

THE PELICAN



VOL. 44 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JANUARY 1999

THE PREZ SEZ

by John Williams

I wish to thank all who attended our December 21 meeting and our Refreshment Committee for an outstanding holiday motif dinner: also all members of the governing board for their assistance and direction during this past year. Joyous holidays to everyone. Until we meet again in the new year.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Marie Oglesby

Mary Keller and family continue their work with injured and ill birds.

Donations of any of the following will greatly help in the care of these birds: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula (used for nearly all weak birds), white paper towels, blankets, heating pads, shower curtains (to cover cages on rainy, windy days), gauze bandage rolls, tape (stick-to-itself kind), fresh or frozen finger mullet, fruit (especially apples and oranges), and Peanut Treat (year round suet-peanut butter blocks available in most store pet departments).

You may take donations directly to the Keller home at 1216 Denece Terrace, Holly Hill, or call Marie Oglesby (767-5553) for pick-up and delivery.

FIRE IS ESSENTIAL

from *The Peligram*. The Newsletter of the Pelican Island Audubon Society

The biotic environment consists of living organisms that interact with each other, and are also inseparably related to the abiotic environment, which includes temperature, water, wind, light, atmosphere, substratum, and a very important one in Florida, namely fire. Since ancient times when the seas subsided and Florida emerged from the ocean, fires caused by electrical storms have played a vital role in the development and maintenance of Florida's unique ecosystems.

Some plants depend upon fire to propagate. This is particularly true of Florida's xeric scrub communities, a good example of which is the so-called "sand ridge" of

Indian River county. Here disruption of the natural fire regime is a significant threat to the future existence of this unique ecosystem.

South Florida has the highest frequency of lightning strikes in the United States. Most of them occur during the summer rainy season. Wild fires are associated with lightning strikes. Records show that 84 percent of recorded lightning strikes and 97 percent of the recorded lightning-caused fires between 1967 and 1980 occurred between May and September with peak activity in July. However a very low percentage of lightning strikes results in fire. Only 30 out of an estimated 2100 to 2600 strikes are known to have caused fires during a span of 14 years.

Historically wild fires as the result of lightning strikes were rare, but they were allowed to burn and play their natural role in sustaining the scrub ecosystem. Today we can no longer permit that luxury as we rush to put out wild fires to save habitations. However, to sustain these sensitive ecosystems we must infrequently but periodically introduce fire.

Today's prescribed burns are done only when needed and are so skillfully done by burn experts that they never go even inches beyond a carefully plotted line. The importance of fire in maintaining south Florida natural communities has been recognized for years. Scrubs burn infrequently but once ignited they burn intensely. Nearly all plants of the scrub are evergreen, dropping leaves throughout the year, and the duff gets so thick that there is little bare ground. Scrub plants absorb moisture and nutrition quickly, leaving little for any other plants struggling to root in the understory. Scrub plants also create their own firebreak by extending their roots into the adjoining ecosystem.

JANUARY'S PROGRAM

January's program will be on Corkscrew Swamp and J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Lois Robinson will present materials which will enable us better to enjoy these areas when we travel there on our overnight birding trip February 18 and 19. She will give us suggestions on what to look for and where to find it.

If you plan to go and have not made reservations call her NOW as there are only a few places left.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By David Hartgrove

As I write this it has been a week since the environmental movement in this state lost one of its champions. Lawton Chiles was a strong supporter of Preservation 2000 and a million acres of conservation lands were purchased during his administration. He fought for programs that enhanced our state's environment and vetoed those that endangered it.

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, he often referred to himself as, "The He Coon." This term caused a great deal of puzzlement among many residents of the state. Many weren't born yet when Disney's Davey Crockett made the coonskin cap a must-have item for 8-year-olds all over the country. For many, their only experience with raccoons is as they pass by a road kill at 65 mph. I'm sure the Governor got a good deal of pleasure knowing that he was referring to himself as one of the wildest and most cunning of all the creatures in the woods.

Tropical Audubon, the chapter in the Miami area, teamed with the local Sierra Club chapter to file a lawsuit challenging the plans by Miami-Dade County to open a commercial airport within a few miles of two national parks. The abandoned Homestead Air Force Base had been granted a reuse permit by the state. But based on objections raised during the comment period, the original Environmental Impact Statement was found to be faulty. A supplemental EIS was ordered and is still being done. Miami-Dade County was telling its citizens that it was in compliance with all environmental quality regulations while at the same time working to circumvent and ignore any regulations which got in the way of rapid development of the airport. They were looking forward to having over a quarter of a million take-offs and landings within 2 miles of Biscayne National Park and 8.5 miles of Everglades National Park. On December 17th, the Third District Court of Appeals handed down a blistering opinion which chastised Miami-Dade County for knowingly circumventing environmental law in an effort to complete its project. This was a big victory for people all over the state. **Tropical Audubon** and Sierra Club Miami Group can be proud of their efforts to preserve a quiet experience for those of us who like to walk down the Gumbo-Limbo Trail listening for the call of the Black Whiskered Vireo rather than the whine of a DC-10.

A bill has been filed in Tallahassee to replace the Northern Mockingbird with the Florida Scrub Jay as the official state bird. The internet has been ablaze with postings pro and con. Personally, I think anyone who believes that the incoming house leadership is going to make an endangered species the state bird is being wildly optimistic.

BIRDING IN THE FIRE AREAS

By Kevin DeWall

From the reports of wild fires last summer that burned large portions of Volusia County it would seem that a large portion of the county would now basically be bare of bird life. While some areas were severely burned and then much of the remaining vegetation was stripped in the frantic rush to harvest dead and dying trees for pulp wood, many of the fire areas are still very productive birding areas. In some areas the birding has actually been improved. Such is the case on **Hunting Camp Road** just south of Samsula. Hunting Camp Road runs south from State Road 44 at the east edge of Samsula and is clearly marked with a street sign. This public road is several miles long but is gated at the four mile mark where it becomes a private road. The last mile and a half north of the gate is one of the best birding sites in Volusia County. The area burned during the fires but still sustains large numbers of diverse species. The terrain is flat but in this stretch there are four different types of vegetation: pine flat woods, open field, sand pine, and cypress dome. A major drainage canal runs along the west side of the road.

Since the fires I have observed many species interacting with this fire area: Anhinga, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Great Blue Heron, Tricolored Herons, Cattle Egrets, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Wood Storks, Belted Kingfishers, a male Hooded Merganser, Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Wild Turkeys, Northern Bobwhites, Sandhill Cranes, a Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Doves, Common Ground Doves, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallows, Blue Jays, American Crows, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wrens, House Wrens, American Crows, Gray Catbirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Cardinals and Boat-tailed Grackles. In addition to birds I have observed alligators, turtles, gray squirrels, and a feral hog with 13 piglets.

Optimum time for birding this area is between 8 and 10 a.m. Please stay on the county-maintained road; the area away from the roadway is private property. On your way in, observe what cypress harvesting has left of the bay head east of the road. It's pretty ugly. While in this area you should also bird the next 2 roads north of Hunting Camp Road: South Samsula Drive has a fire area in a swamp and Cucumber Lane has an open pasture with some dead trees in which I have seen 35 American Pipits, a Broad-winged Hawk, and a pair of adults and an immature Red-headed Woodpecker. Watch out for loose cattle and Emus on these roads. Good Birding.

FIELD TRIPS

by Lois Robinson

All trips (note exception) leave from parking area at east end of the Courthouse Annex, City Island at 8 a.m. Bring a lunch and beverage.

January 2, Saturday. Annual Christmas Bird Count. This is a chance for us to contribute to the nation-wide count that helps us determine the health or decline of many of our bird species. Not only is it fun but we are part of a scientific study which will help all birds. Meet at the Publix parking lot at Williamson and Granada Boulevards at 7:00 a.m. **David Hartgrove** (788-2630) is our leader.

January 23, Saturday. Trip to the County Landfill and Tomoka Farms Road with **Glade Koch** and **Lois Pauchey** as leaders. This is a wonderful opportunity to view an abundance of Bald Eagles, gulls, ibis and on Tomoka Farms Road we see Bluebirds, turkeys, Sandhill Cranes and warblers.

February 5, Friday. Orlando Wetlands Tour. **Glade Koch** will be leading us. **Mark Sees**, the new manager at the Wetlands will also be joining us. The Wetlands are a beautiful example of what nature and man working in harmony can do. The water for the Wetlands comes from one of the Orlando Water Treatment Plants. Thus the water is restored to our Central Florida area and the plants and bacteria finish the work of making the water as pure as it ever was. Along the way a beautiful wildlife sanctuary is created, a home for many, many birds and other wildlife.

February 18 and 19. Overnight trip to "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge and Corkscrew Swamp. We will leave Thursday morning at 7:30, and return Friday around 6 p.m. Total cost: \$102.00 per person with \$25.00 paid now to **Lois Robinson** (check made out to **HRAS**) to hold your seat on the bus. The rest is due the day we leave. The cost covers everything but a bag lunch you bring with you and our evening meal at a cafeteria. Don't miss this wonderful chance for fellowship and great birding!

CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY

Corkscrew Swamp is an 11,000 acre wilderness owned and operated by the National Audubon Society. The Swamp has one of the most productive Wood Stork colonies in North America. Another big attraction is the more than two miles of boardwalk that winds through three different types of terrain that wouldn't otherwise be easily accessible on foot: an area wooded with slash pine and saw palmetto trees, a treeless wet prairie, and a shallow swamp covered with cypress trees and other tropical vegetation. There are rest stops along the way and places to set up a "scope" and take pictures. The Wood Storks are nesting from January till March so we will be there during this time. Visitors often see Carolina Wrens,

Pileated Woodpeckers, ibis, Barred Owls, Anhingas, egrets, herons, hawks, warblers, Tufted Titmice and many other varieties of birds. It's not uncommon to see white-tailed deer, turtles, snakes and alligators. I was there in the spring one time when the roars of the bull alligators echoed through the whole land. There is also a butterfly garden and a butterfly lepidoptery that have been added in recent years. I have been told by the staff at Corkscrew that they have some wheelchairs available for our group.

J.N. "DING" DARLING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This showcase of Sanibel Island includes 5,000 acres of native vegetation, beautiful birds, marine life and a host of animals. The refuge is closely related to the Everglades estuarine ecology and abounds with life.

The refuge gets its name from Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist and conservationist Jay "Ding" Darling who fought long and hard to preserve this beautiful land. Visitors today learn the value of wetlands through the Visitor's Center and tram tours along Wildlife Drive. The Center features a slide show, wildlife exhibits and a vignette on "Ding" Darling, the man. There are also books and guides for sale. We may hope to see manatees, gopher tortoises, hawks, eagles, herons, egrets, mergansers, Roseate Spoonbills and a host of other migrating and perching birds. We will have a two-hour tram ride and then have an hour if desired to visit the Visitor's Center.

Sanibel and Captiva Islands practiced eco-tourism long before it became fashionable. Sanibel protects all wildlife. It was the first to prohibit by law the feeding of the once-threatened alligator. The osprey gets special attention from the International Osprey Foundation and the Caretta Research Foundation, which works to protect the endangered loggerhead turtle. Sanibel has received many awards for its efforts regarding protection of all wildlife.

DECEMBER BIRDING TRIPS

We are grateful to **John Carr** for leading three birding trips to Merritt Island's Black Point Drive and surrounding areas. Each trip reported over 70 species seen which may set a record for these excursions. We were thrilled to see Marbled Godwits, Roseate Spoonbills, White Pelicans, many hawks, including a Cooper's Hawk, Red Knots, Dowitchers, Meadowlarks and a rare (for us) Snow Bunting. We also enjoyed seeing 15 manatees at the viewing area by Haulover Bridge. The manatees should be there all during the winter months. There is a fresh water spring at the area and that, along with the warmer water, attracts the manatees. A good place to bird is the Riverbreeze Park in Oak Hill on the Indian River. This is where we saw the godwits and many other migrating shore birds.

COUNCIL MEETS HERE

by John Carr

The Halifax River Audubon Society hosted a meeting of the Northeast Florida Council of Florida Audubon Society (FAS) at the Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce building on December 12, 1998. There are 7 chapters in the Northeast Council: Alachua, Halifax River, Flagler, St. Johns, Southeast Volusia, Duval, and Four Rivers. West Volusia has been asked to join. There are 7 councils in the state comprised of more than 30,000 Audubon members.

Larry Thompson, who is FAS Vice President of Chapter Relations and Campaigns, chaired the event, which included representatives from 4 of the chapters and included 9 people from our chapter. Our chapter also served a welcoming coffee and a luncheon to the attendees.

The purpose of the meeting was to find out the concerns of chapters, exchange ideas and enterprises undertaken by the different chapters, and to inform chapters about FAS issues.

Some of the issues raised were:

1. Ways to increase working relations between FAS and local chapters. Three changes in the relationship have been proposed in a White Paper by the Chapter Relations Committee. A suggestion made at the meeting was for FAS to be more helpful as a legal resource, a scientific resource and a political resource.
2. Training was addressed. There is a FAS Train the Trainer Workshop available where chapters can send members to learn how to lead birding classes. (HRAS Board voted to send two members to the next class.)
3. Georgia and North Florida are working on plans to preserve a safe corridor for endangered wildlife (such as the black bear and possibly the Florida panther) running from Waycross to Lake City. It is called Pinhook Osceola Greater Okefenokee (POGO). This would preserve the land from development, especially crucial west of an expanding Jacksonville.
4. The Great Florida Birding Trail (see article in this issue).
5. Chapters recognize the need for closer communication to effectively pool their common concerns, especially environment and conservation. Plans are to expand computer networking between chapters and between councils and FAS. Chapters were asked to define their 3 most important issues to help work out a master plan for council activity.

HRAS representatives were **John Williams**, President and **Angelo Cerrito**, Vice President, who agreed that it had been a most informative and enjoyable meeting.



THE GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

by Nancy Jordan, Birding Trail Coordinator

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission along with the Florida Department of Transportation is cosponsoring The Great Florida Birding Trail, a 2000-mile highway trail which unifies existing and new birding sites throughout Florida. Modeled after the successful Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, this ambitious project combines special highway signs identifying Birding Trail sites with a flipchart map showcasing the wonderful birding opportunities in Florida. The Trail consists of a series of loops, each containing 5-10 sites highlighting communities and special ecosystems like the Lake Wales Ridge.

The first section, the East Florida Birding Trail, with an estimated 190 sites, will be completed during the year 2000. Counties in this first section include: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam, Flagler, Marion, Volusia, Brevard, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Polk and Highlands. Birdwatchers of all abilities will be able to locate a variety of birding sites by using the map combined with beautiful highway signs depicting the Great Florida Birding Trail logo - the American Swallow-tailed Kite.

Traditionally, only local birders knew about the great birding sites in their area. Most publicity went to the federal and state sites, such as J.J. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park. The Great Florida Birding Trail aims to combine more prominent birding sites with the smaller local sites in driving loops that will spread out casual birdwatchers and their ecotourism dollars into the surrounding communities. Birding Trail Coordinator, Nancy Jordan, is making a special effort to contact all people who have information about potential birding trail sites in the 18 county area which comprises the first phase, the East Florida Birding Trail. Birders, biologists, planners, parks and recreation directors, site managers - anyone who knows where there are great places to bird - are encouraged to contact Nancy and nominate their sites. Public meetings to further explain site criteria and the site selection process will be held on the following dates and locations:

February 8 - Ravine State Gardens, Putnam County
 February 11 - North Florida Community College, North
 Campus, Duval County
 February 15 - Wekiwa Springs State Park, Orange County
 February 18 - Environmental Learning Center, Indian
 River County

The foundation of the Great Florida Birding Trail is our state's fabulous birdlife. The reason for this diversity is Florida's unique geographical location, bridging both temperate and tropical climate zones. Both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts are utilized by migratory birds as pathways in the spring and fall. In addition, the peninsular shape of the state has resulted in some species becoming separated from their continental relatives and eventually uniquely adapting to special ecosystems, such as the Lake Wales Ridge. Finally, Florida occasionally plays host to strays from our southern neighbors in the Caribbean and West Indies.

Ultimately, conserving our state's incredible birdlife is the main focus of the Great Florida Birding Trail. Impetus for the creation of the Great Florida Birding Trail has evolved directly from the phenomenal public interest in birdwatching - an increase of 155% over the past decade. In fact, in a 1990 survey in Fortune magazine, twice as many vacationers preferred to watch birds than play golf! Florida is rated among the top three birdwatching destinations in the U.S., behind Texas and Alaska, giving communities added economic incentive to preserve quality bird habitat. In addition, the Sunshine State has seen an increase in birding festivals in just the past three years. Florida had five birding festivals in 1997 up from two in 1996. The Space Coast Flyway Festival in the Titusville area had 1050 people in its first year (1997) and this year's inaugural Florida Birding Festival in Pinellas county had over 700 attendees. Eleven birding festivals around the state of Florida were held in 1998!

The Trail is being coordinated by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's (FGFWFC) Office of Informational Services and sponsored by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with funds from the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program. The completed project will have four sections (East Florida, West Florida, Panhandle Florida and South Florida). The Trail starts at the Florida-Georgia state line on the northeast Atlantic Coast, extending south to incorporate South Florida, the Keys and the Dry Tortugas, then traveling northward along the Gulf Coast finally ending in Escambia County in the Northwest Panhandle. Additional inward loops highlighting such unique ecosystems as the Lake Wales Ridge, will be accessible from both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Already the project boasts such partners as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Florida Park Service (DEP), Florida Audubon Society, Division of Forestry

(DoACS), VISITFL, U.S. Air Force (Avon Park Bombing Range), St. Johns River, South Florida and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts. The approved application for State Transportation Enhancement Program funding was accompanied by more support letters than FDOT had ever seen including chambers of commerce, convention and visitor bureaus, state representatives and senators, Audubon chapters, private business, county tourism bureaus and scientific research stations!

Broad-based support and grassroots community investment will make the Great Florida Birding Trail a success for Florida and for our feathered friends. If you would like to receive updates on the progress of the Great Florida Birding Trail and be involved in the site nomination process please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to: Nancy E. Jordan, Birding Trail Coordinator, FGFWFC, 620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600, phone (850)922-0664, SC 292-0664 or e-mail her at: jordann@gfc.state.fl.us.

EXPENSES INCREASE

Halifax River Audubon Society (HRAS) publishes the newsletter *The Pelican* which has grown from 4 to 6 pages over the years. This larger newsletter is probably the best way for our members to become aware of some of the projects HRAS is involved in. At this time, the newsletter and other projects are costing more than dues are bringing in. So we have undertaken to sell *The Bird Watcher's Digest* which turns out to be a really great little magazine. It costs \$18.95 a year and HRAS receives \$9.45 of that from the publisher. We have made about \$100.00 to date with a painless and very enjoyable money raising activity. Please consider subscribing to *The Bird Watchers Digest*. To do so really helps us fund our needs.

BIRD WATCHERS DIGEST

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT. NO. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$18.95 for 6 issues.
 On behalf of: Halifax River Audubon Society, Box 166
 Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166

Send check to:

BIRD WATCHERS DIGEST
 P.O. Box 110
 Marietta OH 45750-0110

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers You Need to Know

1998-1999 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | John Williams | 255-8631 |
| 1 st Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | John Carr | 522-9360 |
| Past President | Roy Stevenson | 252-0466 |
| Record. Sec'y | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Membership Sec'y | Jeannie Riley | 767-9803 |
| Treasurer | Morrell Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Historian | John Carr | 255-9360 |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Carlton Smith | 253-3815 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 761-8004 |
| Field Trips | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Ident. | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Statewide Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |
| North Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (912) 244-9190 |

WEB SITES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| National Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/net/index.html |
| Florida Audubon Society | http://www.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/audubon/default.htm |
| Halifax River Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax |
| Marie Oglesby..... | mls13@aol.com |
| Jeannie Riley..... | driley5896@aol.com |
| Carlton Smith..... | cmsmith@juno.com |
| David Hartgrove..... | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| John Carr..... | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Willie Burns..... | wwillie@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall..... | kodewall@hotmail.com |
| Fran Carr..... | franni@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski..... | bsmyrski@aol.com |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received no later than the night of the Monthly Meeting.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 North Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome!

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to hostess **Barbara Smyrski** and helpers **Lois Robinson, Marie Oglesby, Angelo Cerrito, Kevin DeWall, John Williams, Pat Mihalic, Vivian Smith** and **Glade Koch** and all of you who brought food, told bird stories and helped make our special HRAS Holiday dinner a success.

WELCOME

David Baliker, Elenadien Goins, G. E. Gorman, Wendy Hart, Tom Pelchen, Fred Phillips, Donna Rubright, Nancy J. Adams, Mrs. Mary Bumgarner, Mr. & Mrs. W. Katz, Helen Kovacs, Mr. John P. McDermont, Robert Simons, Betty Bonewell, John Brewer, Robert Holmes, and Janet Morak have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist **Angelo Cerrito** in planning a rummage sale. Call him at 767-5397.

THE PELICAN



VOL. 44 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY FEBRUARY 1999

PREZ SEZ

by John Williams

Our January meeting was another outstanding program. It was well attended and enjoyed by those present. With a loan of equipment from Bethune-Cookman College, we viewed a video of Corkscrew Swamp in Southwest Florida. The video gave a clear outline of what those of us who will be making the Society's first overnight excursion might expect. Lois Robinson planned this trip and the tremendous response by members was a pleasant surprise.

The underlying theme, I felt, was the importance of water which we often take for granted. We become impatient with those who keep saying, "Conserve! Conserve! Conserve!" Water is our lifeline as it is to all creatures of this planet.

In 1746, Ben Franklin said, "Water is missed when the well's run dry." We know the worth of water.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Mary Keller

It is nearing the end of January and soon mother birds everywhere will be building nests and starting their families.

Woodpeckers and small owls love to nest in trees, dead or living. They make holes in dead wood in trunks or inside large limbs and nest there.

Some of you don't like the noise Chimney Swifts make while nesting in your chimney. To keep them out, before February 15 cover your chimney top with rat proof wire. Check to make sure no birds are inside before placing the wire. Good wire will last for years and even roof rats can't get down your chimney and into your house. But keep in mind that if there were more Chimney Swifts in the world, flying free and free to breed in their favorite places, we wouldn't have to use so much pesticide for mosquito control.

Mary Keller needs small, HEAVY, ceramic type dog or cat feeding bowls that don't tip easily for her bird patients this month. Millet sprays and Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula will also be appreciated. You may take any donations directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call Marie Oglesby at 767-5553 for pickup and delivery. Thank you for your help.

FEBRUARY BIRDING TRIPS

by Lois Robinson

February 5, Friday We will have our annual trip to Orlando Wetlands. Mark Sees, the new director, will meet us there and conduct us on our trip. He has some new ideas including taking us in a vehicle so we can cover more territory and see more birds. These Wetlands are the first large-scale man-made wetlands designed to treat reclaimed water and provide wildlife habitat. We will see an abundance of migrating waterfowl, terns, hawks, eagles, sparrow and many other birds. Glade Koch is the leader. Please bring a lunch and beverage and meet at the east end of the parking lot at the City Island Courthouse Annex, Daytona Beach at 8 a.m.

February 18 and 19, Thursday & Friday Overnight trip to Ding Darling Refuge and Corkscrew Swamp Refuge.

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY IF YOU ARE GOING.

We will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the parking lot of Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange. Our cars will be safe there and it's near I-95. We must leave on time to meet our appointments at Ding Darling. **BRING A LUNCH AND A SNACK FOR THIS FIRST DAY.** We will have cold beverages with us on the bus. Because the tram at Ding Darling only holds 37 people, they are going to run two tram trips for us; one at 1:30 and one at 3:30. The bus will take us to the Visitor's Center and to the Bailey Tract if requested while you are waiting for your turn on the tram. We will be eating dinner at the Ponderosa Steak House in a reserved room. The dinner is at your expense. We have rooms reserved at The Hampton Inn Downtown (941-656-4000). After a Continental breakfast at the motel please be ready to leave at 8:30 a.m. for Corkscrew Swamp. We will pick up our lunch on the way there. The Audubon Society has arranged for us to have a guided trip through the Swamp. After lunch there, we will be heading home arriving about 6 p.m. If you have any questions call Lois Robinson at 760-8480. The bus trip is filled but we can put you on a waiting list in case we have any cancellations.

Please bring your check made out to H.R.A.S. for \$77.00 if you have already paid your \$25.00 deposit, otherwise I need a check for the full \$102.00. Thank you.

MORE ABOUT GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

The meetings to nominate locations for the trail were listed in the January *Pelican*. These are the only meetings that will be held for nominations for northeastern trail sites.

David Hartgrove plans to attend one of the meetings and nominate the great birding area under the west side of the Port Orange Bridge.

You can nominate your favorite birding site by attending one of the public meetings (below), or contacting Nancy E. Jordan, Birding Trail Coordinator at (805) 922-0664 or downloading the site nomination form from the web site: www.state.fl.us/gfc/ Nominations will be accepted from February 1 through March 31. Meeting sites are:

*Feb. 8, Ravine State Gardens, Palatka, (904) 329-3721

*Feb. 11, North Florida Community College,
North Campus, Jacksonville, (904) 766-5550

*Feb. 15, Wekiva Springs State Park, Apopka,
(407) 884-2006

*Feb. 18, Environmental Learning Center, Vero Beach,
(561) 589-5050

J.N. *DING* Darling

"Ding" Darling Refuge was named after one of the pioneers of the conservation movement. "Ding" is a shortened version Jay Norwood Darling used for his signature. This is how he signed his political cartoons, for which he received a Pulitzer Prize in 1923 and 1942.

Mr. Darling headed the U.S. Biological Survey (forerunner of the Fish and Wildlife Service) under Franklin Roosevelt's administration. He is also credited as one of the key people in the establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge.

One of Mr. Darling's most important contributions to wildlife was the initiation, in 1934, of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp or "Duck Stamp" program. He designed the first stamp and every year since, a new stamp has been issued. The proceeds from the sale of these stamps have purchased wetlands for 200 National Wildlife Refuges.

SHOREBIRDS HARASSED

Mary Keller, bird rehabilitator in Daytona Beach, warns that shorebirds on the populous beaches are sometimes chased, harmed, and at least once, buried alive by beach-goers.

People have been observed riding bicycles and beach vehicles into groups of shorebirds. Most usually it is children who chase the shorebirds. **HRAS** plans to request beach safety personnel to be aware of this activity and to curb it if it looks like it may become destructive to the birds.

CALENDAR

February 13

Orange Audubon Society and the City of Orlando will cooperate in presenting the first Environmental Festival "Back to Nature Bash" at Orlando Wetlands Park. The purpose is to familiarize more people with the wonders of nature at this park.

The Festival will run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will include nature walks with an emphasis on birding, and bicycle and bus tours of the 1200 acres of the park. Displays and presentations will be offered by environmental agencies and organizations.

Contact Jenny Williams (407)290-6929 or Tom Williams (407)332-5089.

February 15

HRAS program "Terns" by Julie Hovis

February 17

Dr. George Archibald will speak on "Cranes" at the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society at 7:30 p.m. at the Edgewater library. Call Debbie Thomas 427-0804 for information.

February 19-22

Second Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, National Audubon and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, <http://birds.cornell.edu>

Through February 28

"Audubon in Florida" exhibit at the DeLand Museum of Art, 600 N. Woodland Blvd (904)734-4371

March 5

HRAS trip to Gemini Springs

NEW SMYRNA BEACH

The New Smyrna Beach City Commissioners at this time rejected an amendment to an ordinance which would allow construction closer to the ocean by up to 130 feet. The ordinance change was proposed to help property owners who lost coastal buildings due to a 1997 hurricane. Vacant lots close to the water would also have been able to be developed.

Volunteers are needed to assist **Angelo Cerrito** in planning a rummage sale. Call him at 767-5397.

