith's feeders during the fourth week of April included: Indigo Buntings, Painted Buntings m&f, Indigo Buntings, Rose breasted Grosbeaks m&f, and American Redstarts m&f. Some of the same have been reported at Marie Oglesby's, John Williams and Jeannie Jeannie Riley's.

Field Trips

by Glade Koch

Spring Plumage on the River

On Saturday, April 26th, our HRAS group of 32 birders enjoyed an exciting morning of birding among the St Johns River marshes between State Roads 415 and 46. Skipper Hopkins skillfully maneuvered the River Cruise's craft among the floating islands of lillaceous plants (Water Lilly), huge patches of River Cane, and the river shoreline with a few islands thrown in for good measure

Our skipper was very knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of the area and knowing that our main interest was birds, spared no effort in pointing out and skillfully identifying the about 3 dozen species sighted. Among them were Bald Eagles, Limpkins, (adult and with chicks), Sandhill Cranes (some with chicks), Bobolinks, Gallinules (both common Moorhen and the glorious Purple), American Bittern, Barn Swallows, Parula Warblers, Red-wing Blackbirds, Common and Boat-tailed Grackles.(both nesting), fish crows, American Coots, Black-necked Stilts, a Spotted Sandpiper, Snipe, Mottled Ducks, Turkey and Black Vultures,

The rain held off until we were back at the dock.. A good number of our participants enjoyed having lunch at the dockside cafe. All in all, this was a grand outing.

Upcoming trips

Saturday May 10,

Migratory Bird Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave Hartgrove is to be leader. We will cover Volusia County and need your help.

Saturday May 17th, Lois Pauchey will lead us to Ocala National Forest's nesting holes of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. This will also be a chance to tour this portion of the U.S. Public lands. Bring Lunch!

All trips (except those otherwise noted) will leave from the parking area at the east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island, Daytona Beach, promptly at 8:AM.

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We will be looking forward to the start of our scheduled trips for our new season starting in September.

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From the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY via E-MAIL

The National Audubon Society has urged Members of Congress to oppose all riders that would waive the Endangered Species Act for flood repairs and other flood control activities.

They have said that the approval of these riders will set a dangerous precedent in the course of endangered species protection.

While the severity of the floods and need for repair and control is evident, it is equally as important to find methods and means of reparation without further endangering species already in need of protection.

NAS believes these waivers are unnecessary. The President may already have waived the Endangered Species Act in federal disaster areas for activities necessary to protect human life or prevent the recurrence of a natural disaster.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, April 16, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee held "Member's Day" to allow any member of Congress an opportunity to testify on Interior Appropriations. Audubon's priorities received support when several Members, including Representative Bass (R-NH), Blumenauer (D-OR), DeLauro (D-CT), Eshoo (D-CA), Goss (R-FL), Hinojosa (D-TX), Roukema (R-NJ), Saxton (R-NJ), and Shays (R-CT), testified on land acquisition priorities in their districts. (Silvio Conte NF&WR, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Stewart McKinney NWR, Don Edwards SF Bay NWR, Ding Darling NWR, Lower Rio Grande NWR, Sterling Forest and Wallkill NWR, E.B. Forstner NWR, and McKinney NWR, respectively).

The Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill determines, in part, the funding level for all Department of Interior and several Department of Agriculture agencies, including: the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. Within these agencies' budgets are several of Audubon's priority programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), National Wildlife Refuge Operations and Maintenance, the Endangered Species Act, and the Biological Resources Division of the USGS.

May is American Wetlands Month

NAS News Service

May has been designated American Wetlands Month by the Environmental Protection Agency. To celebrate this time, chapter and local wetlands leaders are reaching out to their congressional members to make sure that they know the value of wetlands. We are invited to participate in this exciting new project!

What is it? Based on the early efforts of Audubon chapters to educate public officials about the importance of wetlands, the Audubon Wetlands Campaign is setting a goal of getting 100 members of Congress to visit wetlands with their constituents.

The idea is to use a wetlands tour as an opportunity to educate our U.S. Representative or Senator about the values of wetlands in our communities, the public's interest in protecting and restoring wetlands, and the need for a strong Clean Water Act to protect this valuable resource. The tour will also provide an excellent opportunity to educate members of Congress about the importance of wetlands and the need for a strengthened Clean Water Act.

Congressional members are currently under pressure from developers and agricultural interests to weaken the Clean Water Act. Many are under the impression that wetlands protection is burdensome to landowners and is not an issue of concern to the public. The other side of the story needs to be told, and it is best interest to try it locally!

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Audubon Adventures

"Please Continue to provide Audubon Adnentures to my class"

In response to our questionnaire, here are some teacher comments on *AUDUBON ADVENTURES* concerning this and the next school year:

"I really appreciate getting all the papers at one time. As we came across a story about bears in our literature book, we were able to use the AA story on bears in conjunction with it that same week!!"

"Thank you for providing this resource to the Fifth Grade pupils at R.J. Longstreet Elementary." - Editor's note: R.J. Longstreet, the then principal of Seabreeze High School, was not only the founder of the Halifax River Audubon Society but also the first president of Florida Audubon Society.

"Our class liked 'Those Slithery Snakes' issue of AA very much."

"We go on a field trip to Sea World each year so the AA's 'Marine Mammals Surf and Turf' gave us great background information."

"I thank you very much for giving our pupils the opportunity to be exposed to such a wonderful publication."

"All the papers were wonderful. We enjoyed them very much. Thank you for thinking about and working with the school system."

Thanks for the checks that have been arriving. For those of you that have been thinking about helping with the Chapter's most effective environmental educational project, we still need your help. Your check for \$35 (for a single class subscription) made out to Halifax River Audubon Society and mailed to Glade Koch, Education chair, and sent to 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL zip 32114, will do the trick. Checks in any amount are greatly appreciated. Teacher applications for next school year are being mailed to us this month to National Audubon. Is this month a good month for you to to mail us your check? We hope so. .

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 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

How many times have most of us used the expression "it's a small world"? We, the Halifax River Audubon Society, will be meeting shortly to try to enlarge our world. A Board meeting was called to discuss the desirability of increasing the number of our monthly membership meetings from six to nine each year. This will necessitate a by-law change which process has been started. You will read more about this in our next Pelican. We will need your help and support in this regard.

Around us, many decisions having to do with environmental issues, both pro and con, are being devised. Some of these are subtle, helpful but maybe not so beneficial. These proposed changes are and will be brought to you by our newsletter, "The Pelican."

We must take part. We must have meetings for discussion and must take part with both Florida and National Audubon Societies.

The world seems to be getting smaller, maybe due to better communications. We can and must take part in the changes. Better communications will help us be a part of the changes.

J. W.

Letter from the "Bird Lady"

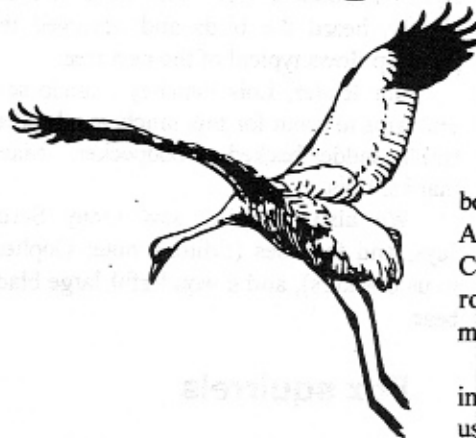
Dear Friends -

Thank you so much for the help you have given to the wild birds in my care. We have 125 baby birds here now and more coming on. We also have a few older birds with injuries.

Thank you - Mary Keller

Whooping Cranes in Florida

by *John W. Carr*



We were in a lucky group, the last boat trip for the day on Lake Kissimmee. At sundown a flock of 15 Whooping Cranes flew over our boat and into their roost. They were in sharp contrast to the many Sandhill Cranes already there.

Researchers have found that Whooping Cranes in the wild lay two eggs, but usually only one chick survives. Removing one actually improves the viability of the remaining chick who then has the full attention from both parents from hatching onward. Whooping Cranes fledge at about 65 days and spend the next ten months with their parents. For reintroduction into Florida, an egg is removed and hatched and raised by humans disguised as Whoopers and by adult Whooping Cranes.

In February of 1993, 14 juveniles reared at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin and at the Patuxent Environmental Service Center (near Laurel, Maryland) were released in Florida. These birds will not migrate because they have no role model to teach them a route. By avoiding migration, they also avoid hazards such as power lines, hunting, and the lack of suitable stopover areas.

Most of the first birds released were killed by bobcats, mainly because they had not been taught to roost in water. Subsequent individuals were trained to roost in water, and predation decreased considerably.

An excellent article about these Whooping Cranes is in the January-February 1997 issue of Florida Wildlife.

Fran and I spent the weekend of April 4-6 in the Kissimmee Prairie lands learning about the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes into Florida. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has successfully reintroduced Whooping Cranes into Florida, with the cooperation of eight private land owners, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Whooping Crane Recovery Team, the Canadian Wildlife, and the Calgary Zoo. The Whooping Cranes live in the same habitat as Sandhill Cranes. They need grasslands for foraging and water for roosting and nesting. The huge cattle ranches in central Florida provide an ideal area.

The earliest survivors are now at breeding age and at least one pair bond has formed. This pair, at Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee, have learned to mooch from fishermen and boldly approached to within ten feet of us.

They are about 5 1/2 feet tall, are brilliant white, have black wing tips, black legs and feet, black facial markings and a red crown which is like velvet in appearance. These cranes are a magnificent sight.

H.R.A.S.

