

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 45 - NO. 7 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JANUARY 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Lois Robinson

A VISION FOR THE YEAR 2000

As this old century winds down and a new millennium (if you count from 2000, not 2001) begins, I have been making up my wish list for the next decade. Maybe some of you will want to write your hopes for the next 10 or 100 years and send it to **Fran Carr** for *The Pelican*.

These are a few of my hopes and dreams:

1. A new Growth Management Plan for the state of Florida which will protect endangered species and valuable wetlands and other habitats as well as stop urban sprawl. A Plan that has teeth in it and will do the job needed so we will have a livable future.
2. Our Florida Scrub Jay will become our state bird.
3. The Cement Plant that is scheduled to be built at the headwaters of the Ichetucknee River will NOT be built because the courts will throw out the plan when they determine that it would be too damaging to sensitive environmental areas.
4. Manatees will grow in numbers and in protection in Florida Waterways.
5. Volusia County will have a new Bird Rehabilitation Center at Ponce Inlet and a new Audubon Learning Center in the Spruce Creek area.
6. The Everglades Restoration Plan and the Oklawaha River System Restoration will proceed at a fast pace and finally be completed.
7. The Zellwood farm area around Lake Apopka will be flooded safely, free of toxins and once again become one of the birding wonders of the state.
8. All of us will cut back on our use of herbicides and pesticides and give life a chance.
9. We will all (citizens of Florida) come to cherish and protect all living things as very important to our own survival.

I wish I could be around in 2100 to see what's happened. Thanks for all you do to make these dreams a reality.

MARY KELLER REQUESTS

by Marie Oglesby

Donations of any of the following will greatly help Mary Keller in her care of ill and injured birds: Kay-T-Exact hand feeding formula, small cans of cat food, wild

bird seed, white paper towels, fruit (especially apples and oranges) Peanut Treat, and finger mullets. 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.

CALENDAR

NOTE: HRAS field trips originate at the east parking lot of the County Court House Annex on City Island on Orange Avenue at 8 a.m.

Monday, January 2

HRAS Board. City Island Library at 2 p.m.

Friday, January 7

HRAS Field Trip. Local birding hot spots, led by **David Hartgrove.**

Wednesday, January 12

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Caravan at Lake Woodruff NWR. Call Phil Gotschall at 985-0820.

Monday, January 17

HRAS Program. **Stephen A. Nesbitt** of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will present "Whooping Cranes in Florida."

Wednesday, January 19

Halifax River Audubon Society is 76 years old.

Happy Birthday to us.

Saturday January 22

St. Johns County Audubon Society field trip to Blue Springs State Park with boat ride to Hontoon Island State Park. Call Roger Van Ghent at 797-5997 for reservations.

Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23

Manatee Festival, Valentine Park (near entrance to Blue Springs), Orange City. See article.

Saturday, January 22

HRAS Field Trip. Lake Woodruff, led by **Willie Burns.**

Saturday, January 29

Orange Audubon Society (Maitland) boat trip to parts of the Ocklawaha River and Rodman Reservoir led by an Ocklawaha River Restoration Specialist. \$20. Call Peggy Cox 352-429-1042 for reservation.

Monday, January 31

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Merritt Island NWR 39th Birthday Observance.

CONSERVATION NEWS

by *David Hartgrove*

The Internet and local newspapers have been bristling with news about the plans for the state of Florida to buy a large hole in the ground and to allow the company from whom they purchase this hole to build a cement plant near a state park. Governor Jeb Bush and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David Struhs made headlines several months ago when they took a canoe trip down the Ichetucknee Springs run. After the trip they issued a statement that the Anderson Columbia Company and its subsidiaries would not be allowed to build their plant so near this Outstanding Florida Water. Several months later, this decision was reversed and the state decided to pay the company 27 million dollars for a lime rock mine that potentially threatens this same waterway.

Geologists are divided over how much of a threat the mine is. No one doubts the threats posed by the cement plant. But the company did its homework. They promised to install state of the art pollution control equipment and to post emissions information on a web site so that regulators and concerned citizens could see for themselves that the company was working within the state and federal guidelines. As Shakespeare said, "Ah, there's the rub".

Cement plant owners have managed to change the rules to their advantage. Section 129 of the Clean Air Act is supposed to regulate "any facility that combusts solid waste". At the behest of congressmen who control EPA's purse strings, the EPA opened a loophole that exempts cement incinerators from regulations that govern municipal waste burners. The cement plant owner's trade association is a very big campaign contributor. One of the principal fuels burned at this new plant will be old tires. And thanks to the aforementioned loophole, they can burn all the medical and hospital waste they can get their hands on. The company assures us that they will install this new pollution control equipment. Why shouldn't we believe them?

There's no legal requirement for them to install anything beyond the barest essentials. Their record on these issues isn't stellar. Part of the DEP's rationale for permitting the plant is that the company has agreed to clean up several other hazardous waste sites they have all but refused to clean up for years. If you're confused as to why the state would in effect say, "O.K., we'll let you trash this pristine site if you'll promise to clean up the others you've left behind", you're not alone. But this company contributes heavily to the state Republican Party and had two top Democratic state legislators on their payroll until the legislators got caught hiding the payoffs and went to prison. Would you buy a used car from these men? Do you think we can trust them to tell us the truth?

In another case that has environmental leaders around the state scratching their heads and seeing red, the EPA

will soon announce that it's O.K. for treated sewage effluent to be injected deep into Florida's aquifers. Twenty years of legal precedent prohibiting the movement of pollutants into underground sources of drinking water are about to be washed away. And many of the same people who have argued for years that injected sewage couldn't travel into drinking water supplies will now argue that when this substance does infiltrate the water supply, it won't do any damage. The EPA claims that since the sewage is disinfected before it's injected, there's no danger. Disinfection kills the microbes. It does nothing to eliminate the heavy metals and other contaminants. Passage through the soil will remove some of the pollutants but how much lead, chromium, arsenic and pesticide residues will still be there?

EPA Secretary, Carol Browner, has yet to rule on this staff proposal. She's getting a lot of material from environmentalists around the country asking that she oppose this change in policy. Let's hope she makes the right decision.

WAKULLA SPRINGS TRIP

You don't want to miss this trip! Now is the time to sign up for the overnight trip to Wakulla Springs (not far from Tallahassee). The dates are February 24th and 25th. We will leave Daytona Beach at 8 a.m. on the 24th and be back around 6 p.m. on the 25th. The cost of the trip, \$115, includes the bus fare, double accommodation for one night, 3 buffet-style meals and the trip through St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. A trip down the Wakulla River by boat is not included and costs \$3.00. The boat runs several times a day except when the temperature is below 40 degrees.

Our Thursday evening program at the Lodge will be Florida Birds, presented by Jim Cox of the Leon County Audubon Society. We are privileged to have this outstanding program.

Our trip Friday morning will be to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. St. Marks is one of the oldest refuges in the national Wildlife system, established in 1931 to provide wintering habitat for migrating birds. The topography is flat with soils and woodlands interspersed with sawgrass sloughs and ponds. Also there are seven rivers and numerous creeks crossing the refuge. St. Marks has salt marshes, tidal flats, freshwater impoundments, hardwood swamps and pine woodlands. Thousands of waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds congregate here each winter. It is a favorite spot for Redhead Ducks, Bachman's Sparrows, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Pine Warblers, to name a few. We may see as many as 19 species of ducks and 2 species of geese, according to the printed brochure.

To sign up call **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480 or **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630 or send an e-mail. Reservations and money must be in by February 3rd!

BLACK POINT WILDLIFE DRIVE

Friday, December 10th

by David Hartgrove

The first of our trips to Merritt Island NWR was one to remember. We stopped at River Breeze Park in Oak Hill where, from the fishing dock, we watched a large flock of White Pelicans herding a school of mullet into shallow water. This prompted a feeding frenzy with all the cormorants and waders in the area rushing in to take advantage of the feast. Suddenly, a Wood Stork flew up from the group with a very large mullet clamped in his beak. Several gulls tried to make him drop his prize but he held on. He settled into the top of a cedar where he flipped the mullet into position, swallowed it in one big gulp and, shortly thereafter, flew down to look for more.

We stopped at the Haulover Canal manatee dock but saw no manatees. We did find someone's 1947 copy of Peterson's field guide, hard cover, with hand written notes in the margins. Unfortunately, there was no name or address in the book. We decided not to take it to the Visitor's Center but to leave it there for its owner's return. **Lois Robinson**, produced a plastic bag to protect this valuable, keepsake.

After lunch at the Visitor's Center, we drove along Black Point finding lots of ducks (Northern Shovelers, Mottled, Blue Winged Teal) and Coots. Far in the distance, we spotted an immature Bald Eagle hovering above the water. We finally saw that he was trying to capture a Coot. After snagging his prey and laboriously flapping his way clear of the water and into a tree, he was chased away from his prize by another eagle.

Our next great stop came when the sharp-eyed **Rachel Ramsey** saw the uncommon Common Snipe staring back at her from the grass across a small stream. This was a real treat.

At the parking area for Cruickshank Trail, and thanks to Chicago birder **Tadas Birutis**, who was along for the trip, I picked up two life birds: the elusive Marsh Wren and Swamp Sparrow. Later, a Clapper Rail caused a stir when we debated whether he could be a King Rail. By that time, the sun was going down on a very good day.

Saturday, December 11th

by John Carr

The Saturday trip was leisurely and rewarding. We swung by the Port Orange Causeway Park and saw American Oystercatchers, Yellow-crowned Night Herons and a Red-breasted Merganser. At Riverbreeze Park, we added Marbled Godwits. On state road #3, we viewed Florida Scrub Jays and numerous Red-tailed Hawks. We also stopped at Haulover Canal and saw neither Manatees nor the *Peterson Field Guide*. We checked out some of the parking areas over at the Cape Canaveral Seashore National Park in hopes of spotting a Snow Bunting, but

did not see one. On Black Point Drive, we saw many of the ducks and shorebirds seen on the day before, but did not see a Common Snipe. We were rewarded by spotting two Roseate Spoonbills that chose to remain at a great distance. Then a Swamp Sparrow obliged, and we viewed it up very close scratching in the mud, and heard a Clapper Rail in the reeds. Finally we saw one immature Bald Eagle, and then later, another near the nest close by Black Point. Five observers saw 74 species in all.

MANATEE FESTIVAL

HRAS will be sponsoring a booth at this festival for the purpose of supporting environmental causes, promoting our organization and doing some badly needed fund raising. We need crafts, bird feeders and birdhouses to sell. We will offer T-shirts, crafts, bird products, nature books along with free literature about **HRAS**. If you are interested in helping or donating items call **Rachel Ramsey** at 673-1037. Come and enjoy a beautiful day in the park and do your part to help the manatees and the environment.

GET YOUR COOKBOOKS NOW!

by Marie Oglesby

Cookbooks became very popular for Christmas gift giving for many of our members this year. The 299 recipes are really great and there is something for any type cook you might happen to be or be getting it for. They will also be great for wedding shower, birthday and anniversary gifts or just to remember a friend who appreciates good food.

The books may be purchased for \$10.00 from most Board members or from the two stores who have been so helpful to carry them for us. They are:

Bayberry Village
670 South Yonge St. US1
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Phone: 904/672-4500
Check with **Claudia**

BirdFeeders
2279 South Ridgewood Ave.
South Daytona, FL 32119
904/761-1727
Check with **Joe** or **Linda**

As you get your cookbooks, look over the great gifts and products these stores have to offer birders and nature enthusiasts. They are both very willing to help solve any problems you might have along these lines or to offer gift suggestions if needed.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE TO SERVE IN THE NEW CENTURY *Treasurer Morrell Robinson*

Members of the **Halifax River Audubon Society** can point to increased participation in our society's programs with some pride as evidence that **HRAS** is keeping faith with those who have preceded us. A revamped newsletter, more birding trips, increased participation in Audubon at the state level and in our efforts to influence environmental efforts at local levels are all signs of a vital organization.

While our budget is low considering the level of activity because members render services without charge, and our board is careful in overseeing expenditures, our increased activity and modest inflation is causing an outgo of roughly \$2,000 more than we receive through the usual means. We have drawn upon a very limited legacy to make up the difference and will soon find this depleted unless we can come up with new funding. Indeed we will want to leave a legacy for those who come after so they can be benefited as we have been and be free to respond to new opportunities as we have been.

So a new committee, Ways and Means, has been formed with the challenge to formulate a plan to support the new level of program activity and we will be able to keep up with increased mailing costs and the new challenges brought on by environmental degradation. Keep this group in your thoughts and yes, prayers, and let's be ready to support them in their effort to seek new funding sources for **HRAS**.

Those on the committee are: **Diane Talley, Steve Kieran, Mary Ellen Baker, Rachel Ramsey, and Meret Wilson** and they welcome your ideas.

BIRDING AT FLORIDA AUDUBON'S ANNUAL MEETING *by Paul Rebman*

One of the field trips during the Florida Audubon Annual Meeting weekend on November 5, 6 and 7 was the Specialties of the Ocala National Forest. The main subjects of this excursion were the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the Florida Scrub Jay. I had originally signed up for the trip on the Rodman Reservoir but apparently everyone that was interested in the Oklawaha River restoration issue participated in that trip last year so this year it was cancelled for lack of interest.

Our trip was lead by Earl Scales, a naturalist at the Refuge at Oklawaha, who said we should just call him Bubba. Out of the six people in the group I was the only member from the Halifax chapter.