Volusia County 1996 / 1997 / 1998 Christmas Bird Count

| 1-4-97 | 1-3-98 | 1-2-99 | | 1-4-97 | 1-3-98 | 1-2-99 | |
|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------|
| 2 | 2 | 0 | Loon, Common | 4 | 31 | 11 | Tern, Forster's |
| 27 | 20 | 19 | Grebe, Pied-billed | 0 | 12 | 0 | Tern, sp. |
| 27 | 35 | 33 | Gannet, Northern | 97 | 330 | 335 | Dove, Rock |
| 0 | 15 | 0 | Pelican, American White | 3 | 36 | 58 | Collared-Dove, Eurasian |
| 70 | 111 | 133 | Pelican, Brown | 365 | 313 | 586 | Dove, Mourning |
| 187 | 654 | 106 | Cormorant, Double-crested | 4 | 3 | 2 | Ground Dove, Common |
| 9 | 21 | 21 | Anhinga | 0 | 1 | 0 | Barn Owl |
| 22 | 16 | 7 | Heron, Great Blue | 1 | 9 | 11 | Screech-Owl, Eastern |
| 31 | 13 | 32 | Egret, Great | 1 | 3 | 1 | Owl, Great Horned |
| 22 | 38 | 24 | Egret, Snowy | 5 | 7 | 6 | Owl, Barred |
| 6 | 12 | 12 | Heron, Little Blue | 20 | 20 | 12 | Kingfisher, Belted |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | Heron, Tricolored | 2 | 0 | 1 | Woodpecker, Red-headed |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Egret, Reddish | 54 | 28 | 24 | Woodpecker, Red-bellied |
| 17 | 6 | 71 | Egret, Cattle | 2 | 7 | 1 | Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | Heron, Green | 6 | 6 | 5 | Woodpecker, Downy |
| 35 | 190 | 251 | Ibis, White | 2 | 1 | 6 | Flicker, Northern |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Ibis, Glossy | 20 | 10 | 7 | Woodpecker, Pileated |
| 30 | 12 | 10 | Stork, Wood | 4 | 8 | 19 | Phoebe, Eastern |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | Goose, Canada | 2306 | 305 | 10 | Swallow, Tree |
| 1 | 0 | 5 | Duck, Wood | 42 | 23 | 7 | Jay, Blue |
| 25 | 11 | 59 | Mallard | 44 | 35 | 32 | Crow, American |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | Teal, Blue-winged | 74 | 143 | 29 | Crow, Fish |
| 4 | 79 | 3 | Duck, Ring-necked | 0 | 0 | 19 | Crow, sp. |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | Scaup, Greater | 0 | 2 | 0 | Chickadee, Carolina |
| 0 | 25 | 0 | Scaup, Lesser | 13 | 5 | 3 | Titmouse, Tufted |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Bufflehead | 5 | 0 | 20 | Nuthatch, Brown-headed |
| 0 | 0 | 6 | Merganser, Hooded | 26 | 20 | 12 | Wren, Carolina |
| 10 | 9 | 11 | Merganser, Red-breasted | 2 | 0 | 4 | Wren, House |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Duck, Ruddy | 5 | 1 | 7 | Kinglet, Ruby-crowned |
| 21 | 30 | 16 | Vulture, Black | 3 | 1 | 0 | Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray |
| 128 | 127 | 77 | Vulture, Turkey | 20 | 26 | 32 | Bluebird, Eastern |
| 19 | 7 | 36 | Osprey | 0 | 1 | 3 | Thrush, Hermit |
| 3 | 10 | 1 | Eagle, Bald | 1146 | 1643 | 266 | Robin, American |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | Harrier, Northern | 30 | 13 | 8 | Catbird, Gray |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | Hawk, Sharp-shinned | 99 | 57 | 85 | Mockingbird, Northern |
| 0 | 2 | 1 | Hawk, Cooper's | 2 | 0 | 0 | Thrasher, Brown |
| 12 | 25 | 17 | Hawk, Red-Shouldered | 0 | 17 | 4 | Pipit, American |
| 3 | 4 | 3 | Hawk, Red-tailed | 441 | 1 | 2 | Waxwing, Cedar |
| 17 | 21 | 33 | Kestrel, American | 12 | 3 | 32 | Shrike, Loggerhead |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Merlin | 266 | 561 | 592 | Starling, European |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Peregrine | 9 | 5 | 1 | Vireo, White-eyed |
| 15 | 23 | 11 | Turkey, Wild | 1 | 0 | 0 | Vireo, Blue-headed |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Bobwhite, Northern | 929 | 1314 | 385 | Warbler, Yellow-rumped |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Rail, Clapper | 0 | 1 | 0 | Warbler, Yellow-throated |
| 45 | 9 | 16 | Moorhen, Common | 47 | 7 | 86 | Warbler, Pine |
| 67 | 90 | 95 | Coot, American | 10 | 7 | 67 | Warbler, Palm |
| 28 | 50 | 27 | Plover, Black-Bellied | 1 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Black-and-white |
| 28 | 102 | 35 | Killdeer | 1 | 0 | 11 | Yellowthroat, Common |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | Oystercatcher, American | 37 | 30 | 18 | Cardinal, Northern |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Sandpiper, Solitary | 2 | 2 | 0 | Towhee, Eastern |
| 11 | 6 | 6 | Willet | 22 | 77 | 56 | Sparrow, Chipping |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | Sandpiper, Spotted | 0 | 2 | 0 | Sparrow, Field |
| 97 | 60 | 168 | Turnstone, Ruddy | 0 | 1 | 2 | Sparrow, Savannah |
| 170 | 7 | 11 | Knot, Red | 0 | 0 | 2 | Sparrow, Song |
| 175 | 137 | 411 | Sanderling | 0 | 0 | 4 | Sparrow, Swamp |
| 595 | 1912 | 2276 | Gull, Laughing | 42 | 57 | 258 | Blackbird, Red-winged |
| 1849 | 1507 | 2121 | Gull, Ring-billed | 0 | 6 | 1 | Meadowlark, Eastern |
| 26 | 0 | 5 | Gull, Herring | 77 | 152 | 297 | Grackle, Boat-tailed |
| 1 | 1 | 6 | Gull, Great Black-backed | 119 | 88 | 244 | Grackle, Common |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | Tern, Caspian | 0 | 0 | 64 | Cowbird, Brown-headed |
| 13 | 59 | 30 | Tern, Royal | 1 | 1 | 21 | Goldfinch, American |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | Tern, Sandwich | 6 | 24 | 0 | Sparrow, House |
| 3 | 3 | 1 | Tern, Common | | | | |

January 4, 1997 count: Total Species; 97. Total individuals; 10,300. Observers: 26 in 5-8 parties. Time: 4:00 AM - 5:30 PM. Owling: 3.75 hrs., 41 mi. Foot: 19 hrs., 23 mi. Car: 22.5 hrs., 294 mi. Temp: 58-76°. Wind; SW 15. Water open. AM partly cloudy, foggy. PM partly cloudy. Observers were: Pat Anderson, Kathy Bernard, Allan Boshen, Marie Bracciale, Willie Burns, Fran Carr, John Carr, Larry Griffin, Ruth Harding, David Hartgrove, Bill Hoppes, John Hough, Ruth Hough, Glade Koch, Jack Lahart, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Jan Petito, Lois Robinson, Morrell Robinson, Mary Jean Rogers, Barbara Samler, Eugene Speck, Roy Stevenson, Debbie Thomas, Jeri Wyly, and John Williams.

January 3, 1998 count: Total Species: 103. Total individuals: 10,977. Observers: 15 in 5 parties. Time: 2:15 AM - 5:45 PM. Owling: 6 3/4 hrs., 90 mi. Foot: 6 hrs., 4 mi. Car: 42 1/4 hrs., 315 mi. Temp: 52-74°. Wind: NW 12.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

First let me extend a sincere thank you to the hearty souls who came out for the HRAS Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Those who came out from our chapter were augmented by a good group from Flagler County Audubon and one who drove down from Alachua Audubon to help out. We assembled under threatening skies and had a good day (with only a few light showers). Next year I'll have to arrange for a larger table for our dinner afterwards. The food was delicious but the accommodations were a bit close.

Speaking of CBC's, our chapter recently donated funds to help underwrite a survey of the bird population at Zellwood Farms. This property was recently acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Birders who have been going onto the property for years know what a treasure the place is. But it was necessary for a special study to be done to convince the SJRWMD. The newest CBC in the state, the Zellwood/Mt. Dora CBC, recorded the largest number of species ever listed for an inland count anywhere in North America: 176. For those of us who've been involved in CBC's for some time, it's hard to imagine seeing that many species in one day. Among the birds seen were: Eared Grebe, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, American Redstart, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Two recent appointments made by Governor Jeb Bush bode well for Florida's environmental community. The first is the selection of Florida Audubon Society Board member J. Allison DeFoor to be the Everglades Czar. When asked specific questions about Everglades policy, the new Czar tap danced around the thornier issues. But he's

Water open. AM partly cloudy. PM partly cloudy. Observers were: Pat Anderson, Dorothy Apgar, Willie Burns, John Carr, Frances Carr, Nancy Dearborn, Gail Duggins, John Eggert, Peggy Ferver, Ann Flippo, David Hartgrove, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Barbara Samler, Jeri Wyly

January 2, 1999 count: Total Species: 98. Total individuals: 9,984. Observers: 17 in 5 parties. Time: 2:30 AM - 5:45 PM. Owling: 7 3/4 hrs., 88 mi. Foot: 12 hrs., 2 1/2 mi. Car: 27 1/2 hrs., 279 1/2 mi. Temp: 56-82°. Wind SE 8-22. Water open. AM cloudy, light rain. PM partly cloudy. Observers were: Alexa Abercrombie, Frances Carr, John Carr, Kevin DeWall, Joe Greco, Judy Greco, David Hartgrove, Michael Miesenburg, Lois Pouchey, Gerri Peevers, Lois Robinson, Morell Robinson, Madeline Shaddix, Vivian Smith, Roy Stevenson, Merit Wilson.

still moving into the office and his credentials are good. Besides, the recently concluded Talisman land exchange program announced by Vice President Gore last month will take a lot of pressure off of the whole situation. This historic agreement will provide for 55,000 acres of marsh to clean and store water for the Everglades and other uses.

The other bit of good news comes with the appointment of David Struhs as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Struhs held a similar position in Massachusetts and served in President George Bush's administration. In a news release from the Florida Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), he was praised as having an open door policy to the environmental community. He was instrumental in convincing the Massachusetts governor to reduce pollution from fossil fuels in spite of heavy lobbying on the part of oil, gas, and power companies. Let's hope he continues his environmental policies here in Florida.

NEEDED!! Volunteers for The Florida Burrowing Owl Project to report and monitor activity at nest sites. If you are interested, please contact **John W. Carr**, 357 Brookline Ave. Daytona Beach FL 32118-3311 or **Pamela J. Bowen**, The Florida Burrowing Owl Project, 3068 Whisper Lake Lane #F, Winter Park, FL 32792.

"Twenty centuries of 'progress' have brought the average citizen a vote, a national anthem, a Ford, a bank account, and a high opinion of himself, but not the capacity to live in high density without befouling and denuding his environment, nor a conviction that such capacity, rather than such density, is the true test of whether he is civilized."

Aldo Leopold *Game Management* (1933)

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology invite you to participate in the Second Annual Great Backyard Bird Count on February 19-22. Many HRAS members feed and watch birds in their back yards and this program gives them a chance to add to scientific understanding and appreciation of birds.

If you participate you are asked to count backyard birds over a four-day weekend and report the results. In this way, ornithologists can get a picture of where the birds are just prior to the start of spring migration.

The e-mail address is <<http://birdsource.cornell.edu>> if you want more information and to report your counts. But if you don't have a computer you can phone Lois and Morrell Robinson who have generously offered to compile and transmit the data. Call them after February 22 at 760-8480.

BIRDING SITE - LAKE HARNEY ROAD

by Kevin DeWall

During my brief and non-illustrious career as a Volusia County Mosquito Inspector I visited a major portion of the county south of Interstate 4. I discovered one of the best birding areas in the county by accidentally stumbling on it while searching for mosquito larvae.

Lake Harney Road runs south off of Maytown about halfway between Oak Hill and Osteen and is about as far from built up areas as you can get in Volusia County. This public road dead ends at Stone Island/Gopher Slough Swamp at the north east corner of Lake Harney and it is the area adjacent to the dead end that contains the best birding. (Ref. DeLorme map approximately N28°46' and W81°02')

The last mile of the road transitions from pine flat woods to cypress swamp to flood plain. In addition to the usual Herons, Yellow-legs and Snipe I have consistently seen Sandhill Cranes. During migration the trees along the road are a hotbed of migrating warblers and even during winter months are full of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and assorted other small birds. All the normal contingent of raptors are present including Northern Harriers and Bald Eagles.

Lake Harney Road is not for the faint of heart: there are no facilities of any kind, the dirt road can be very rough but always passable in a regular automobile, and is basically in the middle of nowhere. I would not advise this as a separate trip but if you are birding around either Oak Hill or Osteen this can be a productive side trip. The best time to bird here is 9 a.m. to noon.

WELCOME

Courtney Kreimer, Roger K. Lewis M.D., Mr. and Mrs. Gene Rhodes, Debbie and David Sabato, Jenna Biggs, Mr. and Mrs. R. Eberle, Ronald W. Ellis, Kathleen Lazarus, Kelly Stevenson and Anita Chomyn have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

TRAIN THE TRAINER TRAINING

HRAS Board members Lois Robinson and John Carr attended Florida Audubon Society's "Train the Trainer" Workshop at Wakulla State Park on January 15 and 16 to learn methods of teaching bird watching. The Society bought the kit they will use in their teaching which utilizes 240 color slides, bird song tapes, VCR cassettes, books, pamphlets, and handouts. There were 23 participants in the workshop. We hope to offer a course in Bird Identification in the future.

ROSE BAY PROJECT

Louise Chapman, teacher at Mainland High School, send word that Florida Power and Light (FPL) has sent the school a check for \$1300 to be used for construction of an observation tower at the Rose Bay Park area her marine science classes are developing into a nature park. Also, Futures, Inc. has given them \$600 to buy binoculars and bird identification guides for use there.

HRAS has been working with this group for nearly two years now to help them identify birds and other wildlife and develop trails. Mrs. Chapman says she could use our help again on January 29 and February 19 to aid in bird identification. Any members who would like to help her and this great group of students on either or both days should report to the Spruce Creek Park pavilion about 9:00 a.m. on either day. You will be most welcome.

For more information you may call Marie Oglesby, 767-5553.

CHECKLIST FOR PROTECTING WATERSHEDS

A checklist is available for environmental groups and other interested parties to use for conservation of natural areas and reduction of runoff from residential streets, parking lots and building sites. Called "Consensus Agreement On Model Development Principles To Protect Our Streams, Lakes and Wetlands" (\$3, 410-461-8323 or free at www.pipeline.com/~mrrunoff).

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers You Need to Know

1998-1999 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | John Williams | 255-8631 |
| 1 st Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Past President | Roy Stevenson | 252-0466 |
| Record. Sec'y | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Membership Sec'y | OPEN | |
| Treasurer | Morrell Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Historian | John Carr | 255-9360 |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Carlton Smith | 253-3815 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 761-8004 |
| Field Trips | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Statewide Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |
| North Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (912) 244-9190 |

WEB SITES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| National Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/net/index.html |
| Florida Audubon Society | http://www.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/audubon/default.htm |
| Halifax River Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax |
| Marie Oglesby |m13@aol.com |
| Carlton Smith |csm13@juno.com |
| David Hartgrove |birdman9@earthlink.net |
| John Carr |jcarr14@juno.com |
| Willie Burns |wwillie@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall |kcdewall@hotmail.com |
| Fran Carr |franniep@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski |bsmyrski@aol.com |

FROM THE EDITOR

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received no later than the night of the Monthly Meeting.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 North Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome!

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to hosts Barbara Smyrski, Maryellen Baker and Steve Kieran for delicious refreshments. Barbara promises the recipe for her Amaretto Bread Pudding at the next meeting.

BOOK DONATION

Thank you, Alma More, for your gift to HRAS of the beautiful bird book Louis Agassiz Fuertes & the singular beauty of birds edited by Frederick George Marcham. This 11x15 inch volume contains Fuertes' letters and exquisite bird drawings and paintings.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Julie Hovis, a biologist with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission will talk about terns. She has conducted a variety of surveys for this agency and last year headed a statewide survey of nesting shorebirds. Reid Hughes, Environmentalist, will speak on the subject *The New Audubon*.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR RESIGNS

The resignation of Jeanne Riley as Chairman of the Membership Committee was reluctantly accepted by the HRAS Board January 18. Since accepting the position in April 1996, Jeannie has kept track of our incoming and out-going and winter-only members. She did admirably in this difficult job and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jeannie, for your service to HRAS.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 44 - NO.7

NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1999

PREZ SEZ

by John Williams

For our February meeting we welcomed many of our older members, some new members, and member **Reid Hughes**, National Audubon Director. Our policy of having featured speakers before the business agenda appears to be working well. It also affords our guests a chance to leave if and when they so desire. Some do come a considerable distance.

Mr. Hughes outlined the vision and goals for the new millennium described by **John Flicker**, President of National Audubon Society, which drew resounding applause. (See article in this issue for more information.)

Julie Hovis presented most interesting slides and description of her work of caring, counting, and conducting surveys of Least Terns and Black Skimmers. Her research show that 25% of local coastal colonies of Least Terns nest on beaches and 75% nest on flat tar and gravel roof tops. She asks that you call her to volunteer with the Least Terns project at (352) 629-4483.

Top all this off with a bountiful table of refreshments provided by **Jari and Tom Arbogast** and Hospitality Chairman **Barbara Smyrski**. You might say "Life is good."

KELLER'S KORNER

by Marie Oglesby

Mary Keller, licensed Bird Rehabilitator, takes care of ill, damaged and orphaned birds in the Daytona Beach area and is partially supported by HRAS. She needs white paper towels, small cans of cat food, wild bird seed, and Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding formula. She can use small mullet, fresh or frozen this month.

In addition, if anyone has a steam cleaning machine not being used anymore and would like to donate it, it could be put to good use sanitizing bird cages.

Items may be taken directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill (two blocks south of LPGA, then east off Derbyshire) or call **Marie Oglesby** at 767-5553 for pick up and delivery.

CALENDAR

March 5

HRAS trip to Gemini Springs.

March 6

Flagler Audubon Society Early Birders - Washington Oaks State Park at 7:30 a.m. Meet at parking lot across from the Gardens entrance on the main road of the inland side of the Park. Car fee is \$3.25. For more information call **Gerri Peevers** at 446-8971

March 13

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society trip to Smyrna Dunes Park. Meet at 8.00 a.m. across from New Smyrna Beach City Hall on Sams Avenue.

March 15

HRAS program by **Peter Anderson** Ph.D., Director of the Whitney Laboratory of the UF which conducts marine biomedical research and education, who will talk and show slides about "Whitney Laboratory - Past and Future". Also **John Crisp** of Volusia County Economic Resources Department will tell us about the future Marine Science Center in Lighthouse Point Park at Ponce Inlet.

March 20

HRAS trip to Lake Woodruff.

March 27

HRAS hosts Florida Audubon Society Northeast Council meeting at Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce Building, 126 E. Orange Avenue.

March 27

Flagler Audubon Society plans a 2-hour boat trip for a bird and waterlife tour of the southern Halifax River leaving from Aunt Catfish's wharf in Port Orange on Dunlawton Avenue. The boat holds 30 people only and FAS members get first call. HRAS members can ask to be put on the waiting list by calling **Joe Dziak** at 445-8490.

April 9

HRAS trip to Princess Place Preserve

April 16

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society trip to Leu Gardens and Mead Gardens - lunch with **Clay Henderson**, President, Florida Audubon Society

April 19

HRAS program Rose Bay Project by **Louise Chapman**, Marine Science teacher at Mainland High School.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

We have all heard so much talk of "bi-partisanship" from Washington lately that it's hard not to become cynical about the whole idea. And then something truly bi-partisan in nature occurs and your faith in the system is restored, at least temporarily. Arch anti-environmentalist, Don Young (R-AK) and arch environmentalist activist, George Miller (D-CA) have co-authored HR 39, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1999. The purpose of the legislation is to help protect remaining habitat in Central America and the Caribbean used by Neotropical migrants, the warblers, tanagers and buntings we see here twice a year. Central America lost nearly 11,000,000 acres of forest habitat between 1990 and 1995 to slash and burn agriculture and increased cattle production to feed America's hamburger appetite. If successful, the Act will help prevent more birds from being added to the Endangered Species List.

Wetlands protection efforts got a big boost recently from federal court decisions in South Carolina and here in Florida. In both cases the courts ruled that when an owner purchases property after the passage of regulations restricting development permitted on the property, the owner can't sue for damages under the so called "takings" doctrine. This was formulated some years ago by anti-environmentalists twisting the meanings of a portion of the 5th Amendment. Carried to its extreme, the "takings" doctrine would allow your neighbor to open a rendering plant on his property and if you tried to get local government to stop him, he could sue you and the county council for damages. As Florida's population continues to grow, wetlands protection efforts will continue to be under attack. These court decisions will help in the fight for their preservation.

Finally, there was an article in last month's *News-Journal* announcing the Great Florida Birding Trail and its scheduled organized meetings. I attended the meeting in Jacksonville recently and I can say, this is a great idea. A phrase on the front of the official brochure says it all: "A 2,000 mile highway trail designed to conserve and enhance Florida's bird habitat by promoting birdwatching activities, environmental education, and economic opportunity". The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has patterned the Trail after the East Texas Birding Trail. They are concentrating on the East Florida portion of the Trail first. Eventually, the Trail will have 4 sections: East Florida, South Florida, West Florida and Panhandle Florida. The GFC is working in cooperation with Florida Audubon and a number of state and federal agencies to bring this dream to fruition. I nominated the Port Orange Bridge (officially known as Port Orange Causeway Park) and Smyrna Dunes Park on the south side

of Ponce Inlet as visitor stops on the trail. Our chapter will be very involved with this project as it evolves.

One of the ideas project coordinator Nancy Jordan came up with was to encourage hotel owners to rent binoculars by the day for visitors who are first time birders using the Trail. As any of us who have watched birds can attest, seeing the subtle and gorgeous coloration variations on a Great Blue Heron or a Black-throated Blue Warbler is an experience capable of changing one's life. As I said earlier, this is a great idea.

THE A GROUP

by Kevin DeWall

I would like to extend to the members of HRAS the opportunity to receive environmental information via e-mail. I have set up an informal group of Audubon members and others to whom I forward e-mail messages concerning environmental issues. I refer to them as the **A Group**.

When Personal Computers were still not in most households and the Internet was still just a tool for the military and academic, someone predicted that e-mail would rapidly replace both conventional mail (Snail-Mail in Internet jargon) and the telephone.

E-mail for me has not replaced the writing of letters and had very little effect on the number of phone calls I make. At this point I get up to 100 e-mail messages a day and it gets pretty time consuming to go through them all. About 30 percent of these messages concern environmental issues ranging from Audubon Press Releases to Rare Bird Alerts known as RBAs.

After I sort my e-mail and throw out the fluff (case in point: 20-odd after-the-fact messages on the burning issue of whether or not Florida Audubon should have requested the legislature to make the Scrub Jay the State Bird), I forward the remaining information to anyone who has expressed an interest in receiving it. I could send all of it but then it would be simpler to merely give directions on how the interested party can log into a list server and receive the information non-filtered. Anyone interested can contact me by e-mail at kcdewall@hotmail.com

PAPER COMPANY HELPS PROTECT WOODPECKER HABITAT

*Dispatch from Environmental Defense Fund,
February 23, 1999*

Listed as an endangered species since 1970, the red-cockaded woodpecker may now have a real chance to increase its population. Using a plan EDF helped develop, the International Paper Company has agreed to conserve critical woodpecker habitat in Georgia.

ZELLWOOD FARMS MYSTERY

In the fall of 1998, HRAS and other chapters helped The Florida Audubon Society in preserving the shorebird areas at Zellwood Farms which were to be permanently flooded. These mud-fields attract masses of birds and record numbers of bird species. But beginning last Thanksgiving and continuing until the present time, there have been significant deaths of American White Pelicans, Wood Storks and other waterbirds. Ornithologist **Gian Basili** and other investigators have tried to determine just what has been killing the birds. The fields have been drained in an attempt to discourage birds from residing in possibly infected areas. Zellwood Farms has been closed to the public for now.

Investigators ask that you notify any of our Board Members if you find a dead white pelican so that the carcass can be checked for clues to its death, and it can be properly disposed of in order to prevent possible spread of the problem.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR AREA'S TOXICITY

Computer network visitors to www.scorecard.org can type in their zip code to see the latest data from EPA's Toxic Release Inventory and find out whether emissions in their communities have gotten better or worse.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES CLEANUP

Reprinted by permission from Environmental Defense Fund Letter, January 1999

In Florida, **Federal District Judge William Hoeweler** has rejected an effort by sugar companies to throw out an earlier court order requiring a cleanup of sugar industry pollution in the Everglades. Excess phosphorus running off sugar fields is transforming thousands of acres of the diverse Everglades into dense, oxygen-less marsh. Sugar industry lawyers argued that the Federal court should yield to a new Florida state law that, they contended, gave sugar growers more time to reduce their pollution and loosened the cleanup standards.

"In probably the most important part of the ruling, Judge Hoeweler indicated that he would view skeptically any future efforts by the Florida state legislature to slow down the cleanup," said EDF attorney **Tim Searchinger**, the principal attorney for a coalition of environmental groups in the lawsuit. As a result of this case, a first round of cleanup is well underway. Florida is restoring 40,000 acres of sugar fields to wetlands that will filter phosphorus out of the runoff from hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural lands. Judge Hoeweler set another hearing to discuss the timing of a second phase of the cleanup that would further protect the Everglades.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President of HRAS, John Williams, has appointed **Jeanne Riley** to Chair a Nominating Committee for new officers. Mrs. Riley appointed **Pat Mihalic** and **David Hartgrove** to the committee. The Committee is charged with providing a slate of nominees for officers and one member-at-large to replace the incumbents whose terms of office will expire in May 1999. The slate will be available at the April meeting and published in the April *The Pelican*. Voting will be held at the Annual Meeting in May and nominations will be accepted from the floor so long as the nominating person has the consent of his nominee. The new officers will take office at the close of the Annual Meeting.

The seven offices to be filled are: President, two Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

All members are urged to involve themselves in the operation of our Society. The best way to do that is to be an active member of the board. Exciting times are in our future and you want to be a part of it!! If you are interested and would like to know more about the duties of an office, call any one of the Nominating Committee and let him or her know of your interest.

"THE NEW AUDUBON"

Reid Hughes spoke briefly to members at the January 15 meeting laying out the intentions of The National Audubon Society (NAS) to change the interaction of the national society and local chapters. Mr. Hughes is a member of HRAS as well as the National Audubon Board and is influential throughout Florida in conservation and ecological matters.

NAS intends to provide support for the local chapters and to elevate the local chapters to a more central position. The Florida Audubon Society has already started the change to emphasize the needs of the local chapters.

John Flicker, President of NAS has said that NAS plans "to have an Audubon Center within 20 minutes of everybody in the United States or 1000 places with 1000 acres apiece; an acquisition of one million acres." These centers will move beyond providing information about birds alone, and will be the heart of advocacy and education for protecting and preserving the natural environment.

Mr. Flicker joined Mr. Hughes recently to view local spots that could be used for this purpose as a center is planned for our area.

That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!

Robert Browning, "Home-Thoughts from Abroad"

JANUARY BIRDING TRIP

by Glade Koch

On January 23, twenty-six of us followed **Lois Pouchey's** van over some old and some new unfamiliar territory at Tomoka Landfill. We appreciate the kind suggestions and maps of wooded areas provided by Environmental Specialist **Susan Gaze**. The personnel at Tomoka were friendly and pointed out good spotting areas even though they were busy constructing a new cell.

Besides seeing over twenty Bald Eagles, we saw thousands of Laughing Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls. Some of us learned to recognize Bonaparte's Gull. Herring Gulls and Black-backed Gulls could be picked out from thousands of White Ibis and many egrets and herons. Northern Harriers and perching birds also brought our total species count to fifty-five.

Leaving the busy Landfill, some of us followed Lois to a farmyard to see bluebirds. They were as charming and lovely as ever.

Hotdogs at Bopp's were very good, too!

FEBRUARY BIRDING TRIP

by Lois Robinson

What a beautiful day we had for our trip to Orlando Wetlands this year led by **Glade Koch**. With thirteen of us in tow, Environmental Specialist **Mark Sees** took us by truck and van on the back trails and high berms all around the wetlands. We were rewarded by seeing 59 bird species including Ring-necked Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, and American Wigeons. Lesser Yellowlegs and Red-shouldered Hawks were in great abundance as were herons, coots, ibises, Yellow-rumped Warblers and American White Pelicans. If you have never seen large groups of white pelicans working together to round up fish for a meal you've missed a treat.

Mark Sees gave us an excellent presentation on the purpose and the workings of the Wetlands which is to filter out huge amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus from the water directed into the Wetlands and discharge it clean and pure into the St. John's River. They process about 20,000 gallons a day.

After a picnic lunch at Fort Christmas Park some of the group explored a new birding site (for us) - the Titusville Wetlands. This is a small area compared to the Orlando Wetlands but very productive for birding. For those of you looking to see Purple Gallinules, several were spotted in these wetlands located just off I-95 on Highway 50 going west. The entrance to the Wetlands is on the south side of Highway 50.

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

by Lois Robinson

Friday March 5th we will be going to the beautiful Gemini Springs Park southeast of Deltona. This park has frontage on the St. John's River, a mature oak woodland, pinelands, and wide open meadows. This leads to a large variety of birdlife - hawks, eagles, Sandhill Cranes, warblers, robins, woodpeckers, and Cedar Waxwings to name a few. **David Hartgrove** is the leader. Call him or **Lois Robinson** for more information. We will be leaving from City Island Parking Lot at 8 a.m. as usual. Bring a lunch. We will eat in the park.

Saturday March 20th, Lake Woodruff is our destination. This is one of our favorite birding spots. The area has a large lake surrounded by fresh water wetlands and open prairies. We hope to see birds of prey, including eagles and Northern Harriers. In the past we have seen rails, snipes, Hooded Mergansers and Limpkins as well as many of the more common wading birds. In the mixed woodlands close to the parking lot we will see numerous perching birds. **Carlton Smith** is the leader for this trip. Please bring a lunch and a beverage. We will eat in a nearby park. See above for place and time of leaving.

LOCAL EAGLES

Daytona Beach: Many people watch an eagle's nest right here at Daytona Brick & Stone at 3430 S. Nova Road. Owner **Mr. Ben Halliday** welcomes visitors so long as they stay within the stone yard and out of the way of traffic. At last viewing there were two adults and a juvenile on the nest. According to **Cas**, an employee there, the eagles "get into it" with their nearby nesting neighbors, great horned owls and ospreys. HRAS member **Tom Arbogast** has taken some wonderful pictures of the birds which he showed at the February 15 meeting. This eagle can also be seen from Sheri Boulevard if you walk north along the creekbank.

Merritt Island: **Lois Pouchey** and daughter **Lori** went by the eagles nest on Route 406 between the entry and exit of Black Point Drive at Merritt Island on February 13 and witnessed an extraordinary event. There was one adult eagle on the nest as they arrived. Just then another adult eagle landed on the nest. The first one flew off just as another adult eagle soared over the tree. Both flying birds flew over the road and touched wings, separated 20-30 feet and then met up again. This happened several times before they were out of their view. The one on the nest stayed right there!

CATCH THE WAVE

by Madeline Shaddix

I am sure that every home that receives this newsletter is the home of at least one bird enthusiast. So what I am suggesting is most likely not a new idea to most of you, but perhaps a reminder, one that I have to give myself on a regular basis.

Years ago, when my family was doing a lot of canoeing, we would take regular breaks to rest, perhaps have lunch or a snack and a soft drink. As we paddled, we frequently would pass through areas of heightened bird activity. I would anticipate checking them out on our next break. You guessed it, often the birds would no longer be in sight or ear shot. I have also been at home, busy at some task, when I'd hear "birdie" noises outside. If I waited for the completion of the job at hand, frequently the avian visitors were nowhere to be seen. I had once again, missed the "wave". So I encourage you to seize the day then the opportunity presents itself if you possibly can. Try keeping a pair of binoculars and a field guide in your car. Those opportunities can knock anywhere. I've seen flocks of migrating Cedar Waxwings in the Target parking lot.

Take a few minutes break on the way home, if you can, to check out parks, weedy lots, the causeway areas, and the marinas. I've found a few life list birds this way, but almost never will you not be rewarded with some bird activity that gives a real lift to your day. For instance, on a stop at the Halifax Harbor Marina, my friend and I saw one of the several nesting Loggerhead Shrikes taking a mouse back to his ravenous and excited young. (Every one had a great time but the hapless mouse.) Another brief stop at the Port Orange Causeway Park late one afternoon this past January produced an Oldsquaw, a life list bird for me and the only time anything I've found made the Rare Bird Alert. (Thanks to David Hartgrove, who reported it.)

A couple of years ago, I noticed more birds flying around my yard than usual. Prior to that morning, there had been a weather system that created rain and high winds out of the South, not only here, but up through the mid-Atlantic states as well. This produced very adverse conditions for the migrants on their way to their winter destinations. It also produced a "wave" of tired and hungry warblers, some of which had dropped into my yard to rest and refuel. Among them were Hooded, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted Warblers. I had never seen any of these little beauties before, much less had them in my own yard. There was so much activity, I didn't know where to look first, and I could have missed the whole show. By early afternoon, most had resumed their journey.

So listen up and look up; spring migrations are dead ahead! There could be a Scarlet Tanager or an Orchard Oriole in your binoculars! I'm convinced that every hour looking will lengthen the hours of your life, and all happy ones, at that!

SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

By Marie Oglesby

We have known for years that we have some of the most outstanding cooks in the area as evidenced by our Christmas Dinner and Spring Picnic! We now we plan to use these talents and create our very own cookbook for a fundraiser.