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Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815

Email - cmsmith@juno.com

Painted Bunting Survey

Contact:

Alexander Kropp
Fla. Game and Fresh Water
Fish Commission
Bryant Building
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee FL 32399-1600

Phone: 904-921-5983

Field Trips

by Glade Koch

Saturday, May 17th's field trip to Ocala National Forest was a "Mission accomplished"! We saw three rare and endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers! The three, we surmised, were a nesting pair and a young male from their previous clutch feeding young in the cavity. Each one of us eight Auduboners saw the field marks clearly, heard the birds and observed the pine sap flows typical of the nest tree.

Our leader, Lois Pauchey, made several trips to scout for this much sought after small ladder-backed woodpecker. Many thanks, Lois.

We also, happily, saw many Scrub Jays, and tortoises (Editor's note: Gophers to us crackers), and a wonderful large black bear.

Fox squirrels

On two trips this spring, we have seen the fox squirrel. An Audubon encyclopedia tells us *Sciurus Nigeris* the largest and showiest of squirrels and hardest to describe.

Fox Squirrels range in body length from 19 to 28 inches, tail 10 to 12 inches. They weigh from 1 1/2 to 3 pounds. In the south their coats have a rusty orange tinge and some have black and white faces while others are entirely black with white noses and ears.

Sciurus Niger prefers open groves of hickory or oak or sunlit borders of cypress swamps. Buried nuts and seeds are their winter food, while in summer buds, fruits and some insects make up their diets.

Their number is lessening in their range; eastern United States north to Pennsylvania, the Great Lakes, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and extreme northeastern Mexico.

Seen through binoculars, the fox squirrel is quite a striking fellow!

We will be looking forward to our new season which will begin in September and the start of our scheduled field trips for the fall.

Mary Keller Needs

Mrs. Keller is well into baby bird season and is now feeding over twenty babies. She still needs heating pads, white paper towels, old towels and wash clothes, canned cat food, fruit and eggs. Katee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula is especially needed now. Any items will be greatly appreciated by Mrs. Keller and her "babies" and other "patients."

Since there will be no more meetings until fall, you may call Marie Oglesby or Pat Mihalic for pickups. Their phone numbers are shown in the officers listed elsewhere on this page.

Many thanks are extended to the members who have already donated requested items. Special thanks go to Mr. Norm Freeman of In Home Medical for donating an oxygen tank and equipment for birds with respiratory problems and to Glade Koch and her sister Carol LaCras for three ceiling fans to help keep the birds cool this summer.

FAS in the News

According to The News Journal of May 28th, Clay Henderson, Florida Audubon President, has been tapped to serve on Florida's Constitutional Revision Commission. This commission will have input on a wide range of issues but Henderson says he will zero in on his major love, the environment. He hopes to take part in the goal of protecting parts of Florida that have no voice, i.e. "plants, animals, forests and streams."

The 37 member commission, which meets once every 20 years, is scheduled to have its first meeting in late June. It will have about 18 months to put together a package of recommended revisions to be presented to the voters in the fall of 1988.

Henderson is quoted as saying, "My hope is that everyone will think very broadly about where Florida goes from here. I don't know anyone who is saying 'Let's dump the Constitution and start over.'"

All Audubon members should give serious thought to this major task required by our state constitution and give Clay, who is a past Chairman of the Volusia County Commission, our fullest support.

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From NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, E-MAIL

Edited for the sake of brevity

The Federal Administration has decided to exempt all federal agencies from the Migratory Bird Treaty Acts regulations and prohibitions. The president of the National Audubon Society has sent a letter to both Vice President Gore and Interior Secretary Babbit urging the administration to rescind that decision.

This is to state our strong opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Document on "Take Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act". We urge you to direct the FWS to rescind this document and to initiate a rulemaking process to create an effective procedure to insure federal government compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The Guidance Document represents a sweeping change, in fact reversal, of their long standing interpretation of the MBTA. It exempts the federal government from the MBTA regulations and prohibitions, overturning a policy that has been in effect for more than 80 years. Since the enactment of the MBTA, the FWS has never taken the position does not apply to the federal agency activities. Instead, the FWS has regularly issued permits to federal and quasi federal agencies whose activities would have resulted in a "take" of migratory birds. (i.e. the Dept of Defense annually receives permits for a wide variety of activities, the Dept. of Agriculture receives permits for avian pest control and the Federal Aviation Administration receives permits for taking migratory birds at airports and airfields).

Working under this regime, The FWS has been able to approve a wide array of federal agency activities, while at the same time carrying out its responsibilities to protect migratory birds. The permitting program allows the FWS to monitor "takes" of migratory birds, and to assess the impact of federal and private activities.

We understand that the Guidance Document was developed so that the FWS's permitting program would be consistent with the position that the Justice Department was taking in other federal court proceedings (re the Forest Service). We believe that the Justice Department, in defending the Forest Service, erred when it asserted that the MBTA does not apply to that or any other federal agency.

This position is simply inconsistent with historic implementation of the MBTA, and does a disservice to all those concerned about the conservation of migratory birds.

The MBTA has provided the FWS with the authority to protect migratory birds and to monitor the "take" activities of federal agencies and individuals alike, for almost 80 years. To alter such a fundamental regime without any public comment or review is particularly troubling. Moreover, granting a special exemption to federal actions while requiring private citizen compliance is equally unjustified.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

One of the most unlikely triumphs of park defenders last year was the stand-off we achieved with proponents of RS 2477, the so called "Roads Through Parks" law. Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and one of the fiercest supporters of RS 2477, has taken up the fight again, and we need your help right away to beat his challenge back.

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Bird Blind Building Fund meets Goal

...According to project originator Pat Anderson, all needed funds have been collected for the Boardman Pond Observation Platform Project and work has begun. A trail has already been blazed to the platform location in the Bulow Creek State Park by 8th grade Volusia County School students and work on the platform itself will begin this month, according to the Tomoka Basin Geo Park office. Americorps workers will do the actual construction work, using some recycled materials. Wood for the project has been donated by the Bunnell Cypress Co.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Audubon Adventures

As many of our readers know, Audubon Adventures is a curriculum enhancement program used primarily in grades four to six and teaches children science, environmental topics and respect for nature and to practice language communication skills. The materials are written and developed by professional educators and present basic scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife and their habits. The program develops pupil skills in multiple disciplines and supports the teaching standards recommended by the National Academy of Science and National Research Council.

A Teacher writes -

This letter was received by the National Audubon Society from an elementary school teacher from Volusia County Florida.

"Dear Audubon Adventures:

Your program is absolutely wonderful....Thank you for focusing on writing and including references to the national standards. ... In our county accountability is a major focus in curriculum design and including environmental studies is difficult to rationalize without relating it to a major established curriculum focus. ."

Your \$35 check made to H.R.A.S. and sent to Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach, FL 32114 will buy a subscription to *Audubon Adventures* for a class of 32 fifth graders in the Halifax area.

Donations of smaller amounts will also be greatly appreciated.

Nesting Sea Turtles

To insure the safety of sea turtle nests, we suggest the following:

1. Keep clear of sea turtle nests or anything that resembles a nest.
2. Stay out of areas at the base of the dunes.

3. Do not disturb nest markers placed by researchers.

4. Support dune restoration projects.

5. Contact the Turtle Patrol, a Beach Ranger or a Lifeguard if you see someone disturbing a nest.

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 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

Summer is in its' three month annual cycle. It is an important time of the year for our business people. Rainy days probably hurt them, yet we need their results.

You will be hearing and reading more and more about the use of herbicides and/or pesticides, and other poisons being used to kill or control insects. Many of these are being used on our farm grown vegetables, our golf courses and lawns.

Many of them have been approved for short term use by the EPA. Most long term usage tests have not been completed, nor have results of either been recorded. Remember DDT?

The chemical names are bewildering. We are becoming somewhat adjusted to them as the ingredients are being listed on the packaging.

Do we know what commercial applications are being used? Runoff and residues should be among our primary concerns. Is there a way of knowing what effects these are having.?

We appreciate the work being done with Manatees and Turtles. Perhaps their protectors could now help us in programs to prevent the further decline of birds and other animals.

Who knows? It might work.

Endangered species, Public lands

From *The Amicus Journal*, Volume 19, No. 2

A publication of the **Natural Resources Defense Council**

"Buy land," said Mark Twain. "They aren't making it any more." Twain lived in the 1800s, and it has taken Americans quite some time to see the truth in what he said. In those days the country seemed inexhaustible. Who would have wanted to mine the coal out of all-but-inaccessible places like the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument, or build over the whole of the Southern California coastal sage scrub, or dig logging roads deep into the steepest most distant reaches of National Forests when there were plenty of other places to be taken, plenty of the richer places to be had?

But those days were countless highways, mines, and strip malls ago. Americans are now beginning to experience limits. We do not yet respect them, however. Rather than to learn to use solar power, build denser developments, reuse brownfields, and conserve wood. It has been easier for us to keep doing things the way we have always done them. Inevitably, that means pushing development into places whose marginal profit potential or remoteness has heretofore kept them intact.

In the process, we are consuming land, wetlands, and waterways that we have already made into the last refuges of plants and animals that cannot live any

where else. A few species find it easy to multiply as we clear, pave, and homogenize the country: the rat, pigeon, gull and cockroach happen to be well suited to habitats created by humans; blue jays and mocking birds spread as woodlands are fragmented by roads, yards, and fields, while songbirds suffer. But innumerable species are dependent upon habitats that humans are not capable of creating. There are now 1,067 plant and animal species officially listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, with another 125 proposed as candidates. Read over their names and you cannot help but notice how many sound inseparable from their habitats. The Atlantic saltmarsh snake, the Virgin Islands tree boa, and the San Joaquin kit fox need to live in the ecological conditions that shaped them. A species is specific to a place.

The last, best habitat of many of the country's native species, lies within the federally protected lands of the U S public: National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Monuments. The laws that afford some protection to these lands is under attack. The endangered Species Act, last line of defense against irreparable loss of habitat, is a particular inviting target. Environmentalists have recently beaten back three of these attacks.