At the first stop we met up with forest ranger Laura Lowery near a Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony. We arrived about ten minutes after the last of the woodpeckers

had wandered away from the area for the day. Earlier in the morning Laura had released a female woodpecker as part of a relocation project from the Apalachicola area to help the Ocala forest population. We were told that there was only one breeding pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Ocala forest in 1992, but that there are 13 pairs now.

Laura described the ideal woodpecker tree as a very mature longleaf pine that had hardwood in the center where the sap did not run. To make up for the shortage of perfect trees, roosts are made from blocks of hardwood, bored out and inserted into pine trees. We were also shown a pine tree that had a large section above and below a woodpecker nest where the sap had run profusely down the side giving it the appearance of a candle. The woodpeckers do this to the tree to prevent snakes and rodents from raiding the nest. We also learned a lot of other things about the habits of the woodpeckers and it was very educational, even if we did not see any.

For the next part of the trip we went to one of four major scrub jay habitats in the Ocala forest. There we met rangers Janet Hinchee and Carrie Sekerak who described the efforts to provide permanent habitats for these endangered birds. Here we were rewarded with many Florida Scrub Jays - which was a first for me. The scrub jay is a beautiful bird and it is a shame that it was not made the Florida state bird. We also had the added treat of an American Kestrel that was perched within viewing scope range.

After this we went to Juniper Springs for lunch and a walk on the Fern Hammock loop trail before returning to the Refuge.

For the first time in my life, I saw the horizon as a curved line. It was accentuated by a thin seam of dark blue light - our atmosphere. This was not the "ocean" of air I had been told it was. I was terrified by its fragile appearance.

Ulf Merbold, West German astronaut. Quoted in Natural Resources Defense Council publication 1999

AUDUBON ADVENTURES THANKS YOU

HRAS thanks those who have donated to *Audubon Adventures* this past year so that children can learn about birds and wildlife with their own newspapers and school program. Thanks go to **Jari and Tom Arbogast, Carol Branch, Mary E. Goetz-Stephenson, Sue Habel, David and Dennise Hartgrove, John and Ruth Hough, Gail Lincoln and David Kitay, Glade Koch, Fred and Alma More, Rachel and Ron Ramsey, Martha Schaunbelt, Madeline Shaddix, Lois J. Shannon, Eugene and Janette Speck, Joan Treves, and Mary Lou Weiner.**

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2000

February 18-21, 2000 is the weekend we want you to count the birds in your backyard. Everyone can get involved. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology need the help of North Americans of all ages to participate regardless of their skill level. This count, the largest Internet-based bird census ever conducted enables us to understand better the effects of changing weather and landscape on our birds' health and movement patterns.

Last year 42,000 people reported, tallying more than 3 million birds of 350 species.

To participate just spend as little as 15 minutes on any or all of the days mentioned recording the number and kinds of birds you see. Count the highest number of each species seen at one time (so as not to count the same birds more than once). Then log on to BirdSource at <http://birdsource.org> and click on Great Backyard Bird Count. If you are not on the Internet call **Lois Robinson** or **David Hartgrove** (see numbers in *The Pelican*) and they will enter your numbers.

We are encouraged this year to be especially aware of and look for Bald Eagles because of their new removal from the Endangered and Threatened species list.

This is a wonderful activity to do with your children and grandchildren and will get them involved in the wonderful world of birding. They can also do the computer stuff better than most of us.

CANAVERAL DIARY

by *Willie Burns*

Early December

The Common Loons have arrived at our shores for the winter. Unfortunately, the first I've seen this year were stranded on the beach after the latest dry North East storm, on Thursday afternoon, December 2, 1999.

An adult was able to almost get airborne as I approached, stymied by the next roiling wave. She managed to get through the first two lines of surf, and was making long dives and swimming strongly to the south east, heading for the third and farthest from shore wave line.

As the surf had abated substantially by Thursday, there is a good chance she was able to continue on. Sad to say, I also found a dead and bedraggled young Loon near where I'd first seen her. Families often migrate together, but another volunteer had seen the adult several miles farther north earlier in the day.

Loons often are deposited on the beach after a strong Nor'easter. The heavy surf roils right to the bottom and disorients the birds. As they need a hundred or so feet of calm water to fly, they are trapped. They end on the beach at the high tide line to bake in the sun, dying of

dehydration or starving, or becoming victims of nocturnal predators.

With their legs so far back on their bodies they are unable to walk any distance to return to the sea at low tide. Despite being superbly constructed to swim very fast and far underwater, on land they are useless lumps. The bird I saw was healthy enough to use wings and legs in her first effort to get into the air, but she ran out of flat water.

Healthy birds can be released in the calm waters of the Lagoon, where they happily swim away and survive quite well. More exhausted birds need rehabilitation.

Mid December

In addition to the flock of three or four hundred White Pelicans, another large flock of about the same size arrived Sunday morning December 12.

While the others were still resting on their sandbar two miles to the west of the Visitor Center, the newbies were in the Lagoon, about one hundred feet offshore, right at the Center's dock.

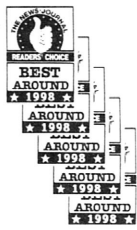
As usual with a flock of Whites, there was a flock of Cormorant diving in the deep water at one end of the main group and a few Brown Pelicans, several Snowy and Great Egrets and Wood Storks and a whole bunch of White Ibis in the shallows. There was also a flock of Hooded Mergansers diving at the opposite end of the group from the Cormorants.

Monday there were two distinct groups at the far-off sand bar.

ATTENTION: SNOWBIRDS AND VACATIONERS

Do you want to receive *The Pelican* when you are away? If so, then you need to let us know where to send your newsletter. Remember, we remove your name from our mailing list if your *Pelican* is returned by the Post Office: they do not forward bulk rate mail.


So please, when you are going to be away, leave a message on Publication Chairman **John Carr**'s answering machine noting your name, departure and return dates and forwarding address. This way you will get your *Pelican* all year. So call him at (904) 255-9360 or e-mail him at jcarr14@juno.com.



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

January 2000

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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Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	255-9360

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

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Education	Glade Koch	253-8438
Electronic Comm.	Kevin DeWall	767-3031
Field Trips	David Hartgrove	788-2630
Finance	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Hospitality	Barbara Kieran	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>

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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! 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. We hope to see you all at the January 17 General Membership Meeting

WELCOME

Mr. and Mrs. A. Artigliere, Tom Balue, Mr. James Beck, Vincent Chen, Anita Emery, Ms. Nancy Grindle, Mike and Sue Hensler, Bob and Freida Holt, Duane Huttleston, Hazel M. Smith, and Betty A. Vogel, 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

Our December Festive party was a great success! Thanks to everyone for your help! Have a wonderful New Year!

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 45 - NO. 8 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2000

OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS **President Lois Robinson**

In November several of us attended two hearings regarding the designation of Lake Disston as an Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW). Let me share with you some of the things I learned about Florida's waterways and how this designation comes about.

First, I was impressed with the Department of Environmental Protection and their willingness to listen to all sides of the issue, even the uninformed and off-the-wall comments, at their public workshop. They were very patient with us and explained over and over what an OFW does and does not mean. By way of explanation, OFWs include 39 of Florida's 1700 rivers, several lakes and lake chains, several estuarine areas and the Florida Keys. Our own Spruce Creek is one of them.

The basic intent of an OFW designation is to prevent the lowering of existing water quality. This means that, when a body of water receives this designation, all existing activities along this waterway are "grandfathered" in. However, the owner must get a new and stricter permit from the DEP to make a change in the property, such as filling, dredging, increasing pollutant discharges, or building a dock or marina.

Secondly, although state and national standards (which many of us feel are not strong enough) protect all our waterways, OFW regulations require owners to meet a higher standard. The catch is OFW designation cannot prevent a new shopping center or housing development, for example, from going in next to an OFW as long as this new development complies with OFW's requirements regarding storm water discharges, dredging or filling in of wetlands etc. Because of this catch, we also need the help of local governing bodies to prevent urban sprawl. The good news is, this time we have it. Gerri Peevers, President of Flagler County Audubon Society told me recently that the large housing development and golf course scheduled to go in on the shores of Lake Disston was denied by the Flagler County Commissioners, even after the Planning and Zoning Board had okayed it. The DEP would have had to approve this development as long as it met their requirements, which the development executives were very willing to do. As of this writing we are still waiting to hear if the deciding agency, Environmental Regulation Commission, (on the recommendation of the DEP), will grant OFW designation

to Lake Disston. It behooves us all to be as informed as possible on these very complex issues.

CALENDAR

NOTE: HRAS field trips will originate at the east parking lot of the County Court House Annex at City Island on Orange Avenue at 8 a.m.

Saturday, February 12

HRAS Field Trip. Volusia County Landfill, led by **Kevin DeWall**.

Monday, February 21

HRAS Program "Florida Birds" by Gian Basili, St. John's Water Management Commission, formerly Florida Audubon Society Ornithologist.

Thursday, February 24 and Friday, February 25

HRAS two-day bus trip to Wakulla Springs State Park and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, led by **Lois Robinson**. See article in this issue.

Saturday, February 26

Orange Audubon Society trip. Orlando Wetlands Park Festival. Call Mark Sees at 407-671-0539 or 407-869-1706.

Friday, March 3, 2000

Florida Audubon celebrates its one hundredth birthday.

Saturday, March 11

HRAS Field Trip. Orlando and Titusville Wetlands, led by **Glade Koch**.

LEE BIDGOOD - HRAS SPEAKER

by Pat Mihalic

Lee Bidgood, retired chemist and environmental activist, spoke to a record crowd at the November HRAS meeting. He reviewed the pesticides that you can buy at the local garden center and the dangers of these products. I was surprised to learn that our current pesticides were a result of testing by the military on nerve poisons. I guess I should have known, as this is what kills the insects. Lee touched on the point that they can do the same damage to a human, especially a fetus, that is done to an insect. The organophosphates were the worst and included diazanon, dursban and malathion. I am sure that everyone in the room went home and threw out their pesticides.

Lee stated that when he sees a perfect green lawn the only thing that he can think about is all the creatures that gave their lives, including the birds, to create this degree of yard perfection.

GLOBAL WARMING: A WORSENING THREAT

by Lee Bidgood, Jr.

Aggressive actions are urgently needed to quell extreme global warming. Last December 23rd, chief meteorologists of the US and the UK warned that we are warming the world rapidly. These senior scientists urged prompt cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and noted that increasingly violent global weather matches computer models of a warming climate.

Then within a week, two monster storms lashed Western Europe with winds up to 125 mph, killing more than 100 people. France suffered over \$5 billion in property damage and lost thousands of trees. Repairing the French electric power system may take three years.

Florida has had its share of freakish, violent weather recently — tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, droughts, record heat and wildfires. Every Florida County has been declared a disaster area at least once, but far worse looms unless we rein in global warming.

Rising seas and storms, strengthened by warmer Atlantic and Gulf waters, can be expected to devastate coastal communities and gut our tourism-based economy. A three-foot sea level rise would leave practically no space for nesting turtles or people on developed beaches.

The outlook for Florida's economy is grim in a rapidly warming climate, but it's even worse for plants and animals. Saltwater would destroy the Everglades. Birds and some animals could migrate northward, but plants, the basic food for all life, would be trapped. Parks would be isolated with declining biodiversity.

What must we do? Curbing global warming is a political problem, not a technical one. Well-established technology can cut carbon dioxide emissions drastically, save money for consumers, and add jobs to the economy.

Power companies can quickly build natural gas plants that emit half as much carbon dioxide per kW as the average US fossil fuel plant and generate electricity at significantly lower cost. The proposed Duke Energy plant in New Smyrna Beach exemplifies the opportunity, but public utilities oppose it. Eventually, declining costs should enable fast growing solar and wind power to replace fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Auto manufacturers have developed cars that get two or three times the mpg of the average passenger car, but the US seems addicted to gas-guzzlers. We can use energy and fuel much more efficiently, but incentives are needed.

The missing ingredient is congressional leadership that understands the threat of continuing global warming and enacts measures to cut carbon dioxide emissions sharply. Efficient new technologies can cut emissions by twice the 7% Kyoto target, put money into the economy and create new jobs.

The rub is that job losses would occur in obsolescent industries, even though gains in other sectors would far

outnumber those losses. Unfortunately, the political clout wielded by giant oil, coal and auto firms has kept Congress from ending fossil fuel subsidies, limiting carbon dioxide emissions or supporting renewable energy effectively.

Other nations await US leadership on global warming. Earth's geologic record, preserved in stone and sediments, hints that climate and sea level sometimes changed abruptly. There's doubt that future changes will be gradual enough for civilization to adapt to them.

If catastrophic global warming arrives before Congress acts, we can only blame ourselves. We elected them.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRDING COUNT

Don't forget to count all the birds in your backyard and surrounding neighborhood February 18-21 (4 days). Log your count on the internet at <http://birdsource.org> and click on Backyard Bird Count. If you prefer, call David Hartgrove or Lois Robinson and they will add your count to their list. Let's help with this important aid to finding out about bird populations.

DAYTONA MUSEUM NEEDS OUR HELP

by Meret Wilson

Lois Robinson and I met with member Anita Emory representing the Garden Club of Daytona at Daytona Beach's Museum of Arts and Sciences on December 9, 1999 to determine how HRAS could work with the Garden Club to attract more birds to the trail behind the museum. We walked on a nice little trail to the "Windows of the Forest" area that has benches for sitting, descriptive placards and views of native wildlife.

Lois and I recommended that nest boxes, feeders, bat and butterfly boxes could be placed around and that possibly we would have some members who would help keep the feeders supplied. We thought we could also prepare a suitable placard showing the specific birds that are there and telling a little about them. We recommended that the Garden Club use their horticultural resources to see what native plants could be added to the area to attract birds and butterflies.