Fran Carr, Barbara Smyrski, Gail Lincoln and Marie Oglesby have agreed to serve on the committee. We would like to start receiving recipes as soon as possible and continue collecting until May 15. Categories will be: Appetizers & Beverages, Soups, Salads & Vegetables, Main Dishes and Casseroles, Meat, Poultry & Seafood, Breads & Rolls, Pies, Pastry & Desserts, Cakes, Cookies & Candy, This & That. We plan to have a category for favorite "Recipes For the Birds" as well. Send Category, Recipe Title, Ingredients (Use standard Abbreviations: pt., qt., c., T., etc.) and Directions.

Please send several of the recipes you have been complemented on at our activities. If you have not been able to attend these events, please do send your favorite recipes. We feel that this cookbook will not only be a useful and valuable keepsake item for our members and friends, but will also help fund some of our ongoing projects.

Please send or e-mail your recipes to: Marie Oglesby, 1173 Houdyshell Rd., Daytona Beach, FL 32119-1509 or e-mail <mlo13@AOL.com>

-
- YES, I want to join the Halifax River Audubon Society, the Florida Audubon Society, and the National Audubon Society at the special Introductory Rate of \$20.00! I save 43 % off the regular dues.
 - As a senior citizen or student, I am eligible to join for only \$15.00

Please complete and return to Halifax River Audubon Society, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ - _____

Chapter Code E - 41
7XCH

New Members Only.

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Dues include \$10.00 for AUDUBON magazine. Florida residents please add \$0.60 sales tax.

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers You Need to Know

1998-1999 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | John Williams | 255-8631 |
| 1 st Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | John Carr | 522-9360 |
| Past President | Roy Stevenson | 252-0466 |
| Record. Sec'y | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Membership Sec'y | OPEN | |
| Treasurer | Morrell Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Historian | John Carr | 255-9360 |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Carlton Smith | 253-3815 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 761-8004 |
| Field Trips | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Statewide Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |
| North Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (912) 244-9190 |

WEB SITES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| National Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/net/index.html |
| Florida Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/chapter/FL |
| Halifax River Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/chapter/FL/halifax |
| Marie Oglesby... |mls13@aol.com |
| Carlton Smith... |cmsmith@juno.com |
| David Hartgrove..... |birdman9@earthlink.net |
| John Carr..... |jcarr14@juno.com |
| Willie Burns..... |wwillie@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall..... |kedewall@hotmail.com |
| Fran Carr..... |franni@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski..... |bsmyrski@aol.com |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3311. Articles for next month's issue must be received no later than the night of the Monthly Meeting.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 North Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome!

WELCOME

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, Mr. Oscar Babineau, Ann L. Beier, J. Berman, Donna Coles, Victoria Cremins, Ms. Ruth Gerlach, Ms. Rosalie Harison, Mrs. Kim Kenagy Hovanecz, Robyn Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Jordan, Michael Ladores, The Maseks, Thomas Mooney, Ms. Dawn T. Randall, Martha Schinaubelt, D. Schisler, Madeline Schneiter, Sylvia Soldo, Mrs. K.L. Sykes, Ms. Alice C. Thompson, Mr. Steve Thompson, Larrie Tiffany, Mrs. Florence Waldman, Mrs. Marian Wilson, and Mrs. Virginia B. Woltjen have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Our Board's moneymaking plans have changed. We will not be holding a rummage sale anytime soon as we could not find a place to store our sale items from the time of collection until the sale. The Board has approved a new moneymaker. See the article in this issue by Marie Oglesby.

WALKIE-TALKIES

HRAS has purchased three Radio Shack CB Walkie-Talkies, Model 21-1670 with forty channels and a two-mile range. They will be used for talking between birders during field trips. They were bought with money given to drivers for gas. We especially thank Madeline Shaddix.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 44 - NO. 8 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY APRIL 1999

PREZ SEZ

by John Williams

The Ides of March is the first notice and indication that Spring is to be along shortly. As I observe the surrounding trees, the message is quite true. Adding to this is the beauty of the News Journal-sponsored Garden Show, always very impressive.

Our February first time overnight excursion to Ding Darling and Corkscrew Swamp was a success. Is there another one in the future? I hope so.

Our March meeting was well attended. Preceding our guest speaker was Mr. John Crisp of Volusia County Economic Resources Department describing the soon-to-be Marine Science Center. Many questions were asked, however, we were all pleased with the report. Dr. Peter Anderson followed with a slide presentation of the Whitney Laboratory telling us of the anticipated expansion and pursuit for more knowledge of marine life. I, for one, had no idea that this was happening and so close by. We thanked him and asked that he return soon.

It is always difficult for me to say that our refreshment table was better than the last. It's not possible and I will say, thanks hostesses **Rachel Ramsey** and **Linda Noble**.

This month's door prize was won by Lois Robinson. She was very pleased.

A final note. We are still on the trail of dangerous pesticides and herbicides which I feel are greatly impacting wildlife and people everywhere. It is and should be of utmost concern to all.

Be with us at next month's meeting, ask questions, become involved. The results are rewarding.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Marie Oglesby

Baby bird season has started! Two have come in at this writing. Needed for bird rehabilitation this month by **Mary Keller** are: white paper towels, Peanut Suet Treat Cakes, finger mullet (fresh or frozen), fishing worms, canned Science Diet Chicken for Puppies and yogurt makers. The yogurt makers make great incubators for tiny naked birds until their feathers come in.

Items may be taken directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill (two blocks south of LPGA, then east off Derbyshire) or call **Marie Oglesby** at 767-5553 for pick up and delivery.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 5

HRAS Board Meeting at 2 p.m., City Island Library. Note: This is a change of time and place. All members are invited to attend.

Friday, April 9

HRAS trip to Princess Place Preserve

Saturday, April 10

Orange Audubon Society Welcome Back Songbird Festival at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Call 407-869-7762.

Tuesday, April 13

West Volusia Audubon Society trip to Tiger Bay State Forest to discover how the forest is recovering from the damage caused by the 1998 wildfires. Bring snack. Meet at the North End of McDonald's in DeLand for 8 a.m. departure. Call Louise Stanley at 532-0130.

Friday, April 16

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society trip to Leu Gardens and Mead Gardens and lunch with **Clay Henderson**, President Florida Audubon Society. Call Jim Freeland at 423-1219 for more information.

Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18

Earth Day at Washington Oaks State Gardens in Flagler County south of Marineland on A1A. HRAS will man a booth to tell about birds and give away information. Enjoy sitting under the great live oaks, the arts & crafts, historical re-enactments, cultural exhibits, refreshments and entertainment. Call **David Hartgrove** at 788-2630 if you can help out for an hour or two. We do this every year and have a great time!

Monday, April 19

HRAS program "Rose Bay Project" by **Louise Chapman**

Saturday, April 24

HRAS Turtle Mound Boat Trip

Tuesday, April 27

David Hartgrove will show bird slides to 6-year-olds and their parents at the Ormond Public Library at 3 p.m. Come and bring your kids.

Saturday, May 8

HRAS North American Migratory Bird Count

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Remember how when you were little there were kids who felt that they didn't have to play by the same rules everyone else did. Some of those kids grew up to be felons and are serving time in prison for their inability to abide by the rules. Some grew up to be millionaire real estate developers. They look at environmental protection rules as speed bumps and dead ends on the road to getting what they want. So when a rule gets in their way, they challenge it. That's the American way and they have every right to do that. But when two separate courts rule against them and insist on protecting vital water resources for the people of the entire state, do they go off and sulk? No, they start looking for someone who'll help them change the rules.

Recently, just such a scenario was played out here and in Tallahassee. Consolidated Tomoka Land Company wanted to build a giant auto mall (acres and acres of asphalt and bright lights) within 50 feet of the Tomoka River. The river has been designated an "Outstanding Florida Waterway" so the St. Johns River Water Management District denied the project a permit based on the original proposal. Later a compromise was hammered out and the project will be built with a wider buffer zone between the car lot and the river.

But that's not enough. Fearing that these nosy busybodies in the local environmental movement might get some state agency to force adjustments to some other project in the future, the developers decided it was time to change the rules. Along comes Rep. Ken Pruitt. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, he's in the perfect position to help. And after receiving over \$3,000 in donations to his re-election campaign, he was eager to oblige. In fact, he invited the lawyers for Consolidated Tomoka in to write legislation for themselves. Of course he was an ally all along. He too considers environmental regulations as major encumbrances to the glories of a paved and manicured Florida. And, if those pesky Scrub Jays can't learn to adapt, it's time for them to be ground up by the wheels of progress. The real problem is that the way this new legislation is being written, the whole state regulatory process could be thrown into chaos. Currently, citizens have the right to challenge any ruling by a regulatory agency. If they prove they're being unfairly treated, they get relief. Under the proposed legislation, agencies will be forced to narrowly define their authority and prove that they aren't being discriminatory. This opens a Pandora's Box of loopholes for every predatory business operator in the state. Say good-bye to adequate oversight of everything from nursing homes to banking to consumer protection. We, the people, will be at the mercy of every greed head profiteer in the state. All because one company doesn't like playing by the rules.

This bill (HB 107) has already passed the House. Its companion in the Senate (SB 206) is under consideration. Please, call Senator Locke Burt and ask him to block this bill or to vote against it. Also, call Governor Bush and ask him to veto this bill if it reaches his desk.

As those of you in attendance at the February meeting will recall, our program was on Least Terns and their roof top nesting habits. These fiercely territorial little birds are only around for 6 to 8 weeks while they court, mate, and fledge their young. Then they're off to spend a month or so on the beaches and spoil islands fattening up for their trip back to South America. They are a "Threatened Species" and afforded a higher level of protection than the average migratory bird. The Fort Pierce Police Department is about to find out just how much protection. They were annoyed by the droppings on their police cruisers and in their parking lot. So instead of putting a couple of jail trustees to work washing the cars, they went out and found some company calling itself "Flyaway". For the tidy sum of \$7,000 they promised to prevent the terns from nesting this year by installing some sort of "grid system" suspended 8 feet above the roof. The violations involved here under the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are too numerous to mention. After the police chief is made aware of the folly of the proposed plan it would almost be worth the 2 1/2 hour trip to Fort Pierce to see how many pairs of terns they have there this season.

Finally, the Purple Martins are back. They arrived in my neighborhood last Tuesday, March 9th. I haven't heard the Chuck-Will's-Widow yet, but they should be here in a few days. Then we'll know Spring has really arrived.

Editor's note: Senator Locke Burt (R) district 4 - part of Volusia County. His addresses are: 410 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee FL 32399-1100, phone (850) 487-5033, FAX (904) 676-4082, e-mail is burt.locke.web@leg.state.fl.us

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL ASKED TO WITHDRAW APPEAL

The Volusia County Council is appealing to the Supreme Court in regard to the legislation protecting turtles on our beaches. Their suit is based on the county's reluctance to pay to uphold the legislation. Conservation minded groups fear that the suit will result in changes to the Endangered Species Act which protects the turtles and many other threatened animals.

HRAS Board authorized President **John Williams** to sign a letter concurring with the position taken by Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club and ask that Volusia County Council withdraw its appeal to the Supreme Court regarding the Endangered Species Act. The letter was also signed by six other local environmental and conservation group presidents.

WE WANT YOUR RECIPES!

The HRAS recipe collectors for your Society cookbook have gotten instructions from the cookbook publisher on how the recipes should be submitted. Please send us your favorite recipes and we will get them ready for printing. Here are some general rules that will help us do this. In general, use standard abbreviations such as: pt. qt. pkg. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. lg. Be sure to add your name and phone number in case we need to call you to clarify some information. Specify a category for your recipe from this list: Appetizers & Beverages; Soups, Salads & Vegetables; Main Dishes & Casseroles; Meat, Poultry & Seafood; Breads & Rolls; Pies, Pastry & Desserts; Cakes, Cookies & Candy; This & That. If you can, specify serving size.

Send your recipes to **Marie Oglesby** at 1173 Houdyshell Road, Daytona Beach FL 32119-15901 or e-mail mlo13@aol.com. Other committee members are **Barbara Smyrski, Gail Lincoln, and Fran Carr**.

A sample (and very good) recipe in the correct format is shown below:

CATEGORY Pies, Pastry & Desserts
RECIPE TITLE Amaretto Bread Pudding
SUBMITTED BY Barbara Smyrski

INGREDIENTS

1 1-lb. Challah, broken into 1-inch pieces
1 qt. Half & Half
2 T. unsalted butter, room temperature
1½ c. sugar
3 eggs, room temperature
1 T. almond extract
¼ c. golden raisins
¼ c. sliced almonds
1 c. powdered sugar
½ c. butter
1 egg, well beaten
¼ c. Amaretto liquor

DIRECTIONS

Combine bread and Half & Half in large bowl. Cover and let stand 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

Position rack in center of oven and preheat to 325°. Grease 9x13x2 inch baking dish with 2 T. butter.

Whisk sugar, eggs and almond extract. Stir into bread mixture. Gently fold in raisins and almonds.

Spoon into prepared dish. Bake until pudding is firm, about 50 minutes. Cool.

Stir powdered sugar and butter in top of double boiler set over simmering water until butter melts, sugar dissolves and mixture is very hot. Remove from over water and whisk in egg. Continue whisking until cool. Mix in Amaretto and pour over pudding. Serves 8 to 10.

The Pelican, Vol. 44, No. 8, April 1999

SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

by *Marie Oglesby*

Marie Oglesby and **John Carr** judged entries in the Tomoka Region Science and Engineering Fair on February 20th and awarded the HRAS winners \$25.00 each to two outstanding entries. The special awards are based on the topics presented, the originality of the work and the mastery of the subject by the participant. Winners were **Albert Huang** of Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange with his study "What is the Amount of Saltwater Influx into the Halifax River?" and **Kristopher Stewart** of New Smyrna Beach Middle School with his study "Butterflies of Central Florida and their Habitat".

SCREECH OWLS SAVED

by *Pat Mihalic*

Witnesses to a brutal mishandling of screech owls in Port Orange saved the mother and her eggs from certain death this month.

A professional tree service company removing trees at a residential property on Commonwealth and Rogers Streets discovered that an oak tree to be removed contained a screech owl and her eggs. The company's employees taped over the owl's nest cavity and cut down the tree. Observers subsequently removed the log containing the mother and her three eggs and brought them to **Mary Keller**, local bird rehabilitator. The mother owl refused to incubate her eggs and was taken to the Audubon Raptor Center in Maitland and later released. Mrs. Keller thinks she can hatch healthy owlets and we'll keep you posted on the outcome.

Coincidentally on March 16th the city of Port Orange sponsored a tree preservation clinic attended by elected officials of the cities of Port Orange, Ormond Beach and South Daytona, the Forestry Agent for Volusia County, and members of the press. HRAS members **Pat Mihalic, Kevin DeWall, and Jeannie and George Riley** attended. During the meeting they told the incident of the owls to a horrified group of people. Many did not know that both Federal and Florida state laws prohibit disturbing nesting birds. Mrs. Mihalic plans to send copies of the pertinent laws to our lawmakers.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Cecil Frances Alexander:
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

HRAS OVERNIGHT TRIP

by Marie Oglesby

All of us who took the overnight trip to Ding Darling and Corkscrew Swamp February 18-19 have nothing but admiration and praise for **Fran** and **John Carr** who stepped right in and took over leadership of the trip when **Lois** and **Morrell Robinson** were felled by a very serious flu bug and needed their help.

Thanks to the Robinsons for their advance planning and the Carrs for carrying it out, the trip went exactly as planned, even to the time schedule which was within five minutes of that on paper at each event. We passengers asked for an extra McDonald's break and caused the later arrival back home! Special thanks are also due to our great driver, **Jerry Munday**, who kept us together, lugged our picnic lunch and made our trip extra enjoyable.

We traveled by open tram at Ding Darling Refuge where we identified the three kinds of mangrove and learned how important they were in building and preserving land in the tropics. The most spectacular birds seen there were the Roseate Spoonbills. Later when we crossed to the mainland from Sanibel Island some lucky people on the bus saw the Magnificent Frigatebird flying.

The next day at Corkscrew Swamp we divided into small groups for guided tours of a one-mile or two-mile boardwalk stroll through the many kinds of habitat in the refuge. This magnificent place was full of birds. One treat was to see a pair of nesting Yellow-crowned Night-herons within 200 feet of a pair of Black-crowned Night-herons, a Red-shouldered Hawk carrying material to its nest, Great Crested Flycatchers, and a Blue-headed Vireo. Another special treat was watching a Pileated Woodpecker constructing a nesting cavity and showering the boardwalk with inch-long chips. After the walks were completed, we had our bountiful picnic lunch and set free a young opossum which had found itself trapped in a recycle bin. After leaving the Refuge some people saw a Caracara out of the bus window. Altogether our trip list of birds was 100 species! This trip was truly a wonderful experience, our first overnighter in a very long time.

(This review of the HRAS overnight trip was inadvertently omitted from the March newsletter. The Editor regrets the omission.)

FIELD TRIPS

by Lois Robinson

TRIP TO GEMINI SPRINGS PARK

What a delightful trip we had Friday, March 5th to Gemini Springs! **David Hartgrove**, our skillful leader, had seventeen of us in tow as we searched out the various habitats of Gemini Springs for birds. We were rewarded with a total of 56 species recorded. Along with our usual

Florida birds such as herons, egrets, Coots, Moorhens and Yellow-rumped Warblers (winter season), we were thrilled to see a Great Horned Owl, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Parulas, and a migrating Northern Oriole. We also saw several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and a Blue-headed Vireo (formerly Solitary Vireo). On the way home we stopped at a nearby park and were rewarded by seeing a pair of Shrikes in a stand-off with a Kestrel. We had to leave before we could see how it came out.

APRIL BIRDING TRIPS

Friday, April 9th our destination is Princess Place Preserve. This will be a new birding site for many of us. Located less than an hour away in Flagler County, this Preserve offers salt water marshes, fresh water wetlands, oak hammocks, pine woods and scrub habitats --- all prime birding habitats. **John Carr** will be our leader.

IMPORTANT: CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE

Because this is Black College Reunion Weekend, we will meet at 8 a.m. in the Publix parking lot, 1478 West Granada Boulevard, Ormond Towne Square (corner of Williamson and Granada Boulevards). Park at Publix but in the north end of the parking lot. Also bring a lunch and beverage. If you have any questions please call **John Carr** or **Lois Robinson**.

Saturday, April 24th will be our boating trip with **Captain Bill Rostock** around the Turtle Mound area of Mosquito Lagoon (bring mosquito repellent). The trip will be two hours, from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$10. We will leave from J.B.'s Fish Camp, 859 Pompano Avenue, off of A1A in New Smyrna Beach. After crossing over the South Causeway Bridge in New Smyrna go east to A1A, then south approximately 6 miles and you will see the sign to the Restaurant and Fish Camp. There is plenty of parking and they are expecting us for lunch for a great fresh seafood dinner. We will leave from the City Island Parking lot at 8 a.m. and carpool there except for any of you who may prefer to drive there on your own. Please call **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480, to sign up for the trip or sign up at the Program meeting in April. There is room for only 30 so don't wait too long. Deadline for sign up is April 19th.

NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER AT LAKE WOODRUFF

One of the favorite birding sites for HRAS members is the wetlands and woodlands of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. The Manager, **Henry Sansing**, has recently been joined by **Brian Braudis** who has taken the post of Assistant Manager. Mr. Braudis came with his family from a National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. We enjoyed meeting him during our March 20th field trip.

MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

John Crisp of Volusia County Economic Resources Department spoke briefly to the crowd at the March HRAS meeting about the Volusia County Marine Science Center proposed near Lighthouse Point Park on the north side of Ponce DeLeon inlet.

The project, already funded at \$1.3 million and three years in planning, has been designed to be a sea turtle rehabilitation and public education center. Sea turtles that are sick or injured, lost baby turtles, and uncovered turtle eggs will be cared for. In addition boat tours, a diorama and adult education displays will be featured. **Louise Chapman**, marine science teacher at Mainland High School, has designed instruction for groups of children in grades 2, 5 and 10.

The original plan for the Marine Science Center has grown recently with plans to incorporate a bird rehabilitation center in the same location. This will allow bird rehabilitators to work in a larger and more up-to-date area than is available now. The amended plan has been approved by local, state, and national Audubon officials. Their approval was requested because National Audubon Society plans to build an educational center in this area and the county and Audubon wanted to make sure that their plans did not conflict.

Mr. Crisp reported that plans for the center are being drawn up by the architect and should be available for him to show us at the April 19th meeting. If all goes well, the Center will open in March 2000.

THE WHITNEY LABORATORY PAST AND FUTURE

Our program speaker at the March 15 HRAS meeting was **Dr. Peter Anderson**, Director of the Whitney Laboratory

The Whitney Laboratory, part of the University of Florida, is located north of us on A1A right next to Marineland. The Laboratory conducts research into the biology of marine animals, an area of knowledge that is sparse compared with our knowledge of the biology of land animals. Dr. Anderson gave examples of the studies conducted at the center which are uniquely suited to marine animals and the results that have applications for understanding land animals.

For instance, the eyes of animals respond to light with a circadian (night-day) response but are difficult to study because of the connection of land animal's eyes and brain, but the horseshoe crab's response can be studied more easily. The animal's response cells are located in its brain rather than its eyes and the connection from one eye to its brain can be severed to compare responses between eyes.

In another example, Dr. Anderson described the research in animal's sense of smell - a difficult study using

land animals because the molecules in the air that the brain interprets as odor are very difficult to introduce into fluid so that they can be used to investigate land animal tissue culture. But Florida spiny lobsters detect smells that are already in water, so that researchers can more accurately find out just how the odor detecting nerves perceive and transmit information from smells.

In the tiny flatworms that live on horseshoe crabs, the Whitney scientists have found a perfect parallel subject to study the blood fluke schistosome, a deadly human parasite. The nervous system of their flatworm, they find, is susceptible to disruption by certain calcium channel blockers which do not interfere with other animals. This may have the same effect on the schistosome roundworm, and so may be a way to control the disease.

Dr. Anderson also told us about the second function of the laboratory - education. Interested persons from grade school to postdoctoral students, about 300 a month, are invited to attend workshops or work in the laboratory.

The Laboratory plans to expand soon to open a center for marine education and then a center for marine animal health (Wet Vets?). It will have a growing impact on basic marine biological research and benefit education in our area.

WELCOME

Judith L. Anderson, Mrs Eleanor Bartman, Ms. Patricia Bennett, Mrs. Chandra Bruce, Inez M. Bruce, Ms. Dorothy Campbell, Mrs. John Carter, Ms. Betty Cook, Anne Cox, Anita Dalton, Tracy Darney-Veitch, Kathy Dunlop, Cathy Edwards, Sue Habel, Linda Hamilton, Peter C. Hauser, Roger Krauth, Chris Mavronas, Alessandra F. McGrath, Pam Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Russell J. Nicastro, Mrs. K. M. Pohle, Mrs. Robert Renner Sr., Kevin Ruffing, Lydia R. Schnee, Ms. Mary A. Singer, Robert F. Ubbens, Petra Van Zandt, and Peter Voigt have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

GET READY FOR THE MAY MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT

HRAS will participate in the Count early next month on May 8 so you might want to prepare by getting an idea of what migratory birds will be moving through Florida.

David Hartgrove will be coordinating the event. If you plan to participate you will be welcome in the field or in your own yard watching your bird feeder. Contact David Hartgrove at 788-2630.

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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1998-1999 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

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| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 761-8004 |
| Field Trips | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification. | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 | |
| Statewide Rare Bird Alert | (561) 340-0079 | |

WEB SITES

- National Audubon Society**
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>
- Florida Audubon Society**
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/>
- Halifax River Audubon Society**
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>
- John Williams**.....jwill39301@aol.com
Marie Oglesby.....mlo13@aol.com
Morrell Robinson.....msrobn512@aol.com
Carlton Smith.....csmith@juno.com
David Hartgrove.....birdman9@earthlink.net
John Carr.....jcarr14@juno.com
Willie Burns.....wwillie@juno.com
Kevin DeWall.....kcdewall@hotmail.com
Fran Carr.....franni@juno.com
Barbara Smyrski.....bsmyrski@aol.com

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
 appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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HRAS UNDERWRITERS

We wish to honor our underwriters, Volusia and Daytona Beach citizens who have agreed to pay most of the cost of printing *The Pelican*. They support civic and environmental improvement and we are grateful that they consider the Halifax River Audubon Society a worthy recipient of their approval and sponsorship.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received no later than the night of the Monthly Meeting.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 North Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome!

LOUISE CHAPMAN WILL SPEAK AT APRIL MEETING

Louise Chapman is a Marine Biology teacher at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach and has received grants for students to develop Rose Bay Park into an educational environmental area. She will talk about the progress at Rose Bay since she talked to us last. Hopefully she will bring some of her students with her.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 44 - NO. 9

NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 1999

PREZ SEZ

by John Williams

Louise Chapman and her students at Mainland High School honored us by being our guest speakers at our April meeting. Their presentation of the progress of their work at Rose Bay was appreciatively received by our largest audience ever. We are pleased that Ms. Chapman has agreed to return for an update in the future. Many thanks also to Lois Robinson and Pat Mihalic for the delicious refreshments.

Our bi-annual election will be May 17. The nominating committee has provided candidates for office for years 1999 - 2001. Lois Robinson has been nominated for President, and if elected, will herald a woman president after 25 years. Please show your support for the chapter by attending this important event.

Try also to attend our annual picnic at Angelo Cerrito's ranch. Directions are included with a map. It will be a real treat.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Mary Keller

Back when my family first lived in Daytona the beach was full of all kinds of birds. I can name them now, but on first coming from the North, I had never seen so many beautiful birds. Gannets, skimmers, gulls, Royal Terns, sandpipers, pelicans and loons.

Now so many just wash up on the beach weak, dead or dying. Dune buggies hit them. Dogs have been known to chase them down and injure them. Children seem to love to chase them and once even buried one alive. It was rescued by an onlooker.

The little Least Terns' beach land is gone now so they nest on roof tops. People find the babies at the base of the building hurt or dead. Why not help them by putting short, close woven wire around the roof top? This would keep chicks there.

With drought and fires around them, birds need help now as never before. Bird rehabilitation items needed most are rolled gauze, Q-tips, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula, and white paper towels. You may call Marie Oglesby at 767-5553 for pickup and delivery. Thank you for your help.

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 8

Spring Migratory Bird Count with David Hartgrove as leader. Meet at 8 am at the east end of the Volusia County Court House Annex parking lot on City Island as usual. This will be an all-day count but part-timers are welcome. The more eyes the better. Bring a lunch, though some groups may want to eat at a fast food place. Call David at 788-2630 for further information.

Saturday, May 15

HRAS Picnic. See article for directions.

Saturday, May 15

Deadline for HRAS Cook Book recipes. Send your best to Marie Oglesby, 1173 Houdyshell Road, Daytona Beach FL 32119-1509 and you may call her at 767-5553 for further information.

Monday, May 17

HRAS program "Snakes and Turtles" by Chip Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher is president of the Volusia County Herpetological Society. He will show and tell us about some live specimens.

Saturday, May 22

HRAS Field trip to Alligator Farm in St. Augustine. We will leave at the usual time and from the usual place: 8:00 am, City Island Parking lot. Bring a lunch. There is a snack bar at the Alligator Farm but it is limited. Cost for us is group price of \$8.35. You will be richly rewarded by the beautiful bird rookery there which will be in full swing in May. Also at 11:00 am each day there is a bird show featuring parrots and other wildlife. Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480 for further information.

Monday, May 24

Board Meeting for newly elected officers of Halifax River Audubon Society at City Island Library at 2:00. We will begin making plans for the new year. We need your input!

Tuesday, May 25

HRAS Field Trip planning meeting at City Island Library at 2:00. Come and tell where you want to go next year. David Hartgrove's number is 788-2630.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Several Months ago I wrote that I felt that the move to enshrine the Florida Scrub Jay as the official state bird was doomed. The legislative process in this state is dominated by development interests. Having an endangered species as the state bird gets in the way of the continued bulldozing of scrub habitat.

But 10,000 Florida school children wrote to the Governor and the Cabinet asking that the Scrub Jay be made the state bird. The bill to elevate the Scrub Jay's status was picking up speed. There was hand wringing and nervous whispering among those legislators with a hostile view of all things "environmental." Something had to be done to discredit the Scrub Jay and its supporters and to slow down the progress of the bill. It was going to be hard to find an elected official willing to take on 10,000 well meaning school children.

Enter the National Rifle Association, in the person of their Tallahassee lobbyist, Marion Hammer. For some reason, Ms. Hammer suddenly had a burning desire to testify before the committee considering the Scrub Jay bill: to testify on behalf of "my children and my grandchildren." She then asserted that the Scrub Jay "is lazy...a welfare mentality." Further Hammer said "All you have to do is read the books, it can't sing and steals or eats other birds' eggs or nestlings..." She went on to say that Audubon was launching a "sneak attack" on property rights hoping to force more land acquisition on behalf of this "criminal bird."

Well, the august members of the House Governmental Operations Committee were mindful of the objections of their friends in the development business. So, faced with this compelling testimony from an "expert", they changed the bill from making the Scrub Jay the state bird to making the Mockingbird the state bird.

Fortunately, when the bill was debated before the Senate Governmental Operations Committee, the room was full of high school students from Senator Webster's (the committee chairman) district and they prevailed on the committee to re-instate the Scrub Jay as the state bird. So now the two versions of the bill are diametrically opposed. A conference committee will have to work out the differences. Stay tuned. We'll see what happens.

Charles Lee (Vice President of Florida Audubon) and **Eva Armstrong**, our legislative delegation in Tallahassee, continue to watch for a real sneak attack. Apparently, Senator Kirkpatrick and bass fishing buddies are going to try to pass legislation making Rodman Dam a state park. This environmental nightmare is a leftover from the ill-conceived Cross Florida Barge Canal. It died a well deserved death some years ago but the dam is still in place and doing all sorts of damage. Manatees have been crushed to death in its locks and a large section of the once

free flowing Ocklawaha River has been turned into an algae filled pool lined with dead tree stumps. The legislation will probably come in the form of a rider attached to some bill that nobody wants to vote against.

LOUISE CHAPMAN ON ROSE BAY

Mainland High School teacher **Louise Chapman** and her students **Kathy Sapp**, **Tommy Tsitas**, **Allen Ng**, and **Scott Shafer** presented a program April 19 about the renovation and preservation of the Rose Bay wilderness area off of U.S.1 south of Port Orange. The project was started by Mrs. Chapman's Limnology (scientific study of the life and phenomena of lakes, ponds and streams) class 5 years ago with 15 students. Now it involves about 200 students, 15 teachers, three schools and numerous agencies and local groups in a multidisciplinary study of the area. Students are developing Rose Bay as a park for the enjoyment and education of all Volusia County citizens.

The excitement and enjoyment of the students is evident when they talk about what they have accomplished and learned (and teach) and their plans for the future. They passed this enthusiasm on to all of us.

TRIP TO PRINCESS PLACE

by John Carr

Two of the highlights of the field trip Friday, April 8 occurred in Ormond Beach at the beginning of the trip. **Glade Koch** spotted a Limpkin on the fence surrounding the retention pond at the parking lot where we met. The next event was watching 5 Swallow-tailed Kites preen before leaving their roosting trees on Lipizzan Trail. They were magnificent, putting on a display as if they were in a fashion show. These raptors are black, white, and gray, and are a very striking sight to see. Loggerhead Shrikes annoyed the perching birds and chased them away. We watched the kites glide from their perches and circle the area. Also, on the Old King's Road, we saw two beautiful Wood Ducks on a borrow pond.