If the "Pave the parks" rider goes into effect, it would allow even footpaths and cattle trails to be turned into paved HiWays.

H.R.A.S.

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1996-97

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Past Pres.	Roy Stevenson	252-0466, 673 1838
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Conservation Chr	David Hartgrove	788-2630

Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
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Hospitality Chr	Lois Robinson	760-8480
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Field Trips	Roy Stevenson & Glade Koch
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Hot Lines

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

e-mail - Marie mlo@aol.com
Jeannie- Driley5896@aol.com
Carlton- cmsmith@juno.com

Visitors to our area and HRAS hospitality

by Jeannie Riley

Early in June, teachers from all over the U.S. were meeting at the Ocean Center for six days. They were here with the Education Testing Service scoring the English portion of the American College Testing assessment or ACT, one of two widely used college admissions tests.

One of the teachers, Jill Feldkamp from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, contacted HRAS member Lois Pauchey about doing some birding while she was here. Lois was leaving town but put her in contact with members Jeri Wyly, Glade Koch and Jeannie Riley.

They took turns picking up Jill and two other teachers, Nancy Eaton from Westfield State College (Maine) and Barbara Clark of Saddleback Community College, Mission Viejo, (Calif.) and showing them the local environment and bird sites.

Everyone really enjoyed the outings and were very grateful for the hospitality given them. If the teachers come back again, we will try to get more HRAS members involved.

Field Trips

by Glade Koch

We will be looking forward to our new season which will begin in September and the start of our scheduled field trips for the fall.



Mary Keller Needs

On June 23rd, Mary Keller reported that she is feeding over 200 (yes, that's TWO HUNDRED) baby birds!! This is in addition to numerous juvenile and adult birds who are recuperating from a variety of ailments and need specialized care and feeding. She, her husband and son are doing a fantastic job with their small patients. Her wish list this month includes: Wild Bird Seed, Kaytee Exact hand feeding formula, Eggs. Any kind of fresh fruit (NO CITRUS), Small cans of cat food (any flavor). Always welcome are fresh or frozen fingerling fish, white paper towels, old towels wash cloths and heating pads.

If you have items to contribute, you may take them directly to her or call Marie Oglesby, 767-5553 or Pat Mihalic, 767-9437 who will be happy to pick up your items and take them to Mrs. Keller.

"Mr. Petman", the large pet store in South Daytona, contributed a generous supply of Kaytee Exact hand feeding formula.

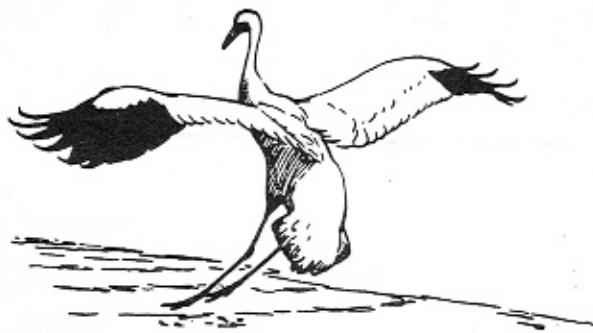
HRAS wishes to thank all of our members who donated items this month as well as "Mr. Petman" for their contributions. Let's all continue to help Mary Keller and her little patients.

From our Membership Chair

Thanks to George Riley for folding the Pelican last month and many thanks to Mr Petman in the Sunshine Mall for their help to Mary Keller. If you are not getting the Pelican or need corrections call numbers or e-mail addresses under the Officer's list for Carlton, Marie or Jeannie.

Notice from the Mail Room

If you change your address, please notify Carlton Smith or Jeannie Riley. Also, if you go north for the summer please notify one of them so that we may send the Pelican to you. Notify us when you return and we will change your address back. We don't want you to miss any issues.



Sharing our beaches

Nesting Turtles

We share our beaches with many kinds of creatures. The largest and one of the most endangered is the sea turtle. Sea turtles are descendants of the dinosaur dating back 100 million years. Of the three species nesting on our beaches the loggerhead is most common. Loggerheads are named for their large heads and may weigh as much as 350 pounds.

The female turtle crawls ashore usually at night through September, to lay her eggs in the sand. She will lay an average of 120 soft leathery eggs that resemble ping-pong balls. After laying, the female turtle thoroughly covers the nest and returns to the ocean. She has no maternal instinct towards her young but may return to nest again in 14 day intervals.

In order to avoid disturbing a nesting turtle, we suggest the following:

- Do not disturb any turtles crawling to or from the water.
- Do not touch the turtle or crowd around her.
- Do not shine lights or snap flash photos.
- Discourage others from harassing any sea turtle.
- Contact the turtle patrol if you see any turtle being disturbed.

Nests

Sea turtle eggs must incubate in the sand undisturbed for 50-60 days before they hatch. If the eggs are moved during this time, the embryo will dislodge from the shell and the turtle will die. If a nest is uncovered, it may become contaminated and not hatch.

To insure the safety of sea turtle nests, we suggest the following:

- Keep clear of sea turtle nests or anything that resembles one.
- Stay out of areas at the base of the dunes.
- Do not disturb nest markers placed by researchers.
- Support dune restoration projects.
- Contact the Turtle Patrol, a beach ranger, or a lifeguard if you see someone disturbing a nest.

Dead Turtles

If you come across a sea turtle carcass you can help by doing the following: Leave the carcass alone and contact a beach ranger to do a standing report and have the carcass removed before it becomes a health hazard.

Least Tern Nesting

From "The Skimmer" Newsletter of Southeast Volusia Audubon

Least terns are tiny shore birds that arrive in Florida to breed each Spring, flying from as far away as Brazil. Typically they nest on open, flat, sandy beach or coral rock islands. However, because of coastal development, beach erosion and disturbance from human recreational use, their natural nesting habitat is disappearing. This loss of nesting areas is an important factor in listing them as a threatened species in Florida.

The Bureau of Non-game Wildlife in the Everglades Region conducted a survey of least tern nesting sites in the coastal areas of South Florida. Over 70 sites in eight different counties were visited and only 47 of these contained terns. A majority

of these (81%) were on rooftops, a substitute for their disappearing natural nesting areas. Unfortunately, gravel rooftops are gradually being replaced by more modern roofs which terns cannot utilize for nesting.

Wildlife biologists estimate there are close to 4,000 breeding adults in the study area. It is hoped that the results will serve as a baseline from which future surveys will be able to assess whether or not least terns are declining or recovering.

The local chapter of Audubon, formerly called the New Smyrna - Edgewater Audubon Society, was formed in the early 70's to protect Least tern and Skimmer habitats on the north beach dunes now known as Smyrna Dunes Park. The birds are no longer there.

From NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, E-MAIL

NEW SANCTUARY DONATED TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

One of the largest undeveloped parcels of land on Chesapeake Bay has been donated to the National Audubon Society.

The one-thousand-acre site, which includes approximately eight miles of frontage on the Chesapeake near Easton Maryland, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Mason Shehan. It will become Audubon's newest sanctuary.

Audubon manages a system of over 200 sanctuaries across the country for purposes of protecting natural habitat for birds and wildlife, and to provide outdoor educational opportunities for children and adults. The Shehan land, known locally as Wells Point Farm, is in the heart of the Eastern flyway, providing critical habitat for migratory birds.

NAS president John Flicker also said that in addition to protecting the natural beauty of the area, Audubon plans to develop there, outdoor educational programs for both students and their teachers. programs for students and teachers.

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Late breaking news

Wetlands Reserve program enjoys victory in House - On June 15th, the WRP, an incentive program that pays farmers to restore wetlands, emerged from the House Appropriations subcommittee for agriculture without a cap. Considered a "win-win" program, the HRP targets former wetlands on agricultural lands. The Conservation Reserve Program that pays farmers to idle environmentally sensitive lands, also emerged unscathed by the House Appropriations Committee.

The Senate will begin their work on their agricultural appropriations bill in mid July.

Land Acquisition Fund snuffed out - Walking away from the Bipartisan Budget Agreement recently agreed to by Congressional leaders and President Clinton, on June 26th, the House Appropriations subcommittee voted against an amendment that would have added a portion of the \$700 million back into the Interior Appropriations bill. Although Republican leadership originally agreed to the fund during budget talks, subsequent subcommittee and now committee action go against these agreements. Key land acquisitions, such as Headwaters Forest, the largest remaining private stand of redwoods, and the Red Butte Mine, which threatens to pollute Yellowstone National Park, cannot be made without this money.

Audubon

Adventures

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The

Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

ANNOUNCING THE AUDUBON BIRDING STORE

*Join them throughout August to
celebrate the Pre-Grand Opening
of the only birding store in
Central Florida*

**20% OFF
EVERYTHING IN STOCK
DURING AUGUST**

*Their expanded product line
includes a complete selection of
bird feeders, nest boxes, seed,
books, active wear and optics...
everything for the novice and the
seasoned birder!*

*The Audubon Birding
Store is located at the
Center for Birds of Prey
in Maitland.*

1101 Audubon Way
Maitland FL 32751
Ph. (407) 644-0190

Regulatory Changes To Be Proposed For Baiting Birds

Over the objections of their law enforcement officers, the Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to relax the baiting of regulatory hunting of migrant birds.

These changes will eliminate the strict standard for those caught killing birds over bait. Such a regulation will require FWS enforcement personnel to prove that the violator knew that the field was baited.

In our view, these changes would make the prohibition on baiting virtually unenforceable and would remove all incentives for hunters to take precautions.

The proposed regulation will also give the 50 states the right to decide what constitutes a baited field.

If this change is adopted, FWS enforcement officers will face 50 different state determinations as to what constitutes a baited area.