If you have a few minutes and are in the area of the museum, we would like to know what birds or wildlife you see. It will take about six to ten months to get a good idea of the bird and butterfly populations. There are paths leading to the "Windows on the Forest" platform from both the east and southwest sides of the museum. You can help if you will write down the date, time of day, and day of week you go observing and what you did see or didn't see if that be the case. You can send your findings to me by email (Mileybug@aol.com) or give them to me at meetings. Your information gathering will be a huge part in this becoming a successful endeavor for our chapter.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY 1996/1997/1998/1999

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

1997 Jan 4	1998 Jan 3	1999 Jan 2	1999 Dec 30		1997 Jan 4	1998 Jan 3	1999 Jan 2	1999 Dec 30	
2	2	0	2	Loon, Common	1	1	0	2	Sandpiper, Spotted
27	20	19	37	Grebe, Pied-billed	97	60	168	81	Turnstone, Ruddy
27	35	33	27	Gannet, Northern	170	7	11	11	Knot, Red
0	15	0	0	Pelican, American White	175	137	411	200	Sanderling
70	111	133	92	Pelican, Brown	0	0	0	3	Dunlin
187	654	106	202	Cormorant, Double-crested	0	0	0	11	Dowitcher, Short-billed
9	21	21	14	Anhinga	0	0	0	5	Snipe, Common
0	0	0	1	Bittern, American	595	1912	2276	231	Gull, Laughing
22	16	7	23	Heron, Great Blue	1849	1507	2121	1303	Gull, Ring-billed
31	13	32	82	Egret, Great	26	0	5	14	Gull, Herring
22	38	24	7	Egret, Snowy	1	1	6	3	Gull, Great Black-backed
6	12	12	12	Heron, Little Blue	2	1	0	8	Tern, Caspian
4	3	1	1	Heron, Tricolored	13	59	30	121	Tern, Royal
1	0	0	0	Egret, Reddish	0	0	2	24	Tern, Sandwich
17	6	71	90	Egret, Cattle	3	3	1	0	Tern, Common
2	3	2	5	Heron, Green	4	31	11	7	Tern, Forster's
35	190	251	135	Ibis, White	0	12	0	0	Tern species
0	1	0	0	Ibis, Glossy	0	0	0	6	Skimmer, Black
30	12	10	12	Stork, Wood	97	330	335	595	Dove, Rock
2	0	0	0	Goose, Canada	3	36	58	81	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
1	0	5	0	Duck, Wood	365	313	586	284	Dove, Mourning
25	11	59	20	Mallard	4	3	2	3	Ground-Dove, Common
0	2	0	0	Teal, Blue-winged	0	1	0	0	Owl, Barn
4	79	3	2	Duck, Ring-necked	1	9	11	9	Screech-Owl, Eastern
6	0	0	0	Scaup, Greater	1	3	1	1	Owl, Great Horned
0	25	0	0	Scaup, Lesser	5	7	6	7	Owl, Barred
0	0	1	7	Bufflehead	20	20	12	12	Kingfisher, Belted
0	0	6	0	Merganser, Hooded	2	0	1	0	Woodpecker, Red-headed
10	9	11	5	Merganser, Red-breasted	54	28	24	46	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
0	0	1	1	Duck, Ruddy	2	7	1	3	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
21	30	16	36	Vulture, Black	6	6	5	16	Woodpecker, Downy
128	127	77	90	Vulture, Turkey	0	0	0	1	Woodpecker, Hairy
19	7	36	8	Osprey	2	1	6	1	Flicker, Northern
3	10	1	3	Eagle, Bald	20	10	7	10	Woodpecker, Pileated
0	1	1	0	Harrier, Northern	4	8	19	19	Phoebe, Eastern
2	1	0	2	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	2306	305	10	33	Swallow, Tree
0	2	1	2	Hawk, Cooper's	42	23	7	40	Jay, Blue
12	25	17	28	Hawk, Red-shouldered	44	35	32	73	Crow, American
3	4	3	14	Hawk, Red-tailed	74	143	29	312	Crow, Fish
17	21	33	33	Kestrel, American	0	0	19	127	Crow species
0	1	0	0	Merlin	0	2	0	1	Chickadee, Carolina
0	1	0	0	Peregrine	13	5	3	15	Titmouse, Tufted
15	23	11	20	Turkey, Wild	5	0	20	15	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
0	0	1	0	Bobwhite, Northern	26	20	12	35	Wren, Carolina
0	1	0	0	Rail, Clapper	2	0	4	19	Wren, House
0	0	0	1	Sora	0	0	0	6	Wren, Sedge
45	9	16	10	Moorhen, Common	0	0	0	1	Wren, Marsh
67	90	95	219	Coot, American	5	1	7	44	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
0	0	0	2	Crane, Sandhill	3	1	0	8	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
28	50	27	29	Plover, Black-bellied	20	26	32	4	Bluebird, Eastern
28	102	35	72	Killdeer	0	1	3	4	Thrush, Hermit
1	1	0	1	Oystercatcher, American	1146	1643	266	258	Robin, American
0	1	0	0	Sandpiper, Solitary	30	13	8	22	Catbird, Gray
11	6	6	12	Willet	99	57	85	63	Mockingbird, Northern

1997 Jan 4	1998 Jan 3	1999 Jan 2	1999 Dec 30	
2	0	0	0	Thrasher, Brown
0	179	4	0	Pipit, American
441	17	2	6	Waxwing, Cedar
12	23	32	26	Shrike, Loggerhead
266	561	592	773	Starling, European
9	5	1	4	Vireo, White-eyed
1	0	0	8	Vireo, Blue-headed
0	0	0	1	Warbler, Orange-crowned
0	0	0	1	Parula, Northern
929	1314	385	1177	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
0	1	0	1	Warbler, Yellow-throated
47	7	86	54	Warbler, Pine
10	7	67	39	Warbler, Palm
1	0	0	2	Warbler, Black-and-white
0	0	0	1	Ovenbird
1	0	11	11	Yellowthroat, Common
37	30	18	31	Cardinal, Northern
2	2	0	10	Towhee, Eastern
22	77	56	2	Sparrow, Chipping
0	2	0	0	Sparrow, Field
0	1	2	15	Sparrow, Savannah
0	0	2	0	Sparrow, Song
0	0	4	0	Sparrow, Swamp
42	57	258	128	Blackbird, Red-winged
0	6	1	0	Meadowlark, Eastern
77	152	297	347	Grackle, Boat-tailed
119	88	244	51	Grackle, Common
0	0	64	100	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1	1	21	6	Goldfinch, American
6	24	0	4	Sparrow, House
0	0	0	1	Blackbird <i>species</i>
0	0	0	1	Accipiter <i>species</i>
0	0	0	1	Jaeger <i>species</i>

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. and 41 mi.
 Foot: 19 hrs. and 23 mi.
 Car: 22.5 hrs. and 294 mi.
 Temp: 58-76°. Wind; 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: 105
 Total individuals: 10,977.
 Observers: 15 in 5 parties.

Time: 2:15 AM – 5:45 PM.
 Owling: 6.75 hrs. and 90 mi.
 Foot: 6 hrs. and 4 mi.
 Car: 42.25 hrs. and 315 mi.
 Temp: 52-74°. Wind: NW 15. Water open.
 AM partly cloudy. PM partly cloudy.

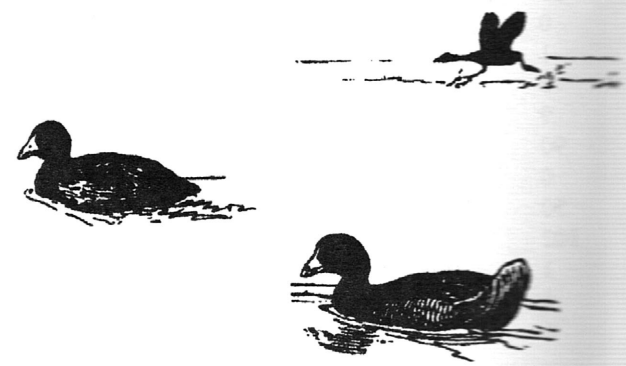
Observers were: Pat Anderson, Dorothy Apgar, Willie Burns, John Carr, Fran Carr, Nancy Dearborn, Gail Duggins, John Eggert, Peggy Ferver, Ann Flippo, David Hartgrove, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Barbara Samler, and Jeri Wyly.

January 2, 1999 count: Total Species: 98.
 Total individuals: 9,984.
 Observers: 16 in 4 parties and 1 at feeder.
 Time: 2:30 AM – 5:45 PM.
 Owling: 7.75 hrs. and 88 mi.
 Foot: 12 hrs. and 2.5 mi.
 Car: 27.5 hrs. and 279.5 mi.
 Temp: 56° - 82°.
 Wind: SE 8-22. Water: Open.
 AM cloudy. PM partly cloudy.

Observers were: Alexa Abercrombie, Fran Carr, John Carr, Kevin DeWall, Joe Greco, Judy Greco, David Hartgrove, Michael Meisenburg, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Lois Robinson, Morrell Robinson, Madeline Shaddix, Vivian Smith, Roy Stephenson, and Meret Wilson.

December 30, 1999 count: Total Species: 116.
 Total individuals: 8,358.
 Observers: 15 in 4 parties.
 Time: 3:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
 Owling: 105 mi.
 Foot: 3 mi.
 Car: 228 mi.
 Hours: Regular, 40.5; Owling, 5.75.
 Temp: Beginning 37°, Middle 65°, End 57°.
 Wind: NW 5-10.

Observers were: Kitty Albee, Carolyn Foy Barry, Tadas Birutis, Barbara Bowden, Rob Bowden, Fran Carr, John Carr, Kevin DeWall, David Hartgrove, Glade Koch, Michael Meisenburg, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Rachel Ramsey, and Lois Robinson.



WAKULLA SPRINGS FIELD TRIP

by Lois Robinson

Additional information regarding our trip to Wakulla Springs February 24-25:

1. Be at Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris at 7:45 am, Feb. 24. Your car will be safe there. Bring a lunch.
2. We possibly will have a lunch stop at Ichetucknee Springs State Park and a short birding stop as well.
3. After checking in at the Lodge we will have time for birding on the grounds of the Lodge, a trip by boat down the Wakulla Springs River (\$3.00 extra) or a nap before dinner at 6.
4. After dinner, a program on Birding by **Jim Cox**, DeLeon County Audubon.
5. After breakfast, a morning of birding at St. Mark's National Refuge.
6. Lunch at the Lodge and checkout. We may take a short trip to St. George. This is contingent on a vote by the group. If we do this we will stop at a restaurant on the way home and not get back till 10 or 11 p.m. This meal will be at your own expense.

Please call **Lois Robinson** or **David Hartgrove** if you have any questions. I think we will have a wonderful trip.

AN EAGLE AND AN OWL

by Meret Wilson

One weekend while I was volunteering at the Center for Birds of Prey, I was asked to go rescue a downed and injured Bald Eagle in Tossahatchee Forest. The Forest Ranger, **Shane**, said two hikers on the Florida Trail had found it and it had been in a fight with a Great Horned Owl. He said that there were feathers everywhere and the eagle was flat out on the ground straight down from a nest located in a slash pine. As I was driving there I got a call on my cell phone from the Ranger stating when he got to the eagle he noticed that the owl was dead and under the eagle and it appeared that the eagle had a death grip on the owl. I called back to the Center and was told that if this were so, to bring everything in.

We had to hike through the thicket into the area where the eagle was which was a shorter distance than if we had taken the trail. Sure enough, here is this male eagle flat out on the ground, mantling the owl and glowering at us.

After pictures were taken, I proceeded forward with a blanket to throw over the eagle to capture and gain control of it. This was not to be. The eagle immediately jumped up and ran into the underbrush and simultaneously, the owl jumped up and ran off in a different direction!


Deciding it was more important to find the eagle since we had figured out by now that its mate was incubating up above, I chased through the thicket after the eagle that made it to the service road. Shane was yelling that he saw

owl feathers on the ground so we got a fix on the direction of the eagle. Just as I got to the road, up, up and away went the eagle, flying straight and true. Of course, if he has puncture wounds from the owl, we will not know unless they get infected, he becomes a downed eagle and someone happens upon him again. So, to the best of our knowledge, this is a happy but hungry ending for the eagle.

Now it was time to turn my attention back to the owl being watched over by one of the hikers. I started out after him and it was clear he could not fly and couldn't go very far without having to stop. He finally ran himself right into a snag, feet first about 8 inches off the ground, wings widespread and huge eyes staring at me. I picked him off the bush, folded in his wings and took him to the cage. I placed him in the cage so in shock he couldn't even stand up, just flat out on the pad almost dead — or so I thought. I repositioned him in the cage and up he jumped. He stared at me, I covered him, and away we went. About half way back to the Center he was jumping all over that cage trying to get out, hopping mad like a typical Great Horned Owl.


When the owl was checked all over, we found eight puncture wounds, three on the chest, three on the head, one deeper one over his ear and one under his wing-pit. At that point it wasn't clear just how deep the two punctures were but the others were pretty superficial. He has a bald spot in the back of his head and on his chest where the eagle had started plucking him alive until the hikers interfered. Because the eagle was in that mantling position close to two hours we had figured he must have been wounded. Now we know he was just waiting for everyone to leave so he could finish the job and get on with his business. Oops, sorry Mr. Eagle!