At the Princess Place, the Butterfly garden at the Legacy School is a beautiful sight. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were attracted to a bottlebrush tree and a shrimp plant. Numerous species of butterflies were feasting on the nectar of various plants. **Frances Royal**, a high school teacher at the Legacy School, made us feel most welcome. We walked some of the trails and found the Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and a Green Heron. The heron perched on a post in the fresh water pond sat motionless in the bright sun and showed a brilliant green and maroon coat. After returning to the Legacy School, we ate our lunch on the porch in a refreshing breeze, and enjoyed the butterfly garden again. We then drove the equestrian trail and saw an adult eagle on the nest. We recorded 38 species.

BANNING POISONS

by Lee Bidgood

By now you've probably heard that New Smyrna Beach has halted spraying of adult mosquitoes, except in emergencies.

East Volusia Mosquito Control District sprays equal opportunity insecticides on flying mosquitoes. A nerve poison doesn't discriminate between organisms, attacking the nervous system and brain of any animal that inhales or contacts it. Birds, bats, frogs, lizards and beneficial insects such as dragonflies, bees, butterflies and ladybugs, are among the casualties.

A healthy adult, being far heavier than a mosquito, can usually withstand a small dose of insecticide nerve poison, and an adult's liver normally produces an enzyme that detoxifies the poison. Fetuses, infants and the elderly or infirm may be at risk. Three kinds of organophosphate nerve poisons are routinely sprayed by the mosquito cops:

- "Dibrom", or naled, is sprayed by helicopter. The "Dibrom" label warns that it causes irreversible eye and skin damage and contains a small amount of a possible or probable human carcinogen. It's toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, (shrimps, crabs, etc.). The District sprays during the night when many people are indoors, but if you're outside, don't look up.

- "Baytex", or fenthion, is sprayed from trucks on oceanside and riverside streets. It's a Restricted Use Pesticide due to very high toxicity to birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates. The manufacturer's label states "Birds, fish, shrimp and crabs in treated areas may be killed. Do not apply where there are important resources." Evidently our birds, fish, shrimp and crabs are considered unimportant resources.

- "Fyfanon", or malathion, is sprayed primarily from trucks. "Fyfanon" is toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates and aquatic life stages of amphibians (tadpoles) and is highly toxic to bees. Malathion breaks down to malaoxon, over 60 times as toxic as the parent compound. Rachel Carson condemned malathion in 1962, but we continue to ignore her warning.

Adult mosquitoes are short-lived and repeated spraying may kill the weakest, eventually developing pesticide-resistant strains. Mrs. Gladys Meyers, a realtor, observed that along Maytown Road, west of Oak Hill, repeated spraying decimated once-abundant birds, dragonflies and other wildlife, but mosquitoes prospered. Eventually she and her neighbors requested that the county quit spraying. After two years without spraying, birds, dragonflies and wildlife made a comeback, and there are far fewer mosquitoes.

There are safer methods of controlling mosquitoes.

The Mosquito Control District has pioneered the

opening up of stagnant ponds that breed aggressive salt marsh mosquitoes. By providing regular tidal flow in and out of such pools, fish can consume mosquito larvae or wigglers. For isolated stagnant pools, the District, since 1979, has been using methoprene, a nontoxic growth regulator that prevents mosquito larvae from maturing.

What Can You Do?

- Make sure there are no mosquito breeding, water-filled containers on your property.
- Ask your city government to consider halting Mosquito Control District spraying of adult mosquitoes, while intensifying efforts to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and treat known sites with a growth inhibitor. Spray adult mosquitoes only in emergencies, for example, if the count's 'sentinel chickens' indicate an encephalitis threat.
- Don't use pesticides on lawn or plantings. Encourage your neighbors to shun pesticides.

The Key is Education

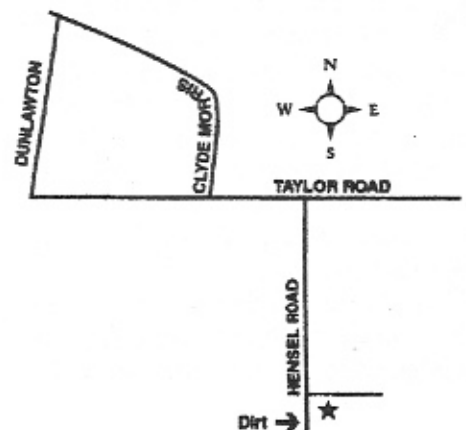
Editor's Note: Lee Bidgood, a retired chemist who lives in New Smyrna Beach, is President of the Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee and a member of the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

HRAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, May 15 the HRAS Annual Spring Picnic will be held at **Angelo Cerrito's** home at 6065 Hensel Road, Port Orange. The eating part begins at 1:00 pm, but come early to enjoy the excellent bird watching and visiting. Angelo and his crew will barbecue the chicken and the chapter will furnish beverages, paper goods and dinner rolls. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. If you have any questions call **Lois Robinson** at 904-760-8480. A map to Angelo's house is provided below.



VOLUSIA SEA TURTLE UPDATE

Reprinted with permission of Jo Ellen Basile
from "Turtle Tracker" - Winter 1998

In spite of record heat, smoke from summer wildfires, high tides from Hurricane Bonnie, and high winds that washed many hatchlings back onshore, the 1998 sea turtle nesting season was a very good one for most of Volusia County. This season, 2191 nests were laid, a welcome increase over 1997 and very close to the 1994 total, our highest year on record.

As usual, most of the nests laid in Volusia were **loggerhead** nests. **Green turtle** nests were higher this year, as expected, because green turtle nesting follows a pattern of alternating high and low nesting years. **Leatherback** nests also were higher than most years, following a similar increase last year. A rare **Kemp's ridley** nest in New Smyrna Beach will be confirmed by genetic testing. Only two other ridley nests have been documented in Volusia County, both in 1996.

Experts vary in their opinions about the status of sea turtles today. Some, such as Blair Witherington with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, believe it is still too early to tell whether protection efforts have caused an increase in nesting, or if increased monitoring efforts make it appear that nesting has increased. Others, such as Leu Ehrhart with the University of Central Florida, say there does appear to be an increase. Ehrhart has monitored in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Brevard County since 1982. His data support this conclusion.

In Volusia County, the season began in May with the unusually hot temperatures that continued most of the season. Then in June and July, beach monitors were faced with dense smoke from local wildfires. In August, Hurricane Bonnie passed by, causing an increase in nests destroyed by high tides. At the end of October, several days of stiff winds resulted in a record number of washbacks.

Four groups monitor Volusia County beaches. The northern and southern extremes are located within parks and are monitored by park personnel, while the middle areas are monitored by two volunteer organizations.

North Peninsula State Recreation Area experienced a disappointing season with only 34 nests in Volusia County, the worst season in 12 years, according to Ranger Kevin Marczak. This is the only monitoring area that did not see a significant increase from last year's low. The beaches in this part of Volusia are narrower and steeper, and beach erosion appears to play a big part in the nesting decline. Nesting density is still higher here than in the Daytona Beach area.

The Volusia Turtle Patrol monitors a 25-mile stretch from the State Recreation Area boundary south to Ponce Inlet, which includes some natural area on the north

end, the commercial area around Daytona Beach in the middle, and the quiet towns of Wilbur-by-the-Sea and Ponce Inlet on the south. Numbers are up again in this area with 263 nests, breaking the previous record by 2 nests.

When asked to characterize the season for the Turtle Patrol, volunteer Nancy Price said it well: "heat and smoke." The record heat and heavy smoke made monitoring more difficult. Then in October, unusually strong northeast winds washed many hatchlings back onshore. A record of 159 washbacks, weakened by the rough surf, spent a few days "R&R" at Turtle Lady Beth Libert's house. Survivors were returned to sea by boat.

South of the inlet, the Volusia Sea Turtle Society monitors the beach from the inlet south to the boundary of Canaveral National Seashore. This area also experienced a welcome increase over 1997, with 274 nests compared to 159 for the previous year. The rare Kemp's ridley nest was laid in this area. Other good news was a decrease in the false crawl rate. False crawls, emergences that do not result in a nest, are normally high in this monitoring area, particularly because of rock revetments. Marye Marshall, head of the group, noted that more turtles may have nested successfully in these areas because of lower tide levels during the first part of the season.

Canaveral National Seashore's North District comprises the fourth monitoring area in Volusia County. Canaveral had an "extremely productive season," according to Don Mock, with 1620 nests laid, making this one of their best seasons. The false crawl rate in Canaveral was very high, however, possibly due in part to inexperienced monitoring staff misidentifying nests as false crawls. Nesting density increases significantly in Canaveral, compared to other Volusia County areas. In Canaveral's South District in Brevard County, 2560 nests were laid this year. Nesting density continues to increase going south, with the peak nesting density in the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge near Melbourne.

Editor's note: Volusia Turtle Patrol membership is \$15 yearly. Send check to **Volusia Turtle Patrol, Inc.** Phone (904) 767-5257. E-mail address is basile_jo@hotmail.com

SCREECH OWL SAVED - PART TWO

by Pat Mahalic

The Screech Owl that was rescued from the tree that was cut down in Port Orange was released in the same area by **Meret Wilson** of Maitland Birds of Prey. She and **Mary Keller** are hopeful that the owl will reunite with her mate and produce another clutch of eggs. Mary still has the three eggs from the original nest in her incubator. She told me that they had not turned black, so she feels sure that someday soon she will have three little owlets to care for.

BIRDING PONCE INLET

by Kevin DeWall

Florida in general and Volusia County in particular have the distinction of having very diverse terrain. A barrier island along the entire coast presents the opportunity for some interesting birding. In the center of this continuous strip of overdeveloped land there is a break where the Halifax River and the Indian River empty into the Atlantic Ocean. This is Ponce Inlet. At the inlet there are two county parks that seem like they should be miles apart instead of just across a couple hundred yards of water.

Lighthouse Point Park is on the north end of Ponce Inlet and is the future site of the Marine Science Center planned to open this year. A population of Eastern Towhee is found on the nature trails through the small amount of coastal forest left in the area. There is a problem with the large jetty installed north of Ponce Inlet to stabilize the channel: unfortunately it didn't work. To try to save the rapidly disappearing beach at the park the Halifax River was dredged and the spoils deposited on the beach. This resulted in a short term slow down in beach erosion but left sand dunes choking the life out of the local salt marsh. Unfortunately the Marbled Godwits and Greater Yellowlegs which used to winter there have moved to more productive areas. The park is located 5 miles south of Dunlawton Avenue on A1A in the town of Ponce Inlet. Hours are 6 a.m.-9 p.m. and entry fee is \$3. Park at one of the free parking spots west of the gate and walk in. Phone 904-756-7488.

On the south end of the inlet is 250-acre Smyrna Dunes Park. It has two miles of boardwalk through varied terrain of beach, sand dunes, woods and salt marsh. The beach on the inlet is growing as the Light House Point beach shrinks. Birds such as terns, skimmers and gulls abound here and last fall the now famous South Polar Skua was seen for several days. This beach is a major resting area for migrating shorebirds. It is also one of the best areas in the county for seeing Reddish Egrets and Greater Black-backed Gulls. On a very good day the beach can seem to be carpeted in Semi-palmated Plovers with a good number of Wilson's and Piping Plovers in the mix. The park is at 2995 N. Peninsula Avenue (2 miles north of Flagler Avenue), New Smyrna Beach. Hours are 6 a.m.-6 p.m. and entry fee is \$3. Phone 904-424-2935. Alternate entry is by driving north on the beach and then walking to the inlet. This will get you to the best birding without the two mile walk.

Ponce Inlet is also a reliable area for viewing Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins. Entry to both parks and to the beach are covered by the Volusia County Super Pass. Best birding is early morning or late afternoon on weekdays.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominees for HRAS new officers for 1999-2000 have been reported by **Jeannie Riley**, Chairman of the Committee. Members present at the May 17 program will vote. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, given the nominee's approval. The slate is as follows.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lois Robinson | President |
| Angelo Cerrito | First Vice President |
| Madeline Shaddix | Second Vice President |
| Gail Lincoln | Recording Secretary |
| John Carr | Membership Secretary |
| Morrell Robinson | Treasurer |
| John Carr | Historian |
| Meret Wilson | Member at Large |

Lois Robinson is a native Floridian who retired from a career as a Nurse/Counselor. An Audubon member for 25 years, active for 9, she is the HRAS Field Trip chair.

Angelo Cerrito has been active in HRAS since 1976, a Board member since 1977, and Finance Committee chair for 10 years. He retired from Ford Motor Company as an Engineering Coordinator.

Madeline Shaddix has had a lifelong interest in birds. She is a Daytona Beach native, retired yet still active on the Boards of family businesses.

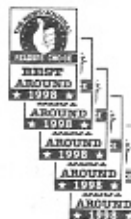
Gail Lincoln is from Mississippi and Alabama, has been here for 10 years and has been birding for 3 years. She is employed as a dietician/nutritionist.

John Carr has been a birder since his childhood in Greensboro, NC and joined HRAS after his retirement as a microbiologist for the V.A. He is HRAS Historian, 2nd Vice President, and Membership Secretary.

Morrell Robinson has been in Audubon for 25 years, active in our chapter for 8 years, and Treasurer for 5 years. He retired as a Minister of the United Methodist Church.

Meret Wilson has been birding intensively for about 4 years, but only recently became tuned into the shorebirds, warblers, and sparrows. She is a volunteer with the Birds of Prey Center in Maitland and is the primary contact for all rescued raptors for our area. She is employed as a Medical Technologist.

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THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers You Need to Know

1998-1999 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | John Williams | 255-8631 |
| 1 st Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Past President | Roy Stevenson | 252-0466 |
| Record. Sec'y | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Membership Sec'y | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Treasurer | Morrell Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Historian | John Carr | 255-9360 |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Carlton Smith | 253-3815 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 761-8004 |
| Field Trips | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Ident. | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Statewide Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

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

Halifax River Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| John Williams |jwill39301@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby |mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson |msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson |msrobn512@juno.com |
| Carlton Smith |csmsmith@juno.com |
| David Hartgrove |birdman9@earthlink.net |
| John Carr |jcarr14@juno.com |
| Willie Burns |wwillie@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall |kedewall@notmail.com |
| Fran Carr |franni@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski |bsmyrski@aol.com |
| Pat Mihalic |WldkingJM@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received no later than the night of the Monthly Meeting.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome!

WELCOME

Mary Ellen Baker, Lois Blum, Mary Bjorkback, Marie T. Bracciale, Mrs. K. S. Carpenter, Mrs. Don W. Emery, Pearl Hart, Daniel & Susan Higgins, Ms. J. Jenks, Kathryn L. Lentz, Lupe, Susan Kidd, Summer Kirn, Johanna W. Knight, E. Mamarchev, Stockholm Associates, and Ella Wellman have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 44 - NO. 10 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JUNE 1999

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Lois Robinson*

Thank you for the high honor of electing me President of the Halifax River Audubon Society. I will do my utmost to live up to the title you have bestowed on me. I want to invite each of you to participate in the coming years as we all seek to increase our awareness and our commitment to our Florida environment and especially to bird life in our area.

We are moving into a very crucial time in Florida. As you know, wetlands, coastal hammocks, oak and pinewoods are disappearing daily as 700 more people move to Florida each week. We have to act fast and act in concert with other environmental groups if we are going to save our birds and other creatures and their habitats for our grandchildren to enjoy.

Also, Florida is embarking on a monumental task to restore the Everglades, the biggest restoration project ever attempted. Again, we need to be alert to every phase of this program as it is implemented over the next few years. I could mention other concerns we all share such as heavy use of pesticides, the continuing problems with Rodman Dam, pressure on legislators to curb the power of the Water Management Districts. All of these issues we will continue to address in *The Pelican* and at our meetings. This is a call to action of the part of all of us to make environmental issues a priority in your life!

The HRAS Board will be setting goals and making commitments to local projects. We need your input. We, the Board, will try our best to keep all of you informed so you know what's going on so you will be a knowledgeable player in the coming decisions. Please don't hesitate to call me or other Board members to express your opinion. Together we can accomplish great things!

KELLER'S KORNER

by Mary Keller

Thank you for the donations given at the program meeting to buy supplies for the many extra birds that need help at this time of the year. Many baby birds need special care in the spring. I especially need Science Diet Chicken for Puppies, rolled gauze, Q-tips, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula, and white paper towels. Most of these items are available at Bull Run Feed Store on US-1 north of Ormond Beach. **Marie Oglesby** will pick up and deliver if you call her at 767-5553. Thank you for your help.

CALENDAR

Saturday, June 5

Grand opening of Ocklawaha Refuge (see story).

Tuesday, June 15

HRAS program planning meeting. City Island Library at 2 o'clock. Anyone interested in planning 1999-2000 Monday night programs, please come. If you can't come, give your suggestion to someone on the Board.

Sunday, June 27

Workshop on the proposed designation of Lake Disston and Little Haw Creek as "Outstanding Florida Waters." Flagler County Commission Chambers, Room 107, Flagler County Courthouse, 201 East Moody Blvd. Bunnell, FL 32110, at 7:00 pm. Sponsored by Florida Department of Environmental Protection. For more information contact Janet Klemm at (850) 921-9928.

Saturday, September 18

Annual Fall Migration Bird Count.

Monday, September 20

HRAS first fall program - to be announced.

Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3

Second Annual Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo at Harborview Center in Clearwater. Activities include field trips, expert speakers, workshops, marketplace for birding equipment, and bird classes. General admission is \$5, seniors \$3, and children \$2. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Shell Key, a barrier island important for nesting and migrating shore birds. For more information call 1-877-FLA-BIRD or www.stpete-clearwater.com/birdfestival/.

Wednesday, October 13, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 16, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 20, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 23, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 27, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 30, 8-Noon

HRAS sponsors Beginning Birdwatching classes with field trips. At Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. Sign up will be September 1.

Friday, October 15

Deadline for donating \$35.00 for Audubon Adventures.

October 18-22

National Watchable Wildlife Conference at Ft Myers. Sponsored by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

March 3, 2000

Florida Audubon celebrates its one hundredth birthday.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Just when it looked like Everglades restoration was about to start, along comes a new threat. The Corps of Engineers' Jacksonville office released a plan to continue mining limestone in areas adjacent to portions of the Everglades ecosystem. The plan would cause the loss of 15,000 acres of wetlands in the system through the drastic effects caused to ground water flow by the mining operation. In the past, the large quarries filled with water and the surrounding land was sold as waterfront property. Perhaps the bill filed two days before Earth Day by **Senators Graham, Mark and Reid** will help prevent this destruction. Called the National Parks Protection Act it would, among other things, provide funding for the Federal portion of the Everglades Restoration Plan. It would also provide funds to protect parks that are under threat from activities outside their borders.

BIRD PROTECTION LAWS

by Pat Mihalic

In March, the city of Port Orange held a tree preservation meeting that was quite productive. **HRAS** members present felt sure that the city's future tree cutting permits will include language from the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act concerning nesting birds. We hope that we can get other local cities also to adopt this wording. The Act states in section 703 that "*it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill ... any migratory bird, any part, nest or egg of such bird.*" Cutting a tree with an active nest is covered in this wording. Violations of this Act can result in a \$500 fine and/or imprisonment for six months.

I received a call in March from a woman in Ormond Beach concerning a man in her neighborhood that had let his dogs tear apart a Muscovy Duck. The duck had flown into the man's fenced yard, he let his dogs out, and watched as they mutilated the duck. The neighbors, who were witnesses to this act of cruelty, could not get to the duck because of the fence so they called the police and animal control for help. By the time help arrived the duck was severely injured and was taken to the Halifax Humane Society to be euthanized. Neighbors said they had seen the man breaking the neck of another duck and capturing four baby ducks. He had boasted that he would kill them if he got the chance.

Calls were made to the Ormond Beach Animal Control and their Public Works Department, the Halifax Humane Society and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and each of these agencies told the callers that there was nothing they could do about this, as Muscovy Ducks are not protected and can be killed by any

means. **This is NOT true.** These birds are not protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but they are protected under Florida State Statute 828.12 called Cruelty to Animals. This statute protects all creatures in the "animal kingdom." It is a misdemeanor "*to torment, ..., unnecessarily mutilate, or kill*" any animal. It is a 3rd degree felony to "*intentionally commit an act to any animal which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering.*" Fines are up to \$10,000 and/or jail terms if a person is found guilty of violating this statute.

I made calls to each of these agencies to inform them of this law and will follow up with a copy of the statutes. Police officers have a copy of Florida State Statutes with them at all times. The Ormond Beach Police Department is also going to hold a meeting concerning the ducks and I have volunteered to help them with information about these birds and the laws protecting them and all other animals.

Every scrap of biological diversity is priceless, to be learned and cherished, and never to be surrendered without a struggle.

E.O. Wilson,

May/June 1998 *Nature Conservancy Magazine*

WILD BIRD WORKSHOP

by Pat Mihalic

On April 9th the **HRAS** held a two-hour wild bird workshop in conjunction with the Halifax Humane Society. The purpose of the workshop was to help the officials responsible for animal control in Volusia and Flagler Counties to understand how to help an injured bird of any species to survive. **Meret Wilson** presented a program on Raptors, **Deann Snyder** on Shore Birds and I on Song Birds as Bird Rehabilitator **Mary Keller's** representative. **Michelle Anthony**, Wildlife Rehabilitator specializing in small mammals, also made a short presentation.

Our main objective was to show the big difference between handling wild birds and mammals and non-feral dogs and cats. We covered a variety of subjects including how to handle baby birds, how to capture raptors and shore birds without causing them to go into shock, and how to transport birds. We emphasized the importance of transporting the injured or sick bird to a rehabilitator as soon as possible.

The different agencies from Volusia and Flagler Counties were well represented and we fielded many questions from our guests. The Halifax Humane Society and its Director, **James Noe**, were our hosts in their education room. Those present seemed to enjoy the presentation and we are sure that it was a learning experience for all involved.

LOOKS LIKE THE BEST EVER

by *Glade Koch*

Nearly 1,000,000 children have received AUDUBON ADVENTURES, National Audubon's environmental newspaper for kids. The ADVENTURES' KITS 1999-2000 contain many materials aligned to national education standards. Contained in the kit:

- The newspaper issues
 1. The Everglades
 2. Alaska
 3. People and Wildlife Sharing the Earth
 4. Forests
 5. Special unit - Bears
- Animal Adventures Video (Disney produced)
- Classroom Resource Manual for Teachers and Pupils
- Classroom wall certificate
- Classroom poster
- Internet projects

One of our last year's teachers (who's enrolling again) is enthusiastic about the journals her fifth graders compiled applying new research and writing skills when they observed and compared three different habitat sites (front school yard, back school yard, and nearby river park).

If you would like to help with this HRAS Community Service Program connecting people to nature, a check for any amount you are comfortable with should be made to Halifax River Audubon Society, and please mail it to **Glade Koch, Education Chair, HRAS**, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114.

UNIFYING AUDUBON IN FLORIDA

On April 25, 1999, the Florida Audubon Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion supporting in concept the unification of Florida Audubon and National Audubon Societies in the state. The motion followed a Board forum with **FAS President Clay Henderson** and **NAS President John Flicker**. They presented a proposed 'Letter of Intent' which would merge Audubon operations in Florida by March 3, 2000, the FAS Centennial.

The key points of the unification of Audubon in Florida are as follows: All NAS operations would be folded into a re-organized Florida Audubon Society. FAS would retain its functional autonomy and separate 501(c)(3) status. It would be governed by a re-organized 30 member Board of Directors with 10 selected by chapters. The new seamless Audubon would immediately have a \$5 million budget and a staff of 60 people committed to science, advocacy and education. The purpose of the unification is to have a greater impact on conservation issues in Florida.

The Pelican, Vol. 44, No. 10, June 1999

HRAS members **President Lois Robinson** and **John and Fran Carr** attended one of four informational meetings about the unification in Winter Park on May 23 and were enthusiastic about the concept. The FAS Board meeting in July is expected to incorporate good ideas and address concerns of chapter members expressed at the regional forums and propose changes to the draft Letter of Intent. HRAS will be represented at the July FAS Board meeting by a voting chapter representative from our chapter, **Vice President Madeline Shaddix**.

GRAND OPENING OF REFUGE AT OCKLAWAHA

Auduboners from around the state are invited to the grand opening of The Refuge at Ocklawaha on Saturday, June 5. The 52-acre Refuge is a unique public-private partnership between the Florida Audubon Society, the St. Johns River Water Management District, Pew Charitable Trusts, and private investor **Stanley Selengut**.

Surrounded by thousands of acres of natural lands, including a national forest, dozens of first magnitude springs and miles of riverways, The Refuge will be a home away from home for Auduboners. All Audubon chapters and members receive a 20% discount on cabins and meeting rooms for their educational programs. A portion of the gross receipts from the operation of the lodge will be reinvested in conservation and educational efforts in the Ocklawaha River basin.

For more information, call The Refuge at (352) 288-2233.

from *The Florida Leader*, Vol. 1 No. 1 May, 1999

POGO NEWS

The first newsletter of the Pinhook, Osceola and Greater Okefenokee (POGO) Coalition has come out. Organized in December, 1997, the POGO Coalition was formed to coordinate the upkeep of the Pinhook Swamp, Osceola National Forest, and Greater Okefenokee Ecosystem which span the border of Georgia and Florida. The Pinhook Swamp area is the focus for land acquisition at this time with a \$1 million appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Pinhook provides the hydrological and ecological link between the two public lands. It contains critical watershed for two river systems, the Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers, and provides essential habitat for the threatened Florida black bear as well as for a wide array of other species. The concept has many supporters in both states including the Florida Audubon Society and Florida Senators **Connie Mack** and **Bob Graham**, and Congressman **Allen Boyd**.

BIRD REPORTS

LEAST TERN by *David Hartgrove* - On May 3rd as we left the City Island Library after the board meeting, I heard the calls of Least Terns. They've returned from their winter homes in Brazil to breed atop buildings in our area. I looked at the nesting terns from a perch on a cherry picker and counted over 120 nests. The Library staff gave permission for me to put two oak pallets on the roof for the chicks to find shade and protection from predators. This is the largest breeding colony in the county and is available for everyone to see as the parent birds fly in circles over the roof.

Smallest of the tern family, Least Terns used to nest on the beach. They can still be seen performing courtship rituals at the water's edge but they now nest on flat, tar-and-gravel roofs no higher than three stories.

In years past they've nested on the roofs of the Home Depot store and the River Point Apartments. Now there are two nests on the roof of the old Walgreens store at Beville Road, about 10 nests at the Volusia County Jail on Indian Lake Road, and also some colonies on several of the spoil islands in the Halifax and Indian Rivers. If you know of any site where Least Terns are nesting, please call or e-mail me (see Names & Numbers column) as soon as possible. Our HRAS chapter is working with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to monitor and document the nesting sites of this threatened species.

GREAT BLUE HERON by *Pat Mihalic* - A rookery is right here in our area with many adults and nestlings in trees. One large white bird is either a Great Blue Heron morph or a Great White Egret. Directions to the rookery: from Ridgewood Ave., go west on Reed Canal Rd., turn south on Sauls Rd., turn west on George Hecker Dr., then south on Bryan Cave Rd, then east on Old Sunbeam Rd. Park in front of house number 10 (For Sale sign in front), and look west into trees above house number 11. There are at least four nests.

BROWN PELICAN by *Pat Mihalic* - A Brown Pelican attempting to steal a plastic bag from a man fishing on a Volusia County beach pier was fatally injured. The man kicked the pelican, broke its wing severely and caused critical injuries so that it had to be euthanized. The act was witnessed and reported to the Beach Patrol police, which took the pelican to **Mary Keller**, Bird Rehabilitator. We will give a follow up report in the July newsletter.

WHOOPIING CRANE by *David Hartgrove* - On April 9th the first Whooping Crane eggs laid in the wild in this country, in this century, were reported by state and federal wildlife biologists here in Florida. The location of the nest was kept secret but it was

thought to be in an ideal spot to produce fledged young. There have been 178 captive bred whoopers released in Florida since 1993. 77 survived and it is two of these birds that produced the eggs. Researchers monitored the nest 4 or 5 hours a days. On April 21st, the eggs were gone. It is thought that some predator got to the nest and carried the fist-sized eggs away. While it's a tragedy for the whoopers, it's life in the natural world. Let's hope their next nesting try is successful.

BURROWING OWL by *David Hartgrove* - **Pam Bowen**, who spoke to HRAS earlier this year about Burrowing Owls, reports that only one nest site has been identified in all the 11,013 square miles of Volusia County! This one is reported to be at the DeLand Airport. If anyone spots another nest site, please let me know. The owls start nesting in our area around the end of June and Pam will be in our area July 6 and I will help her look for them. I plan to make a tape of the owl's call to play. A male Burrowing Owl hearing a taped call can't resist calling back, making it possible for us to locate him. Target areas are Spruce Creek Fly-In, New Smyrna Airport and on the southwest corner of Bellevue and Williamson Avenues. It would be wonderful to find one near us.

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT HIGHLIGHTS

by *David Hartgrove*

First, let me extend my thanks to the folks who came out and worked in the Spring Migration Count on May 8th. Our HRAS reporters saw 147 species and 16,040 birds! Total Volusia County counts are not in yet.

The team that went to Gator Landing (**Lois Pauchey, Jeri Wyly, Fran and John Carr**) were piloted by **Captain Bob Hopkins** and his wife **Evie** on the St. Johns River and saw a Grasshopper Sparrow, 27 Purple Gallinules and over 2500 Bob-o-links. They then ran all the way back up to the north end of the county and split up to cover the areas east and west of I-95.

Kevin DeWall, Lois Robinson, Jan Petito, and Sue and Dan Higgins reported 4 Sandhill Cranes, 12 Bald Eagles and 40 Cedar Waxwings; the waxwings proving that it wasn't too late to do a migration count here.

David Hartgrove, Willie Burns, and Larry Wallburg reported 7 Red Knots, one of which had an orange leg band. We surmised that this bird was banded at Canaveral National Seashore a year ago, and I am seeking information about it.

We ended the day in a driving rain storm under the Port Orange Bridge. But, peering out as the windshield wipers swished back and forth, we saw 3 Roseate Spoonbills and the shocking pink legs and red/orange bills of a pair of American Oyster Catchers. All in all, it was a great day. And the long wait for our Chinese food later made it taste that much better.

ANNUAL BOATING TRIP

by Lois Robinson

On a sunny, warm Saturday (April 24) twenty-four Auduboners took turns in two boat trips to explore Mosquito Lagoon with **Capt. Bill Rostock** and his crew. Among the many shore birds seen were Black-bellied Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Willets. We also saw a Common Loon and Red-breasted Mergansers, hawks, terns and gulls - a total of 52 species. While half the group was out in the boat the other half visited Cape Canaveral Seashore National Park birding in one of the few coastal hardwood forests left in the state. We saw Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Black-and-White Warblers, Loggerhead Shrikes and a Mangrove Cuckoo to name some of the species reported. After both groups had done both trips we enjoyed a great seafood lunch at J.B.'s Fish Camp and Restaurant. Many thanks to **Willie Burns** for his invaluable assistance in planning and carrying out the excursion.