Audubon Magazine welcomes new editor

Kenn Kaufman, a famed ornithologist and author, has been appointed field editor and author of Audubon Magazine. He will develop and oversee bird-related story ideas and articles for the magazine.

Kaufmann, a noted author and editor and a premiere ornithologist, will bring two highly significant resources to Audubon: first-hand knowledge of the avian world and exceptional literary skills.

Kenn Kaufman is lauded as one of the preeminent ornithologists in the field today. In 1989 He was elected to membership in the American Ornithologists' Union and in 1992, was the youngest person ever to receive the Ludlow Griscom award from Bausch and Lomb and the American Birding Association. Kaufman also serves on the Board of Directors of ABA and is a member of the International Ornithological Congress.

Audubon Magazine, the bimonthly publication of the NAS, covers a wide range of environmental concerns and topics, and reaches an audience of nearly two million. It also plays an important role in supporting NAS's activities and priorities by continuing to build of awareness relating to the birds, other wildlife and habitats, and by exploring the linkage among important environmental issues of our times.

Welcome aboard, Mr. Kaufman!

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& Glade Koch

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Newsletter Editor Carlton Smith
253-3815

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Carlton- cmsmith@juno.com
David- ddhart@waonline.com
National Audubon Society-
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>

**Notes from
Conservation**

First, a belated thank you to all who participated in the Spring migration count. I received a congratulatory letter from state coordinator, Rex Rowan, praising our efforts. The Fall count will be held on Saturday, September 20th. Mark your calendars and please plan to spend a day out in the field. The information we gather is passed on to the National Biological Survey and is important. There has been a suggestion that the teams trade territories this time in order to see other parts of the county. This is under consideration.

The observation platform at Boardman Pond in Tomoka Basin Geo-Park has run into a little difficulty. A promised donation of construction timbers has been delayed but Ranger Charlie DuToit says that he hopes to have the project back on track soon.

And speaking of observation platforms, another one will be under construction in a new park under development on the south shore of Rose Bay. Mainland High School teacher, Louise Chapman, and her limonology* class have been hard at work turning acres of woodland and tidal marsh back into its natural state. The property is owned by the county and has been the scene of illegal dumping, and transient camps and the usual invasion of non-native plant species.

On Friday, July 25th, I went down for a morning of "pepper busting"; the removal of the very

invasive Brizillian Pepper. It was hot and muggy and the assorted students and volunteers contributed a good deal of sweat to the effort. There is much work to be done and money to be raised before this plot can be called a park. But, with the dedication of this teacher and her students as an inspiration and with the help of the community, it will come to pass.

I hope you're all having a good summer. Our vacation to Washington D.C. was a real treat; details available on request.

As the song says, "See you in September" - *David Hartgrove*

*Limonology is the study of freshwater habitats.

**Mary Keller's
August wish list**

Mrs. Keller reports that things are quieting down a little. She is still feeding about 100 baby birds (down from 225 last month) and they are consuming a large amount of *Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula*. This baby bird food is her most pressing need at this time.

In addition to Kaytee Exact Formula, at this time she needs:

Eggs

Fruit (No citrus or bananas)

Small cans of cat food (any flavor)

White paper towels

Old towels and washcloths, wild bird seed and heating pads are always welcome.

You may take your supplies directly to Mrs. Keller or call Marie Oglesby at 767-5553 for pickup and delivery. Any supplies that you can furnish will be greatly appreciated.

**From NATIONAL
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E-MAIL
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TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON
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The local chapter of Audubon, formerly called the New Smyrna - Edgewater Audubon Society, was formed in the early 70's to protect Least tern and Skimmer habitats on the north beach dunes now known as Smyrna Dunes Park. The birds are no longer there.

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The N A S's mission...

to conserve birds and their habitats

is deeply rooted in our origin, when nearly a century ago concerned citizens organized against the slaughter of herons and egrets whose feathers were being used to adorn ladies' hats. Those citizen's, calling themselves the Audubon Societies successfully fostered laws to protect those birds and their rookeries.

Today the National Audubon Society is committed to bringing people closer to birdlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy bird populations and ecosystems, and ourselves. By identifying clear, action-based steps for bird conservation, Audubon is working to restore and maintain North America's birds and ensure that North America's landscapes survive as productive wildlife habitat. Audubon's strategy is to harness the synergy that builds when education, advocacy, and community activism are founded on solid science. Much of our understanding of birds today, and our ability to anticipate and respond to important bird conservation issues nationally and locally,

comes from combined efforts of professional scientists and concerned volunteer birders, or "citizen scientists".

Why birds?

"Birds are an 'ecological litmus paper'.

Because of their rapid metabolism and their wide geographical range, they reflect changes in the environment quickly, they warn of things out of balance, sending out signals whenever there is a deterioration in the system.

-- Roger Tory Peterson

WatchList

Saving Species pushed to the edge of extinction is difficult, costly, and confrontational. The WatchList targets bird species at conservation risk before they require federal regulation, stressing preventative medicine in the present, rather than last-ditch rescue attempts in the future. We will try to list a few such species in The Pelican each month. Watch for it. Or, you may see it all at once on the WorldWideWeb at -

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/index.html>

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September 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

The question most always asked is "Did you have a nice vacation?" Yes I did, but, I have been doing a fair amount of driving over the years. However, I did not need Hurricane Danny as my companion for this summer's trip. Driving in the blinding rain from VA to the NY-CT line left me dazed. Yes and again Yes! I will tell you of those events if you attend our September meeting, the first of our nine monthly meetings. They are always at 7:00 pm the 3rd Monday of each month, September through May. That is, unless you are notified differently in "The Pelican", our monthly newsletter.

This month we need you to read our proposed revision of our Constitution and By-Laws. Your By-Laws Committee has held meetings to develop them and Secretary Marie Oglesby has been in touch with Mr. Larry Thompson of the Fla. Audubon Society Headquarters for points of clarification and/or correction. We feel that we have done well, however we must have a vote from the membership along with
(continued on page three)

Air charters implicated in destruction of Bald Eagles at Orl-Snfrd Airport

Florida Audubon Society has found it necessary to file a formal challenge against the Orlando - Sanford Airport for destroying a Bald Eagle's nest in violation of state law.

We are filing this challenge to make sure this never happens again, said FAS President Clay Henderson. He also said that if anyone else had gone in with chain saws to destroy an eagle nest, we would be filing criminal charges.

The Airport, which destroyed the Bald Eagles nest on August 13th, is the new found destination of major British tour operators.

In the last five years, this once sleepy rural airport has been transformed from a place where grass grew up through cracks in the runways into a destination for thousands of British tourists on holiday, who arrive in jumbo jets. Now the airport wants to build more runways to handle the increased traffic, and the newly proposed construction is a threat to sensitive environmental resources, including wetlands, and endangered and threatened species of wildlife.

The Orlando-Sanford Airport is actually quite distant from the tourist destinations in Central Fla. which include Walt Disney World,

Epcot, MGM Studios, Universal Studios, Sea World, and the resort hotel area near International Drive. Even though it has the newly adopted name Orlando-Sanford Airport, it should not be confused with the areas most prominent airport, where most visitors on holiday arrive, which is the Orlando International Airport

The Florida Audubon Society is communicating with known environmental, wildlife protection and conservation organizations in the British Isles, urging persons who are concerned with birds, wildlife, and the environment to consider refraining from holiday travel which may arrive in Florida at the Orlando-Sanford Airport until this matter is resolved.

Check with your prospective air carrier urged Charles Lee, the Society's Senior Vice President. If they fly into Orlando-Sanford airport, they can choose another carrier that flies into Orlando's much larger airport, the Orlando International Airport. If you want to help save the Bald Eagles, that airport is much closer to the tourist destinations anyway. For some time, Audubon has been opposing the use of the Orlando-Sanford Airport by large jet-type aircraft.

H.R.A.S.

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David -	ddhart@waonline.com

National Audubon Society-
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>

Notes from Conservation

By David Hartgrove

In a departure from the usual reports of bird sightings and legislative shenanigans in the various halls of power, this report deals with a more ominous threat.

On October 6th NASA is scheduled to launch the Cassini mission to Saturn. The instrument package will be powered by 72.3 pounds of Plutonium 238, one of the deadliest substances on the planet. Perched atop a Titan IV rocket full of liquid hydrogen/oxygen fuel, this launch presents little hazard to the people of Florida. So says NASA.

These are the same folks who used intimidation tactics to silence the engineers who warned that launching the Challenger in too cold weather was dangerous. On August 2, 1993 a Titan IV blew up over the Pacific, destroying a billion dollar spy satellite. If this one blows up, a large section of the east coast of Florida could be contaminated for a long time. Check your homeowner's insurance, there's no coverage for nuclear accidents. And thanks to a little known law called the Price-Anderson Act, NASA and the Air Force won't be liable either.

Suppose the launch goes off as planned; the threat isn't over. The distance to Saturn is great, so the "sling shot" technique will be used to increase Cassini's speed. After a loop around Venus, Cassini will come screaming back toward Earth at 43,000 mph. It is planned that the craft will loop around Earth at an altitude of 312 miles. If there's a slight mis-calculation or if the guidance system malfunctions, 72.3 pounds of Plutonium is vaporized over our heads. The potential health effects are mind numbing. One millionth of a gram is a carcinogenic dose. Millions of people are being put at grave risk for the sake of expediency.

NASA says that Saturn's distance from the Sun makes nuclear power the only alternative, in spite of what their own Jet Propulsion Laboratory says. The European Space Agency expects to have high efficiency solar cells perfected within 5 years that would perform the job. NASA says they can't wait. Unless they know something we don't, I think Saturn will still be there.

The President is the only one who can stop this madness. He has final launch authority. Perhaps, if he hears from enough voices, he'll exercise that authority. Mail is pouring into the White House from around the globe. A variety of world leaders have asked that this mission be postponed. But it's the American people who vote.