Since this event occurred, the Great Horned Owl has recovered nicely. After his feathers return, he will be placed in a flight cage to test his flight and hunting abilities to eventually be released. Whenever I go in to change his mew (a holding area), unlike most Great Horned Owls who puff up and clack at strangers, this Great Horned Owl shows deep respect by sitting there and blinking at me. He knows who gave him another day. I wonder if the eagle would be as friendly knowing who took away his hard fought meal!



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CONSERVATION NOTES

by *David Hartgrove*

Our Christmas Bird Count was a big success. The totals are listed here in the Pelican and attest to the perseverance of the folks who came out to count. It was a gorgeous day and the dinner at its end was delicious. Thank you all for making our part of the nation's 100th CBC memorable.

On January 4th, I attended a demonstration at the Volusia County Landfill of the prowess of Border Collies in dispersing birds from an area. News reports the following day suggested that the dogs would not only be used at the Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA) but also at the landfill. This is not the case. **Dr. Nick Carter**, head of the Border Collie Rescue project, said quite clearly that not only would the terrain be too dangerous for the dogs to work in, but that there were simply too many birds there for any number of dogs to handle. It's easy to see how his words might not have been heard. The noise levels where the demonstration was held were off the charts. But the dogs were amazing. They are "obsessive/compulsive work-aholics", intelligent and anxious to perform. I believe they can be a part of the solution to the "bird problem" at DBIA, such as it is.

There have been approximately 3,000,000 (yes, that's million) flights logged at DBIA since 1990. All those "touch and go's" by student pilots count as individual flights. There have been just 62 recorded bird strikes in that time. I believe that birds congregating on the runways of an airport constitute a potential threat to aircraft safety. The birds feeding at the landfill, nearly 4 miles away, do not. While there is some evidence to suggest that birds move from the landfill to the airport, that doesn't justify harassing and killing large numbers of them. The monumental hubris evident in the decision to take this course of action is mind boggling. Our envy of birds' ability to fly propelled mankind on a quest to develop flight capabilities. Now, in a vain attempt to attain a risk free world, some try to justify the slaughter of these birds they once watched with awe and envy. Our **HRAS** chapter continues to keep an eye on this situation. The permit has not been issued yet.

Recent news reports about some hunters digging up an old WWII bomb from an area in the Ocala National Forest couldn't have come at a more opportune time. The Navy's contract with the U.S. Forest Service expires in December of this year. For the last fifty years, they've been flying missions over the area, sometimes dropping practice bombs, sometimes the real thing. Anyone who's ever tried to have a wilderness experience canoeing down the Juniper Springs run or camping in the Forest campgrounds has almost certainly been startled by the scream of a jet engine. In 1996 the military dropped 18,000 bombs (only

156 were live) from 7,000 flights. No wonder it's hard to have a quiet day in a canoe. In this age of advanced electronic simulators, it's hard to continue justifying this activity.

Now is the time to stop it. The Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice will hold a protest rally at the ranger station on U.S.19 in Umatilla on Saturday, February 19th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. So, dig out that old tie-dyed-shirt you were sure you'd need some day and escape the race week gridlock. Join some very nice folks for a day in the sunshine, we hope. If you're interested, call or e-mail me (information on the back page of the Pelican) and I'll arrange for car-pooling or give directions.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT REED CANAL POND

by *Pat Mihalic*

Mary Keller, Willie Burns, an unknown woman and I spent part of New Year's Eve investigating a call of an oil spill in Reed Canal Park that covered birds and ducks with a black gooey substance. I called Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and was told this was a problem for the EPA. I didn't call EPA as I searched for more details about the spill.

Meanwhile, Willie checked out the Park and determined that the black substance looked like some sort of an algae bloom and that the birds were able to preen it off themselves quite easily.

Thanks to the time and effort that this unknown bird lover put into checking out what could have been a disaster for wildlife at the pond.

For your future reference, the telephone number for the EPA is (407) 894-7555 and the EPA emergency number is 1-800-320-0519.

KELLER'S KORNER

Bird Rehabilitator **Mary Keller** got a report this past month of a Bald Eagle hit by a car on I-4. It was dead by the time a rescuer from the Birds of Prey Center got there. It turned out it had been released by them at Lake Apopka. They have sent it to the feds to check it out, as they think pesticides at the lake may have poisoned it.

Mary needs the following supplies this month to carry on her work of rehabilitating the birds: finger mullet, small cans of cat food, white paper towels, wild bird seed, Peanut Treat (year-round suet cakes) and small aquariums (1 to 10 gallon size). Baby bird season will be starting soon and the aquariums are needed to house the tiny ones with individual needs. All donations are greatly appreciated by the Kellers and their patients!

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

FIELD TRIP WITH MYNA

by David Hartgrove

Our field trip on Friday, January 7th, originally listed as "Local Hot Spots", was changed at the last minute. We went instead to Seminole Towne Center Mall in Sanford, to look for the Common Mynas reported by observer **Jerry Pace** of Deltona, who said he'd seen up to fifteen Common Mynas in the mall parking lot.

Our first stop was the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. Our chapter has been asked to census the birds using the "Window on the Forest" project at the Museum. This will be an ongoing effort since we need to see what birds are present during different seasons.

Then, it was on to the mall. We arrived and searched every group of grackles and starlings we could find; no luck. The retention pond had a good variety, including some Ring-necked Ducks, but there was no sign of the mynas. But just as we were exiting the parking lot, the mynas were spotted. Sure enough, there on the ground with grackles was a Common Myna. This species, native to India and the Near East, has been expanding its breeding range out of South Florida where it became established in the mid-1980's. There is no published information on when, where, or how many of these birds were released. It must be assumed that they were released in the Miami area since they were first recorded on the Dade County CBC in 1983.

On the way back we stopped at Gemini Springs for our picnic lunch. **Rob Bowden** found what we thought was a Caribbean Coot; it had the requisite field marks and the field guides mentioned that these coots had been in these parts before. But after sending a report to the Florida Rare Bird Alert, I received a portion of an article by **Lyn Atherton** that cast doubt on the whole concept of Caribbean Coots ever having been in the U.S. She has done extensive research on coots and found a banded bird at Cape Canaveral that exhibited all the right markings. The only problem was that this bird was banded as a chick, in Michigan! We'll all just have to keep looking.

VOLUSIA COUNT LANDFILL TRIP

by Kevin DeWall

On Saturday, February 12 we will stop first at Tuscawilla Park and the grounds of the Museum of Arts and Science to identify birds at "Windows of the Forest."

Then on to the landfill. On past trips to the landfill we have observed birds as diverse as Bald Eagles, Cowbirds, Avocets, Bonaparte's Gulls, Sandhill Cranes, Bluebirds and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. We almost always find something unusual; during the Fall Migration Count we found an injured Sandhill Crane and took it to a Bird Rehabilitator.

After visiting the landfill we will have lunch at the hotdog stand at Sopotnik's Corner and then look for

7
additional species in the burnoff areas along Cucumber Drive and Hunting Camp Road in Samsula.

SCRUB-JAYS RE-CLASSIFIED

In the past, the Scrub Jay was considered one species. But now there are three designations for these birds: the Island Scrub-Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, and Florida Scrub-Jay. Note also the strange new spelling of "Scrub-Jay". The Island Scrub-Jay is found only on Santa Cruz Island in California, the Western Scrub-Jay is found along the West Coast, and our Florida Scrub-Jay lives in Florida scrub habitat at least as far north as the Volusia/Flagler county line.

The Florida Scrub-Jay is different from the other two species with its whitish forehead and eyebrow; shorter, broader bill, paler back; distinct collar and proportionally longer tail.

WHOOPING CRANE PROGRAM

Biologist **Stephen Nesbitt** of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission told about the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Florida at the January 17th HRAS meeting. After many years of work transplanting half-grown chicks from migratory stock to the Kissimmee Florida area, the birds, now nonmigratory, are close to breeding and raising chicks of their own. Mr. Nesbitt's slides and lecture enthralled a large audience.

GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

The keynote speaker in the February 17 Global Warming and Energy Conference in St. Petersburg will be **Ross Gelbspan**, author of *The Heat is On*. Other participants include **Stephen Leatherman**, Director of the International Hurricane Center of Florida International Center. He is known internationally as "Dr. Beach" for his expertise in beach dynamics and erosion. Call **Lee Bidgood** at 423-4682 for more information.

HRAS COOKBOOK REPORT

by Marie Oglesby

Sharing Our Recipes is off to a good start. 129 books have been sold in the first two months. The printing bill has been paid now so the rest of the sales will be all profit for worthy HRAS projects.

Please keep these books in mind when you have gift purchases to make. With 299 great recipes at a price of \$10.00, it makes a great gift for any person who cooks.

You may ask any board member to get one for you or you may get one from Bayberry Village, 670 South Yonge Street, Ormond Beach or BirdFeeders, 2279 South Ridgewood Avenue, South Daytona.

THE PELICAN



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February 2000

Names & Numbers

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Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Gail Lincoln	673-9535
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BIRD INFORMATION

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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>

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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! 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 at the February 21 General Membership Meeting.

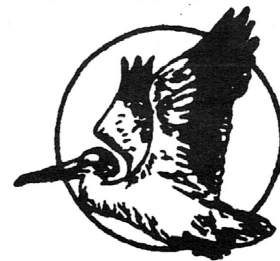
NEW MEMBERS

Due to programming problems at National Audubon's Centrobe Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, our new members will be announced in the March issue of *The Pelican*.

THANK YOU

Sue Habel and Cynthia McAdow for the delicious refreshments provided for our January Meeting.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 45 - NO. 9 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2000

GROWTH MANAGEMENT FORUM REPORT

HRAS President Lois Robinson and Conservation Chairman David Hartgrove attended the Growth Management Forum hosted by the Department of Community Affairs and its Secretary, Steve Seibert, in Sanford on Tuesday night, February 15th. Discussion centered on whether to support the Growth Management Act or to abandon growth management to local interests. David's comments to the forum follow.

Earlier, a comment was made that growth is inevitable and that the DCA's role is to manage growth, not restrict it. I disagree. Local government's inability and outright refusal to properly regulate development is why a state growth management act was promulgated in the first place. Florida has a long history of carpet bagging developers cruising into the state, bulldozing and paving several thousand acres and skipping off to Vail or Steamboat Springs to retire.

You mentioned earlier the importance of potable water. Due to the state's limited fresh water aquifer, it is necessary to preserve as much land as possible for recharge of this vital resource. Representative Albright* and the folks he represents privately apparently won't be satisfied until the state is paved and manicured from Pensacola to Homestead. I urge you to convince the governor that it isn't your job to help Representative Albright pass his bill, the thrust of which is to return growth management decisions to the local level.

Pinellas County** is an excellent example of the utter failure of local control of growth management. If the state's Growth Management Act is to be revised, please strengthen it. Don't assist in the trashing of the state's remaining land resources by a bunch of legislators who are being term-limited out of a job***. Thank you.

* Representative George Albright, (R) Ocala has openly spoken of dismantling the Growth Management Act and has now introduced legislation designed to accomplish this by returning growth management decisions to local governments.

** Pinellas County is Secretary Seibert's home base.

*** 70 state representatives are being forced out under term limits. It's primarily these legislators who have taken the lead on this divisive issue.

DORA CANAL FIELD TRIP

by Willie Burns

The April 7, 2000 Field Trip shall be to the Dora Canal. This picturesque river, a pocket of beauty near Leesburg, winds through a cypress marsh. Trees several hundred feet tall tower above the narrow waterway, forming a natural tunnel.

The trees are filled with nests of Osprey, herons of all kinds, Anhingas, Wood Ducks, and the rare-around-here Prothonotary Warbler. It is a marvelous mixed rookery for these and many other birds. Barred Owls, various hawks, and Pileated Woodpeckers are usually seen.

Otters, raccoons, and other native wildlife abound, as does the famous Florida Alligator. We will be safely aboard a 30-passenger Coast Guard approved pontoon tour boat, complete with sanitary facilities and a cover to keep the sun off.

We have planned to have an inexpensive lunch at a restaurant in Mount Dora afterwards, followed by a short trip on the Mount Dora Railroad. This line runs a replica of a 1923 rail car along the edge of Lake Dora, thoughtfully providing views of more birds for our pleasure.

We shall leave from City Island parking lot at 8:00 a.m. sharp, returning around 4:00 p.m. The boat ride will last roughly two-and-a-half-hours and cost \$15.00. The train ride will last about an hour and cost \$7.00 or \$8.00 depending on how many of us take the trip. Come join us for an enjoyable day of birding and a train ride back into history. Please call me if you want further information.

SUPPORT MARY KELLER

Bird Rehabilitator **Mary Keller** will need the following items for her work with ill and injured birds in her care as well as for the upcoming baby bird season: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Hand Feeding Formula, wild bird seed, small cans of cat food, millet sprays, suet cakes, white paper towels and small aquariums (leaky ones acceptable). If you can donate any of these much needed supplies, please take them directly to the Keller residence at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call **Marie Oglesby** (767-5553) for pickup and delivery.

CALENDAR

NOTE: *HRAS field trips will originate at the east parking lot of the County Court House Annex on City Island on Orange Avenue at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted.*

Friday, March 3, 2000

Florida Audubon celebrates its one hundredth birthday.

Tuesday, March 7, 14, 21 and Friday March 10, 17, 24

HRAS Bird classes and field trips. See article in this issue.

Saturday, March 11

HRAS Field Trip. Orlando and Titusville Wetlands, led by **Glade Koch**. See article in this issue.

Monday, March 20

HRAS Program by **Arthur Morris**, bird photographer. **NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION TO LIBRARY.** See article in this issue.