SNAKES ALIVE!!

Our last program for the year was a wonderful presentation of snakes by **Chip Fletcher** and his daughter. Chip is the President of the Volusia County Herpetological Society and he won us over to his pets by his enthusiasm and knowledge of reptiles. He brought some beautiful snakes with him, including three Florida native snakes: pine snake, Southern hognose snake, and the beautiful scarlet king snake. The brilliantly green Amazon emerald tree boa and a weird lizard from the North African desert rounded out his specimens.

Chip invited us all to meetings of his Society. They meet at the Port Orange Library at 6:30 on 3rd Thursdays.

EARTH DAY

by David Hartgrove

For the Earth Day celebrations, **HRAS** had displays at two different events in two counties. Unfortunately, the festival in Port Orange was rained out but our group was there until the bitter end. Thanks to **Marie Oglesby**, **Angelo Cerrito**, and **Lois and Morrell Robinson** for their efforts. Up in Washington Oaks State Gardens, **John** and **Fran Carr** and I got rained out on the first day too. But fortunately not before the approaching cold front caused a fall out of migrating warblers. There among the Black-throated Blues, Redstarts and Black and Whites was a real treat, a Lawrence's Warbler. This hybrid cross between Blue-winged and Golden-winged is quite rare and a life bird for all of us. On the following day **John Williams** joined us and the weather was cool, clear and beautiful.

The Volusia Turtle Patrol had a table just down the walk from ours and they had a box of 200 butterflies that the Volusia County Environmental Management Department had intended to release at the Port Orange event the day before. We gathered a group of children and walked down to a sunny spot near the river and began dumping the contents of the small envelopes into the eager hands of the kids. Each envelope held a native butterfly: Gulf Fritillaries, Zebras, Southern Whites and Swallow-tails. As each child watched in awe, the butterfly would sit pumping its wings for a moment then fly off to freedom. The squeals of the kids' delight mixed with the sight of the butterflies and the sunlight made for a memorable experience. We also had a nesting pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers about 40 yards behind our table. We let people take turns using our binoculars to watch as they excavated a nest hole in a dead cabbage palm. It made for some very excited future birders.

MAINLAND HIGH SCHOOL DONATION

Louise Chapman's Spruce Creek project students have donated an Audubon Adventure program for a Volusia County fifth grade class this fall. We thought WE were supposed to be helping THEM. What great kids! Thank you, thank you.

HRAS ELECTION

Our new Board was elected by acclamation to a two-year term of office on Monday, May 17. The Board changes show up on *The Pelican* Names & Numbers column with phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

John Williams, our out-going President, presided with fine leadership for the last two-and-a-half years, and the Board will get the advantage of his knowledge and wisdom as he stays with it as Past President. Thank you, John!

COOKBOOK RECIPES

We can still you some special fixin's. Please send your recipes to **Marie Oglesby** at 1173 Houdyshell Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32119-15901, or e-mail them.



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Halifax River Audubon Society
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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr | franniép@juno.com |
| John Carr | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall | kdewall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Gail Lincoln | glinc@hotnail.com |
| Pat Mihalic | WdkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson | milybug@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! We hope to see you all again September 20.

WELCOME

Betty S. Burns, Louise Chopma, Tracy Darney-Veitch, Cindy Evans, Mr. Edward E Farrell, Susan B. Fellows, Mrs. Daphne Field, Mrs. Lois Fluker, Marie Fuss, Marquita Gillyard, Ben Harrington, Pat Wild Keeser, Mr. Joseph A. Kelbaugh, C. R. Mannary, Carole Martin, Olga Pocil, Morris B. Richardson, Mr. William M. Rosenberge, Lois J. Shannon, Frederica Scharf, Alyce M. Switzer, Diane Talley, Alan Chisenhall, and Ms. Lillian Wisniewski, have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

REFRESHMENTS

The delicious refreshments served at the May 17 program meeting were supplied by Jan Petito, Willie Burns, and Stephen Kieran.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 45 - NO. 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JULY 1999

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Lois Robinson

As we enter the millennium **Florida Audubon Society (FAS)** and **National Audubon Society (NAS)** have some exciting and challenging plans in store for us. I attended a meeting in Winter Park Sunday, May 23 along with **Fran** and **John Carr** to learn all I could about the direction of FAS in the near future.

As you may know, there has been confusion and overlapping of services and projects between FAS and NAS in Florida as well as competition between these two groups, which does not benefit the local chapters or the public at large. In fact, this division has been detrimental to all of us.

Beginning March 3, 2000 (if it is approved by FAS Board of Directors in July) FAS and NAS in Florida will merge their funds, their personnel, their properties, etc. to become "a seamless Audubon in Florida." Also the FAS Board of Directors will be restructured to be more streamlined and more effective. I have more information on this that I can share with anyone wanting more details, though many of the fine points of re-organization are still to be worked out.

NAS has a visionary plan to strengthen Audubon at the grassroots level. Part of this plan will be to establish Audubon Centers around the state to provide environmental education and conservation action opportunities to local communities. One of the fourteen centers to be developed will be right here in Volusia county in the Spruce Creek area.

Now the part you are waiting for. How will all this help Halifax River Audubon Society? These areas are being suggested:

1. Better communication between FAS and the chapters.
2. More help in leadership training, fund raising, and recruiting new members.
3. Help with providing quality programs from the state staff.
4. Increase in percentage of income from membership dues.
5. More sharing of ideas that work between chapters.

This will give you an idea of what is in store for Audubon in the future. **Madeline Shaddix** will be our new Chapter Representative to FAS Board meetings and she will be representing us at this very important meeting July 24 and 25 as we launch Audubon into the future!

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 22

CORRECTION - The Lake Disston workshop in June's *The Pelican* was listed for the wrong date. Refer to June's Calendar for more information. Your support in preserving this unique body of pure water will make a difference in Florida's future.

All Summer

Don't forget **Mary Keller**, Bird Rehabilitator, during the summer. Call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 about your donated items.

Wednesday, July 7 through Friday, July 9

Attend the inaugural meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to be held at the Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel, 1825 Griffin Rd. Dania. Call (352) 732-1225. See article in this newsletter.

Monday, July 19 through Sunday, July 25

American Birding Association, Inc. (ABA) convention in Tucson, Arizona. Call for information at (800) 850-2473. HRAS is associated with this organization

Saturday, September 18

Annual Fall Migration Bird Count.

Monday, September 20

HRAS first fall program - to be announced.

Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3

Second Annual Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo at Harborview Center in Clearwater. Activities include field trips, expert speakers, workshops, marketplace for birding equipment, and bird classes. General admission is \$5, seniors \$3, and children \$2. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Shell Key, a barrier island important for nesting and migrating shore birds. For more information call 1-877-FLA-BIRD or www.stpete-clearwater.com/birdfestival/.

Wednesday, October 13, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 16, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 20, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 23, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 27, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 30, 8-Noon

HRAS sponsors Beginning Birdwatching class with field trips. To be held at Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. Sign up will begin September 1.

Friday, October 15

Deadline for donating \$35.00 for Audubon Adventures for 1999-2000 school year.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by *David Hartgrove*

Ringed-neck Ducks aren't supposed to spend the summer here. They're fairly common winter migrants but their breeding grounds are from the Great Lakes north. There have been a few recorded instances of the birds summering here and a few of their breeding here. The latter usually involved males staying behind to help injured females and the last recorded instance was in 1964. So the little female currently residing in the lake at Memorial Park in Port Orange is quite a celebrity, even if she doesn't want to be. There's no sign that she's nesting and no sign of a mate. For some reason she just decided to stay here. She seems to be feeding quite actively and there's no indication of injury, other than a slight limp when she's out of the water. The park is located on Jackson Street north of Dunlawton, behind the Albertson's. There's a small parking lot and parking is also allowed on the east side of Jackson Street. This is also a good place to see fledged young Common Moorhens. There's a healthy population breeding in the cattails along the shore. They're joined there by Boat-tailed Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds. If you go, look for the elusive female Red-wings. They generally stay near the nest, deep in the cattails and are hard to see. Remember, they're densely streaked and look nothing like the males.

THE VIRTUES OF THE MUSCOVY DUCK

by *Pat Mihalic*

Recently I have had many calls concerning Muscovy Ducks. The calls seem to center on people who buy property next to a pond or lake and then decide that they do not want a semi-wild duck there. They do not like the duck doo that is deposited by these creatures (but they will put pesticides on their lawns). The Muscovy is maligned by so-called experts as a non-native species that competes with native birds for food and habitat. It is a non-native species, but so is the Peacock and escaped Flamingo. We certainly do not destroy Peacocks and Flamingos, perhaps because they are prettier than a Muscovy.

I would like to set the record straight on the Muscovy Duck. They are voracious insect eaters. They consume 200 insects an hour and 2000 mosquito larvae an hour when dabbling on the edge of a pond. They are not flower eaters. The only reason they will pick at flowers is to eat insects on them; they love aphids and caterpillars. I once planted a dozen parsley plants for butterfly caterpillars to eat so I could watch their life cycle. The plants were loaded with caterpillars until a Muscovy spotted them and there went my experiment. I still had the parsley plants, but the caterpillars became a tasty meal.

These ducks are wonderful parents and will give their life for their young. We once watched a female Muscovy

with a dozen babies lure an otter from the pond to keep her brood safe. She lost her life, but the baby ducklings survived.

In the past fifteen years we have never witnessed Muscovys competing with wild ducks for food or mates. We feed between 75 and 100 Wood Ducks a day at our corn feeders. When there are not enough insects, the Muscovy Ducks will eat right beside the Wood Ducks. In fact the Wood Ducks are quite vicious and will chase anything that comes near what they consider their food supply. Our pond is full of wading birds and they seem to work in harmony with the Muscovys. The Muscovys dabble along the edge of the pond and this stirs up the little fish. The wading birds follow these ducks and gobble up the fish as fast as they can put their beaks in the water. Muscovys may not be beautiful, but they certainly add to the beauty of our world.

And last, but not least, the population can be controlled by taking the eggs from the Muscovy nest. The mother will continue to sit and lay another batch. If you destroy the eggs you can control the population. This does not hurt them; it is just like taking an egg from a chicken.

They are not like people, you will only have as many ducks as an area can support. Control officers can take them all away from a pond and, I will guarantee you, within a month you will have Muscovys back at the pond. This is Florida and ducks live in ponds.

I would hope that one day we would realize that these are not destructive creatures and they do have a place in nature the same as the Peacock and escaped Flamingo. If we would let them do their natural thing of eating insects and mosquito larvae, perhaps we could use less of the pesticides that are poisoning our world. We should protect them the same as we do other beneficial species of birds. Until that time we must remember that even though they are not protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, they are protected by the state cruelty to animal laws.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. John A. Agett, Mrs. George B. Chatley, Rick and Mary Jane Dill, Patricia Elwin, D. and M. Jones, Doris Lavercombe, Mr. Thomas Lehmen, Mary Lindsey, P. Kitchens - Van De Mark, Larry Wallberg, and Constance C. Wilson have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts starting in September.

HRAS RECIPE BOOK

Our Society recipe book is nearing completion, with 250 superb recipes. The book will be available in October, just in time for Holiday giving at \$8.00 to \$10.00 apiece. Thank you for all your great recipe donations.

COMMON OWLS AND THEIR NESTING BEHAVIOR

Information about owls nesting behavior has been compiled by **Meret Wilson**, an **HRAS** member. This data was given to Volusia County Animal Control officers and others in a injured bird training session at the Halifax Humane Society. Meret here presents information on two of the more common owls in our area of Florida. Meret cites Eckert, Owls of North America for much of her source, but she is uniquely qualified to give us even more information about the owls. Meret volunteers at the Birds of Prey Center in Maitland where she has formed intimate knowledge of these two birds of family *Strigidae*.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*) - Barred Owls live in the mixed woods of river bottoms and swamps. They feed on mice, rats, rabbits, fish, and amphibians. They imprint easily on humans. The call of the adult is "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all-I-I." Young food begging call is a whistling, ascending "Psssst."

Nesting Season - January to March
Nest Substrate - Cavity nesters
Average Incubation - 28 days
Average Age to Fledging - 42 days

Development of Young

- At hatch: Eyes closed, fluffy white down.
Day 4: Eyes still closed, utter whining, peeping sound.
Day 7: Eyes partially opened, become active in nest.
Day 14-21: White down pushed out by secondary down, white at tips, buff close to body. Wing features begin to sprout. By end of 2nd week, parents stop brooding. By end of 3rd week, babies are active, first evidence of defensive and aggressive behavior.
Week 4-6: Young birds leave nest, perch on nearby branches. Parents feed young that fall to the ground.
Week 7: Downy plumage well developed. Underparts spotted and barred. First feathers to appear are scapulars (on back), the flank and belly feathers.
Week 12-15: Flight attempted. All young often on ground for few days. When flying skills develop, move back into trees. Plumage of body, wings and tail well-developed. Head and thighs still downy. Flights are progressively longer and more skillful. Continue to be fed and attended by parents throughout summer.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*) - Great Horned Owls are often found in forests, thickets, scrubs, and golf courses. They prey on rabbits, mice, squirrels, skunks, fish, and even the occasional Screech Owl! They are the largest owl in Florida and are notorious for pirating old nests of crows, Bald Eagles, hawks, and herons. Their nesting season starts early - typically in January or February. This species also imprints easily on humans. The call of the adult is "Hoo Hoo Hoo-hoo-hoo." The call of very young nestling is a "Chee-chee-chee-chee-chee." A typical food beg call is a raspy "Hreep", "Hreep." The species is also noted for clacking their beaks when threatened.

Nesting Season - November to April
Nest Substrate - Forks in trees, abandoned raptor nests
Average Incubation - 30 days
Average Age to Fledging - 65 days.

Development of Young

- At hatch: Size of newly hatched chickens, eyes closed with thick gray-white down, tinged with buff on back and wings.
Day 7: Eyes begin to open.
Day 9-10: Eyes fully open, down in now a buffy gray.
Day 11-14: Natal down replaced with second down, dingy, buff in color. Eyes open wide, irises brownish yellow.
Day 14: Attained one-third of their adult size.
Day 15-16: Irises lemon yellow.
Week 3: Half-growth is attained. Primaries bursting sheaths. Young become aggressive. Down fluffy, creamy buff. Young that fall from nest will be fed on ground by parent, but may die of exposure from predators.
Week 4: Approaching fully grown. Feathers of wings and back well-developed. Tail sprouting. Ear tufts begin to show.
Day 32: Venture out on surrounding limbs. If young fall from nest will be fed on ground by parent, with good chance of survival, or young may climb back up next tree, using talons and beak.
Week 6: Well feathered, begin testing wings. Incapable of actual flight. Begin catching small creatures, such as insects.
Week 9: Tail and wings developed enough to permit flight. Body plumage still soft and downy. Have reached full growth.
Week 12: Birds flying well. Parents reduce food supply to young. Young begin to hunt on own. Families remain loosely together all summer.
Week 20: First winter plumage coming in. Talons still only half-size.
During Autumn: Birds scatter on own or are driven away by parents.

END OF YEAR PICNIC

by Willie Burns

On Saturday, May 15, the Halifax Audubon Society enjoyed its Annual Picnic. As has been our good fortune the last several years it was held at the home of Angelo Cerrito. His home is on a bluff near Spruce Creek in Port Orange.

The large tree filled yard and airy patio were a pleasant setting for the thirty some guests. Warm sunshine, mild breezes, and great food combined into a wonderful day. Several young foals next door, with one that was less than a week old, were a bonus.

Angelo and his son provided the superb barbecued chicken and ham shish-kabobs. Salads, side dishes, and desserts were provided by the rest of us. No one went home hungry! If anything, several belts were loosened as we enjoyed the delicious repast.

Angelo's Barred Owl made an appearance later in the afternoon. Finding an owl in daylight is not easy. A Screech Owl tape may have awakened her, but she stayed quietly in her treetop watching us watch her through binoculars. We watched until we tired, then let Friend Owl return to her snooze.

Red Bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers were calling in the trees, as were several Northern Cardinals and Tufted Titmice. Smaller birds were less in evidence, perhaps due to the presence of Friend Owl. We also saw the usual Spruce Creek shore birds.

This picnic is an annual affair. Mark your calendar for next year's date, the second Saturday in May. Come on out and enjoy the sunshine, mild spring weather, good food, and wonderful company. Be there or be square and hungry. Who knows, Angelo's Owl may even put in a repeat performance!

Oh, a wondrous bird is the pelican!
His beak holds more than his belican.
He takes in his beak
Food enough for a week.
But I'll be darned if I know how the
helican.

Dixon Lanier Merritt in *Nashville
Banner*, 1913

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FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCY CREATED

Florida SB 864 created what may become the finest wildlife agency in America by transferring all programs relating to fish and wildlife, including marine endangered species, to a new independent constitutional agency. The new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be charged with protection of all wildlife and habitat in the state. The 1999 Legislative victory was a direct result of the Conservation Amendment (Amendment 5) approved by the voters last November. The Amendment provided for a unified state's fisheries management (salt water and fresh water) under one agency, a goal the conservation community has worked on for decades.

The fact that the amendment passed with a 73% vote was not lost on legislators. When the FWCC bill unanimously passed the Senate, Natural Resources Chairman **Charles Bronson** said, "Today we are doing the will of the people as expressed in the constitutional amendment." (*Senator Charles Bronson (R) District 18 - Part of Brevard and Osceola counties. (850) 487-5056*)

The new commission will be a true "critter" agency dealing exclusively with fish, wildlife, and habitat. In addition, the Florida Marine Patrol, Bureau of Protected Species, and Marine Research Institute will all be moved to the new commission. The new commission will take the reins on July 1, 1999 and its initial membership will be the sitting commissioners from the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The basic bill was very sound, but there are several questionable and possibly unconstitutional provisions in it that probably won't cause a lot of heartburn in the short run but need to be clarified or removed soon before the positions begin to harden. The only major bad provision is language that will require the FWCC to submit a budget 5% lower than this year for 2001. This was initially a House provision at 10%, but was reduced in negotiations with the Senate. The House sponsor (**Rep. Alexander**) (*Representative J. D. Alexander (R) District 66 - Brevard and Osceola counties (850) 488-9465*) said he would remove it next year if the FWCC submits their new procedures to assure adequate due process to the House in an acceptable form. Several conservation groups plan to ask the Governor to seek an Advisory Opinion in the Supreme Court to resolve this issue and several others. Now all of us have to settle down and help the new commission hit the ground running.

This article is reprinted from Florida Audubon Society's

LEGISLATIVE NEWS newsletter of May 23, 1999.

The editor is Eva Armstrong, Government Relations.

Phone (850) 222-2473.

E-mail earmstrong@audubon.org

PESTICIDE REDUCTION

by Pat Mihalic

The Ormond Beach City Commission has asked the Volusia County Mosquito Control to reduce the amount of pesticides sprayed for adult mosquitoes in Ormond Beach.

The dangers of the pesticides used in mosquito control were brought to the attention of the Mayor and Commissioners of Ormond Beach on May 4 by resident, **Dawn Sphere**, and me, HRAS Board member, **Pat Mihalic**.

Dawn, who was pregnant at the time, and her children, were exposed to the pesticides at a ball park in Ormond Beach. A county mosquito truck sprayed the ballfield area while children and adults were attending a ball game. All of them were exposed to the dangers of pesticide poisoning, most dangerously the children and Dawn's unborn child. Many pesticides contain chemicals that are more harmful to children, fetuses and the elderly because their immune systems are either not fully developed or are weak due to age or illness.

I provided the Commissioners with Material Safety Data Sheets listing warnings about the chemicals presently being used by Mosquito Control. I also read excerpts from an article written about pesticides by chemist and environmentalist, **Lee Bidgood** which was first published in the May 1999 issue of *The Pelican*.

Jonus Stewart from Volusia County Mosquito Control answered questions from the Commission and he informed them that he is working toward reducing the amount of pesticides used for control of adult mosquitoes. He agrees that these pests build up a tolerance to the chemicals, and that spraying is a temporary fix at best. He advocated using larvae growth inhibitors wherever and whenever possible. He also suggested that Volusia County residents need to be educated on the dangers of pesticides and informed about alternative methods of mosquito control.

The Commissioners agreed that education is a must. They will begin by placing articles in their monthly resident newsletter.

Hopefully other communities will follow in the footsteps of Ormond Beach, which has one of the best environmentally sensitive Commissions in the county.



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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns..... | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr..... | franniep@juno.com |
| John Carr..... | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall..... | kodewall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove..... | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Gail Lincoln..... | glinc@hotmail.com |
| Pat Mihalic..... | WldkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby..... | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson..... | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson..... | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Barbara Smyrski..... | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams..... | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson..... | milybug@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
 appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

REID HUGHES

JONATHAN KANEY, COBB COLE & BELL

CHARLES LYDECKER, BROWN & BROWN, INC.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! We hope to see you all again September 20.

BIRDWATCHING AT THE ALLIGATOR FARM by Lois Robinson

Sixteen HRAS members had a delightful morning at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm, May 22nd. We enjoyed not only the bird life but the various reptiles, the exotic birds and the scheduled programs.

The highlight for us was the bird rookery in full swing in May. We saw nesting Tricolored Herons, Wood Storks and three species of egrets. The young ranged in age from newly hatched to almost mature. Some birds were still laying eggs and brooding eggs. Did you know that the birds choose this spot because the many alligators roaming below them keep away the raccoons who love to feast on bird eggs?

We learned much about bird behavior watching parents feeding their young by regurgitating food into their mouths, infant begging behavior that triggers parental response, and the birds' obliviousness to our presence.

Other high points of the trip included a Roseate Spoonbill in the midst of the egrets preening himself, a picnic lunch at Ft. Matanzas followed by a boat trip across the Matanzas River to the old restored Fort Matanzas, and the beautiful marsh lands in shades of greens and browns. A total of 37 species was seen on this trip.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 45 - NO. 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY AUGUST 1999

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Lois Robinson*

I want to share with you about a most charming and educational book entitled **Red-Tails in Love** by Marie Winn who writes a regular feature for the *Wall Street Journal* on nature and birdwatching.

The book centers on a pair of Red-tailed Hawks who mate, nest and raise young in Central Park in New York City. This was an unheard of event for all the nature lovers and birdwatchers who frequent the park. The "Regulars," as they are called, are those devoted birdwatchers who spend time each day in the park keeping detailed records of all the bird sightings in a book called the "Bird Registry". This registry informs anyone interested about unusual birds, numbers of birds and interesting happenings regarding natural events in the park. Central Park is a major stop over for migrating birds both in the fall and in the spring. A total of 275 species have been seen there. The Regulars always participate in the Christmas Bird Count and a fall Migrating Hawk Count.

The occurrence of the Red-tailed Hawks nesting in Central Park had never been noted before by the "old-timers" when a pair began courting there in the early 90's. The ups and downs, the trials and tribulations of trying to raise a family in the midst of New York City as the Regulars mount a Hawk Watch during daylight hours make for a wonderful story about love and devotion and determination.

Along the way you learn a lot about butterflies, flowers and trees as well as individual birder personalities. A heart-warming story about people caring for all of creation and making a real difference in the lives of our feathered friends. The book is available at local bookstores.

KELLER'S KORNER *by Mary Keller*

Listed below are ingredients for a recipe contributed by Mary for our *HRAS Cookbook*, to be published this fall.

Garden Recipe for Birds and Butterflies

- Fresh water (still and moving)
- Trees, shrubs and bushes of different heights
- Flowering vines and colorful flowers
- Bird feeders and bird houses
- Fallen leaves
- Wild area
- Small area of moist mud
- Small bare area with exposed dirt

CALENDAR

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all field trips originate at the east parking lot of the Court House Annex on City Island at 8AM.

All Summer

Don't forget **Mary Keller**, Bird Rehabilitator, during the summer. Call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 about your donated items.

Saturday, September 3

HRAS Field Trip - Smyrna Dunes and Riverbreeze Volusia County Parks, led by **David Hartgrove**.

Saturday, September 18

Annual Fall Migration Bird Count.

Monday, September 20

HRAS Program - Preview of Beginning Birdwatching Class. **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr**

Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3

Second Annual Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo at Harborview Center in Clearwater. Activities include field trips, expert speakers, workshops, marketplace for birding equipment, and bird classes. General admission is \$5, seniors \$3, and children \$2. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Shell Key, a barrier island important for nesting and migratory shore birds. For more information call 1-877-FLA-BIRD or www.stpete-clearwater.com/birdfestival/.

Friday, October 1

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Creek to see fall warblers, led by **Madeline Shaddix**. NOTE: Meet at 7 am at Publix parking lot at Taylor Road and Williamson Blvd. for daylong bus trip.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday October 2-4

Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival, Marathon. Contact **Lori Haynes** (561) 625-5122.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, October 6-8

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission meets in St. Petersburg.

Wednesday, October 13, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 16, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 20, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 23, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 27, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 30, 8-Noon

HRAS sponsors *Beginning Birdwatching* class with field trips. To be held at Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. See article this issue.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

After spending all day with Pam Bowen on Tuesday, July 6th, I think it can safely be said that there are no Burrowing Owls in Volusia County. We searched sites that had been reported to have contained Burrowing Owls in the past, including a site accessible from Quiet Place in the Country. That's a development east of Tomoka Farms Road, across Spruce Creek from the Fly-In and Gamble Place. There's a nice old covered bridge across Spruce Creek that leads into some prime scrub habitat and then into Gamble Place from the south. Alas, even that remote area proved fruitless.

We also covered the Fly-In airport, Daytona Beach Regional Airport, the DeLand Airport and a variety of pasture lands all over the east side of the county. We used a tape of the male Burrowing Owl's territorial call. If they were present, that should have brought them out into the open. They're smart enough to stay out of the blazing sun. We didn't have that luxury. We only had so much time to cover a lot of ground in the search.

To my knowledge, there have been no reports of Burrowing Owls on either Christmas Bird Counts or any of the migration counts. These little owls are just too conspicuous to have been overlooked all this time. They like to stand watch from exposed perches near their nest burrows during the early morning and late afternoon hours. If they were here, they'd be a frequent topic of conversation among birders countywide. Pam said that she has yet to find any Burrowing Owls east of the St. Johns River. But since the owls in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties have been observed flying to the Bahamas, clearly the relatively narrow St. Johns isn't a physical obstacle. She continues to search for an answer to this mystery.

So, what could the refugees in Kosovo and an open pit, cyanide leach gold mine in Washington State have in common? Why the state's senator, Slade Gorton, of course. When the House and Senate conference committee got together to iron out differences in the two versions of the Kosovo Emergency Funding Bill, Senator Gorton tacked in a rider which allowed this huge mine to operate over the objections of both the Agriculture and Interior Departments. The size of this mine even violates the Surface Mining Act of 1872 which gives mining companies license to trash the landscape in the name of fast profits. Other riders tacked in by various legislators allow more generous royalties to oil companies and variances for other mining companies.

Sometime after Labor Day, congressional staffers will begin to meet with those folks interested in influencing funding measures for environmental programs in fiscal year 2000. The debates between those advocating adequate funding for the environment and those for more anti-environmental riders will prove illuminating. It's hard to believe that anyone could think that there's no harm in

having a lake full of cyanide in the middle of a national forest, but they're out there.

Just a quick reminder that next month will be the beginning of migration. This time of course, the birds will be headed south. Please mark your calendars for the third Saturday, September 18th. That's the Fall Migration Count and your eyes, ears and binoculars will be needed once again to help in this fun and challenging event. If you'd like to come out, please call or e-mail me so I can begin to put teams together. Contact information is on the back page of the Pelican.

BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS

John Carr and Lois Robinson are offering a class for Beginning Birdwatchers in October 1999. The dates are the following:

Wednesday, October 13 9-10:30 am.

Wednesday, October 20 9-10:30 am.

Wednesday, October 27 9-10:30 am.

Following each class there will be a short field trip to allow class members to put into practice what they have learned. Those dates are:

Saturday, October 16, 8-noon.

Saturday, October 23, 8-noon.

Saturday, October 30, 8-noon.

The class will meet in the library of the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1040 Museum Blvd., 255-0285. Cost of the course will be \$35.00 for Museum members and \$45.00 for non-Museum members. HRAS will receive \$10.00 for each person enrolled in the class. You can enroll in the class by calling the Museum at 255-0285. We are grateful for the Museum of Arts and Sciences for their participation in offering us a location and their facilities, as well as publicity for the course.

John and Lois have received training from Florida Audubon Society as well as slides, videos and tapes that will be used in the course. The class will be limited to 30 students so call in after September 1 to get your name on the list. Objective of the course: To introduce students to the art and science of birdwatching, and to give them the confidence and skills necessary to interpret and enjoy the natural world around them.

EVERGLADES MEETS OZ

The ditch is dead,
The ditch is dead,
Hurray, the wicked ditch is dead.