Fall Migration Count

Also from David Hartgrove

Just a short reminder that Saturday, September 20th, is the day of the Fall Migration count. If you are interested in helping out, call me at (904) 788-2630. The sooner you call, the easier it will be to figure out how many teams we will have, etc.

Keller's Korner

Mary Keller is still feeding many baby birds. She continually needs white paper towels, old towels and wash clothes, tape that sticks only to itself, gauze, small cans of cat food, wild birdseed, eggs and fruit (no bananas or citrus). Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula is still being used in large quantities and is especially needed now. With cooler weather probably on its way before the October PELICAN is published, check your heating pads and see if you have an extra one you could donate to the birds.

You may take items directly to Mrs. Keller, take them to the September 15th meeting or you may call Marie Oglesby, 767-5553 for pick up and delivery of your donations. Any items will be greatly appreciated by Mary Keller, her "babies" and recovering "patients".

Many thanks to all of you who have been sending items over the summer!!



The Prez Sez

(Continued from Page one)

comments that could effect change. So please attend this first meeting for a show of support. Our program will be great. Refreshments will be served and, if you are still there at 9:15 pm, it will mean that you had an enjoyable evening.

I hope to see you then.

- JW

PS. Our meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Be a little early to say "Hello" to everyone. To mix and mingle is fun too.

Audubon Adventures

We Receive A.A. comments

During July and August the following written comments were received from fourth and fifth grade teachers who subscribed to

Audubon Adventures
for our last school year (1996-97).

"The articles are very interesting to fifth grade children."

"Excellent Teacher's manual."

"We are appreciative of this opportunity to receive your fine publication from Audubon members. The 'copy me' pages are excellent for our fourth and fifth grades."

Your check for \$35 provides for Audubon Adventures for a class for this school year. However, your check, in whatever amount is comfortable for you, is very gratefully received. Our budget needs a lot of help for this important project. Checks should be made out to H.R.A.S. and sent to:

Glade Koch, Education Chair,
128 Fiddlesticks Circle
Daytona Beach FL 32114

Thank you for your consideration.



H.R.A.S. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Halifax River Audubon Society is pleased to have as it's guest Resce Collins from the Maitland Birds of Prey facility. This facility takes care of injured eagles, hawks, owls and other birds of prey that the average bird rehabilitation facility can not handle.

This first program of the HRAS season should be exciting and informative. We hope to have a good turnout so bring guests and experience a wonderful evening. Make Monday, September 15th 7:PM a must on your calendar.

As always, our meetings will be on the third Monday of each month,

September through May at the
SEABREEZE UNITED CHURCH,
501 N. WILD OLIVE AVE.

DAYTONA BEACH FLA.
FOR INFO CALL 767-9803



Field Trip Notice

At the time of this printing our fall Field Trip schedule had not been finalized. It is expected that it will be acted upon at our next board meeting September 6th. Call any member of the board at Phone numbers listed on page 2, after that date for information. - Thanks

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 166

Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166

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HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

by Marie Oglesby

The last week of July, I rushed outside to check on the loud squawking coming from my front yard. I fully expected to find the Jays and squirrels notifying the community that there was a visiting cat in the yard. To take care of that, I told Gizmo, my 7 pound killer attack dog, to find the cat. No cats, but much loud squawking now coming closer, then over my tree tops flew eleven (yes, 11) large, bright green parrots!

There was one bird in the lead, but the rest were flying haphazardly in no particular formation, although they were staying fairly close together. They headed directly south toward Port Orange. The squawking sounds were unbelievably loud. A flight of low flying, honking Canadian Geese is the only thing comparable in noise level.

Three years ago a pair of these birds, Amazon Parrots from their appearance, looked at nesting cavities in a telephone pole in my front yard. One perched in a tree a few feet away while the other stuck its head in the top nesting cavity. The seven cavities had housed woodpeckers, starlings, screech owls and others over a five year period, but not any of them were suitable for birds that large. I never saw these birds again.

My neighbor reported seeing seven green birds about two weeks before the eleven flew over my yard. I asked Trish Brown, owner of The Bird Factory and very knowledgeable in exotic birds, if it was possible that this flock had come from that pair I saw three years ago. She said although theoretically possible, it would mean a really great survival rate of offspring. She said that she has had reportings of a flock of Quaker Parrots in this area, but had not heard of any Amazons. I have also been told for several years that a pair of red Macaws have been seen flying over the South Daytona/Port Orange area.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has seen any of the birds mentioned above, or any other pairs or groups of exotic birds seen in our area. A look in the "Lost" section of the newspaper can show how many pet birds get away from their owners almost daily. It is conceivable that a few can survive. How these exotics can affect our native bird populations is a matter for debate. In the meantime, I wish these birds would come back and give me another chance to view their beauty and exuberant behavior.

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 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

It is a fact that we learn from others, especially old timers. This month I'd like to share with you some Tree Talk.

In the mid 1800's, wood export to the West Indies was a very important part of the Northeastern economy. In return for barrel staves, sawn and unsawn timber and spars, we received molasses, rum, sugar, salt and coffee. Of course the rum and molasses came to Nova Scotia in the barrels staves. Or did they? Curiously, a barrel made from Nova Scotian red oak staves did very well but put rum in that same barrel and the rum would leak out right through the wood. Why? The answer lies in the very structure of the red wood itself.

Running up and down inside hardwood trees are short tubular cells with open ends that fit together like sections of pipe and are especially adapted to conduct sap. These tubular cells in both red oak heartwood and sapwood remain open, so that the wood remains porous forever. However, in white oaks, as the sapwood ages and becomes heartwood, these same cells get filled with gummy substances that help to keep the wood from rotting. The early settlers soon learned that rum barrels could only be made from white oak heartwood which grew, not in Nova Scotia but in the New England states.

This simple difference between red and white oaks means that water penetrates white oaks slower than red oaks. Thus, under wet conditions, they're more resistant to rot and are better suited for boat building. Red oaks, being more porous, can be more easily pressure treated with preservatives. **And you thought trees were for the birds!**

ELECTORAL ACTION NEEDED

On September 30, 1997, Ormond Beach voters will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum to issue bonds to purchase a tract of land known as "The Rivers".

"The Rivers" is 187 acres that is almost wholly within the Tomoka Geobasin Park. Any development at all on the tract would have serious negative impacts on the surrounding park land, and the current owner, Bellemead, has in the past aggressively sought an increase in the permitted density. Only a purchase by the public can assure the land's preservation and protect it from a possible decision by a future Ormond Beach City Commission to allow intense development.

This is a beautiful piece of land running along the Tomoka River including acres of wetlands, a small fresh-water lake, a large live oak hammock, lots of birds and other wildlife.

Ormond Beach taxpayers are being asked to make up the difference between what the State of Florida is able to pay and the amount at which Bellemead is willing to sell. A similar supplemental funding by Volusia County in the early 1980s closed the gap in negotiations between the State and the owner and made DeLeon Springs a state park.

Please vote "YES" to save "The Rivers".

Kathy Marsh, Conservation Chair
Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club

Editor's note: Kathy is also a member of HRAS. See her note about another exotic bird on page 3.



H.R.A.S.

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Past Pres.	Roy Stevenson	252-0466, 673 1838
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Pat Mihalic	767-9437	
Conservation Chr	David Hartgrove	788-2630
Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
Hospitality Chr	Lois Robinson	760-8480

Field Trips	Roy Stevenson	& Glade Koch
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Hot Lines

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

E-mail

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Carlton S.-	csmith@juno.com
David H. -	ddhart@waonline.com
Bill/June Francis -	wfran91122@aol.com

National Audubon Society
home page -

<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>



H.R.A.S. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, September through May at the SEABREEZE UNITED CHURCH, 501 N. WILD OLIVE AVE. DAYTONA BEACH FLA. FOR INFO CALL 767-9803 YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME and bring a guest if you like



Field Trips Notice

Save for reference

by Lois Robinson

Saturday, October 4th: we will visit Tomoka State Park, Ormond's Tomb Park and Boardman's Pond looking for warblers, titmice, vireos, hawks and many others. Leaders: Lois Robinson and Glade Koch.

Saturday, October 18th: a trip to other East Volusia Parks is planned to include Port Orange Causeway Park, Spruce Creek Park, Sunrise Park and others if time permits. Wading and shore birds, hopefully, will be numerous. Leader: Lois Robinson

Friday, November 7th: We will journey to Bicentennial Youth Park. Al Evans, ranger, will take us on a nature tour of the park with plenty of time for enjoying the

birds of the area. Leader: Lois Robinson

Saturday, November 22nd: Our annual Turkey Hunt. We continue to hear of many Turkey sightings in mid-Volusia and will do our best to find some. Leaders to be announced.

Friday, December 5th: Black Point on Merrit Island, one of our yearly birding high lights, will be featured. - John Carr leader.

Saturday, January 3rd: Christmas bird count - David Hartgrove, leader.

Saturday, January 24th: Lake Woodruff, another of our annual birding highlights. Carlton Smith, Leader.

Saturday, February 7th: Glade Koch will lead us to the county landfill and surrounding areas where we will look for eagles and other birds of prey. Maybe we will get to see courting displays and other activities.

Friday, February 20: David Hartgrove will lead us to Gemini Springs in the Deltona area. This new park has many migrating species such as robins and cedar waxwings as well as woodpeckers and many perching birds.

Friday, March 6th: Deborah Levy, resident birder, will lead us on an exciting tour of Wetlands Park. Ducks, wading birds, hawks and warblers are usually there.

Saturday, March 21st: Our annual boat trip on the St. John's River with Captain Bob Hopkins. Often we see more birds on this trip than on any other.

Saturday April 4th This date is open. We will go somewhere. Call me and tell me where you would like to go: Lois Robinson, 760-8480.