Saturday, March 25

HRAS Field Trip. Lyonia Preserve, led by **Sue Habel**. See article in this issue.

Friday, April 7

HRAS Field Trip. Dora Canal boat trip, led by **Willie Burns**. See article in this issue.

THE TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

President Lois Robinson

Both Audubon of Florida (our new state name) and National Audubon Society (NAS) are on the move for several reasons and the prospects for the future are exciting. These changes are being fueled by a static membership, a need for increased funds at all levels, a need for a more streamlined organization, and finally the challenge of the new millennium and the electronic age.

First, on the state level. **Carole Adams** (from Duval Audubon Society) is our Northeast Regional Director. She has reported to our Board the results of the Audubon of Florida Board of Directors meeting in January. Some of these results include:

1. The Florida Board is seeking to raise \$300,000 by June 2000.
2. The Board is looking to realign our old council regions to more closely correspond to the present water management districts. (We would be a part of the St. John's region).
3. Regional Conservation Committees would be established to move environmental activities closer to home.
4. These regional committees would meet 3-4 times a year and each chapter would have one vote. We would send our Conservation Chairperson and one or two other officers to these meetings. More would be welcome.

On the national level changes are coming also. The first week in February I received a video tape on growth

strategies from National Audubon Society. The two main thrusts from NAS seem to be generating revenue, and engaging people as volunteers and activists.

On the revenue front, changes will be made in how monies are raised. In the past, revenues have been generated by recruiting members through direct mail. NAS is proposing to change our dues-share at the local chapter level (currently at \$5.50 per member per year) to the following formula: A. If the local chapter recruits a new member, all of the new member's first year dues would be retained by the local chapter. B. The local chapter will continue to receive net dues revenue from that new member as he renews each year to the tune of \$10 to \$15; only \$10 would go to NAS. This means chapters will have much more responsibility in recruiting new members and retaining them. How this will actually work out is unknown at present. It will give us, on the local level, more incentive to recruit new members.

In the area of volunteers and activists, we are being encouraged to develop strategies to attract more young people and more people from diverse communities. Minority groups are not represented throughout Audubon as they should be. If you have any ideas on these subjects please share them with board members. We will all have to work together to achieve these goals.

I will share more information as it becomes available.

THE ART OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Our March 20 Program meeting will be held in the AUDITORIUM at CITY ISLAND LIBRARY on the east end of Magnolia Avenue at 7:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION. In cooperation with Volusia County Public Library and **Sue Habel**, Partnerships Manager for the library system, we in **HRAS** are very honored to have **Arthur Morris**, internationally known bird photographer, to present our evening program. No business will be conducted.

Mr. Morris will share the artistic principles that guide him in his work as he takes us on a slide show trip to Point Pelee National Park, Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, south Florida, and other birding hotspots. He will give us information on composition, background, perspective, and natural light tips he uses in his bird photography. This will be of interest to bird lovers and nature photographers. Mr. Morris's photographs have been featured in *Natural History*, *National Geographic*, *Birder's World*, *WildBird* and *Audubon* magazines. He is the author of articles and several books, which will be available for purchase at the meeting. An **Arthur Morris** photograph is featured on page 37 of the January-February 2000 *Audubon* magazine.

GIAN BASILI SPEAKS TO SOCIETY

St. Johns Water Management Commission Staff Biologist **Gian Basili** showed slides of Lake Apopka and discussed the bird mortality in the Zellwood Farm area. The **HRAS** program on February 21 fascinated the large turnout by the story of bird die-out, sleuthing for the cause, and prediction for the future.

Farms at Zellwood were purchased and converted to wetlands to help restore Lake Apopka. It turned out that water left on the converted land during the fall and winter may have had something to do with dying birds. Also, only fish-eating birds died, particularly American White Pelicans and Wood Storks. What is known now is that organophosphate pesticides left on the flooded land moved up the food chain to the birds, affected their brains, and killed them. A "toxic soup" of organophosphates has been found, but the most likely causal pesticide, said Dr. Basili, is toxaphene, a lethal compound, now illegal, made by combining pine resin with chlorine.

Dr. Basili said that the lake is on a major migration flyway and hosts around 100,000 birds of 39 species, most of which seem not to be affected by the present levels of pesticide. He predicted that fish-eating birds would return and thrive there as toxaphene hotspots are removed and the pesticides degrade into harmless substances. He said that visitors would be allowed soon, first to Clay Island which will be open this spring. Members were thrilled to learn that a Rough-leg Hawk had been sighted at the lake, a first for Florida.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Every night, about half way through the local news, a commercial is aired on each of the channels that extols the virtues of the state's sugar industry. Fresh faced school kids are shown being indoctrinated with slightly distorted facts about the industry's farming practices and its sense of corporate and community responsibility. Past history notwithstanding, we're supposed to be favorably impressed by this exercise in public relations. The ultimate goal here is to convince us all that it isn't necessary to have an Everglades Restoration Plan or its necessary expenditures of private and taxpayer funds.

Two years ago, in an effort to make it appear that this idea had broad popular support, a new player was brought into the picture. Citizens for a Sound Economy is a conservative think-tank founded by two brothers from Wichita who made millions in oil and gas exploration. CSE operatives began showing up at local hearings on the restoration plan. Clad in snappy polo shirts with the CSE logo, they opined that they were the "voice of consumers for free enterprise". They testified as "experts" that their polls showed that concerned Floridians didn't want tax

money to finance the project. Then their Foundation released a report that accused Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, of using unfair influence in selecting a panel to review the plan.

Now evidence has surfaced that Big Sugar gave \$700,000.00 to CSE. They did this while publicly stating that, in principle, they supported the restoration plan. Say one thing, do the opposite. Welcome to the world of public relations and manufactured consent.

A lot of progress has been made in cleaning and saving the Everglades and Florida Bay. A wide variety of interests (from Big Sugar to the homeowners who built illegally on the east side of the 'glades to developers with an eye to creating more golf course homesites) want to see this plan fail and the status quo maintained. They're going to have to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st Century.

I came across an article in last year's September issue of Smithsonian that I'd missed earlier. It solved a mystery I'd been dealing with since May of last year. On the Spring Migration Count, we saw some Red Knots with bands and tiny orange "flags" on their left legs. Having seen some students from the University of Georgia last year who were banding Red Knots at Merritt Island NWR, I tried in vain to contact someone in Athens who could tell me what the orange "flags" meant. The article provided the answer. The orange "flags" were placed on the birds when they were banded in Argentina; blue "flags" for birds banded in Brazil, green for those banded in the U.S. Red Knots fly incredible distances, roughly 18,000 miles each year.

Speaking of banding birds and Athens, Ga., the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has a satellite office there. They are conducting a five-year study of Painted Buntings. These colorful little birds have been declining at a rate of about 3% per year since 1966. They are being caught and banded with 4 bands, 3 colored and 1 silver. If you see a Painted Bunting at your feeder or anywhere, please try to watch it long enough to study the color of the bands on each leg, noting the relative position of the colors. There will be 2 on each leg and they can be any combination of colors, though one will always be silver. The use of these color patterns will allow individual birds to be recognized from a distance. Some of you may have already received a letter in the mail outlining this program. If so, simply follow the instructions in the letter. It is very important that we help out in this project if possible. If you wish, any Board member will be happy to forward your report to the PWRC office. This is another opportunity for you to make a positive contribution to bird conservation efforts, so keep an eye out.

BEGINNING BIRDING CLASS OFFERED

A class is scheduled for those of you who would like a great introduction to the fascinating activity of finding, identifying and observing birds. The class will be taught by **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr**, long time birding enthusiasts, who are certified to teach by Florida Audubon.

The classes will be held in the recreation building at Colony in the Wood, 2000 South Clyde Morris. (This community is south of Beville Rd., north of Herbert Street, on the west side of Clyde Morris.) Classes will be held on Tuesdays, March 7, 14, and 21 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Field trips will follow each class on Fridays, March 10, 17, and 24. The cost for enrollment is \$35.00.

Very little walking will be required on the field trips. Binoculars will make the observations of the various birds much more enjoyable. Take this relaxed class and you will be rewarded with new skills that will give life-long pleasure. If you love birds and nature, and want to become a more proficient birder, seize this opportunity, but be warned - birding is addictive.

To register, call John at 255-9360 or **Sharlene Fox** at 761-0301.

WETLANDS FIELD TRIP

On March 11, we will visit the Orlando Wetlands Park at Christmas, Florida, a lush and unique wetland area that has been adopted by Orange Audubon Chapter. Their chapter members will guide us around marshlands and impoundments to see raptors, Purple Gallinules, and probably Limpkins.

This park is the world's first large-scale wetland treatment system designed to polish nutrients from reclaimed wastewater. Over 170 bird species have been observed throughout the 1200-acre project. We will also visit Titusville's wetlands system, the Blue Heron Water Reclamation Plant, and look for their resident Purple Gallinules.

Be sure to wear walking shoes; bring your lunch, hat, and binoculars. We'll leave City Island right at 8 a.m. to be there by 9 a.m.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

by Diane Talley

Thanks to **Rachel Ramsey** and the Ways and Means Committee, and all of you who donated time, gift items, magazines, and suggestions, the Manatee Festival fundraising was a success. By selling donated and other items, we earned a grand total of \$221.00.

What do you do with your back issues of Audubon and wild bird magazines? When you are through with them, you might want to think about donating them to HRAS so we can give them away at future festivals.

We have more plans a'brewing and will be able to use your help. For instance, ever wanted to go to a mystery theatre? Did you every try to guess who dunnit? Have you ever played the game *Clue*? Come to our May 19th Mystery Theatre dinner presentation "Who Shot That Bird?" Did you?

PERSISTANCE PAYS FOR LAKE DISSTON

by David Hartgrove

Way back in 1997, **Ann Moore** and her neighbors around the shores of Lake Disston thought that their petition to have the lake declared Outstanding Florida Water would sail right through the nomination process. For the previous five years, she and others had been sampling the lake's pristine waters as part of a monitoring program run by the University of Florida. The folks in Gainesville told Ann that she and her friends should apply for OFW status since the lake is one of the cleanest bodies of water in the state. Ospreys, Bald Eagles and Swallow-tailed Kites soar over the shore and a wide variety of songbirds nest and migrate through the area. This is the kind of place the OFW legislation was passed to protect.

Then, just as the process seemed finally to be getting the attention of the state Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC), a plan was announced to build a 1,900-acre development adjacent to the lake. The plan called for 380 homes with septic tanks, a golf course and a bridle club. Built as planned, the development would turn the lake into a large cesspool. The developer hired more attorneys and mounted a PR campaign. Suddenly, ranchers and farmers, whose land use practices over the years had helped to protect the lake's waters, were being told that a bunch of pointy-headed bureaucrats were going to be nosing around their property telling them what they could and couldn't do. Feeling threatened, they sided with the developer, who of course was spreading the rumors in the first place.

With the attorneys threatening to tie up the decision in court for years and the prospect looming that this beautiful body of water would never be protected, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Lake Disston Lake Watch group decided to negotiate. In return for grandfathering in the development, the plans would be altered to relocate the homesites farther away from the lake and the stables moved to the other side of the property.

As another saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. So is a well-timed gesture. Just before the ERC voted to grant the OFW status to the lake and a portion of Little Haw Creek, Ann Moore handed each commissioner a tiny bottle of water she'd collected from the lake that morning. Then she turned hers up and drank it. She said she hoped to be able to do that again in twenty years. I think we all share that hope.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

1. The budget for 2000 was submitted and passed.
2. A letter was written to the Cape Canaveral National Seashore expressing the Board's concern over a proposed nude beach location as the location makes access to prime birding habitat difficult.
3. A Nominating Committee composed of **Tom Arbogast** (Chair), **Rachel Ramsey**, and **Jeannie Riley** was appointed to nominate a person to fill a Board member-at-large position. We have three members-at-large and they are elected for three-year terms. **Pat Mihalic's** term is up this year. The members-at-large can be re-elected. The Nominating Committee will present their nomination in April and the vote will be taken in May. Nominations from the floor are always acceptable provided you have the person's consent
4. **John Williams** will read a statement of opposition to the proposed beach rake at the appropriate county meeting. The beach rake would destroy much of the shoreline habitat by killing numerous small crustaceans that shorebirds feed on.

ENDANGERED LAND ACQUISITION

by *Lee Bidgood*

Volusia County Council supported a public referendum on a property tax increase to fund land acquisition. Under this initiative, Volusia County voters would vote whether to tax themselves to fund purchase of endangered lands for parks and preservation. Our county was the first in the state to pass such a referendum. After voters overwhelmingly approved a 0.25 mill (1/4 of a cent) property tax to fund bonds for land acquisition, the law took effect in 1986. The measure will expire in 2004, but all funds have been committed to pay off bonds issued for previous purchases. Any significant new purchases would have to come from a renewed land acquisition tax.

We owe much to the earlier referendum. Tracts along Spruce Creek in New Smyrna Beach, the Beck Ranch property (on right side of SR 415 going south, a little before one reaches the St. Johns River bridge) where many of us have gone birding, property next to Lake George and other important tracts were purchased. Volusia County has been a pioneer in public land acquisition and we need to maintain that leadership. The previous referendum offered another possibility for landowners to sell their land, if development was not what they favored, and the measure was supported by many developers as well as environmentalists.

The proposed referendum is especially significant because of the recently enacted "Florida Forever" state legislation. That bill would fund land purchases for parks and preservation but requires local matching funds. In

order to qualify for Florida Forever funds, Volusia County voters would have to support a tax to create a county land acquisition fund.