*Comment by Alison DeFoor, Governor Bush's
Advisor on the Everglades at ceremonies recognizing
completion of the first blockage of a canal in the
Everglades and thereby allowing the
Kissimmee River to flow naturally.*

Spring Migratory Bird Count for Volusia County

| 1997 May 10 | 1998 May 9 | 1999 May 8 | | 1997 May 10 | 1998 May 9 | 1999 May 8 | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 0 | 12 | 0 | Loon, Common | 0 | 1 | 0 | Plover, Wilson's |
| 1 | 3 | 0 | Grebe, Pied-billed | 88 | 178 | 21 | Plover, Semipalmated |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Booby, Brown | 57 | 43 | 83 | Killdeer |
| 354 | 503 | 531 | Pelican, Brown | 12 | 15 | 8 | Oystercatcher, American |
| 34 | 108 | 56 | Cormorant, Dbl-crested | 3 | 96 | 61 | Stilt, Black-necked |
| 21 | 17 | 41 | Anhinga | 0 | 18 | 2 | Yellowlegs, Greater |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Bittern, American | 1 | 7 | 25 | Yellowlegs, Lesser |
| 10 | 0 | 12 | Bittern, Least | .0 | 2 | 11 | Sandpiper, Solitary |
| 65 | 67 | 64 | Heron, Great Blue | 47 | 35 | 1 | Willet |
| 145 | 196 | 297 | Egret, Great | 11 | 7 | 12 | Sandpiper, Spotted |
| 99 | 118 | 178 | Egret, Snowy | 3 | 0 | 0 | Godwit, Marbled |
| 37 | 61 | 53 | Heron, Little Blue | 261 | 89 | 89 | Turnstone, Ruddy |
| 39 | 76 | 43 | Heron, Tricolored | 4 | 4 | 20 | Knot, Red |
| 0 | 4 | 1 | Egret, Reddish | 722 | 293 | 218 | Sanderling |
| 414 | 406 | 547 | Egret, Cattle | 9 | 193 | 2 | Sandpiper, Semipalmated |
| 28 | 12 | 41 | Heron, Green | 8 | 10 | 16 | Sandpiper, Western |
| 4 | 0 | 6 | Night-Heron, Black-crowned | 22 | 17 | 0 | Sandpiper, Least |
| 1 | 1 | 12 | Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned | 2 | 1 | 0 | Sandpiper, White-rumped |
| 124 | 174 | 143 | Ibis, White | 0 | 20 | 0 | Dunlin |
| 2 | 64 | 54 | Ibis, Glossy | .0 | 20 | 4 | Peep, Sp. |
| 0 | 0 | 3 | Roseate Spoonbill | 1 | 0 | 1 | Dowitcher, Short-billed |
| 46 | 12 | 15 | Stork, Wood | 1 | 0 | 2 | Snipe, Common |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Goose, Canada | 2632 | 1166 | 3553 | Gull, Laughing |
| 15 | 42 | 58 | Duck, Wood | 364 | 98 | 208 | Gull, Ring-billed |
| 5 | 10 | 10 | Duck, Mottled | 7 | 3 | 10 | Gull, Herring |
| 25 | 84 | 68 | Mallard | 0 | 6 | 0 | Gull, Great Black-backed |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | Teal, Blue-winged | 0 | 10 | 1 | Tern, Caspian |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | Shoveler, Northern | 151 | 262 | 53 | Tern, Royal |
| 0 | 0 | 2 | Scaup, Lesser | 0 | 2 | 0 | Tern, Sandwich |
| 3 | 6 | 3 | Merganser, Red-breasted | 7 | 1 | 0 | Tern, Common |
| 225 | 307 | 795 | Vulture, Black | 11 | 0 | 1 | Tern, Forster's |
| 214 | 108 | 112 | Vulture, Turkey | 0 | 0 | 1 | Sterna, Sp. |
| 78 | 63 | 71 | Osprey | 177 | 301 | 142 | Tern, Least |
| 14 | 4 | 23 | Kite, American Swallow-tailed | 14 | 4 | 6 | Skimmer, Black |
| 11 | 12 | 20 | Eagle, Bald | 159 | 225 | 359 | Dove, Rock |
| 0 | 9 | 0 | Harrier, Northern | 33 | 234 | 60 | Dove, Eurasian Collared |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | Hawk, Sharp-shinned | 393 | 561 | 508 | Dove, Mourning |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | Hawk, Cooper's | 0 | 25 | 7 | Ground Dove, Common |
| 22 | 26 | 39 | Hawk, Red-Shouldered | .0 | 8 | 2 | Cuckoo, Yellowbilled |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | Hawk, Red-tailed | .0 | 1 | 0 | Owl, Barn |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | Kestrel, American | 3 | 11 | 6 | Screech-Owl, Eastern |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | Merlin | 3 | 6 | 0 | Owl, Great Horned |
| 0 | 15 | 0 | Falcon, Peregrine | 11 | 8 | 8 | Owl, Barred |
| 3 | 7 | 10 | Turkey, Wild | 7 | 5 | 6 | Nighthawk, Common |
| 30 | 10 | 14 | Bobwhite, Northern | 49 | 51 | 31 | Chuck-will's-widow |
| 0 | 10 | 1 | Rail, Clapper | 0 | 1 | 0 | Whip-poor-will |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Rail, Virginia | 208 | 321 | 499 | Swift, Chimney |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Rail, Sora | 11 | 3 | 5 | Hummingbird, Rubythroated |
| 12 | 0 | 29 | Gallinule, Purple | 12 | 7 | 0 | Kingfisher, Belted |
| 78 | 35 | 73 | Moorhen, Common | 40 | 20 | 23 | Woodpecker, Red-headed |
| 36 | 106 | 5 | Coot, American | 77 | 88 | 108 | Woodpecker, Red-bellied |
| 17 | 1 | 1 | Limpkin | .0 | 1 | 0 | Woodpecker, Hairy |
| 66 | 32 | 62 | Crane, Sandhill | 9 | 21 | 28 | Woodpecker, Downy |
| 91 | 50 | 10 | Plover, Black-Bellied | 12 | 12 | 9 | Flicker, Yellow-shafted |

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | |
|------|------|------|------------------------------|
| 26 | 21 | 27 | Woodpecker, Pileated |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Peewee, Eastern Wood |
| 0 | 5 | 6 | Phoebe, Eastern |
| 56 | 34 | 52 | Flycatcher, Great Crested |
| 1 | 3 | 0 | Kingbird, Eastern |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Kingbird, Gray |
| 88 | 85 | 85 | Martin, Purple |
| 24 | 90 | 25 | Swallow, Tree |
| 0 | 0 | 100 | Swallow, N. Rough-winged |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | Swallow, Bank |
| 0 | 13 | 0 | Swallow, Cliff |
| 319 | 481 | 53 | Swallow, Barn |
| 114 | 46 | 163 | Jay, Blue |
| 10 | 9 | 0 | Jay, Scrub |
| 61 | 64 | 55 | Crow, American |
| 258 | 115 | 177 | Crow, Fish |
| 128 | 146 | 147 | Crow, Sp. |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | Chickadee, Carolina |
| 109 | 93 | 180 | Titmouse, Tufted |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Nuthatch, Brown-headed |
| 107 | 164 | 116 | Wren, Carolina |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Kinglet, Ruby-crowned |
| 14 | 35 | 15 | Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray |
| 0 | 0 | 7 | Bluebird, Eastern |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Thrush, Wood |
| 0 | 6 | 8 | Catbird, Gray |
| 408 | 485 | 443 | Mockingbird, Northern |
| 38 | 48 | 24 | Thrasher, Brown |
| 36 | 0 | 43 | Waxwing, Cedar |
| 36 | 23 | 31 | Shrike, Loggerhead |
| 144 | 219 | 184 | Starling, European |
| 17 | 46 | 10 | Vireo, White-eyed |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Vireo, Blue-headed |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | Vireo, Yellow-throated |
| 19 | 9 | 8 | Vireo, Red-eyed |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Vireo, Sp. |
| 67 | 52 | 95 | Parula, Northern |
| 0 | 2 | 1 | Warbler, Yellow |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Warbler, Chestnut-sided |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | Warbler, Cape May |
| 20 | 18 | 1 | Warbler, Black-throated Blue |
| 0 | 9 | 0 | Warbler, Yellow-rumped |
| 0 | 2 | 6 | Warbler, Yellow-throated |
| 3 | 11 | 28 | Warbler, Pine |
| 5 | 11 | 0 | Warbler, Prairie |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | Warbler, Yellow Palm |
| 34 | 45 | 6 | Warbler, Blackpoll |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | Warbler, Black-and-white |
| 65 | 65 | 23 | Redstart, American |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Warbler, Worm-eating |
| 2 | 4 | 0 | Waterthrush, Northern |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Prothonotary |
| 13 | 3 | 1 | Ovenbird |
| 14 | 30 | 11 | Yellowthroat, Common |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | Tanager, Summer |
| 239 | 342 | 216 | Cardinal, Northern |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Grosbeak, Blue |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Bunting, Indigo |

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | |
|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 0 | Bunting, Painted |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Dickcissel |
| 21 | 86 | 24 | Towhee, Eastern |
| 0 | 2 | 1 | Sparrow, Bachman's |
| .0 | 12 | 0 | Sparrow, Chipping |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | Sparrow, Field |
| 0 | 12 | 1 | Sparrow, Savannah |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Sparrow, Grasshopper |
| 251 | 157 | 2576 | Bobolink |
| 319 | 343 | 217 | Blackbird, Red-winged |
| 13 | 45 | 41 | Meadowlark, Eastern |
| 533 | 382 | 662 | Grackle, Boat-tailed |
| 112 | 87 | 130 | Grackle, Common |
| 8 | 17 | 0 | Cowbird, Brown-headed |
| 1 | .0 | 0 | Cowbird, Shiny |
| 0 | 3 | 12 | Blackbird, Sp. |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Oriole, Baltimore |
| 0 | 15 | 0 | Goldfinch, American |
| 56 | 33 | 99 | Sparrow, House |

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

May 9, 1998 Count: Total species: 156. Total individuals: 11,113. Observers: 38 in 18 parties. Time: 3:00AM-11:00PM. Owling: 7.25 hrs and 65 mi. All else: 59 hrs and 26.25 mi. by foot, 30.25 hrs. and 486.5 mi. by car, 5 hrs. other. Temp: 70-87°. Wind: SW-W 15mph. Clouds 30-95%. No precip.

May 8, 1999 Count: Total species: 133. Total individuals: 15,841. Observers: 36 in 16 parties. Time: 2:30AM-5:30PM. Owling: 6.25 hrs. and 69 mi. Owling observers: 4 in 3 parties. All else: 31.5 hrs. and 19 mi. by foot, 88.5 hrs. and 733 mi. by car, 2.5 hrs. and 12 mi. by boat. Total hrs. 122.5. Total mi. 764. Temp: 63-85°. Wind: NE 3-10 mph, SW 15-25 mph. Clouds 20-100%. Precip. At sunset.

ATTENTION: SNOWBIRDS AND VACATIONERS

by John Carr, Publication Chair

Do you want to receive *The Pelican* when you are away from home?

The Postal Service requires us to maintain an up-to-date mailing list, which means they notify us when you have **moved** or are **temporarily away**. It costs us 50 cents for every notification. To avoid future costs, we pull your name from our mailing list.

So please, when you move or are away, leave a message on my answering machine noting your name, departure and return dates and forwarding address. This way you will get your *The Pelican* all year. My phone number is (904) 255-9360 and e-mail is jcarr14@juno.com.

HOT PEPPER WARNING

by Pat Mihalic

I have recently read several articles concerning lacing birdseed with chile peppers to discourage squirrels from eating the seed.

One writer purchased hot pepper delight suet, at the suggestion of her bird store to feed to Eastern Bluebirds that frequented her yard. A Tufted Titmouse ate some of the suet and immediately began frantically ruffling his feathers and digging at his eyes. It finally dove into her birdbath to rid itself of this painful substance.

Kevin J. Cook, who writes "Birdwatchers Question Box" column for *Bird Watchers Digest*, answered a question concerning chile peppers in the January/February 1999 issue. He advised that birds that naturally eat wild chile peppers swallow them whole. Whole chiles are neutralized in stomach acid and do not have any effect on birds that include chile peppers in their natural diet. However, birds such as Northern Finches and sparrows that have no natural access to chile peppers can suffer esophageal or intestinal damage when eating seed containing chile peppers. He further states that the seed mixes usually contain ground chile peppers that contain the active chemical capsaicin, a tasteless chemical that works by activating pain receptors rather than taste buds. Capsaicin in this form exposes birds to risks of inhalation and eye contact. They have no defense against this chemical and it can burn the mouth and esophagus on the way down. Scientific research acknowledges that squirrels sometimes acquire a taste for capsaicin and will actually prefer food that is laced with chile peppers.

Mr. Cook states that until further research is done on how capsaicin affects birds he will maintain the position that putting ground chile peppers in birdseed is unethical.

Of the 21 most endangered ecosystems in the United States, portions of nine are located in Florida.

*The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter News
Spring 1999*

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETS

by John and Fran Carr

Madeline Shaddix very ably represented the Halifax River Audubon Society as our Chapter Representative when the FAS Board of Directors met July 24-25 in Winter Park. We also attended as observers. None of us had ever been to a meeting of this Board and in fact, so far as we know, nobody now in HRAS has ever attended one.

The most important piece of business facing the group was consideration of a merger between National and Florida Audubon Societies in the state. The plan calls for a leaner Board of 30 members, 10 of which will be chapter

representatives. Many of the other 20 most likely will be Florida Auduboners too, but that is not a requirement. An elegant plan was devised for the selection of the chapter representatives to be on the new Board, and the plan was passed unanimously by the Board. After a few minor changes, the Board then unanimously passed the resolution calling for the merger to the sound of happy clapping. The plan now will be voted on by members at the Annual Meeting this fall (see calendar).

We were most impressed by the caliber of persons on the FAS staff and Board. All were passionately concerned about the preservation of habitat and wildlife. Many of them are active scientists and it seemed that whenever an issue arose, someone in attendance was an expert in the pertinent field.

We had a wonderful time talking to people in this friendly group. FAS had planned a delightful social gathering on Saturday evening where we visited with Auduboners from as far distant as the panhandle and the keys.

We hope that we again can connect with Auduboners in Florida who share our concerns for nature and are working to preserve and conserve our environment.

Now in large circles they seem to ascend toward the upper reaches of the atmosphere; now, they pitch towards the earth; and again, gently rising, they renew their gyrations ... the most beautiful evolutions that can well be conceived.

*John James Audubon about Wood Storks,
while in eastern Florida, Winter 1831-1832*

NEW COMMISSION STARTS WORK

The newly restructured Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) executive board has selected Allan L. Egbert as executive director. The board is busy creating an agency logo, and then they will wade into managing Florida's fish and wildlife resources. All Auduboners will be watching and encouraging this new commission to provide good habitat and wildlife preservation.



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers

1999-2000 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

| | | |
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| Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| Vice Pres. | Madeline Shaddix | 761-0301 |
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| Membership Sec'y | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Treasurer | Morrell Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Historian | John Carr | 255-9360 |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Meret Wilson | 672-2625 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Field Trips | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
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| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 672-2927 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

- National Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>
- Halifax River Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>
- E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

- Willie Burns.....wwillie@juno.com
- Fran Carr.....franni@juno.com
- John Carr.....jcarr14@juno.com
- Kevin DeWall.....kedewall@hotmail.com
- David Hartgrove.....birdman9@earthlink.net
- Glade Koch.....clecras@aol.com
- Gail Lincoln.....glinco@hotmail.com
- Pat Mihalic.....WldkingJM@aol.com
- Marie Oglesby.....mlo13@aol.com
- Lois Robinson.....msrobn512@juno.com
- Morrell Robinson.....msrobn512@juno.com
- Madeline Shaddix.....meshaddix@aol.com
- Barbara Smyrski.....bsmyrski@aol.com
- John Williams.....jwill39301@aol.com
- Meret Wilson.....mileybug@aol.com

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters,

REID HUGHES

JONATHAN KANEY, COBB COLE & BELL

CHARLES LYDECKER, BROWN & BROWN, INC.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in the September issue must be received by the August 16.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

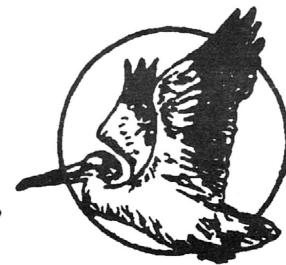
Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! We hope to see you all again September 20.

THAT LOVELY HYACINTH

Her winter home in Edgewater on the St. Johns River south of Palatka gains its fame from Mrs. W.E. Fuller. The story goes as follows: the water hyacinth was not known in the St. Johns, nor elsewhere in the U.S. until 1884 when specimens from Venezuela were imported for exhibit at the New Orleans Cotton Exposition. Its delicate purple blossom was much admired and people clamored to obtain this exotic plant. A few samples were given to some influential patrons of the exposition, including Mrs. Fuller of Brooklyn, N.Y., who owned the estate near San Mateo. She placed her fair souvenir in her private fishpond, where it thrived. The mats of plants overtook her pond, so she decided to adorn the river with their beauty. Her hyacinth so thrived that within 10 years it had covered some 50,000,000 acres of the St. Johns and its tributaries. Larger and larger rafts enlaced, threatening the progress of boats on the river. Over the next 40 years the U.S. government spent over \$5,000,000 attempting to destroy the prolific plant.

Handout booklet for the defunct GRAND ROMANCE riverboat that carried passengers from Lake Marion to Jacksonville.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 45 - NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Lois Robinson*

SETTING GOALS

The National Audubon Society has listed three major areas for local chapters to consider as of primary importance: advocacy, education and science. As we on the Board of Directors set goals for this year we will keep these three directives in mind. I would like to add that, for HRAS, we have another one as well: bird rehabilitation. Let's see how our chapter is performing in these areas.

Advocacy, as you know, refers to speaking, writing or calling in support of something; in our case, in support of environmental issues. Many of us do communicate with our elected officials on a local, county or state level regarding land use, wetlands preservation, green spaces, pollution and pesticide issues. In June I attended a meeting advocating the designation of Lake Disston as an Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). This lake in Flagler County is under threat from companies who seek to develop its waterfront and introduce septic tank, herbicides, pesticides and other runoff into this lake which at present has potable water quality. An advocacy role means we have to be constantly alert and ready to respond to any environmental degradation occurring or threatening to occur in our area as well as throughout the state.

In the area of Education, we have long supported *Audubon Adventures* as one of the best ways to influence school-age children. All of our programs and field trips are aimed at educating all of us about birds, habitats and other wild creatures who share our living space. When we work with **Louise Chapman** and her students at Mainland High School on the Rose Bay project we are learning together and educating each other. This fall we will begin a new education venture: a Beginning Birdwatching Class offered at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. In addition, our writers' informative contributions to *The Pelican* serve us well in this arena.

We are involved in Science and contributing to a body of knowledge when we participate in the Christmas Bird Count, the Fall and Spring Migratory Bird Counts, the Backyard Bird Count and other counts. Also this year **David Hartgrove** has acted for us in the Least Tern Nesting Site Survey. This little bird is listed as threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and we are helping to aid its comeback as we gather knowledge.

Pat Mihalic, **Meret Wilson**, and **Mary Keller** have been instructing us in Bird Rehabilitation. Pat and Meret will present a program later this year on this subject. We support Mary Keller in her bird rehab labors; we support the development of a new bird rehab center at Lighthouse Point Park at Ponce Inlet and we work wherever birds are being abused. We helped sponsor an award for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for dead pelicans washed ashore some time ago.

As the new Audubon Center envisioned for Spruce Creek comes into being we will have another place to put education and science to good use. Hopefully many of you will want to participate as volunteers and/or donors in this exciting new project. "The best is yet to be."

FALL MIGRATION COUNT

Come out Saturday, September 18th at 7 am to City Island Court House Annex east parking lot with your eyes, ears and binoculars to help again in this very important fun and challenging event. Contact **David Hartgrove** so he can put teams together.

HRAS SEPTEMBER 20TH PROGRAM

Our own **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr** will present a preview of their Beginning Birdwatching class. They are certified to teach this course by FAS and will introduce students to the art and science of birdwatching, and to give them the skills necessary to interpret and enjoy the natural world around them. They will show about 55 slides to begin the journey and share with us part of the first lesson on "how to identify birds," covering size and shape only.

TURKEY CREEK FIELD TRIP

On October 1, HRAS field trip will be to Turkey Creek Preserve, which is just south of Melbourne. **Madeline Shaddix** will lead the trip to see an abundance of migrating warblers. The bus will leave from the Public parking lot at the corner of Taylor Road and Williamson Boulevard at **7:00 am**. Birders will meet with **Shirley** and **Bill Hills** about 8:30 am and later buy lunch at a local restaurant. The bus holds 20 people and will cost \$10.00 per person. To make sure you have a place on the bus call Madeline or sign up at the September meeting.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

In May of last year, I was asked by our chapter's Board of Directors to write a letter to the Volusia County Council expressing the **Halifax River Audubon Society's** opposition to a proposed plan to "control" birds near the Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA). After a collision between a sea gull and one of the few commercial flights using DBIA, the County Council authorized the expenditure of \$50,000.00 to hire a consultant. The consultant's assignment was to determine whether or not a problem exists regarding birds striking aircraft in the vicinity of DBIA. A large portion of the consulting company's current work involves developing plans to deal with the problem of bird strikes around airports. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has set aside a large sum of money to assist airports in dealing with this situation. Could anyone be surprised then, when the consultant determined that indeed there was a problem?

Of course, as airports go, DBIA is a small one. It's hard to maximize a consulting company's profit potential if they simply concentrate on the airport property. So the plan, as now envisioned, includes not only the airport but also Daytona International Speedway and the Volusia County Landfill. The plan is to harass and annoy the birds and drive them out of the area. In the winter, there are over 100,000 birds at the landfill on any given day. In January of 1998 we saw 56 Bald Eagles in 20 minutes one day. How much harassment do you suppose will be necessary to drive all these birds away from this easy food source? Apparently, the FAA and their consultant think it'll be quite a lot. They've requested an *Incidental Take Permit* (ITP) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) covering Bald Eagles and Wood Storks. Since Bald Eagles were recently removed from the Endangered Species list, it's questionable whether or not the permit, if it's granted, will apply to them. Basically, an ITP says, "Hey, we don't plan on killing anything but it's bound to happen, so forgive us in advance and don't charge us." Our "environmental President" quietly signed an executive order exempting most federal agencies from compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. So the gulls, ibis, crows, vultures and other birds not on the Endangered Species list will be fair game. It's bureaucratic policymaking run amok and the birds will pay for it.

As we all know, the landfill is one of Volusia County's birding hot spots. A wide variety of birds can be seen there daily. How long can these birds survive if they're driven away (if that's possible) from a food source they've long used? How many will die, simply from the stress of daily harassment? I can certainly see the danger in large numbers of birds roosting on the runway at any airport.

Kennedy International in New York uses a falcon handler to great effect. Ft. Myers Airport uses a Border collie and has attracted national press attention with its success.

HRAS has petitioned the USFWS to deny the permit that would allow this snow baling "control" plan to proceed. The HRAS Board of Directors is prepared to take further steps if necessary.

The environmental well being of the country is entrusted to the various regulatory agencies, both state and federal. Many of the lower level employees of these organizations came out of college with a zeal for their chosen field and a strong desire to truly protect the environment for future generations. Unfortunately, their bosses often get in the way at the behest of major contributors to the campaigns of the legislators who write the budgets for these regulatory agencies. Employees whose job performance irritates a major contributor can find themselves jobless. So, now there's **PEER**, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. PEER provides a way for employees in various agencies to anonymously release information their bosses would sooner see suppressed. It's too bad that our political system makes a group like PEER necessary.

Recently, this group released reports criticizing the Army Corps of Engineers for their poor performance on wetlands protection and the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for their performance in the area of oil well drilling permits and cleanup. DEP Secretary, **David Struhs**, has promised a full investigation.

UNDERWRITE AUDUBON ADVENTURES!!

by Glade Koch

The 1999-2000 *Audubon Adventures* environmental newspaper for kids needs underwriters for this school year. The *Adventures'* kits contain hands-on material for fifth-grade children and instructional aids for their teachers. Contained in the newsletters this year are features on The Everglades, Alaska, People and Wildlife Sharing the Earth, Forests, and Bears.

HRAS has been sponsoring this program in our area's public schools for many years now and it has met with enthusiasm by teachers and their pupils.

If you would like to help with this HRAS Community Service Program connecting people to nature, please send your check made out to Halifax River Audubon Society for \$40.00 (this will purchase material for one classroom) and mail it to **Glade Koch, Education Chair, HRAS, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114**. A greater or lesser amount also would be welcome. Deadline for donating money for this school year is October 15, 1999.

CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE

by Willie Burns

I volunteer at Canaveral National Seashore. A few months ago I became aware of possible NASA plans to destroy some wildlife habitat by dredging and filling at the south end of Canaveral Seashore for a new launch site. There was not enough hard data then, but I have been watching the situation closely ever since. Now I can report some good news: that will not happen, at least for now.

According to a recent release by Robert Newkirk, Superintendent of the Seashore, top NASA officials, especially Director Bridges, are committed to preserving as much of the environment as possible.

There are three parts to the present situation:

1. The sea launch/east-west landing strip, formerly planned to be right on top of the access road to the southern beach of the Seashore, has been moved to south of the old beach access road. This would be south of the present railroad track. You may recall several years ago the tracks and the access road swapped positions.
2. The "industrial" area that was proposed to take out the whole south end of the Seashore has been eliminated.
3. Most importantly, NASA has agreed to ensure that the Environmental Impact Study plan for the Cape is comprehensive, covering both the NASA and Air Force properties on the Cape. The importance of this is that it is now agreed that future launch sites will utilize old and no-longer-used Air Force and NASA launch pads before any new will be built.

Launch pads 39 C, D, and E are still in the plans, as they have been in the 1974, 1984, and 1994 plans. These sites would remove access to the south end of the Seashore, and fill in the environmentally fragile marshes in the area where the road swings north along the beach.

We must remember not to assume that 20 or 30 years down the road NASA will not need the Seashore. It still belongs to NASA, and as we know governmental decisions can change over time.

Similarly, if Lockheed Martin decides that their Venture Star project plan is a go, the access road to the south end would again be in jeopardy, and dredge and fill plans would again be up and running.

The cutting and burning of trees and brush south of the access road and fee booth are ostensibly to restore Scrub Jay habitat, but may be preparation for the east-west runway. There is a dearth of hard data about this. In any event, it has been done. Perhaps somewhere a trade off was made; amend the overall plan but remove habitat with the runway. This Canaveral Mole has his ears to the ground. I'll give updates as more information becomes available.

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 18

Annual Fall Migration Bird Count. See article.

Monday, September 20

HRAS Program - Preview of Beginning Birdwatching Class. Lois Robinson and John Carr

Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3

Second Annual Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo at Harborview Center in Clearwater. Activities include field trips, expert speakers, workshops, marketplace for birding equipment, and bird classes. General admission is \$5, seniors \$3, and children \$2. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Shell Key, a barrier island important for nesting and migratory shore birds. For more information call 1-877-FLA-BIRD or www.stpete-clearwater.com/birdfestival/.

Friday, October 1

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Creek to see fall warblers, led by Madeline Shaddix. See article.

Saturday, Sunday October 2-4

Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival, Marathon. Contact Lori Haynes (561) 625-5132.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, October 6-8

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission meets in St. Petersburg.

Wednesday, October 13, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 16, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 20, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 23, 8-Noon

Wednesday, October 27, 9-10:30

Saturday, October 30, 8-Noon

HRAS sponsors *Beginning Birdwatching* class with field trips. To be held at Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. Sign up will begin September 1.

COOKBOOK

The HRAS cookbook, "Sharing Our Recipes," will be ready in mid October. The cookbook committee has collected 299 traditional and cherished recipes from HRAS members, families and friends and compiled them into this memorable cookbook. Included will be some recipes for our bird friends. The price will be only \$10.00 per book. Advance Sales Coupons and Gift Certificates will be available at the September General Meeting.



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers

1999-2000 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

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| President | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Vice Pres. | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| Vice Pres. | Madeline Shaddix | 761-0301 |
| Past President | John Williams | 255-8631 |
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| Pat Mihalic | 767-9437 |
| Willie Burns | 253-2150 |
| Meret Wilson | 672-2625 |

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Education | Glade Koch | 253-8438 |
| Electronic Comm. | Kevin DeWall | 767-3031 |
| Field Trips | David Hartgrove | 788-2630 |
| Finance | Angelo Cerrito | 767-5397 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Smyrski | 672-2927 |
| Publication | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Publicity | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

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

Halifax River Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr | franni@juno.com |
| John Carr | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall | kedewall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Glade Koch | clecras@aol.com |
| Gail Lincoln | glinco@hotmail.com |
| Pat Mihalic | WdkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Madeline Shaddix | meshaddix@aol.com |
| Barbara Smyrski | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson | mileybug@aol.com |

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CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! We hope to see you all again September 20.

WELCOME

Ms. Karen J. Ache, Keith Adams, Mrs. Sue L. Aldores, Mrs. Kathy Andrews, Rainie Avins, Ms. Lynn M. Billotton, Debra Marlayne Boyd, Mr. Ray Bradley, George Dickinson, Agnes Diveto, Ms. Marion Fuentes, Ms. Mary J. Grace, Mary Horn, Gary James, Michael Ladores, Clara and George Loesch, Mrs. Joan M. Mac Bride, Frieda Pick, Ms. Elizabeth C. Priestle, Victor Reneau, Gladys E. Ruggles, Mrs. Charles Smith, Kenneth Smith, Mark A. Toal, and Stacy Tyson, have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 45 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY OCTOBER 1999

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Education Chairman **Glade Koch** reports that there are 5th grade classes in our area that still need the Audubon Adventures kits. Please call Glade at 253-8438.

Glade received the following letter from HRAS member **Martha Schnaubelt**, giving her reasons for supporting the project. Her eloquent letter says it all!

September 9, 1999

Dear Chairman,

As you can see, I read "The Pelican" and am very impressed with what you are doing in the "Audubon Adventures" newspaper and kit for 5th graders. This has definitely got to make more people interested in understanding the importance of our environment as well as its many facets and beauty before more of it disappears through ignorance and greed.

I'm a long-time retired teacher, now in her 80's, but one who has always been intensely interested in nature and was lucky enough to visit our country's great national parks in the late 30's and 40's when they were truly "seeable."

My visits continued over the years, abroad as well, so that the pressures of increasing population became more and more noticeable - and more than ever here in Florida over the past ten years or so.

Educating the youth is the main way to help keep and improve what we have left of Mother Nature.

Good luck!
Martha Schnaubelt

OCTOBER 18 PROGRAM

Phyllis Anderson, the Nature Conservancy's new Community Outreach Coordinator, will present a slide show and answer questions about Florida Forever at the HRAS October 18 meeting. This is the program passed by the '99 state legislature to replace the extremely successful Preservation 2000. Florida Forever is funded at the same levels as Preservation 2000, but there are significant differences in the priorities set by the legislature for this program. Phyllis will outline these differences and what they'll mean for the environmental movement in Florida. Phyllis worked on the Sarasota Land Acquisition Initiative for the Nature Conservancy.

CALENDAR

Friday, October 1

HRAS field trip to Turkey Creek. See article.

Thursday, October 7

Flagler Audubon Society meeting, **Pat Halliday**, bird photographer, will present "The Mating Game." 7:30 p.m. in Board Room of the Flagler Co. School Board offices on Rt. 100. Call **Gerri Peevers** at 446-8971.

Friday, October 8

HRAS field trip to McElroy Park in Daytona Beach Shores to see fall migrants, especially warblers. Meet at City Island Court House east parking lot at 2:30 p.m. Leader is **David Hartgrove**.

Wednesday, October 13 through Saturday, October 30

HRAS sponsors *Beginning Birdwatching* class. See article.

Saturday, October 16

Flagler Audubon Society 6-hour boat trip from DeLeon Springs State Park. Call **Joe Dziak** for information and reservation at 445-8490.

Saturday, October 16

West Volusia Audubon Society Family fun day to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at Lake Woodruff NWR. Call **Phil Gotschall** at 985-0820.

Monday, October 18

HRAS Program - "Florida Forever" Conservation program by **Phyllis Anderson**. See article.

Friday, October 22

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Hunt, led by **Lois Pauchey**. See article

WELCOME

Norma K. Carr, Georgie Carleton and William Grundy, Carol Champion, Laura Chekduras, Enid F. Collins, Barbara Conine, Dottie Crawford, John & Marilyn Fredley, Carmela Garlo, Ms. Patricia Gough, G. L. Halsall, W. P. Hamilton, Mrs. Linda K. Hawkins, Joyce E. High, B. Kerrigan, Mr. Charles Mix, Karen Pellicer, Arnold J. Pessin, Bonnie Roberts, Suzanne B. Sharpe, Sue L. Shreve, Ms. Lisa E. Shumaker, Raylee Sweet, Jane Thompson, Joyce Vogus, and Mr. R. F. Warner, have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

First, I'd like to thank those of you who came out to work on the Fall Migration Count. Birding in drizzly, overcast weather leaves a lot to be desired in the fun department. A special thanks to our president, **Lois Robinson**, for filling in for me as trip leader. After Hurricane Floyd's near miss, I was working 16 to 18 hour days, including the day of the count. (*Editor's note: David works for Florida Power and Light Co.*)

Floyd's destructive wave action has almost certainly destroyed most of this year's sea turtle nests on Volusia County beaches. I have not talked with any of the folks at Canaveral National Seashore or the Volusia County Turtle Patrol, but the published photos of beach erosion don't bode well for this year's nest survival rate. Two hundred years ago, when there were far more turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs, a natural disaster such as this could be much more easily tolerated by any of the 3 species that regularly nest here. Although eggs laid in late May and June had hatched and turtles were gone to sea by the time Floyd arrived, eggs laid from July to mid-August, the peak nesting time, are most likely lost for this year.