(Continued on next page)

Notes from Conservation

David Hartgrove

(Continued from page 2.)

Friday, April 17th: Birds of Prey Center in Maitland sponsored by the Fla. Audubon Society. We have a tour time reserved for us at 10am.

Saturday, May 9th: Spring Migratory Count, Dave Hartgrove, ldr.

Saturday, May 23 : We will be traveling to the Ocala National Forest in our yearly search for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, as well as scrub Jays, Towhees and other less rare birds.

Please remember that all of our trips leave at 8 AM (unless otherwise announced) 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

Another exotic bird

Kathy Marsh

I heard an odd sound last Sunday and much to my surprise, found a large peacock out by the birdbath. He squawked loudly several times and sort of waited around, so I threw out several handfuls of mixed birdseed. That seemed to please him, and he's been back several days now, looking for a handout. I've tried to locate his owner to no avail, so if you know of someone looking for a lost peacock in the far northeast section of Volusia County, please let me know! He's beautiful, but I'm not crazy about having escaped exotics around, and I'm not sure if he can survive on his own.

The future of the National Wildlife Refuge system took a giant step forward when the Senate voted unanimously in favor of the NWR improvement act of 1997. The president is expected to sign this into law during the National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 12-18. The act establishes wildlife conservation as the primary mission of the refuge system. It should help end the practise of promoting incompatible activities such as grazing, oil and gas exploration, etc.

The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization. Currently, two bills are working their way through the legislative process.: HR 235 is known as the Endangered Species Recovery Act and has National Audubon's support, a Senate bill to be introduced by Senators Kempthorne, Chaffee, Baucus and Reid contains language that would significantly weaken the existing act. Watch for further updates.

An announcement was made at the September meeting, of HRAS, about the new show being jointly produced by Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and the cable TV channel, Animal Planet. The show will be called "All Bird TV" and will debut on Monday, September 29th at 12:30pm. It will be re-broadcast at 6:30 pm that same day. It will be shown again on Saturdays at 3:30 and 6:30pm . The thirteen part series will be hosted by Professor and bird expert, Ken Dial. It will be filmed in birding hotspots all over the country so it could be a valuable vacation guide. The Animal Planet channel on TCI cable channel 44 in the Daytona and Port Orange area. If you're with another cable company, check your listings for the channel's availability.

The next issue of The Pelican will contain a report on the Fall migration count. Migration is underway. Don't be surprised by anything you see at backyard feeders or anywhere else. I've already seen many swallows (Rough Winged and Barn) flying south along the beach. As the Star Hustler says, "Keep looking up!"



Keller's Korner

Mary Keller still has to feed injured birds. She continually needs white paper towels, old towels and wash clothes, tape that sticks only to itself, gauze, small cans of cat food, wild birdseed, eggs and fruit (no bananas or citrus). Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula is still being used and always needed. With cooler weather on its way , check your heating pads and see if you have an extra one you could donate to the birds.

You may take items directly to Mrs. Keller, take them to the October 21st meeting or you may call Marie Oglesby, 767-5553 for pick up and delivery of your donations. Any of the above items, or others that you might think of, will be greatly appreciated by Mary Keller, her "babies" and her recovering "patients".

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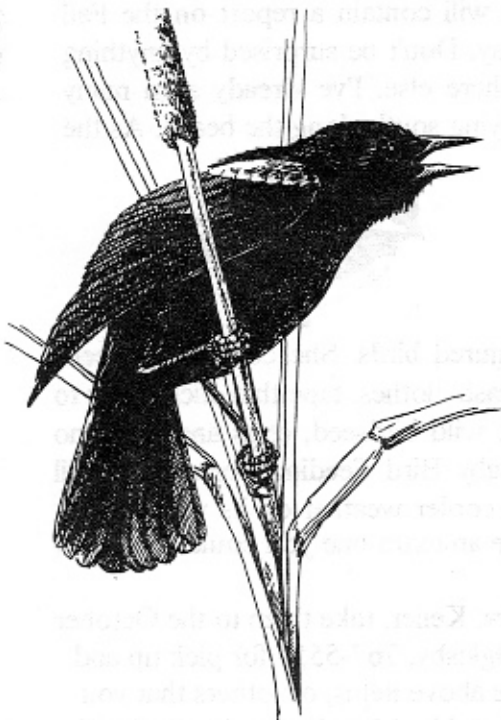
What is included in the Audubon Adventures materials?

Audubon Adventures comes to teachers packaged in a storage container that includes all of the following materials:



Audubon Adventures student newspapers:

A newspaper about birds, wildlife, and habitats written for students. Five editions published annually. Four editions are sent in the boxed kit when the class is enrolled, the last one is sent in the spring of 1998.



Audubon Adventures Teacher's Resource Manual including:

- How to Get Started (program mechanics)
- Setting up a nature center in your classroom
- Starting student nature journals
- Topic overviews (five different topics)
- Hands on activities
- Internet, CD-ROM, book and video resource directory
- Naturalist's Glossary

Internet Access

Access to National Audubon Society experts via an internet forum

Audubon's Animal Adventures Video:

a 20 minute long video co-produced by National Audubon Society and The Disney Channel.

Your check for \$35 provides for Audubon Adventures for a class for this school year. However, your check, in whatever amount that is comfortable for you, will be very gratefully received. Our budget needs a lot of help for this important project. Checks should be made out to H.R.A.S. and sent to: Glade Koch, Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle Daytona Beach FL 32114

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 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

Is a zoo, now named as a Wild Life Sanctuary or a Conservation Park, the answer to the dwindling number of known species of wildlife? The question points out that we should be looking towards the continuing abuses of our natural world.

The right of existence of a sanctuary is in fact dependent on the contribution it makes to conservation. This means that education and research, especially in captive breeding, are vital elements of this role.

Today's zoo is constantly remodeling, spending more and more time and money, to try to reproduce an animal's natural environment. These steps, although seemingly slow, will be necessary for our youngsters of tomorrow to see what we enjoyed both yesterday and today.

So many times we hear or read that one short statement regarding wildlife, "Man is his own worst enemy." It seems to me that it is our duty, each in our own way, to help change that saying, here and now. *J.W.*

Jeannie Riley's Accident

Jeannie Riley, our Membership Secretary, had an automobile accident about two weeks ago and sustained serious injuries. One of her knees is still under traction. She will not be released from Halifax Hospital until special equipment is installed in her home for continued treatment. She is expected to be out of action for some time.

North American Birds, Sight and Sound

(CD-ROM) by Marie Oglesby

I realize that most Auduboners are very knowledgeable birders, but I am sure there are others out there about like I am who don't know a Tufted Titmouse from a Carolina Warbler (or is it Wren?) If its not a Cardinal, Jay, Dove, Grackle or Crow, forget it!

This has been the picture until recently when my oldest son sent me a new CD-ROM. It contains over 2400 illustrations of North American Birds, over 450 bird songs, games, quizzes, tutorials, check lists for each state, and more.

I cannot tell you what a thrill it was to see a familiar looking bird, see its name and listen to its song. I felt as though I was right out in the woods, but now knew what bird was singing.

I was so excited about it that I had Jeannie Riley and Carlton Smith preview it. They also shared my enthusiasm. System requirements: are PC: 486 or higher, Windows 3.1 or better.

If you have a computer system and want to know more about birds in North America, I highly recommend this CD-ROM. It can be ordered from NatureWare. Visit <http://www.natureware.com> or call them at 402/467-4484. The normal price is \$29.95; the Internet special is \$25; the Macintosh Evangelist special is \$20.

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**Next Meeting,
7:00 PM, Nov. 17th
Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Program by
Pat Halliday**

You may well remember her several programs featuring her wonderful bird slides. She has donated many slides to our H.R.A.S. collection. Come and see what she has added and or review some of the specials from the past.

**Refreshments by June
Francis and Vivian Smith,
Y'all come, Y'hear!**



H.R.A.S.

Officers & Boards

1997-98

President	John Williams	255-8631
1st V. President	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
2nd V. President	Bill Francis	672-6897
Past Pres.	Roy Stevenson	252-0466, 673 1838
Rcrd'g Secretary	Marie Oglesby	Ph. 767-5553
Mbrshp Sec'y	Jeannie Riley	767-9803
Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	255-9360

Members at Large

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Pat Mihalic	767-9437

Standing Committee Chairs

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Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
Hospitality Chr	Volunteer needed	
Field Trips	Lois Robinson	760-8480

Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815
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Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794

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Web sites

National Audubon Society	
http://audubon.org/net/index.html	
H.R.A.S.	http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS , MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR ALL

Many HRAS members move regularly between Winter and Summer homes. Jeannie Riley has an HRAS form for summertime change of address for you to fill out so that you will continue to receive your Pelican. Call or E-mail her at the address shown in the list of Officers to the left and she will see that a form is sent to you.

The post office does not hold "Temporarily away" bulk mail. It is returned to us and currently costs \$.32 (soon to be raised to \$.50). Also please notify Jeannie if you change your permanent mailing address.

We will greatly appreciate your help in reducing these costly situations.

Field Trips Notice

by Lois Robinson

Friday, November 7th:

We will journey to Bicentennial Youth Park. Al Evans, ranger, will take us on a nature tour of the park with plenty of time for enjoying the birds of the area. Leader: Lois Robinson

Saturday, November 22nd:

Our annual Turkey Hunt. We continue to hear of many Turkey sightings in mid-Volusia and will do our best to find some. Leaders to be announced.

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Black Point on Merrit Island, one of our yearly birding high lights, will be featured. - John Carr leader.