One especially significant kind of purchase would be recharge lands. High, dry sandy ridges are very critical areas for recharging our Volusia Floridan sole source aquifer, and such lands are also in demand for development. Sand ridges are important habitat for Florida Scrub-Jays, Gopher tortoises and other species that are dwindling in numbers because of urban and agricultural development.

The referendum, that we hope will be on the ballot this fall, would be one of the most important voting choices that Volusia citizens ever consider. It is never easy to muster support for a tax increase, and environmentalists will need to work for approval of this vital measure.


LYONIA PRESERVE FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, March 25, **Sue Habel** will lead a trip to Lyonia Preserve and Deltona Best Western Motel nature habitat.

The Volusia County Environmental Manager will meet us at the Deltona Public Library's auditorium adjacent to the preserve, show us slides of birds in the area and lead the group to the best birding sites. Volusia County preserved this large tract next to the library to save the native scrub habitat with its many birds and wildflowers. It teems with Florida Scrub-Jays, some of which will eat out of your hand.


Around noon we will leave for the excellent Best Western Motel Restaurant for our luncheon overlooking the nature habitat. Those who prefer can bring a picnic lunch to eat on picnic tables outside the restaurant. Afterwards we will walk through the small park, a Sandhill Crane habitat.

We will depart from City Island at 8 a.m. Be sure to bring peanuts for the scrub jays, and \$5-10 for lunch. Walking shoes, suntan lotion and bug spray may be helpful.



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WELCOME

Joanne Bullock, Ann Ceckowski, Lucy Christman, Stuart B. Compton, Patricia S. Curtis, Bruce Garrison, Beulah Neil, Cledith E. Oakley, Mr. John Plumley, B. Schemer, Frances Wilson, and Mrs. Martha M. Wolf have recently joined HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

HRAS COOKBOOKS

Buy HRAS cookbooks from any Board member. They are also available at BirdFeeders, 2279 South Ridgewood Ave. and at the Granada Gourmet, 153 E. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach.

THANK YOU

Virginia Buckner, and Lois Lovik for the delicious refreshments provided for our February Meeting.

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 45 - NO. 10 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY APRIL 2000

WE ARE DESTROYING THE EARTH

by President Lois Robinson

This article is based on an article of the same title in the April 2000 issue of Psychology Today.

April 22 is Earth Day and our record of protecting our natural resources is not good. Why are we not doing better in this arena? According to Dr. Robert Gifford, Ph.D., author of the book Environmental Psychology, most environmental damage begins, not with large companies or with governments, but with the cumulative actions of many individuals. We need to understand that the solutions lie with the decision-making of individual consumers of energy. Well-educated middle-class North Americans, most likely to have high environmental awareness, also use far more energy than Third World residents do.

Here are four over-riding ways we unconsciously damage the environment every day:

Energy use. One of our biggest priorities should be to curb our heavy use of fossil fuels. Burning these fuels produces greenhouse gases and ground level pollutants. A 1998 study in the journal *Bioscience* showed that pollution and other environmental factors cause 40% of deaths worldwide.

Convenience. We need to learn to walk or bicycle instead of driving when we can. We need to drive instead of flying when we can. U.S. commercial airlines, in a recent typical year, used 21 billion gallons of jet fuel. A Dutch study found that 20% of car trips are for journeys of less than one mile.

Overpopulation. The Population Reference Bureau reports the 20th century began with 1.6 billion people on the planet and ended with 6 billion. This is the end result of parents' personal decision to have a child or not. Many scientists feel we have too many mouths to feed even with great agricultural improvements.

Ignorance. We just don't place our daily behaviors in an environmental context. Our decisions are literally thoughtless when it comes to the environment. Think when you use electricity for any reason, think when you drive needlessly to the store again. Remember our natural resources are not inexhaustible.

Dr. Gifford suggests: Relocate as close as possible to work or school. Reside in a slightly smaller house. Fly less; take a train or drive. Vacation closer to home. Carpool. Communicate via phone, fax, or Internet. **Let's celebrate Earth Day by trying some of these ideas.**

WELCOME to those who 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.

Ms. Marguerite V. Ainsworth	Kendra Kornibe
Kathryn Albee	John S. Longden
Harriet A. Anderson	Ruby Marengo
Rose Berg	Dr. and Mrs. James Mason
Rob Bowden	Mr. Rowland F. McDowell
Karen R. Brophy	Diane Miletta
Donna Burley	Kelly Nixon
Donna Caruolo	Miss Priscilla Packard
Harriet Damesek	Ms. Annie J. Paul
Linda Chyll Decastro	James Rave
Theresa De Mouy	Willis Riddell
Walter L. Dobbins	Angelo Speno Jr.
Kevin Doxstater	Theresa M. Sridhar
Jackie E. Erans	Lulas Roverzno
H. Fitzwater	Ms. Lynn Shallenberger
Mrs. E. F. Fretwell	Carrie L. Stewart
R.T. Galloway	Leslie and Irene Taylor
Ms. Eleanor Hale	Irene Tworkowski
Gregory J. Himes	Dorothy Vichert
Wanda Howard	Rick Watkins
Jean Jennings	Gerald and Anne Williams
Big John	Frances F. Wilson
Marcia Johnston	Mrs. Alice Wing
Robert Justis	

OUR AUDUBON SOCIETY'S COUNCIL

Audubon of Florida is structured into seven councils. Our council is the Northeast Region Council and our Regional Representative is Carole Adams of the Duval County Audubon Society. The following lists Audubon Societies in our region, their location, and their membership in 1998.

Four Rivers	Lake City	177
Alachua	Gainesville	848
Duval County	Jacksonville	1,378
St. John's County	St. Augustine	356
Flagler County	Flagler Beach area	230
Halifax River	Daytona Beach area	511
Southeast Volusia	New Smyrna Beach	232
West Volusia	DeLand	284
Marion County	Ocala	404

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

The Everglades is under attack again. It's hard to believe that after five decades of research, countless studies and legislative hearings, the plan announced by the Army Corps of Engineers may be derailed by a coalition of sugar company lobbyists and the Miccosukee Tribe. Audubon of Florida President, **Stuart Strahl**, was the only member of the environmental community invited to speak at hearings before the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. The subcommittee chair wants to pass a bill to send on to the full House before the Spring recess, April 14th. The Everglades funding will be part of a much larger Water Resources Development Act. Water projects bills are notorious for squandering taxpayer dollars in pork barrel projects (the old Cross Florida Barge Canal comes to mind). Let's hope a reasonable compromise bill can be passed out of the committee and sent to the full house for passage.

If Volusia County has its way, Smyrna Dunes Park will undergo major changes. In 1976, the park was designated a Colonial Bird Nesting Sanctuary because of a petition filed by Southeast Volusia Audubon Society. The idea was to protect the Least Terns and Black Skimmers that nested in the dunes. But the dunes have been allowed to become overgrown with vegetation, denying the birds vital habitat. Feral cats and raccoons (until recently, fed by the parking lot attendant) patrolled the area making the dunes further unsafe for nesting birds. The county's plan calls for a new road and parking lot with 130 spaces — all of this at the end of a narrow, residential road that will already be further crowded when the new hi-rise condominium is built. The county has said this will be a good site for off-beach parking. Have any of these decision-makers been to the park?

It's hard to imagine a more unsuitable location for parking expansion. Several gopher tortoise burrows will be destroyed and prime vegetation for feeding migratory warblers will be plowed under and paved. The park is actually still federal land, managed under long term contract by the county. But the city of New Smyrna Beach has applied to take over since the feds have declared the land surplus.

So, what should be done? The park was declared a bird sanctuary over a quarter century ago. Let's insist that it be managed as one. Remove the vegetation that has grown up therefore denying the terns and skimmers nesting habitat along the inner dunes. Trap and neuter the feral cats. Fence off the dunes where terns and skimmers could nest if given the chance. And last, but not least, don't enlarge the existing parking facilities. If the parking lot fills, which it seldom does, close the park till some folks leave. That works just fine at Canaveral National Seashore.

BirdWatcher's Digest SUBSCRIPTION

A premier birding magazine *BirdWatcher's Digest*, with wonderful information about birds for beginners and experts, is available through HRAS. What's more, HRAS gets a healthy rebate when ordered through the Society. Send information and check for \$18.95 (for 6 issues) payable to *BirdWatcher's Digest* to **Jeannie Riley**, 4007 S. Peninsula Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32127-6516. You can call Jeannie at 767-9803 for more information. Or see Jeannie at the April program meeting to get a first-hand look at this great source of pleasure and information.

HRAS ANNUAL PICNIC

On May 6, 2000, we will be holding our Annual Picnic at **Angelo Cerrito's** home, 6065 Hensel Road, Port Orange. Gathering time is 11:00 a.m. or earlier if you want to get in some extra birding in the area. Bring a covered dish, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. Angelo and Co. will supply the meat. HRAS will supply beverages and paper goods.

The birding there is delightful as is the companionship of the group. Call Angelo at 767-5397 if you need more information.

TURTLES

by Beth Libert from *Turtle Tracker*, Winter 1999

Q Why do sea turtle hatchlings get caught in tire ruts when they can climb out of a 20-inch deep nest?

A Tire ruts are like the Grand Canyon to sea turtle hatchlings. Hatchlings crawl out of the nest in a joint effort known as an emergence. The 100-plus hatchlings work together to push sand and shells behind them as they crawl out. When hatchlings encounter tire ruts, the tire ruts act as a chute, leading hatchlings from their route to the ocean. They will crawl along the ruts for long distances until they wear themselves out or are taken by predators. Some hatchlings try to crawl out of the ruts but fall on their backs and have difficulty righting themselves.

PORT ORANGE EARTHFEST 2000

by Marie Oglesby

HRAS will have a booth again this year at the 11th Annual EarthFest event to be held on Saturday, April 15, 2000 at the Port Orange City Center Park in Port Orange from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date is April 16, 2000. The theme is "Party for the Planet."

We are in need of crafts and nature/environmental items to sell in the booth. If you can help out at the booth and/or furnish any items for sale, please call **Rachel Ramsey** at 673-1037 or **Marie Oglesby** at 767-5553. About 10,000 visitors are expected to attend. Please help us make this a memorable event!

MARTINS, BITTERNS AND PURPLE GALLINULES

by Glade Koch

On March 11, 15 of us traveled to 1650-acre Orlando Wetlands Park where Wetlands Analyst **Mark Sees** and Orange Audubon Society's **Bob Wheeler** warmly greeted us. Bob led our 2.5-mile walk on the berms and roads through the Park and was full of information on each bird we saw.

Purple Martins were nesting in old woodpecker holes in a drowned palm tree stand. We heard their conversations and watched males and females return again and again to their holes. We also watched American Bitterns for perhaps 20 minutes on two occasions. They often stood with beaks pointed straight up just like brown bullrushes and moved like grasses according to the winds to deceive us observers.

Some of us chose to do the 1-mile walk through the wooded area and saw two Purple Gallinules. One stayed out from his hiding place for a wonderfully long time.

We picnicked at the shelter house where we totaled species seen and Bob answered our questions.

Some of our group saw two Sandhill Cranes on our way to our second stop, Titusville's 230-acre Blue Heron Wetlands Treatment Center. We trailed in cars slowly around impoundments, some lovely with blooming yellow bladderwort and purple pickerelweed emerging from the water. Northern Shoveler and Ruddy ducks were observed. A wonderful, mighty little shower washed our vehicles and all the 144 species of plants of Blue Heron Wetlands. The very helpful staff supplied us each an informational brochure. They showed enthusiasm and respect for their natural marsh treatment system and its rich wildlife habitat. Bright sun ended our birding day about 2:30 with a total of 55 species seen.

AUDUBON OUTING TO THE LYONIA PRESERVE

by Sue Habel

Twenty-four travelers ventured to Deltona on Saturday, March 25th for a tour of the Lyonia Preserve. Led by **Randy Sleister** and **Katrina Snelling** from Volusia County Environmental Management, the group thrilled to the excitement of Florida Scrub-Jays eating out of their hands and perching on top of their heads. Other exciting sightings included Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers and Eastern Towhees.

Following the tour of the preserve, the group wended their way along Lakeshore Drive, past Lake Monroe (no, we were not lost) to the Best Western Deltona Inn. There they were met with a picture window view of ponds and more birds. After lunch we walked the natural area behind the Inn and spotted Wood Ducks, White Ibis, Killdeer,

Aningas, Red-winged Blackbirds and heard the haunting call of the ever-elusive Northern Bobwhite we had tried to locate at the Lyonia Preserve.

Many photos were taken on the trip. Bring yours to the next meeting so that we can share the experience that everyone agreed was a different and rewarding trip.

WAKULLA SPRINGS TRIP REMEMBERED

by Lois Robinson

Who could forget ...

— Seeing flocks of a hundred or more Sandhill Cranes flying noisily overhead?

— Enjoying the beauty of Blue Hole Springs at Ichetucknee Springs State Park?

— Singing with **Carol Branch** on the bus?

— Mourning with **Meret Wilson** over the loss of her pet Lory?

— Going on the lovely boat trip and the outstanding birds on the Wakulla River?

— Filling our stomachs with good food at the buffet table?

— The flocking of cardinals on the grounds of the Lodge in response to the owl tape?

— The wide expanses of wetlands, marshes, and hammocks at St. Marks Wild Life Refuge?

— The total of 111 species of birds seen on the trip?

Thanks to all of you who were a part of it.