Fisheating Creek, in Glades County, is the last remaining natural flowing stream that empties into Lake Okeechobee. It is 15 miles of giant cypress, wood storks, alligators and silence. It also passes through land owned on both sides by the Lykes Brothers. For years they controlled access to the creek and were fairly open to public usage of the waterway. Ten years ago, all that changed. A barbed wire fence suddenly appeared across the mouth of the creek and public access ended. Thus began a decade long legal battle to reestablish the public's right to use this stream where Calusa Indians once fished for bass. Lykes Brothers is actually a lot more than bacon. It's a large, multi-billion dollar company with interests in shipping, agribusiness, etc. They could afford a long legal battle. It turned out to be the first case ever in the history of the EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund (formerly the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) to go before a jury. The crux of the case was whether or not Fisheating Creek was a navigable waterway when Florida joined the union in 1845. In the end, the jury said it was and the resulting settlement grants the state of Florida 18,000 acres on either side of the creek and options on another 42,000 acres. It's a major victory for the environment and possibly sets precedents usable in other cases involving public waterways in the state.

At our most recent board meeting I alerted the members to a rider attached to the current Senate Interior Appropriations Bill; it's called Section 329. Introduced by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wa.), this anti-environmental rider would remove requirements that the U.S. Forest Service conduct wildlife surveys before granting logging permits in our National Forests. No more pesky Spotted

Owls getting in the way of profits for Sen. Gorton's major campaign contributors. An amendment introduced by Sen. Charles Robb (D-Va.) which would have removed the rider was defeated.

However there still may be a chance to defeat this bad bill. Another rider, introduced by Sen. Kay Baily Hutchinson (R-Tx.), would delay enforcement of a new formula which oil companies would have to use when paying royalties on oil pumped from public lands. (Do these folks ever do anything for us? Is it always for themselves and their campaign contributors?) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Ca.) has begun a filibuster to prevent this rider from making it into the final version of the bill. The filibuster has the entire bill bottled up. Perhaps the time she gains on this issue can be used to line up support for axing Sen. Gorton's rider too. A call to Senators Graham and Mack could make a difference. It only takes a few minutes. Call them. **Senator Graham:** 202-224-3041. **Senator Mack:** 202-224-5274. Ask them to pass a bill without Section 329 or anything like it.

INJURED BROWN PELICAN

by Sue Higgins

It was a sunny, hot Florida morning when I arrived at the dock under the Dunlawton Bridge. I had planned on crabbing and reading a good murder mystery novel and relaxing. I never got to read a sentence! I spotted something floating just north of the dock that looked like a triangle made of gray feathers. It was a juvenile Brown Pelican in distress and obviously in a lot of pain. I enlisted the help of two elderly fishermen, and with my extra crab trap, we hoisted the unfortunate creature on the dock. It was flopping around. A fish hook about five inches long with six pronged hooks was embedded in its beak, wing and webbed foot! One of the men had a wire cutter, so we wrapped the bird in my old crabbing towel and proceeded to free the animal of its torture.

Prior to that, I had reached **John Williams** of HRAS on the phone and he assured me that someone would be there shortly.

After we freed the animal of the six hooks, he/she suddenly went limp! Its eyes were open, and we did find a faint heartbeat. Just then the animal control truck arrived and took the animal away to **Dee Ann Snyder**, bird rehabilitator. Later, I called Dee Ann and asked how the Brown Pelican was doing. She said he was DOA and apparently hadn't eaten for at least twenty-four hours. I was saddened by this news, but felt the two fishermen and I had done our best to try and save this poor bird.

I spend as much time as I can searching the dock every evening for hooks, fishing lines and debris that may injure or maim birds and other wildlife. The dock is still my favorite spot to crab and bird-watch. I try to educate fishermen and tourists about leaving lines and hooks on the docks to be swept away to injure birds, fish and other wildlife.

SHADE GROWN COFFEE AND MIGRATORY SONG BIRDS

by HRAS President Lois Robinson

I have read two articles lately on how coffee drinkers can help save the rainforest and also many of our migratory songbirds in the process. As you know, Central America, Mexico, and Columbia produce much of the coffee we drink. Traditionally this coffee has been grown in the time-honored way, under huge shade trees, aviary habitat-friendly place for many birds, both year-round birds and migratory species. Other vegetation abounds on these coffee plantations making coffee one of the few crops that can be grown in harmony with the rain forest.

The problem is that lately (since 1970's), many coffee farmers in Latin America and elsewhere have eliminated shade trees to grow new high-yield coffee plants under direct sun. In some parts of Latin America, Columbia and Mexico, 30-40% of all coffee land has been converted to reduced-shade coffee production. The reasons for this (and there are several, including financial gain) can be found in Jennifer Hull's article "Can Coffee Drinkers Save the Rainforest," in The Atlantic Monthly of August 1999. ("Article on Shade Grown Coffee" came from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.) Coffee aficionados claim the quality and flavor of coffee now offered in the U.S. has declined since the introduction of sun-grown coffee. This quote is from Ms. Hull's article: "The North American Breeding Bird Survey shows an annual drop of 2 to 6% from 1980 to 1994 for the Baltimore Oriole, the Tennessee Warbler, and the Cape May Warbler." Other migratory birds have suffered similarly. These birds winter in northern Latin America and summer in North America. Scientists attribute their decline partly to the destruction of forests throughout the hemisphere. "From 1990 to 1991 a team from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center found more than 150 species of birds on shade-grown coffee farms in Chiapas, Mexico with numbers of migratory species particularly high." "Research in Columbia and Mexico has found that sun farms have just a tenth as many species as do shade holdings." Sun coffee also uses more agro-chemicals than shade-grown coffee.

What are we to do about all this information? As far as I can determine there is no major coffee producer who is producing coffee that is completely shade-grown. Specialty coffees are available, such as Song Bird Coffee and Sanctuary Coffee but they are expensive. Starbucks offers shade-grown coffees, again, at a high price. Our best bet may be to be aware of "The Rainforest Alliance," a group working to establish an "ECO-OK" label for shade-grown coffee products. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is supporting this concept. The Rainforest Alliance has a monthly newsletter entitled "News From Coffee Country." The address is ECO-OK, Coffee Project, Rainforest Alliance, 65 Bleecker St., N.Y.,

N.Y. 10012-2420. Also check out their website <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org>. Some of you may have more information. Please share it with us. We will put it in the Pelican. We can make a difference.

Editor's note: Flagler Audubon Society newsletter The Audible identified sources for shade grown coffee:

1. *Eco Organic Coffee Co.* 432 "f" St., Ste 307, San Diego CA 92101 phone 888-326-2633. Café Rojas in 10 oz. bags, regular \$7.49 and decaf \$8.15.
2. *Montana Coffee Traders* at traders@cyberport.net phone 800-345-5282.

TURKEY CREEK FIELD TRIP

Our second field trip of the year on October 1 will be led by **Madeline Shaddix** to see lots of migrating warblers. Be at the Publix parking lot at the corner of **Taylor Road and Williamson Boulevard** at 7:00 am to board the bus to go south of Melbourne. Transportation cost is \$10. We will buy lunch at a local restaurant. Call Madeline right away at 761-0301 to make reservations. **Bill and Shirley Hills** who will guide us to the hottest birding spots will meet our bus. See their article below.

TURKEY CREEK SANCTUARY

by Bill and Shirley Hills

Turkey Creek Sanctuary is a 113-acre passive recreation park owned jointly by the City of Palm Bay and Florida Audubon. The city manages it. At least half of the park is high land with sand pines, turkey oaks and bluffs overlooking the creek. The low part adjacent to the creek is mature wet hammock which is flooded part of most years. The main trees in the hammock are red maple, laurel oaks, live oaks, hackberry, and cabbage palms. Between the wet and dry zones is a narrow transition zone. The park has a 1.5-mile loop jogging trail plus nearly a mile of boardwalk. The jogging trail passes through several weedy fields, which are good for buntings and grosbeaks. The park is good for migrating passerine birds in the fall (30 to 32 warbler species normally seen in a typical season). The spring is not so good (20 to 25 warbler species) since many of the birds take a different route. Turkey Creek is not a place for shore birds or big wading birds.

... AND TURKEY HUNT FIELD TRIP

Lois Pauchey will lead a car caravan to see turkeys on Friday, October 22. Meet at the Publix parking lot at the corner of **Williamson and Granada Boulevards** at 8:00 a.m. where we will car-pool for our trip around Volusia County and nearby areas. Lois has been searching for and finding turkey hot spots for many years.

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
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| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

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

Halifax River Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr | franniep@juno.com |
| John Carr | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall | kedewall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Glade Koch | clecras@aol.com |
| Gail Lincoln | gline@hotmail.com |
| Pat Mihalic | WidkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Madeline Shaddix | meshaddix@aol.com |
| Barbara Smyrski | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson | milcybug@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! We hope to see you all again October 18.

MANY THANKS FOR THE GIFT

Member Carol Branch and Joan Treves have given HRAS two long play recordings of eastern bird songs. There are 120 different bird songs which can be used in the Beginning Birdwatching class taught by HRAS.

THE PELICAN



"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 45 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY NOVEMBER 1999

WETLANDS AND US

President Lois Robinson

While I was in the mountains of North Carolina this summer I learned that there are wetlands in the mountains too. The *Asheville Citizen Times* had a long editorial about saving mountain bogs. It seems these bogs are suffering, as are many other wetlands, from too much nearby drainage of land for agricultural purposes. This threatens the survival of an endangered plant, the bunched arrowhead. Why is this important to us, a state with no mountains?

Wetlands loss in Florida is an ongoing concern for all environmentalists. According to the National Audubon Society, up to one-half of all American bird species nest, feed or rest in wetlands, not to mention many other living creatures who depend on wetlands to survive. Wetlands, which include swamps, bogs, coastal marshes and tundra, are declining rapidly throughout our nation. The *Asheville Citizen Times* states "it is estimated that 220 million acres of wetlands existed in the lower 48 states when the Europeans began settling in America. Today about 100 million acres remain.

What do wetlands do besides providing habitat for birds? Wetlands cleanse water of harmful bacteria, trap sediment, and break down toxins (example: Orlando Wetlands). They help prevent flooding by soaking up and storing storm water (example: Tiger Bay Management Area). They replenish our aquifers, thus increasing water supplies in our state that is chronically short of drinking water.

The National Audubon Society in its pamphlet "Wetlands Campaign" recently lauded Flagler Audubon and member **John Scripp** for helping stop a proposal in Flagler County that would weaken the county's wetlands ordinance. The proposal would have opened up "marginal wetlands" for development as well as increased reliance on wetland mitigation (trading one wetland for another supposedly less valuable to wildlife).

What can we do? According to the aforementioned pamphlet, wetland advocates succeed by:

1. Early lobbying
2. Coalition building
3. Meeting with local officials
4. Articles in local newspapers
5. Good data to back them up.

In the months ahead I'm sure we will be called upon to

fight for and defend some wetland somewhere in Volusia County. With the right information and the right tools we can achieve our goals.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION EVENTS

At the HRAS Board of Directors meeting October 4, the Board produced an open-ended list of events for the Society to participate in or sponsor during the year. The list is below. Members are invited to suggest additional events. Please contact President Lois Robinson with your suggestions.

1. Provide judges to Tomoka Regional Science Fair.
2. Provide booth to disseminate bird-related items and information at Washington Oaks Earth Day Celebration.
3. Provide booth to disseminate bird-related items and information at Port Orange Earth Day Celebration.
4. Work, enjoy, and teach at Rose Bay Passive Environmental Park Development Project with Louise Chapman and Mainland High School students.
5. Participate in local and state conservation projects.
6. Continue supporting Audubon Adventures kits
7. Offer course on Beginning Birdwatching.
8. Attend regional and state Audubon meetings.
9. Assist in local bird rehabilitation projects and teaching sessions on wounded bird recovery to Volusia County public servants.
10. Offer programs and field trips on birding and environmental issues to our membership and to the public at large such as: home schools, nursing homes, library bird talks, and Scout groups.
11. Support fellow environmental groups whose goals are similar to ours.
12. Influence state and local legislators through letters, calls and e-mail on upcoming environmental issues.
13. Reach out to nearby Audubon Society chapters to share field trips and to work on environmental issues important to all of us such as: preservation of sensitive habitat and pesticide and herbicide infiltration.
14. Monitor birds at the county landfill.
15. Continue Least Tern nest site survey.
16. Contribute articles and papers to magazines and newsletters about chapter concerns and events.

ATTENTION: SNOWBIRDS AND VACATIONERS

by John Carr, Publication Chair

Do you want to receive *The Pelican* when you are away from home?

The Postal Service requires us to maintain an up-to-date mailing list, which means they notify us when you have **moved** or are **temporarily away**. It costs us 50 cents for every notification. To avoid future costs, we pull your name from our mailing list.

So please, when you move or are away, leave a message on my answering machine noting your name, departure and return dates and forwarding address. This way you will get your *The Pelican* all year. My phone number is (904) 255-9360 and e-mail is jcarr14@juno.com.

ZELLWOOD IS STILL WITH US

Article by Chuck Geanangel, from "Eagle's View," Lake Region Audubon Society newsletter September-October 1999

Here are a couple of items for folks who are following the Zellwood muck farms avian disaster. As you remember, over 1000 birds, mostly White Pelicans, died of pesticide poisoning last Christmas at the newly flooded fields northwest of Orlando.

We now have reports of a discrepancy in the chemical analysis of the soil test involving the pesticide toxaphene. Soil samples were sent to 4 different labs for analysis as well as the Federal lab at Patuxent, Maryland. Surprisingly, the Patuxent lab reported ten times more toxaphene than the other four. Could the Feds be in error?

The Patuxent lab has done the bulk of the testing for pesticides in the soil and on the dead birds. Some are suspicious of the results. They question where the focus should be on understanding the problem. If toxaphene is only a minor player in the die-off, then perhaps other toxic agents should be more thoroughly studied. You can be certain that we will get to the bottom of this mystery.

And finally, we read that the name Zellwood itself is about to disappear from the project, which will become the "Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area." Zellwood is named after Colonel T. Elwood Zell, a Florida pioneer of the 1870's who has had a place in Florida bird lore for at least 50 years. It would be a shame to lose the name.

TURKEY HUNT

By Lois Pauchey

Where are the Turkeys? Oh, no! They haven't roosted in their usual tree! They aren't parading through Barbara Smyrski's yard! But! Sure enough, just when my heart was fluttering, Barbara and Steve worked their magic! Here they come! We saw at least 15 shining in all their glory!

Also, we saw Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tufted Titmouse, and several warblers. At another spot, we saw a lovely female Black-throated Green Warbler up close, followed by several Palm Warblers and a Parula Warbler.

Back at Barbara's, we saw a perfect male Hooded Warbler as we walked the back paths in the lovely woods.

Barbara and Steve, thank you! You are true friends of birds and birders.

AUDUBON ADVENTURE KITS DOUBLED OVER LAST YEAR

By Glade Koch

October 15 was our deadline for 1999-2000 Audubon Adventure Kit subscriptions.

With the very welcome telephone work of Marie Oglesby, total kit subscriptions came to forty-six. Forty-three kits were for classes of thirty-two children and three kits were for individuals. Thank you, Marie.

For the first time this year National Audubon required chapters pay handling charges. Therefore the final classroom kit cost was \$41.95 and individual kits, \$23.95. The HRAS board is very grateful to all you members who have contributed to this fine Audubon project. We are very pleased with it. Presently we lack about \$695.00 to pay our publishers bill, but now have to underwrite it.

Perhaps some of you have meant to send an A. A. contribution but have not gotten around to it. If so, HRAS will gratefully accept you check for any amount towards easing this deficit.

Please make checks payable to HRAS and mail them to Glade Koch, 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114-1145

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM PRESENTED

By Lois Robinson

Phyllis Anderson, the Nature Conservancy's new Community Outreach Coordination presented HRAS with an outstanding program on Oct. 18 for our program meeting. With beautiful slides and thoughtful comments she outlined for us the Florida Forever program which was passed by the Florida legislature on the last day of the 1999 session. Florida Forever succeeds the Preservation 2000 plan and does even more. By raising monies through the sale of bonds over a ten year period Florida Forever will continue to acquire environmentally sensitive lands for all of us to enjoy. It also includes water resource development, environmental restoration, and historic preservation.

Phyllis told us for instance that we have between 12 and 14 thousand black bears in the state each of whom needs 2400 acres in which to forage and maintain themselves. She gave us much more information on refuges around the state and what they are trying to accomplish also. The program ended by helping us understand how the monies will be allocated.

MARY KELLER HONORED

by Marie Oglesby

Mary A. Keller, better known as "The Bird Lady," was recently presented the prestigious Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Conservation Medal Award along with a framed certificate. The Colonel Arthur Erwin Chapter of the DAR of DeLand, sponsored Mrs. Keller for this national award for her distinguished conservation record of outstanding efforts in wildlife rehabilitation over a 32-year period.

Two DAR members went to her home, presented the award and took pictures. Besides being sponsored by a DAR Chapter, other letters of support from non-DAR organizations or persons were required. HRAS was very happy to furnish one of these support letters to wholeheartedly recommend Mrs. Keller. No one is more deserving and we are very pleased that she received this award! Congratulations, Mary, we are very proud of you!

WARBLERS AT TURKEY CREEK

by David Hartgrove

Birders often talk of the luck of having a "Fall Out". A Fall Out is when migrating birds run into inclement weather and stop over for a brief period of time in an area to feed and rest while the weather improves. As luck would have it, just such a Fall Out occurred the day we went to Turkey Creek, in Palm Bay.

The night before we arrived, the area had 3 inches of rain. This deluge caused some local flooding and Turkey Creek over-flowed its banks for 50 yards or so on each side. The main trail includes a raised boardwalk over the flood plain of the creek, so our feet stayed dry while we walked, relatively mosquito free, through a mature oak hammock. The rising water had caused all sorts of insects who normally live and feed in the leaf litter on the forest floor to seek refuge on the exposed trees above the flood. This created a sort of warbler smorgasbord. The birds that are often only seen as tiny blobs of yellow and black and brown 80 feet up in the canopy, were drawn down to eye level by this opportune feast. And we got to watch. Among the birds seen were: Yellow-throated Vireo, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireo and the following warblers, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Palm, Black and White, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Hooded, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Ovenbird. We also saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, an Eastern Wood Pewee, a young Scarlet Tanager (not at all scarlet this time of year), Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, a Veery and a Swainson's Thrush. It was a fun trip, made all the better by running into some birders from one of our sister chapters,

Don and Bev LeRoy of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society. The aforementioned Kentucky Warbler made for Bev's 600th life bird. It was truly a good day for all of us.

GOLDEN DOG BOOK SALE

HRAS has begun selling books of the "Florida's Fabulous..." series. Board member Willie Burns had a selection of volumes at the September meeting and will be selling them from now on.

They are priced from \$9.95 to \$15.95, with a ten percent discount if you buy three volumes or more. The Halifax River Chapter receives all the profits. Willie just gets to lug the books around and do the ordering and math. The name of this project is "Golden Dog Book Sale," in honor of a wonderful and very intelligent Retriever.

These large format books are filled with beautiful photographs of birds, trees, butterflies, flowers, seashells, mammals and many other aspects of Floridian natural life. The text is accurate, informative, and pleasantly humorous.

While not intended to replace the wonderful field guides, they do make excellent reference material. Needless to say, they also make terrific gifts, especially for grandchildren!

One minor warning: readers tend to "get lost" in these books for hours on end. Come to think of it, this may be a Good Thing. We thank you for your support.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Mary Keller

I read where the Scrub Jay is being pushed aside again for the sake of new construction. They are also displacing the Indigo snake, how can this happen?

This rehaber gets high anxiety when she sees a snake, but snakes have a right to live the same as any other creature and the Indigo snake is endangered and will soon be extinct if we do not do something about it.

During my years in Florida I have traveled very little, but I have read many books on our state. It seems we have plenty of land that is not considered "scrub." Several questions have come to mind, such as: Why would a store as large as Home Depot insist on building on land that families of endangered Scrub Jays occupy? And, why would the people who are paid to protect this small species listen to such a request? We should all be asking these questions before all of our wild creatures are gone.

Editor's note: Mary Keller always needs donated items to care for the birds: wild bird seed, finger mullet, Kay-Tee Exact hand feeding formula, millet seed, apples, white paper towels, old bath towels, sheets, blankets, shower curtains, heating pads, old pillow cases, Q-tips and large cotton balls. These items can be dropped off at Mrs. Keller's home at 1216 Denece Terrace, off Derbyshire Road, west of Holly Hill, or call 767-5553 or 767-9437 for pickup.

NOVEMBER 15 MEETING

by *Pat Mihalic*

Lee Bidgood is a retired chemist who is an expert on the subject of pesticides. He has studied the use of pesticides in Volusia County and can offer solutions to infestations so that dangerous chemical agents are avoided. This information will be of great interest to all of us who live here and want our environment free of man-made harm. Lee is also a wonderful speaker and I guarantee that after his presentation our members and guests will think twice about using any type of pesticide.

Lee is a member of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Volusia Flagler Environmental Committee. He is a very active environmentalist and those fighting to preserve our world often seek his expert opinion.

LETTER FROM THE VOLUSIA COUNTY LANDFILL

by *Meret Wilson*

September 30, 1999

Well folks, tonight I have some very interesting news to impart to you. I did my almost daily trek to the Volusia Landfill this afternoon. When I got there I had an odd feeling. The place felt different. The first thing I did was to count the Woodstorks, which had increased in number to 39. That was good. But still something just felt amiss. I finally figured it out. There were NO gulls.

Now, gulls normally take their flight back to the ocean in the late afternoon, but I didn't think I had gotten to the landfill THAT late. The landfill manager saw me counting my eagles and came over to talk a bit. Even before he told me, I had already figured out what is going on, and it is good news actually.

The landfill is using a new garbage shredder in place of compactors. It is wild! The garbage is minced into pieces so small that even the number of vultures were reduced on the garbage site. I asked him if the gulls had been there today. He said he had seen very few and he felt it is because of the shredder. Of course it is. The scavengers aren't finding the food source so they might as well stay at the ocean.

I watched one adult and 3 immature eagles dive into the dump, grab and fly off with what they perceived to be great morsels. What I saw was just bits of shredded plastic that they flew with to the poles to eat. I suspect they can smell the garbage (I certainly could!) but don't quite know what is going on. Are the gulls brighter???

If indeed this proves to be what I am suspecting is happening, the problem of having to take live birds with the nebulous permit may become a moot point. They are planning to cover the garbage at night with large tarps. Their whole garbage management plan has changed, not

to save birds, but to save cost at over 50%. Let me tell you this guy was proud of the plan.

The outcome could ultimately be wonderful for all the birds. They will be forced to return to their natural ways of hunting and acquiring food. I will continue to watch and count to see what the impact of their new plan has on our precious eagles as well as the many other birds that have made this place their home away from home.

CALENDAR

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 5-7

Florida Audubon Society Annual Meeting at Ocklawaha Audubon Center. Call Kristy Rocca at (407) 539-5700 or e-mail krocca@audubon.org.

Saturday, November 6

HRAS Field Trip. Washington Oaks State Garden; led by **Kevin DeWall**.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday November 11-14

Third Annual Space Coast Flyway Festival, Titusville. Contact Chamber of Commerce (407) 267-3036.

Wednesday, November 11

West Volusia Audubon Society trip to Princess Place. Call Phil Gotschall at 985-0820.

Monday, November 15

HRAS Program - "Pesticides" by **Lee Bidgood**.

Thursday, November 18

Lake Region Audubon Society program. Outdoor Adventure by **Ken Morrison**, former editor of Audubon Magazine. 7:00 p.m. at Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Complex. Call Reba Cox at 941-294-4928.

Friday, November 19

HRAS Field Trip. Rose Bay Mainland High School Project, led by **David Hartgrove**.

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11

HRAS Field Trips. Merritt Island National Wildlife Reserve to Black Point Drive, led by **John Carr**.

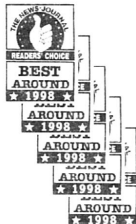
Monday, December 20

HRAS Program - Holiday Potluck Dinner!


Thursday, December 30

Christmas Bird Count led by **David Hartgrove**. NOTE: **Meet at 7 a.m. at Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Blvd.**

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CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

There's another new group in Tallahassee. Their name would lead naive observers to think that the group advocates for an endangered species: the West Indian Manatee. But the "Manatee Task Force" has a different agenda. It was created by a Tallahassee law firm at the behest of the National Marine Manufacturer's Association. Perusal of the state's online lobbyist registration section perhaps shows why this firm was selected. Among their other clients are: the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Electric Power Coordinating Group, Mobil Oil Corporation, the Property Rights Coalition, and the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida.

While it's true that there have been higher counts of the number of manatees in the last several years (the population is estimated at 2,500), there has also been an increase in manatee mortality. In 1996 (the last year for which I have complete records) 415 dead manatees were found in Florida waters. No species can tolerate a 14% annual loss for long. And that's just the ones that were found. There's no way to know how many died in the wild, uncounted.

Wade Hopping, of the firm Hopping, Green, Sams and Smith wrote in a memo, "Perhaps it's time to delist the manatee, much as the alligator and the eagle have been delisted". He's referring to the fact that the West Indian Manatee has been on the Endangered Species list since its inception. This whole idea would be laughable if these people weren't so serious. The manufacturers of pleasure boats and personal watercraft see manatee protection plans as a huge speed bump on their road to higher profits. Now they've engaged a high powered law firm to help them convince the public and our legislators that there are plenty of manatees and continued protection is unnecessary. I remember having to take a course in Communism in school. We were taught the various propaganda techniques used by our now vanquished enemy. One of them was called "the Big Lie". Apparently, these guys were paying attention in those classes.

There is a massive public relations campaign under way in the state to make us all think that sugar farmers are the best friends the environment and the Everglades ever had. At the same time, our state legislature drags its collective feet on funding the state's half of a matching grant program from the Federal government to provide 4 billion dollars to clean up the Everglades and Florida Bay. These two events are not unrelated. The guys behind Big Sugar know that if they can postpone action long enough, the Feds will take their money to another deserving location. In the mean time, they're working to make the general public think that all this money isn't needed; that things are being cleaned up already. Once the plan is dead and

Everglades Forever is just another empty, meaningless program, the profits can continue to flow while the Everglades and Florida Bay die a slow and agonizing death. The people have spoken, through the Everglades Forever Act, the "Polluter Pays" Amendment and numerous town hall meetings, etc. The Legislature would do well to remember these things or term limits will be the least of their worries.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has hired one of the state's toughest environmental prosecutors as its new chief council. **Teri Donaldson** grew up in St. Petersburg and studied environmental law at the University of Florida. While she was an assistant United States Attorney in Tampa, she founded the environmental crimes unit for the Federal courts. Florida Audubon and other state environmental groups have dealt with her before and are very encouraged by her selection to this post.

Finally, **Meret Wilson's** letter elsewhere in this newsletter (Meret is a volunteer with the Birds of Prey Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) about the Volusia County Landfill makes us hope that this puts an end to the bird control program envisioned by the folks at the airport. A spokesman from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finally called to say that there's been no action taken on the FAA's request for an Incidental Take Permit around the landfill for Bald Eagles and Wood Storks. He also said that at this time, no action is scheduled until various wildlife studies are completed.

ROSE BAY FIELD TRIP

by David Hartgrove

On Friday, November 19th, our scheduled field trip will be to Rose Bay and Spruce Creek Park. Those of you who braved this trip last year will be glad to hear that we won't be taking that same primitive trail we took the last time. There are lots of trails that are easy to walk and provide ready access to the birds.

Spruce Creek Park has nice wide trails and an excellent dock with good opportunities for seeing waders and possibly a Bald Eagle and Ospreys.

Rose Bay is a park in development. The students from Mainland High School, along with a variety of advisers from state and local government agencies and clubs like ours, have made great strides in turning an area littered with the detritus of society into a lovely passive park. There's still lots to be done but the kids are enthusiastic and they're learning at the same time. Although they usually go out to the area on Fridays, they aren't scheduled to be there on the 19th.

Our trip should be very pleasant and we may expand the agenda to include another nearby destination. So, bring your lunch and plan on meeting us at the usual place, the east end of the City Island Court House parking lot at 8:00 a.m. See you there!

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Names & Numbers

November 1999

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| Publicity | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

National Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/net/index.html>
Halifax River Audubon Society
<http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr | franniep@juno.com |
| John Carr | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall | kcdewall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Glade Koch | clecras@aol.com |
| Gail Lincoln | glinc@hotmail.com |
| Pat Mihalic | WldkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Madeline Shaddix | meshaddix@aol.com |
| Barbara Smyrski Kieran | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson | mileybug@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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Without your support, our newsletter would be greatly compromised.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! The Board of Directors meets the First Monday of each month at City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach at 2:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Alexa Abercrombie, Denise and David Hartgrove for the delicious refreshments at the October meeting.

WELCOME

Tina Wright, Linda L. Brummett, Mr. Charles F. Carbiener, Richard W. Curtis, Andrea Fendick, Leon Palmer, and Mr. Bruce Spiller, have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We are looking forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

THE PELICAN

"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"



VOL. 45 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY DECEMBER 1999

FLORIDA AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

by Madeline Shaddix

I attended the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society the weekend of November 4, 5 and 6, 1999 at the Refuge at Ocklawaha as the representative from our Halifax River Audubon Society. It was the 100th annual meeting, and the major business conducted was a merger between our state organization and the National Audubon Society. This merger had been in the works for some time, but it was at this meeting that the final vote was taken. Some representatives opposed the merger and their opinions were expressed and discussed, but the motion did ultimately pass. By far the most persuasive motivation for passage was that it would be easier to fund the various programs and conservation efforts if the two organizations joined forces as well as resources. It was mentioned that the two had frequently overlapped in fund raising efforts and people were often confused by requests for contributions from two Audubon Societies.

This new organizational move will impact our chapter and all chapters in several ways. One obvious one is that the new Florida Board of Directors has been trimmed to 30 members, 10 of whom are chapter representatives, when previously each of the chapters was entitled to a board member. **Carole Adams** from Duval Audubon Society is our representative for our Northeast Council Region which is composed of nine chapters and "at large" members **Bill McQuilken** from St. John's Audubon Society and **Chuck Potter** from West Volusia Audubon Society are from chapters in our region. **Clay Henderson**, who has served as President of Florida Audubon, has resigned, and **Dr. Stuart Strahl**, National Audubon Vice President, is now President of the new Florida Audubon Society.