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We're on the Net

For those of you with computers and Internet access, we now have a basic web page. The address is: <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

It is very basic with just our name, place and E-mail address. Even as basic as it is, we have had two letters come in already. A North Carolina family wrote that they will be in our area over Christmas and would like to know more about birding in our area. Another wrote that they have included us in their directory of online bird clubs. If you wish to check out their site, their address is <http://birding.miningco.com>. We can expect exciting new things with our participation on the Internet. *M.O.*

Amazon Sighting Confirmed

by Marie Oglesby

The day members received the September PELICAN, long time member Marion Bigelow called to say that the 11 Amazon Parrots I reported flying over my yard are frequent visitors to her mobile home park on Reed Canal Rd.

She said that a pair of the birds had escaped from a pet shop about 3 years ago (the same time that I first sighted one pair looking for a nesting sight in my yard) and that each year several more have been seen. She saw 10 this summer.

Pat Mihalic said that Dr. Thomas Frieberg, a local veterinarian has also mentioned seeing Amazons in that area.

I have not seen the birds since that one sighting, but I shall never forget those beautiful green birds flying overhead. Please report sightings of groups of exotic birds in your area to me or to any of our board members.

Thank you Marion and Pat for confirming my sighting!

Please Note

All members are welcome to send articles to the Pelican. They should be sent to Carlton by the first Monday of every month. Typed articles will be appreciated but he will accept them in any form. (Email preferred if available.)

Notes from Conservation

David Hartgrove

Editor's note: This report was inadvertently left out of last month's Pelican. Due to its importance and the fact that the launch has been completed and that due attention should be given to the possibility of future like events, it is published here just as David wrote it.. *CMS*

In a departure from the usual reports of bird sightings and legislative shenanigans in the various halls of power, this report deals with a more ominous threat. On October 6th NASA is scheduled to launch a Cassini mission to Saturn. The instrument package will be powered by 72,3 pounds of Plutonium 238, one of the deadliest substances on the planet. Perched atop a Titan IV rocket full of liquid hydrogen/oxygen fuel, this launch is of little hazard to the people of Florida. So says NASA. These are the same folks who used intimidation tactics to silence the engineers who warned that the launching of Challenger in too cold weather was dangerous. On August 2, 1993 a Titan IV blew up over the Pacific, destroying a billion dollar spy satellite. If this one blows up, a large section of the east coast of Florida could be contaminated for a long time. Check your home owner's insurance, there is no coverage for nuclear accidents. And thanks to a little known law called the Price-Anderson Act, NASA and the Air Force won't be liable either. Suppose the launch goes off as planned; the threat isn't over. The distance to Saturn is great, so the "sling-shot" technique will be used to increase Cassini's speed. After a loop around Venus, Cassini will come screaming back toward Earth at 43,000 mph. If there's a slight mis-calculation or if the guidance system malfunctions, 72.3 pounds of Plutonium is vaporized over our heads. The potential health effects are mind numbing. One millionth of a gram is a carcinogenic dose. Millions of people are being put at grae risk for the sake of expediency. NASA says that Saturn's distance from the Sun makes nuclear power the only alternative, in spite of what their Jet Propulsion Laboratory says. The Europeans expect to have high efficiency solar cells perfected within 5 years that would perform the job. NASA says that they can't wait. Unless they know something we don't, I think that Saturn will still be there. The President is the only one who can stop this madness. He has the final launch authority. Perhaps, if he hears from enough voices, he'll exercise that authority. Mail is pouring into the White House from around the Globe. A variety of world leaders have asked that this mission be postponed. But it is the American people who vote. Think about this and if you're so inclined, call or write President Clinton.

Audubon Adventures

We are still earnestly soliciting funds to complete our 1997-98 school year commitments. This worthy program is one of our main civic responsibilities. Your check for \$35 will provide for this super program for one class for this year's school term. Please make it payable to Halifax River Audubon Society and mail to Glade Koch, Education Chair, at 128

Keller's Korner

Mary Keller is busy taking care of sick and injured birds, some on their migration journeys. She said there have been several warblers recently with one already set free. Her needs this month include Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula, heating pads, wild bird seed, old towels and wash cloths. The baby bird formula is used all year round and is tube fed to birds too weak to eat on their own. She will use about 25 pounds in a two month period this time of year. It is vital to her operation. Mrs. Keller is happy to report that her son, Earl, is now officially on her license. He has been working with her for quite some time now. Please take any supplies directly to the Kellers, bring to our general meeting in November, or call Marie Oglesby, 767-5553, for pick up and delivery. We thank those of you who keep the supplies coming..

Audubon Bird Counts Volusia County 1997

Note: These counts were performed jointly by the three Audubon Chapters in Volusia County, Halifax River Southeast Volusia and Western Volusia.

Jan 4, 1997 Count: Total Species, 97. Total individuals, 10,300. 26 observers in 5-8 parties. Time, 4 AM to 5:30 PM. 3.75 hours and 41 miles - owling. 19 hours and 41 miles - on foot. 22.5 hrs and 294 mi by car. Temp, 58-76 degrees. Wind, 15 mph. Water, open. AM partly cloudy and foggy, PM partly cloudy.

May 10, 1997 Count: Total species, 135: Total individuals, 11,837. 1,252 unidentified warblers in flight. 32 persons in 12 parties. Time, 3:15 AM to 7:00 PM. 6 hrs and 71.5 mi - owling 50 hrs and 31.5 mi. 46 hrs and 531 mi by car. 2 hrs and 4 mi by boat, Temp. 55-85 degrees. Wind, W 5-10, NW 15, NE 15-20. Clouds, 10-100%. No precip.

September 20, 1996 Count: Total species, 127. Total individuals, 14,907. 27 persons in 10 parties. Time, 3:45 AM -7:30 PM, 4.75 hrs and 64 mi - owling. 12.25 hrs and 17.5 mi - on foot.



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32118-3311 Aug-99

All Bird TV

Series is to be Only National TV
Program devoted solely to Birding

Ever wonder why a flamingo is pink? Why are pigeons so prominent in cities? What does a yellow-bellied sapsucker really look like? How can birds remember their complex migration patterns year after year? These questions, and many more, will be answered as viewers are introduced to some of the nation's foremost experts and bird enthusiasts while they explore the diverse world of our fine feathered friends.

Today, in the United States alone, more than 62 million people spend at least some of their leisure time trying to find them. And, beginning in its 1997 Fall Season, Animal Planet will offer the only television program devoted to the burgeoning birding pastime with the world television premiere of "All Bird TV." The unique series made its world television premiere on Animal Planet on Monday, September 29., The program will also air on Saturdays from 3:30-4 PM and 6:30-7 PM (ET). Produced by Animal Planet, the National Audubon Society and the Nature

Conservancy, "All Bird TV" promises to change the conventional view of bird watching as a sedentary, aristocratic hobby. Viewers will be invited to accompany the program's host, professor and bird expert Ken Dial, as he takes them on a series of off-beat birding adventures in exotic locales across the country.

"Audubon is pleased to be able to offer viewers a show like 'All Bird TV,'" explained Katherine Carpenter, executive producer of Audubon Productions. "We are proud of this collaborative effort that brings interesting people and valuable information to the general public. This program makes birding very accessible and can be enjoyed by all people of all interests."

In each episode, Dial will strive to provide an intimate "human's-eyeview" of the avian world. Not content to observe from a distance with binoculars, Dial will shatter the usual image of birders as he scales trees, climb mountains, takes to the skies and dives into swamps, rivers and streams in search of his elusive subjects. "All Bird TV" will also highlight the host's personal demonstration of bird behavior -- from nesting techniques to differences in mating calls -- as he seeks to provide insights about the

evolution, lifestyle, science, and societies of the bird he encounters.

*******Action alert!*******
**

**PROPOSED SENATE BILL
WILL WEAKEN THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT!**

The Endangered Species Act has prevented the extinction of many species: Without it the bald eagle, timber wolf, peregrine falcon, and humpback whale might have disappeared in the United States. Yet for all its successes, many species are slipping through the cracks in the current Act. It must be strengthened to better protect imperiled species.

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's cornerstone wildlife law and must be reauthorized with care. As currently formulated, S 1180 takes the wrong approach to ESA reauthorization. Without substantial changes, S 1180 will weaken protections for our imperiled wildlife.

What you can do-

Please call or write your Senators and urge them to work for changes to S. 1180 that will strengthen the ESA and help both species and landowners.

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
December 1997

The Prez Sez

by *John Williams*

Our November change of venue (having our program first and business items later) has met with approval and seems to be the way for us to continue.

Our speaker for November, Pat Haliday, was very impressive with her slides and presentation, which was the first item of the agenda. Questions and answers followed and were plentiful. Everyone seemed pleased.

The refreshment table with a beautiful colorful fall centerpiece by Vivian Smith, beckoned to us and was enjoyed by all.

For our December meeting, which includes a covered dish dinner, we would enjoy members telling us of birding events that occurred in the past year or years. We know that some have had interesting experiences either in their back yard or on vacations. So come, enjoy the food and tell us your story. We might even have a prize for the best story. Remember the evening begins at six P.M.

Get well wishes go herewith to members Jean Riley and Bill Francis.

Everglades National Park Celebrates its' 50th

According to an article in the Daytona Beach Sunday News Journal of November 30th, the Park was scheduled to be rededicated in ceremonies at Everglades City, Saturday, December 6th. honoring the park's 50th Anniversary.

The park is the third largest in the National Park System. It has nearly 1.5 million acres and is nearly twice the size of the state of Rhode Island. Within its borders are about 300 kinds of birds, 30 kinds of mammals, 65 kinds of reptiles and amphibians, 300 kinds of fish and almost 1000 kinds of flowering plants.

Back-country cruises among the Ten Thousand Islands or in Florida Bay in the park's southern section reward visitors with many wildlife encounters. Bird rookeries are a frequent sight in the River of Grass.

The best time to visit is from late November through mid-April.