WASHINGTON OAKS EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

by David Hartgrove

Once again we've been asked to participate in the Washington Oaks State Gardens Earth Day Festival. This year the festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th. If you've never been to the gardens, it's hard to imagine a more beautiful spot for a festival. Once again, we'll have our information table out there all day. We provide tips on bird identification, give advice on bird feeding questions, and introduce newcomers to the thrills of bird watching. Last year a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were excavating a nest in an old cabbage palm not far from our table. We provided binoculars to passersby and their expressions were priceless. Most had never looked at a bird through binoculars before. They went away with a better understanding of those folks who slam on brakes and jump out of the car (binoculars in hand) when no one else sees what the hubbub is.

If you're interested in putting in a few hours at the table, answering questions and seeing a lot of smiling faces, please contact one of the board members. The phone numbers, etc. are listed on the back page.

CALENDAR

NOTE: HRAS field trips will originate at the east parking lot of the County Court House Annex on City Island on Orange Avenue at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted. On Saturday's, please do not park at the edge of the grass to make mowing easier.

Friday, April 7

HRAS Field Trip. Dora Canal, led by **Willie Burns**. Boat ride: \$15.00. Train ride: \$8.00. Restaurant lunch.

Thursday, April 13

West Volusia Audubon Society trip. New Smyrna Dunes boardwalk and beach, inlet and ocean. Call **Phil Gotschall** at 985-0820.

Saturday, April 15

Orange Audubon Society sponsors "Welcome Back Songbirds" Youth Camp, Wekiva Springs State Park. Build nest box or bird feeder to take home, bird rehabilitation, bird games, mist-netting and bird-banding demonstrations. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. \$4 per car. For information call 407-884-2008.

Saturday, April 15

EarthFest Celebration at Port Orange. See article in this issue.

Monday, April 17

HRAS Program "How to Rescue Wildlife" by **Pat Mihalic** and **Meret Wilson**.

Friday, April 28

HRAS Field Trip. Lake Disston trip, led by **David Hartgrove**. See article in this issue.

Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30

Earth Day Festival at Washington Oaks State Gardens. See article in this issue.

Wednesday, May 3

West Volusia Audubon Society trip. Alligator Farm in St. Augustine. Call **Phil Gotschall** at 985-0820.

Saturday, May 6

HRAS picnic at Angelo Cerrito's home. See article in this issue.

Saturday, May 13

HRAS Spring Bird Count led by **David Hartgrove**. See article in this issue.

ARTHUR MORRIS, PHOTOGRAPHER

by Madeline Shaddix

The HRAS meeting on March 20 was held at the City Island Library and was cosponsored by the Volusia County Library and Halifax River Audubon Society through the efforts of **Sue Habel**, Cooperative Partnerships Manager and our Chapter President, **Lois Robinson**.

Arthur Morris, acclaimed bird photographer, presented a program of some of his outstanding slides, with his accompanying narrative.

He gave us a glimpse into Arthur Morris, the man, as well as the photographer. Born in New York in 1946, he taught school there for years before blending his passion for birds and cameras into a new career. As he moved into bird photography full time, his totally supportive wife and number one fan, Elaine, accompanied him on his forays in their motor home. Their travels took them all over the country, capturing the various birds in their different habitats.

Tragically, in 1994, Elaine lost her battle with cancer. Her lingering influence on his life was beautifully reflected in his slide presentation, which he dedicated to her memory. Those magnificent images took us along on birding trips from the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea to Kenya, and to some of North America's "Top Ten" birding places, such as Point Pelee, Churchill, Bosque del Apache, and in his home state, Florida. He illustrated the awesome results obtainable with today's technology, particularly using the new Cannon image stabilizing lenses.


Arthur's goal is to prove that art can be created with a camera when an artist's eye looks through the lens. Those who attended that night will agree that he has attained this goal. The birders, the artists, the camera buffs, and the romantics in the room all had a WOW! experience.

LAKE DISSTON TRIP

Lake Disston, a pristine lake, has recently been declared Outstanding Florida Water. And much of the success of that distinction has come from the efforts of **Ann Moore**, who will be our hostess when HRAS treks to the lake Friday, April 28. Ann and **David Hartgrove** have planned a pontoon boat ride for us.

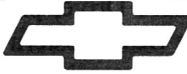
We'll depart from the Court House Annex at City Island at 8:00 a.m. and proceed north on US1, then west on county road 304. We'll stop first at a sod farm on our way in hopes of seeing Upland Sandpipers. We expect to get to Lake Disston around 10:00 a.m.

Bring a picnic lunch. David says that the only eating out place is the Jiffy, which has pickled eggs, Slim Jims, Moon Pies, and pig's feet. But we can get plenty of water to drink – right out of the lake.



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VOLUSIA NEWS ITEMS

- A Peregrine Falcon has chosen the southwest front of the Adam's Mark Hotel to perch and look around for her dinner.
- Birds such as sanderlings and gulls on the beach and robins in other nearby areas have been found dead for no discernable reason. If you discover dead birds, contact **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 who will make an effort to determine the cause.
- Volusia County Mosquito Control drives a truck around neighborhoods at various times to spray to kill mosquitoes. If you do **NOT** want your house sprayed, call (904) 239-6516, give them your name and address and tell them not to spray your house and yard.
- Painted Buntings are becoming rare on the Atlantic Coast and birders are asked to help assess where they can be found. If you see a banded bunting please write down the band colors indicating the location of each band such as Left Top, Left Bottom, and note whether it is a multicolored bright male or a green female. Also record the location and date observed. For more information, call the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Athens, GA at (800) 688-9889.T
- **Tom and Gina Holt** of *Computers.Tom*, a computer store at 312 Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach, have donated a computer and printer to **Mary Keller**, local Bird Rehabilitator, so that she may be better able to keep records and reports. Mary says that she and her son are getting used to using it and are very grateful for this addition to facilitate her record keeping. Our thanks go to the Holts for supporting Mary in this manner!

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to all the people who responded to our call for second-hand bird magazines. We have picked up several wild bird and *Audubon* magazines and even some *Smithsonians* to give away. Also donated were Audubon Bird Books and Encyclopedias. So if you are doing spring cleaning, please remember to call **Diane Talley** at 358-3816 to pick up any magazines or books you are planning to toss and let us give them to the public at future festivals.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

1. Authorized purchase of a popup tent for use at Earthdays, festivals and other activities of the Society. **Marie Oglesby** will investigate quality and costs and recommend at April Board meeting.
2. Voted donation of \$100.00 to Friends of Lake Woodruff who provide benches, manned scopes and other useful services to visitors to the Refuge, a favorite birding site for **HRAS**.

PRISCILLA PEACOCK PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS

A NIGHT OF MYSTERY

"WHO KILLED DA BIRD?"

Come join us May 19th at 6 p.m. at Seabreeze United Church, 501 North Wild Olive Avenue in Daytona Beach for dinner and Great Bird Mystery.

Tickets are only \$20.00 per person, so send your check to reserve your place to **Diane Talley** at 155 North Lanvale Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114-3429 or call 258-3826 or email dytalleystr@aol.com. Tickets will also be available at the April program meeting.

Don't miss all the fun, frolic, singing, prizes and a chance to solve the Great Mystery.

KELLER'S KORNER

We are getting into baby bird season now and have already had some unfortunate little ones to enter the Keller's sanctuary. Mary says she will be in need of the following this month: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Hand Feeding Formula, white paper towels, wild bird seed, suet blocks, high protein baby cereal, finger mullet, small cans of cat food and apples.

Mary is also in need of a freezer as her own is not large enough to handle her family needs as well as the fish, etc., for the birds. If anyone has a used freezer no longer needed, please call her at 252-2794.

You may take items directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call **Marie Oglesby** at 767-5553 for pickup and delivery. Any items will be greatly appreciated!

THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT 2000

by *David Hartgrove*

Participants in last year's migration counts may remember that there was a question as to whether or not we'd be doing migration counts this year. The state compiler had to relinquish the job and no one stepped forward to take over that daunting task. It turns out that we can still do a Volusia County survey and simply forward it to the national compiler. The folks in West Volusia Audubon Society, anxious to begin planning for their participation, have already contacted me.

Once again, it'll be the second Saturday in May (May 13) and is a scheduled field trip. As usual, this will be an all day event but we can easily accommodate those wishing to do a half day. I'll be contacting potential team leaders soon and it helps if you can let me know as soon as possible whether or not you want to participate and, if so, for how long. This is a lot of fun and provides valuable information to the national biological database. Call or e-mail me. We hope to see you there.

THE PELICAN



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

Names & Numbers

April 2000

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

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Gail Lincoln	673-9535
Corresponding 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

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 Kieran	672-2927
Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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>

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Diane Talley	dtalleystr@aol.com
John Williams	jwill390301@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

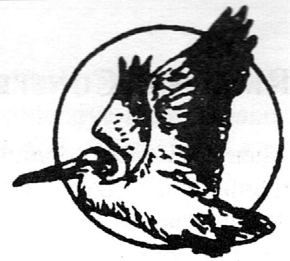
Meetings are held the third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! The Board of Directors meets the First Monday of each month at City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach at 2:00 p.m. All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

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ALWAYS?

If you want to receive *The Pelican* when you are away, you must let us know your correct address. Remember, we remove your name from our mailing list if your newsletter is returned by the Post Office: they do not forward bulk mail (the P.O. charges us \$.50 for each returned newsletter). Contact **John Carr**, noting your name, departure/return dates, and forwarding address, and you will get your newsletter all year. John is at 357 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311, (904) 255-9360, or e-mail jcarr14@juno.com.

THANK YOU! Rachel Ramsey, Mary Ellen and Susan Baker, Ruth Hough, Gail Lincoln, and Lois Robinson for the delicious refreshments provided for our March Meeting.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 45 - NO. 11 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY MAY 2000

HIDDEN LANDS

by President Lois Robinson

In the fall of 1999 National Audubon Society proposed establishing a separate national wildlife refuge service within the Department of the Interior. As it stands now, national wildlife refuges are under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, by and large, doing a good job, the national wildlife refuges are limited in the amount of funding they receive and they are less visible than the National Park Service and the Forestry Service, for example. By separating the national wildlife refuges from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuges could be better promoted to Congress and to the American people and could better develop their full potential, according to National Audubon Society.

NAS states "the National Wildlife Refuge system is the world's largest network of lands dedicated primarily to wildlife conservation, with the potential to be a model of innovative land management and successful wildlife protection for the world to witness." The national wildlife refuge system covers more than 93 million acres in all 50 states and 5 U.S. territories. It contains an incredible variety of eco-systems: deserts, forests, tundra, swamps and coral reefs, to name a few. It also contains an outstanding diversity of wildlife from the Porcupine Caribou to the West Indian Manatee. The refuge system protects more than 2,000 fish and wildlife species, about one-tenth of which are listed as threatened or endangered.

We benefit from our local wildlife refuges, Merritt Island and Lake Woodruff, and we know how enriched our bird life is because of their being located in our area. I would like to see more funding for our local refuges so they would be able to do more educating, more research and more advocacies. If you are interested in supporting the proposal by National Audubon Society and to promote legislation that would create the National Wildlife Refuge Service as a bureau within the Department of the Interior, write your Senator and/or Representative to that effect.

You may log onto www.audubon.org/campaign/refuge/ for more information.

Thank you and good birding!

CALENDAR

NOTE: HRAS field trips will originate at the east parking lot of the County Court House Annex on City Island on Orange Avenue at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted. On Saturdays, please do not park alongside the grass so that it can be mowed easier.

Wednesday, May 3

West Volusia Audubon Society trip. Alligator Farm in St. Augustine. Call **Phil Gotschall** at 985-0820.

Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6

Earth Day 2000 at Bicentennial Park, Ormond Beach.

Saturday, May 6

HRAS annual picnic at **Angelo Cerrito's** home. See article for information.

Saturday, May 13

HRAS Spring Bird Count led by **David Hartgrove**.

NOTE: Contact David for departure time/place.

Saturday, May 13

International Migratory Bird Day.

Monday, May 15

HRAS Program "Audubon of Florida Program for 2000 to 2005" by **Clay Henderson**, Past President of Florida Audubon.

Friday, May 19

HRAS MYSTERY DINNER THEATER See article.

Saturday, May 20 - Date Change

HRAS Field Trip. Ocala National Forest for woodpeckers, led by **Lois Pauchey** and **John Carr**.

NOTE: Meet at 8 a.m. at Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Blvd.

Monday, June 5

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, September 18

First **HRAS** program meeting of the 2000-2001 year.

No HRAS activities are planned through the summer. We hope to see you all at the program meeting in September.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

by David Hartgrove

When Florida Audubon underwent its recent reorganization, the single statewide Conservation Committee was divided into five separate committees. These are composed of chapters surrounding the state water management districts. Hence, our chapter is one of eight chapters of the St. Johns River Water Management District Regional Conservation Committee. The first meeting of this group was held on Saturday, April 15th, at Merritt Island NWR. The chapter presidents and/or conservations chair were asked to attend this meeting. Since **Lois Robinson** was out of town, **Fran Carr** and I went down for the event. The Painted Bunting Fran saw at a Haulover Canal birding stop on the way down vied with the breeding-plumaged Prairie Warbler for highlight of the ride.

Chapter representatives told the group of the concerns that they had in their local areas that they felt could have regional or statewide significance. The two main requests we had of the state organization were for them to provide technical resources for information when challenging local government actions, and to hold workshops on how we could be more effective when dealing with state and local regulatory agencies.

We all agreed that aside from habitat loss due to rampaging development, storm water runoff was the major environmental issue facing the state. It's the largest single source of water pollution in Florida.