The incoming board is composed of persons from various areas of the state and all are prominent in their areas of expertise. They should do an outstanding job with environmental protection, conservation and fund raising. Dr. Strahl has expressed a desire to have more regional meetings and plans to communicate with chapter presidents in an ongoing manner. Hopefully chapter involvement and interaction with the state group will grow.

Oh yes. Clay Henderson, who lives in New Smyrna Beach asked me to tell you that he is "coming home."

MARY KELLER REQUESTS

by Marie Oglesby and Pat Mihalic

Donations of any of the following will greatly help **Mary Keller** in her care of ill and injured birds: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding formula, small cans of cat food, wild bird seed, white paper towels, fruit (especially apples and oranges) and Peanut Treat. You may take donations directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill, or call **Marie Oglesby** at 767-5553 for pick-up and delivery.

Mary also is in need of an old computer. As part of her licensing, she has to make reports to the state and federal governments concerning the number and kinds of birds that she treats. Any computer where she could store these facts would be ideal. She needs a printer to attach to the computer so she can print out the data. If you know of a computer that can be donated to Mary, please contact **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437.

BY-LAW CHANGE VOTE IS "YES"

Proposed changes in the Halifax River Audubon Society By-Laws were passed by unanimous vote at the October 18 General Meeting. Prior to the final vote, members voted to change the wording of the By-Laws to make all pronouns gender neutral.

CALENDAR

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11

HRAS Field Trips. Merritt Island National Wildlife Reserve to Black Point Drive, led by **John Carr**. NOTE: Meet at 8:00 a.m. at City Island Court House East Parking Lot. Bring a bag lunch and beverage.

Monday, December 20

HRAS Program - Holiday Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bring a tale to tell about birding adventures. Bring a covered dish, salad and/or dessert. **HRAS** will supply the meat and beverage. Questions? **Barbara Kieran** can be reached at 672-2927 or bsmyski@aol.com

Thursday, December 30

Christmas Bird Count led by **David Hartgrove**. For further information, see article in this newsletter.

Friday, January 7

HRAS Field Trip. Local Hot Birding Spots, led by **David Hartgrove**. For further information, see article in this newsletter.

OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

President Lois Robinson

It was with great joy that I have welcomed back our feathered friends for their winter sojourn with us. The past two weeks, on three birding trips, I have seen American Kestrels, Tree Swallows, Palm Warblers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, all of which spend the cold months in our area. Soon we will be seeing Chipping Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers, to name only two, who will also spend the cold weather months here.

As we gear up for a winter season of an increase in the number of bird species sharing our living space, let's remind ourselves of the do's and don'ts of bird feeders and bird baths. The following suggestions come from *Birdwatcher's Digest*, via the Internet.

FOR A HEALTHY FEEDING STATION

1. Clean out your seed feeders frequently (once a week) to be certain you have dislodged any compacted seed. Dump out any wet clumps or sprouted clumps of old seed.
2. Disinfect feeders every few weeks by scrubbing them with a weak bleach solution. Allow feeders to dry thoroughly before refilling.
3. If you see a sick or dead bird at your feeder, halt your feeding for a few weeks to allow healthy birds to disperse.
4. Reduce window-kills by placing feeders away from windows. If birds regularly strike a particular window, place a screen, crop netting, or a series of branches in front of the glass to break up the reflection.
5. Don't use grease or oil on your feeder poles or wires to thwart squirrels etc. as these substances will damage bird feathers making flight difficult or impossible.

TIPS FOR A HEALTHY BIRD BATH

1. Don't place birdbaths under feeders or perches.
2. Rinse and scrub bird baths every few days. Once a month, scrub out your bath with a weak bleach solution.

TIPS FOR BETTER FEEDING

1. Black-oil sunflower seed is the most widely used birdseed popular with the greatest number of species.
2. If your feeder is overrun with blackbirds, pigeons or House Sparrows, stop offering mixed seed on the ground or platform feeders. Feed only black-oil sunflower seed in tube or hopper feeders until the problem species disperse.

These and many other suggestions are available on the web at <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com>
Happy Birding!

THE ROSE BAY FIELD TRIP

by David Hartgrove

On Friday, November 19th, five people came out for the trip to Rose Bay, Spruce Creek Park and a few other stops. We met in the usual place at the Court House and found a Spotted Sandpiper hunting in the rocks along the river bank for breakfast. We drove down to Spruce Creek Park, rendezvoused with our sixth member and struck out for the storm damaged Rose Bay Park. Two fallen trees blocked our path a ways inside the gate. We walked out to the edge of the bay and promptly found four Hooded Mergansers fishing near the bank. The early morning sun on their white heads was a striking sight. We walked along finding a Red-tailed Hawk and speculating on the origin of the various tracks so well preserved in the soft tidal mud. Unfortunately, the wooded trails were barren of bird life that day. A similar experience awaited us in the woods at Spruce Creek Park but the walk out to the end of the dock rewarded us with Pied-billed Grebes, Anhinga and Northern Harrier.


Thinking McElroy Park would surely produce some passerines, we headed there for lunch with a stop along the way at a small pond off Niver Street in Port Orange. This little spot is always good, except that day. A drive along the west shore of the river to Dunlawton Blvd. produced only the usual species: Eastern Willets, American Oystercatchers, and an Osprey every fifty yards. Our lunch in McElroy Park was good, but not because of any birds we saw. We didn't see any.

We then went to the ever-productive Port Orange Causeway Park. Things finally got good. I guess it depends on whom you talk to. Was the highlight the five American Avocets standing on the sandbar with the mixed flock of Royal and Forster's Terns? Or was it the twelve Yellow-crowned Night Herons we finally managed to count, all standing within a hundred feet of each other but mostly motionless in the mangroves?

It turned out to be a great day. Just as we found the last of the night herons, we met a man and his nine-year-old son from Kentucky, the boy with his binoculars, dad with his camera. We pointed out the night herons and the fact that seeing so many together was quite rare. As we left, they were headed off to find the avocets. Concern for the environment and the lives that depend on it are being nurtured in another generation. It was a good day.

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FALL BIRD COUNTS FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY

| Sep 20, 97 | Sep 19, 98 | Sep 18, 99 | Bird Name | Sep 20, 97 | Sep 19, 98 | Sep 18, 99 | Bird Name |
|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| 19 | 7 | 12 | Grebe, Pied-billed | 2 | 0 | 0 | Knot, Red |
| 0 | 30 | 0 | Pelican, White | 449 | 194 | 67 | Sanderling |
| 661 | 529 | 123 | Pelican, Brown | 0 | 1 | 20 | Sandpiper, Semipalmated |
| 38 | 71 | 25 | Cormorant, Dbl-crested | 70 | 2 | 0 | Sandpiper, Western |
| 17 | 52 | 50 | Anhinga | 0 | 0 | 40 | Peep, Sp. |
| 42 | 51 | 45 | Heron, Great Blue | 0 | 5 | 0 | Snipe, Common |
| 131 | 123 | 185 | Egret, Great | 2294 | 1659 | 2605 | Gull, Laughing |
| 298 | 107 | 196 | Egret, Snowy | 70 | 26 | 0 | Gull, Ring-billed |
| 239 | 32 | 38 | Heron, Little Blue | 16 | 0 | 3 | Gull, Herring |
| 163 | 11 | 21 | Heron, Tricolored | 0 | 1 | 0 | Gull, Lesser Black-backed |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | Egret, Reddish | 3 | 0 | 0 | Gull, Great Black-backed |
| 860 | 1905 | 2493 | Egret, Cattle | 1 | 0 | 0 | Tern, Gull-billed |
| 8 | 19 | 16 | Heron, Green | 3 | 3 | 8 | Tern, Caspian |
| 1 | 2 | 0 | Night-heron, Black-crowned | 1805 | 14 | 27 | Tern, Royal |
| 2 | 7 | 2 | Night-heron, Ylw-crowned | 22 | 5 | 2 | Tern, Sandwich |
| 1643 | 1287 | 2459 | Ibis, White | 69 | 4 | 0 | Tern, Common |
| 1 | 48 | 11 | Ibis, Glossy | 26 | 2 | 0 | Tern, Forster's |
| 0 | 4 | 7 | Roseate Spoonbill | 0 | 25 | 3 | Sterna, Sp. |
| 2 | 51 | 90 | Stork, Wood | 4 | 0 | 4 | Tern, Least |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | Goose, Canada | 43 | 1 | 32 | Skimmer, Black |
| 40 | 26 | 24 | Duck, Wood | 186 | 785 | 248 | Dove, Rock |
| 0 | 6 | 2 | Duck, Mottled | 63 | 121 | 50 | Dove, Eurasian Collared |
| 99 | 67 | 19 | Mallard | 761 | 743 | 584 | Dove, Mourning |
| 11 | 54 | 0 | Teal, Blue-winged | 8 | 0 | 26 | Dove, Common Ground |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Duck, Ring-necked | 0 | 3 | 1 | Cuckoo, Yellow-billed |
| 277 | 150 | 1847 | Vulture, Black | 5 | 9 | 1 | Owl, Eastern Screech |
| 240 | 566 | 401 | Vulture, Turkey | 5 | 1 | 0 | Owl, Great Horned |
| 78 | 27 | 48 | Osprey | 6 | 6 | 7 | Owl, Barred |
| 8 | 14 | 32 | Eagle, Bald | 0 | 0 | 10 | Nighthawk, Common |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Harrier, Northern | 1 | 0 | 1 | Chuck-will's-widow |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | Hawk, Sharp-shinned | 88 | 252 | 37 | Swift, Chimney |
| 13 | 20 | 47 | Hawk, Red-shouldered | 1 | 2 | 4 | Hummingbird, Rubythroated |
| 14 | 4 | 11 | Hawk, Red-tailed | 11 | 18 | 30 | Kingfisher, Belted |
| 14 | 4 | 26 | Kestrel, American | 48 | 48 | 13 | Woodpecker, Red-headed |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Merlin | 86 | 113 | 83 | Woodpecker, Red-bellied |
| 18 | 19 | 97 | Turkey, Wild | 23 | 29 | 22 | Woodpecker, Downy |
| 15 | 23 | 10 | Bobwhite, Northern | 2 | 0 | 0 | Woodpecker, Hairy |
| 17 | 1 | 0 | Rail, Clapper | 30 | 11 | 11 | Flicker, Northern |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | Rail, Sora | 20 | 28 | 38 | Woodpecker, Pileated |
| 0 | 1 | 3 | Gallinule, Purple | 1 | 3 | 2 | Phoebe, Eastern |
| 32 | 74 | 48 | Moorhen, Common | 2 | 1 | 4 | Flycatcher, Great Crested |
| 10 | 18 | 2 | Coot, American | 13 | 5 | 17 | Kingbird, Eastern |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | Limpkin | 0 | 0 | 11 | Martin, Purple |
| 10 | 81 | 59 | Crane, Sandhill | 2 | 35 | 40 | Swallow, Tree |
| 38 | 8 | 5 | Plover, Black-bellied | 0 | 0 | 17 | Swallow, Cliff |
| 124 | 0 | 0 | Plover, Wilson's | 0 | 70 | 30 | Swallow, Barn |
| 202 | 47 | 2 | Plover, Semipalmated | 188 | 179 | 193 | Jay, Blue |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Plover, Piping | 9 | 14 | 9 | Jay, Scrub |
| 34 | 45 | 26 | Killdeer | 353 | 81 | 41 | Crow, American |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | Oystercatcher, American | 258 | 619 | 159 | Crow, Fish |
| 0 | 0 | 12 | Avocet, American | 573 | 587 | 10,758 | Crow, Sp. |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Yellow-legs, Greater | 0 | 0 | 4 | Chickadee, Carolina |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | Sandpiper, Solitary | 68 | 56 | 83 | Titmouse, Tufted |
| 49 | 19 | 19 | Willet, Eastern | 72 | 61 | 49 | Wren, Carolina |
| 3 | 3 | 4 | Sandpiper, Spotted | 0 | 0 | 1 | Wren, House |
| 170 | 69 | 35 | Turnstone, Ruddy | 0 | 0 | 2 | Kinglet, Ruby-crowned |

| Sep 20, 97 | Sep 19, 98 | Sep 18, 99 | Bird Name |
|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 30 | 30 | 19 | Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray |
| 0 | 2 | 0 | Bluebird, Eastern |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | Veery |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Thrush, Swainson's |
| 0 | 3 | 3 | Catbird, Gray |
| 308 | 316 | 268 | Mockingbird, Northern |
| 8 | 12 | 20 | Thrasher, Brown |
| 28 | 34 | 17 | Shrike, Loggerhead |
| 261 | 1082 | 13,462 | Starling, European |
| 24 | 11 | 6 | Vireo, White-eyed |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Vireo, Blue-headed |
| 1 | 0 | 5 | Vireo, Yellow-throated |
| 29 | 20 | 4 | Vireo, Red-eyed |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | Vireo, Sp. |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Warbler, Tennessee |
| 4 | 4 | 5 | Parula, Northern |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Yellow |
| 0 | 5 | 0 | Warbler, Magnolia |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Cape May |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | Warbler, Black-throated Blue |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Blackburnian |
| 7 | 6 | 6 | Warbler, Yellow-throated |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | Warbler, Pine |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | Warbler, Prairie |
| 1 | 3 | 3 | Warbler, Palm |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Warbler, Bay Breasted |
| 3 | 3 | 8 | Warbler, Black-and-white |
| 2 | 11 | 28 | Redstart, American |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | Warbler, Worm-eating |
| 0 | 2 | 2 | Ovenbird |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | Waterthrush, Northern |
| 9 | 1 | 13 | Yellowthroat, Common |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | Tanager, Summer |
| 142 | 127 | 165 | Cardinal, Northern |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | Grosbeak, Rose-breasted |
| 2 | 9 | 1 | Towhee, Eastern |
| 18 | 18 | 0 | Sparrow, Chipping |
| 120 | 301 | 258 | Blackbird, Red-winged |
| 6 | 16 | 10 | Meadowlark, Eastern |
| 96 | 895 | 3896 | Grackle, Boat-tailed |
| 338 | 285 | 268 | Grackle, Common |
| 4 | 26 | 0 | Cowbird, Brown-headed |
| 0 | 3 | 0 | Blackbird, Sp. |
| 8 | 0 | 2 | Oriole, Baltimore |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | Goldfinch, American |
| 17 | 48 | 63 | Sparrow, House |

1 | Warbler, Yellow-rumped,
documented 1999

September 20, 1997 Count: Total species: 127. Total individuals: 14,907. 27 persons in 10 parties. Time: 3:45 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Owling: 4.75 hrs. and 64 mi. All other: 12.25 hrs. and 17.5 mi. on foot, 36 hrs. and 527 mi. by car. Temp: 70-88°. Wind: SW 5-10. Clouds: 10-50%. Precip. none.

September 19, 1998 Count: Total species: 124. Total individuals: 14,221. 37 persons in 12 parties. Time: 2:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Owling: 7.75 hrs. and 94 mi. All other: 37.5 hrs. and

15.5 mi. on foot, 47.5 hrs. and 647 mi. by car. Temp 74-87°. Wind: SW 5-20. Clouds: 50-100%. Precip.: Rain in p.m.

September 18, 1999 Count: Total species: 127. Total individuals: 42,522. 35 persons in 13 parties. Time: 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Owling: 5 hrs. and 3 mi. All other: 36.5 hrs. and 21.25 mi. on foot, 69 hrs. and 749 mi. by car. Temp: 74-80°. Wind: S to SE to SW 0-25. Clouds: 100%. Precip.: Rain all day.

THE 1999 FALL MIGRATION COUNT

by David Hartgrove

The arrival of hurricane "Floyd" and then the rain that followed several days later made for a soggy experience on this year's Fall Migration Count. It didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. Nor did it lessen the number of birds seen. Members from the three Audubon chapters in our area showed up to count birds. They did a great job and had a lot of fun.

In total they saw 127 species and counted 42,522 birds. Black birds made the most impressive showing: 13,462 Starlings, 10,758 Crows, 3,896 Boat-tailed Grackles and 1,847 Black Vultures. A total of 35 people broke up into 14 teams and covered territories from the Atlantic Ocean to the St. Johns River. They saw Black Skimmers and Sandwich Terns, American Avocets and Baltimore Orioles, Pied-billed Grebes and Purple Gallinules and lots in between. Here's a list of the folks who came out in the rain (* denotes compilers):

West Volusia Audubon Society

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Eggert | Mary Jean Rogers |
| Randall Evanson | Barbara Samler |
| Phil Gotschall | Don Schaeffer |
| J.V. Hayes | Arnette Sherman |
| Marie Maitland | Eleanor Slyker |
| Carol Mason | Louise Stanley* |
| Sylvia Parrillo | David Stock |
| Chuck Potter | Harry Wilton |
| Jane Rogers | |

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Gail Domroski* | Beverly LeRoy |
| Richard Domroski | Don LeRoy |

Halifax River Audubon Society

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carolyn Foy Barry | Lois Robinson |
| Kevin DeWall | Madeline Shaddix |
| Gail Lincoln | Barbara Smyrski |
| Lois Pauchey | Mark Toal |
| Jan Petito | Larry Wallberg |
| Rachel Ramsey | Meret Wilson |
| Paul Rebman | Jeri Wyly |

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by David Hartgrove

This is the 100th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) to be held in the United States. For those of you who don't know, the CBC was begun as an alternative to the "side hunt." Each Christmas Day, large numbers of well-armed Americans would venture forth into the woods and shoot everything, feathered or furred, that they could see. Whoever bagged the most critters was the winner. Frank Chapman, the country's preeminent ornithologist at the time, got together with several prominent New Yorkers and organized the first CBC on Christmas Day, 1900, as an alternative to this organized butchery. It must be remembered that this was going on at a time when it was thought to be very stylish for a woman's hat to be adorned with large numbers of feathers from Painted Buntings, Yellow Warblers, and the breeding plumes of Snowy Egrets.

This year's Daytona Beach CBC will be held on Thursday, December 30th. This is not an ideal day of the week for a CBC. Christmas falls on Saturday this year. That fact, plus the need to accommodate the two other CBC's held in Volusia County, made scheduling ours problematic. The West Volusia CBC will be held on Saturday, December 18th. The Ponce Inlet CBC will be held the next day on the 19th. I plan to work in both. If any of our members wish to volunteer for either or both of these counts, please get in touch with me as soon as possible so we can make ourselves available to the compilers. Our group will meet as scheduled in the parking lot of the Publix at Williamson and Granada Blvds. in Ormond Beach at 7:00 a.m. For information on the other two counts, contact me at 788-2630 or by e-mail.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2000

The National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology invite you to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count 2000. Through the efforts of "Citizen Scientists" from around the US and Canada, we are gathering information about our continent's winter bird residents. You can help in this monitoring effort by participating in the next count, to be held February 18 through 21, 2000. More in the January issue.

THE REFUGE AT OCKLAWAHA

by Tina Van Ghent

Reprinted by permission from *The Pelican*, newsletter of St. Johns County Audubon Society, October 1999

The Refuge at Ocklawaha is a public-private partnership and an affiliate of Florida Audubon Society. Located on the edge of the Ocala National Forest, southeast of Ocala, it is now open to first-class

accommodation in suites in the River Pavilion or cracker-style cabins with names like Scrub Jay, Wood Stork, and Swallowtail Kite. They are situated in the shade of ancient oaks, pines and hickories. There are nature trails around a 10-mile levee which surrounds the Ocklawaha prairie marsh; there is canoeing and kayaking in the marsh river channel. See the birds, enjoy the butterfly gardens and the native plant gardens – the refuge contains diverse habitat and represents the *real* Florida.

The mission of the Refuge at Ocklawaha is to demonstrate that good conservation and good business go together. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Proceeds from refuge operations will support restoration, environmental education and resource conservation in the upper Ocklawaha River basin.

For further information or reservations:

Phone: 352-288-2233 or Toll Free at 877-862-8873 or email: naturelodge@mfi.net. Check the web site www.flanaturelodge.org.

THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

by Marie Oglesby

The long awaited HRAS cookbooks arrived in time for the November General Meeting where they were an instant success. They will now be available from Board Members and again at the December and January meetings until the supply is gone. With 299 favorite recipes from HRAS members, relatives and friends at a cost of only \$10.00, the book will make a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone appreciating recipes ranging from gourmet to very simple dishes.

The books may also be purchased from the following businesses. Take time to browse through these stores and look at their fine selection of wildlife items. We appreciate their helping support this important fund raising project.

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Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Phone: 904/672-4500

This charming shop features a nursery, landscaping supplies, herbs, a butterfly garden, gift shop and delightful *al fresco* luncheon dining. A cookbook would be great in a gift basket! Check with **Claudia** for your needs.

BirdFeeders
2279 South Ridgewood Avenue
South Daytona, FL 32119
904/761-1727

The store features quality bird feeders, birdhouses, squirrel baffles and many unusual bird related gift items. **Joe and Linda** can help with most of your bird-related problems.

TURTLES - LOTS OF NESTS, BUT FEW BABY TURTLES

The verdict is in this on this year's baby turtles. A record number of nests were made: 347 were identified by the Volusia Sea Turtle Patrol along the 25 miles of beach that the trackers patrol. *Turtle Tracker* newsletter authors **Beth Libert** and **Nancy Price** speculate that the increase in nesting occurred because our beaches are finally becoming truly turtle friendly. "Because sea turtles do not mature and begin nesting for 20 to 30 years, we also may be seeing results of protection efforts since passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973."

The dark side is that there may be many, many fewer baby turtles getting to the ocean. Some of the first to hatch were disoriented by beach lighting because of lack of compliance with the County's new lighting ordinance.

And then Hurricane Dennis struck causing many of the remaining 138 nests to be overwashed by heavy tides.

The final assault was Hurricane Floyd which on September 14 and 15 washed out the 60 remaining nests. Some hatchlings were saved before the storm hit. The heavy surf that remained offshore washed back many of the babies that made it out to sea.

Let us hope that one very bad year for hatchlings will be offset by a continuing rise of viability in coming years.

SECOND LETTER FROM THE VOLUSIA COUNTY LANDFILL

by Meret Wilson

Editor's note: The November 1999 The Pelican published a letter from Meret saying that new shredders used at the landfill seem to be reducing the number of feeding birds.

Much to my dismay, the shredder is down more than it is up and, if it were indeed the means by which gulls were being deterred from the dump, it isn't working. It looks like there are about 4,000 gulls give or take a few. I think our early hopes were more a reflection of the migrators not having arrived yet. The eagle count has not gotten anywhere near my peak of last year. I am getting around 45 eagles consisting mostly of juveniles with usually 18 being the adult count. No other great surprises at this reporting.

LOCAL HOT SPOTS FIELD TRIP

by David Hartgrove

The field trip scheduled for January 7th will be to what is called "local hot spots." In the past, this has been a trip to some of the more productive areas found on the just-held Christmas Bird Counts. The Ponce Inlet count includes the area around the jetties and the Port Orange Causeway Park as well as the landfill on Tomoka Farms

Road. It was on one of these trips, several years ago, that we saw 56 Bald Eagles at the landfill and 3,000 Tree Swallows along Tomoka Farms Road within an hour of each other.

The Port Orange Causeway Park should provide at least an immature Greater Black-backed Gull and who knows what else. The Daytona Beach CBC covers areas along the river, parts of Tomoka State Park and the LPGA area. Obviously, we can't visit all of these areas in a single trip, but we'll do our best to see the most.

This will be a fast moving trip since we'll have a lot of ground to cover. Bring your lunch and we'll try to find a good spot for a picnic. We'll meet at the usual time and place: 8:00 a.m. at the east end of the City Island Courthouse parking lot.

BIRDS OF PREY CENTER BEHIND SCHEDULE

by Meret Wilson

The Birds of Prey Center in Maitland has been remodeling and is way behind schedule. The new target date for opening is now early March 2000. They are desperately in need of more monetary donations as well as supply donations. If one contacts the Center at 407-644-0190 they will give you more specific details on just what they need.

Editor's Note: Meret, an HRAS member, volunteers at the Center. She says she is available for raptor rescues on beeper (phone number) 820-2936.

BIRDWATCHER'S CLASS

By Lois Robinson

It was with great reluctance that I said goodbye to our new Beginning Birdwatcher's Class as they finished the formal part of the course on Wednesday October 27. I hope the participants enjoyed the course as much as I enjoyed leading it.

With the able assistance of **John Carr** and **Lois Pauchey**, we covered such topics as:

- How to Identify Birds
- How to Find Birds
- Birding Equipment and Supplies
- Why Birds Are Important to Us
- Birding by Ear
- Bird Behavior
- Migratory Facts.

If you missed the class this year, we will plan to offer it again next fall. Check *The Pelican* for time and place next September.

If there is enough interest we will offer a class at night. Let one of our Board Members know if you have a preference. The enthusiasm and pleasure of new birders on spotting a new species (to them) was a real satisfaction to the three of us who served as leaders.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Just when you think you've heard it all. When you think nothing could surprise you when it comes to the greed and rapacious behavior exhibited by developers, they lower the standard even further. The North Peninsula State Recreation Area contains some of the last undeveloped dune on the east coast of Florida. It was set aside to preserve a tiny segment of what Florida looked like when Ponce DeLeon first cruised along the coast. While you might think that land designated as a state recreation area would be safe from development, let me tell you about a plan to steal half of it to expand a golf course. Of course, they don't plan to "steal" it. They plan to have it declared "surplus" and then lease it from the state and expand an existing 9-hole course to 18 holes. To grease the wheels of this sleazy train, they've hired Representative **Tom Feeney's** law firm, the same Tom Feeney who will be the next Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. When you're planning a land grab of these proportions, it helps to have the biggest legal guns money can buy. It's hard to believe anyone could give serious consideration to giving away 258 acres of prime coastal scrub that has been set aside as part of state park lands. Based on his previous voting record, Mr. Feeney will have no problem with the issue. But since his firm will be shepherding the request through state agencies, he'll have to recuse himself from any votes on the issue. Still, as Speaker, he controls whose bills get action by the House. Finding someone to carry the ball on this for a valued client will be a matter of seeing whose hand is held highest by those waiting to ingratiate themselves to the new Speaker. Stay tuned, this one will be a "doozy".

Members who are Ormond Beach residents (and those who aren't) may have enjoyed birding the woods and the lake in the south section of Ormond Central Park, off Fleming Ave. The City of Ormond Beach has a plan to relocate the shuffle board courts, presently located next to the Police Station. Unfortunately, the site chosen has been the woods north of the pavilion in Central Park. While the engineers plan to "leave as many trees as possible", removal of the vines and brush under the trees will diminish the usefulness of the habitat for bird life. This little spot has been excellent for migrating warblers and provides breeding space for all sorts of native species. It's easily accessible, even to handicapped birders.

So when **Marie Wolff**, who has been walking almost daily in the park since it opened, learned of the city's plan, she was horrified. She called everyone she could think of at the city, county and state level. Finally, she called our president, **Lois Robinson**. Lois in turn sent me an e-mail and on a Monday morning, I began calling for information. My first contact was with the engineering department. I learned that the engineer was to meet with

the site manager in thirty minutes. Clearly, there was no time to lose. Next, I spoke with the Director of Leisure Services, **Alan Burton**. He told me he had no idea there were any concerns about the project. Finally, I spoke with newly elected commissioner, **Joyce High**. The park is in her district and she and commissioners **Jeff Boyle** and **Thelma Irvin** have been instrumental in getting the issue back on the agenda of the December 7th Commission meeting. **Kathy Marsh** and **Harriet Damesek** of Sierra Club were a major help in this effort. Perhaps a compromise can be reached that preserves the woods and moves the courts to a less environmentally sensitive area.

FIELD TRIP TO WAKULLA SPRINGS

by Lois Robinson

On February 24 and 25, 2000, we will be taking an overnight bus trip to Wakulla Springs that you don't want to miss! Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park is located south of Tallahassee. The park features one of the world's largest and deepest fresh water springs, surrounded by nearly 3000 acres of pristine forest. It's a perfect place to study and photograph Limpkins, Purple Gallinules, Anhingas, Ospreys, waterfowl and over 180 other species of birds have been observed here. The old-fashioned Lodge is comfortable, roomy, and offers excellent meals.

Our schedule will be something like this (it is still in the planning stage):

February 24:

- 8:00 a.m. Leave Daytona (bring a picnic lunch)
- Noon lunch. We will have a picnic at a good birding site on the way.
- 2:00 p.m. Arrival at Wakulla Springs.
- 3-5:00 p.m. Nature trails, birding around the lodge, River Boat cruises down the Wakulla River (\$3.00 each)
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner.
- 7:30 p.m. Program in the lodge by rangers from St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.

February 25:

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Travel by bus to St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.
- 12:30 p.m. Return to Lodge for Lunch.
- 2:00 p.m. Start for home.

Cost per person:

\$115.00 paid in full by Thursday, February 3, 2000. Rooms at the Lodge are double occupancy. The \$3.00 boat trip is optional and this cost is not included in the \$115.00. Make your reservations for this outstanding trip early!

If you have any questions and to make reservations, call **Lois Robinson 760-8480** or **David Hartgrove 788-2630**.

THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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| Publicatio | John Carr | 255-9360 |
| Publicity | Marie Oglesby | 767-5553 |
| Newsletter Editor | Fran Carr | 255-9360 |

BIRD INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Injured Birds | Mary Keller | 252-2794 |
| Bird Identification | Lois Robinson | 760-8480 |
| Birds of Prey Center | Maitland, FL | (407) 644-0190 |
| Florida Rare Bird Alert | | (561) 340-0079 |

WEB SITES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| National Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/net/index.html |
| Halifax River Audubon Society | http://audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax |

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Willie Burns | wwillie@juno.com |
| Fran Carr | franni@juno.com |
| John Carr | jcarr14@juno.com |
| Kevin DeWall | kcdeWall@hotmail.com |
| David Hartgrove | birdman9@earthlink.net |
| Glade Koch | clecras@aol.com |
| Gail Lincoln | gline@hotmail.com |
| Pat Mihalic | WidkingJM@aol.com |
| Marie Oglesby | mlo13@aol.com |
| Lois Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Morrell Robinson | msrobn512@juno.com |
| Madeline Shaddix | meshaddix@aol.com |
| Barbara Smyrski Kieran | bsmyrski@aol.com |
| John Williams | jwill39301@aol.com |
| Meret Wilson | mileybug@aol.com |

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
appreciates the support of its 1999-2000 *The Pelican* Underwriters

REID HUGHES

JONATHAN KANEY, COBB COLE & BELL

CHARLES LYDECKER, BROWN & BROWN, INC.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! The Board of Directors meets the First Monday of each month at City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach at 2:00p.m. All members are welcome to attend. We hope to see you all again at the December 20 Membership Meeting.

WELCOME

Mary C. Chadbourn, Ralph Goodwin, Mr. Ric Kessler, Nicole Rosier, Ramona Smith, and Iona Titus, have recently joined or transferred to HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

THANK YOU

Dawn Sautter and Mary Ellen Baker for the delicious refreshments provided for our November Meeting.