Lookout Tower being built at Lake Woodruff N W R

The members of West Volusia Audubon Society have undertaken the task of constructing a Wildlife Viewing Tower which should enhance the observation of wildlife from the trail along the dikes. At last report they were nearing completion. Maybe we will be able to take advantage of it in January. H.R.A.S. was privileged to be able to make a contribution.

From Jeannie to All

Marie Oglesby

Jeannie Riley sends thanks to all those who have sent her cards and get well wishes. They have made her slow recovery much more tolerable.



Bird Haven



Can You Help?
Call Roy Stevenson

H.R.A.S.

Officers & Boards

1997-98

President	John Williams	255-8631
1st V. President	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
2nd V. President	Bill Francis	672-6897
Past Pres.	Roy Stevenson	252-0466, 673 1838
Rcrd'g Secretary	Marie Oglesby	Ph. 767-5553
Mbrshp Sec'y	Jeannie Riley	767-9803
Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	255-9360

Members at Large

Carlton Smith	253-3815
Audrey Christie	255-7253
Pat Mihalic	767-9437

Standing Committee Chairs

Conservation Chr	David Hartgrove	788-2630
Education Chr	Glade Koch	253-8438
Hospitality Chr	Volunteer needed	
Field Trips	Lois Robinson	760-8480

Newsletter Editor	Carlton Smith	253-3815
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Hot Lines

Bird Welfare	Roy Stevenson	673-1838
Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794

Home Pages

E-mail

Marie O.	mlo13@aol.com
Jeannie R.-	driley5896@aol.com
Carlton S.-	csmith@juno.com
David H. -	ddhart@waonline.com
Bill/June Francis -	wfran91122@aol.com

Web sites

National Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>
H.R.A.S. <http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

H.R.A.S.

Membership MEETING

Welcome All

Our meetings are normally held at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of each month, September through May at

Seabreeze United Church
501 N. Wild Olive Ave.
Daytona Beach

However,

This being December, we will have our Christmas dinner starting at 6:00 pm Monday, December 15th. The meat, Ham and/or Chicken, will be furnished by the society. Please bring a vegetable, dessert or salad, enough to serve 6 to 8 people.

Our program will be as noted in the **Prez Sez** Box on page 1.

Why Birds?

Birds are an ecological litmus paper. Because of their rapid metabolism and wide geographical range, they reflect changes in the environment quickly. They warn us of things out of balance, sending out signals whenever there is a deterioration in the ecosystem...

--Roger Tory Peterson

Please Note

All members are welcome to send articles to the Pelican. They should be sent to Carlton by the first Monday of every month. Typed articles will be appreciated but he will accept them in any form. (Email preferred if available.)



Field Trips Notice

by Lois Robinson

Friday, December 5th:

Black Point on Merrit Island, one of our yearly birding high lights, will be featured. - John Carr leader. Note: Only 1 scheduled trip in Dec.

Saturday, January 3rd:

Christmas bird count - David Hartgrove, leader.

Saturday, January 24th:

Lake Woodruff, another of our annual birding highlights. Carlton Smith, Leader.

Saturday, February 7th:

Glade Koch will lead us to the county landfill and surrounding areas where we will look for eagles and other birds of prey. Maybe we will get to see courting displays and other activities.

Please remember that all of our trips leave at 8 AM (unless otherwise announced) 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

The Watchlist

Saving species pushed to the edge of extinction is difficult, costly, and confrontational. The WatchList targets bird species at conservation risk before they require federal regulation, stressing preventative medicine in the present, rather than in the future.

Notes from Conservation

David Hartgrove

From DAVID HARTGROVE
12/8/97

It appears that the Interior Appropriations bill will become law, in spite of its many negative aspects. Among these are: more logging road subsidies, log export exemptions in the Northwest, weakened forests, extended logging in parts of Alaska that are currently pristine and more destructive cattle grazing in the Southwest. Closer to home, our county officials have apparently declared war on birds. The Ponce DeLeon Inlet Port Authority has decided that the parks in the Ponce Inlet area aren't profitable enough. I was unaware that parks were supposed to be a profit making operation. Their proposed solution to this "problem" is to develop Rattlesnake and Dog islands. These two spoil islands west of Ponce Inlet are important refuge areas for resting migratory birds as well as offering good nesting habitat for both colonial nesting shore birds and passerines. Preliminary plans call for camping areas, hiking trails, an amphitheater, helicopter pad, etc.

The islands are only accessible by boat so the plan calls for water taxis. The birds need refuge from us and our activities. When the tide is high, these islands are about the only refuge there is.

Finally, the Daytona Beach International Airport has decided that they have a "major bird problem". Their study, conducted by the Departments of Transportation and Agriculture and GMI, a company from Panama City, calls

for a reassessment and eradication of birds on the runways, at the speedway and the landfill.

Their estimates of 150,000 birds a day at the landfill during winter seem inflated. On the Christmas Bird Count, I estimated we had roughly 3,144. Our board has already said that we will go to court if necessary to stop this reckless action. We'll keep you posted.

Speaking of the CBC, ours will be on Saturday, Jan.3,1998. There will be a sign up sheet at the meetings between now and then and you can

Keller's Korner

Mary Keller needs only two things this month, but they are needed badly! The Kaytee Baby Bird Feeding formula is now fed to almost every bird which is weak. It seems to give them an immediate boost. Heating pads are also in need with this colder weather. Most birds become upset if too close to other birds so usually cannot share heating pads. Please check for heating pads you are not using and get them, or any baby bird food, to Mrs. Keller or call Marie Oglesby (767-5553) for pickup and delivery to her.

Mrs. Keller sends her thanks to all of you who have sent supplies.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



AUDUBON ADVENTURES is a wonderful newspaper about birds, wildlife and habitats written for students. It is an annual program that provides a four page journal, that is provided five times during the school year. Each edition is packed with fun art work, puzzles, quizzes, stories, essays and interactive assignments.

A 20 minute video, co-produced by The National Audubon Society and The Disney Channel, is also, provided to each class, along with access to an internet forum, where students can interact with other classrooms or with Audubon wildlife experts.

Your check for \$35.00 will provide one entire classroom with this important tool in shaping our children's future, and their interaction with the natural world.

Help in any amount will be greatly appreciated for this important project.

Please make checks payable to H. R. A. S. and send them to :

Glade Koch, Education Chair, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle. Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Your donation now will make a fine Christmas present to a whole classroom of Halifax Area children.



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In December, 1831, the famous naturalist, John James Audubon, was a guest at Bulowville. In a letter to G.W. Featherstonehough, editor of the American Journal of Geology and Natural Science, he wrote:

"During the whole long stay with Mr. Bulow, there was no abatement of his kindness or his unremitting efforts to make me comfortable and to promote my researches. I shall ever be grateful to one of the most deserving and generous of men."

Bulow took Audubon on a bird hunting expedition down the Halifax River in slave-manned boats. The first day they shot birds for Audubon's later study and spent the night aboard a schooner from New York which was anchored at a spot called Live Oak Landing. The next day Audubon set out with four Negro servants in a boat as he was anxious to shoot about twenty-five Pelicans. He wished to make a new drawing of an adult male bird, make anatomical studies, and help defray his expenses by selling their skins which were desired among the museums of Europe. In his letter to Featherstonehough, Audubon gave a vivid description of the abundance of wildlife along the Halifax River in the 1830's He wrote: "I proceeded along a narrow shallow bay where the fish were truly abundant. Would you believe it if I were to say that the fish nearly obstructed our headway? Believe it or not, so it was; the waters were filled with them, large and small." He also wrote that they came upon hundreds of pelicans, "perched on the branches of mangrove trees, seated in

perfect harmony, as near each other as the strength of the boughs would allow." Audubon quietly waded ashore to study the birds and discovered that they were fast asleep. After studying them at his leisure he fired his gun and shot two fine specimens. But his shot frightened the birds and they flew away. Later he had less luck as the birds were wild and few. However he explained, "I call birds few, when I shoot less than one hundred per day."

Disaster overtook the bird-hunting party as they started on the return journey to Bulowville. An unexpected northeast wind sprang up and the lightly clad men suffered terribly from the exposure. Their boats stuck in the mud of the Halifax River as the tide went out, and they were forced to spend the long cold night wrapped in their cloaks on the bottom of the boats. By morning the half frozen men had to get down in the waist deep mud and push the boats. Unfortunately the boats had become stuck near a marshy shore where the only trees were palm trees which could not be used to make a fire. Audubon remarked bitterly that "the grand diable himself could not burn one of them." Above the roar of the wind Audubon and Bulow shouted to the slaves, "Push boys! Push for your lives!" and after two and a half hours of pushing they reached a shore where there were trees

Audubon on the Halifax Excerpt from The Valiant Pioneers by Alice Strickland. Submitted by Fran Carr and reprinted here with permission of the author

which could be used to make a fire. Some of the slaves fell down unconscious, but a warm fire and hot tea soon revived them. Bulowville was still fifteen miles away and realizing that another night in the open would be fatal, the men resumed their journey. By the time Bulow Creek was reached the party was in high spirits, (one wonders if the hot tea had been laced with some of Bulow's fine imported brandy), and in fun they set fire to the marsh. Audubon wrote that "crack, crack, crack! went the reeds with a rapid blaze. We saw the marsh rabbits, scampering from the fire by the thousands, as we pulled our oars."

More misfortune now descended upon them as the high winds had blown most of the water out of the creek, and the boats kept grounding and had to be pushed by the slaves. Finally the order was given to abandon the boats. The game they had killed was fastened to the slaves' backs, guns were loaded and the men struggled through the marsh and woods to the storm battered beach along the Atlantic. It was a nightmare of slow travelling through the soft, wind-blown sand with the bitter northeaster lashing their faces, but at last they stumbled inland until they came to the plantation landing on Bulow Creek.

Editor's note: Mrs. Strickland is a noted historian of the Halifax area and a very active worker at the Casements.