After the morning session we drove to Dixie Crossroads, the excellent seafood restaurant in Titusville. Indian River Audubon's representative to the committee is **Laurilee Thompson**, manager of the restaurant. The huge, delicious lunch she donated to us consisted of rock shrimp, steamed shrimp, fried shrimp and all the trimmings. Needless to say, Ms. Thompson was a very generous (and popular) person.

We put together a basic organization plan for this new committee. Meetings of the St. Johns Conservation Committee will be held quarterly, a month before the regular meetings of Audubon of Florida's board. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early June. I think this new structure has the potential for enhancing chapter effectiveness in our ongoing struggle to preserve our environmental heritage. We do have our work cut out for us.

AUDUBON ADVENTURE FOR FALL 2000

by Glade Koch

National Audubon Society Education Office in New York is compiling **Audubon Adventure** Kits for the 2000-2001 school year. We, too, are gearing up to contact elementary grade teachers and supporters. Professional environmental educators develop AA kits. Kits contain

scientifically accurate facts on birds, wildlife and their habitats and needs. Four environmental newspapers, a video (Disney Animal Adventures), a teacher's manual and a poster are included in the kit. Next year's topics include OWLS, ENDANGERED SPECIES and THE LIVING OCEAN.

Class kits are \$35 but with a \$5.95 shipping and handling charge, **HRAS** pays \$40.95 for each class kit. Individual kits are \$19 and with shipping and handling, **HRAS** pays \$23.95. Please contact **Glade Koch**, Education Chair, for more information and please send your checks made to Halifax River Audubon Society to Glade at 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1145.

We have already received our first teacher renewal for next year from a teacher at St. Paul Catholic School. Here's a quote: "All of us enjoyed the kit very much. The video on the Bald Eagle was a tremendous hit with the pupils. We would love to continue receiving the kit next year, if at all possible."

The **HRAS** Board and the Education Committee hopes YOU can help our area school children receive **AUDUBON ADVENTURES, 2000-2001**.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

The April 17 program "Wildlife Rescue" by **Meret Wilson, DeeAnn Snyder, Michelle Anthony** and **Pat Mihalic** covered a variety of rescue procedures for songbirds, shorebirds, raptors and mammals. **Meret**, who is a volunteer at the Audubon Bird of Prey Center in Maitland, told our members and guests the basic steps that are necessary to capture and transport an injured raptor. **DeeAnn**, a wildlife rehabilitator, instructed in how to successfully rescue and stabilize shorebirds. **Pat**, who represented bird rehabilitator **Mary Keller**, had a long list of "do's and don't's" for rescuing songbirds. And lastly, **Michelle**, a wildlife rehabilitator who specializes in mammals, told how to rescue small mammals. The information they provided for the animal's best chance for survival is: "take any injured bird or wild creature to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible, keeping the animal warm, quiet, dark, and contained." The members found out that many of the procedures that we use to help sick domestic animals are lethal to wildlife, especially birds.

If you find an injured wild bird, a baby bird or an injured mammal, the best help you can give it is to call one of the rehabilitators.

Mary Keller (Birds) (904) 252-2794

DeeAnn Snyder (Shorebirds) (904) 761-0731

Meret Wilson (Raptors) Beeper (904) 820-3629

Michelle Anthony (Mammals) (904) 767-4339

Bird of Prey Center (Raptors) (407) 644-0190

Pat Mihalic was nominated for Member-at-Large position on the **HRAS** Board of Directors.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

The Republican-led Florida Legislature has declared war on the state's environment. There can be no other explanation for what is going on in Tallahassee this legislative session. Term limits will remove sixty-three legislators at the end of this year. Since these folks don't have to worry about reelection, several (most notably **Sen. Kirkpatrick** and **Rep. Albright**) have filed bills that would set Florida back half a century in the fields of environmental protection and growth management. Bills to prevent local governments from exerting any form of control over farming, ranching or logging operations are sailing through committees. Another bill, to give away thousands of acres of submerged lands in direct violation of the state constitution, will also likely pass. Then, there are bills to restrict citizen participation in growth management decisions, weaken drinking water testing standards and to make Rodman Dam and Reservoir the newest state recreation area. As a smoke screen to divert public attention, Rep. Albright (who owns a couple of barbecue franchises) is trying to have himself declared State Secretary of "Barbecue". That he professes to see no conflict of interest in this joke is evidence of just how twisted things have become in our state's Capitol. The voters in his district have a lot to apologize for.

The hope is that **Governor Bush** will exercise some leadership and veto these idiotic bills before they're unleashed on the state to wreck its future. The prospect of this happening became clouded when the Governor appointed **Ken Wright** to chair the Environmental Regulation Commission. This commission is supposed to be made up of disinterested "lay" citizens who will meet to set regulatory standards for rules proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Wright is a powerful land-use attorney who has spent the better part of his career arguing in court on behalf of his clients against the rules he's now been appointed to enforce.

By the time you read this, the only possible action you can take to help preserve the future of this state for yourselves and future generations is to call or write to the governor and ask him to please exercise his veto powers over these dangerous bills. He will have gotten so much mail about specific bills that if you simply ask that he do what's right to protect Florida's environment, even he should know what you're talking about.

BIRDING CLASS

Eleven lively students kept **John Carr** and **Lois Robinson** on their toes for a total of three classes and three field trips during the month of March. It was fun for the teachers and we hope for the students as we covered such topics as bird identification, bird habitat, migratory patterns and birding equipment. On the field trips we

went to Port Orange Causeway Park, Spruce Creek, the Volusia County Landfill and productive areas around the Home Park of Colony in the Wood. Many thanks go to **Madeline Shaddix** and her family for setting up the class. Participants included **Eileen Costa**, **Elaine De Camara**, **Anita Emory**, **Ine Holtrust**, **Clare Kreukker**, **Elaine Linbaugh**, **John Linbaugh**, **Lavada Sain**, **Rita Shamer**, **Betty Vogel**, and **Charlie Weaver**.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The committee is asking you to donate magazines to be recycled by giving them away. In this way we can promote **HRAS** at festivals, and share our love of nature with others. Call **Diane Talley** at 258-3816 for pickup or bring them to the next meeting. *WildBird*, *Audubon*, *Smithsonian*, etc. are the types of magazines we would like. Help us tell others about **HRAS**.

HOW TO FOCUS YOUR BINOCULARS

by Larry Lane, extracted from the *Eagle's Nest*, newsletter of the Lake Region Audubon Society, Nov.-Dec. 1999.

Binoculars are the birder's most important piece of equipment. Seeing clearly through your binoculars is easy once you know how. It takes a bit of leaning and a little patience. *Only you can focus the binocular for your eyes.*

To focus, you need a printed sign or a sharp vertical edge (a building) or some other sharply defined pattern in an object approximately 20 to 40 feet away. For best results, rest your elbows on something solid. Most newer model binoculars have a center focus and a separate focus for the right eye.

With the *left* eye only, look at the pre-selected object. Adjust the center-focusing wheel until you can see the object *clearly*. Move the wheel back and forth to determine which position is clearest. When maximum clarity has been obtained do not change the center-focusing wheel. Rest your eyes for a moment.

With the *right* eye only, look again at the pre-selected object. Adjust the right eyepiece until you can see the object *clearly* by moving the eyepiece back and forth. When the focus is clearest, do not change it.

Look at the object with *both* eyes (do not move either focus). If the object isn't clear, redo the prior steps until you are fairly satisfied. Look at another object nearer or farther using the center focus only. If not clear, redo the prior steps. Correctly set, the focus is correct for all objects, far or near.

Look at the measurements on the right eyepiece without moving it. Note there is a scale, generally with + to the left, - to the right and a zero in the middle. See where the scale sits in relation to the bar shown on the main part of the binocular. Memorize it. *This is your individual focus.* Turn the eyepiece back to that spot if it gets changed, or set other binoculars to your focus while you use them.

MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE, MAY 19th

Come dine with us, have a great meal, a good mystery to solve, and give to a worthy cause. The dinner is meat and vegetarian lasagna with all the trimmings, the mystery is **"WHO KILLED DA BIRD?"** and the good cause is Halifax River Audubon Society. The drama begins Friday night, May 19th, at 6 p.m. sharp at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive. Dinner will be served while all around us the mystery swirls with avian undertones and singing overtones (the Sweet Adelines). The cost is only \$20.00 each. Where else could you get such an evening of such fun and food. Bring your friends. If you can't come, sell a couple of tickets to your neighbors or bring them too. We must have reservations, as seating is limited. Call **Diane Talley** at 258-3816 or **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480. By the way, if you can, dress in a 1920's outfit or a reasonable facsimile. It will be a Hoot (owl, that is).

APRIL'S BACKYARD BIRDING

Willie Burns

This morning the Barred Owl alit on the wire over my bedroom window. Almost immediately the Carolina Wren arrived and began loudly giving his alarm call. He rapidly changed location, with the Owl twisting his head to watch all the while.

Finally Owl departed, and Wren moved to the birdbath for a much needed cool swim! Yes, it was drizzling, but a nice plunge. He bounced in and out of the water, twittering merrily and softly the while.

The "bird bath" kind of transmogrified from the lower plate of a hanging planter. The plant died last year so the hanger and plate were hung on the carport to await the next plant. It filled with rainwater from the roof and became a welcome drinking spot for the Mockingbird.

Now the Mocker and Wren regularly use it, Wren mostly for bathing. It is even self-filling when it rains! I have not seen the Cardinals in it, although they hide in the lower bushes near by when the Red Shouldered Hawk sails noisily over us.

David Hartgrove

Breeding season is in full swing. My neighbor called me over to see the somewhat sloppy nest of a sitting Mourning Dove in a grapefruit tree. A pair of Fish Crows have set up housekeeping in the top of another neighbor's pine tree, much to the consternation of the area's mockingbirds, and the Least Terns are back-diving in the local retention pond. Life goes on.

Madeline Shaddix

This spring looks like another dry one. I would like to encourage you to provide water for the birds. The method that you choose can be very simple or elaborate, but there are some ground rules: the water and its container have to

be kept clean, so place it in a convenient place to flush it with a hose. Also, the birds need cover nearby, as they are vulnerable to predators when they are bathing or wet. A small tree or shrub works well, but ground cover can hide a stalking cat.

I have found that moving water is especially irresistible to them. I have a mister in a small tree in my yard that has given me wonderful looks at some species that I never would have coaxed into a feeder. The mister seems to be particularly enjoyed by small birds such as warblers and occasional Painted Buntings. There is a bigger payoff for your efforts if you can place your water near a window. This permits glances out to check for feathered visitors.

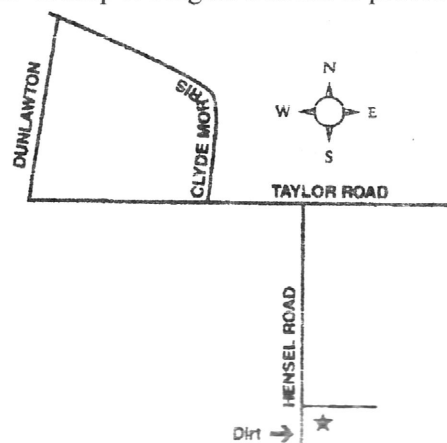
ORANGE AUDUBON PHOTO CONTEST

The theme for the 12th annual Orange Audubon Society Chertok Nature Photography Contest is **Florida's Frogs, Flowers, Ferns and Fungi**. This is a 35-mm slide competition, open to all ages. The subject matter must be native to Florida. Here is a fun, and possibly profitable, way to learn something about Florida's native plant and animal life — especially those that fit this year's theme. Prizes are \$125 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. Each place winner, as well as those awarded an honorable mention, also receives a ribbon. The deadline for entries is May 18, 2000, with the winners announced at OAS' annual potluck dinner and slide show of photo contest entries, which will be June 15, 2000. A registration form with rules for the contest can be obtained by giving your name and address to **Loretta** (407/886-2925 or irmo-ss@worldnet.att.net).

HRAS ANNUAL PICNIC

On Saturday, May 6, 2000, **HRAS** will be holding our Annual Picnic at **Angelo Cerrito's** home, 6065 Hensel Road, Port Orange. Gathering time is 11:00 a.m. or earlier if you want to get in some extra birding in the area; the eating begins at 1:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. Angelo and Co. will supply the meat. HRAS will supply beverages and paper goods and dinner rolls.

The birding there is delightful as is the companionship of the group. Call Angelo at 767-5397 if you need more information. A map to Angelo's house is provided below.



CLAY HENDERSON TO SPEAK

Clay Henderson, past President of Florida Audubon Society (now Audubon of Florida) will be with us for our program May 15th. We are honored to have him in our midst and he will have much to share with us about where we are headed as Audubon members in the 21st century. Clay presided over the transformation of FAS as it became Audubon of Florida. All of us will benefit from his contributions and his leadership, especially in the last few months. Don't miss this important meeting. Clay has much to share and a great deal of information each of us needs to have.

Mr. Henderson stated in a recent article: "Our most significant challenge is winning the battle in our own communities. While we have achieved victories in Tallahassee and Washington, we are losing the war to cancerous urban sprawl in every community in Florida. Collectively, we are losing over 200,000 acres of open space and habitat to sprawl every year." Clay believes the answer lies with the local chapters. We need to hear his ideas and insights.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

President Lois Robinson called for a meeting June 5, 2:00 p.m. at the City Island Library to plan programs for the HRAS 2000-2001 year. Ideas and suggestions from members are urged and welcomed.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove will conduct a Least Tern census in May and will welcome help.

ACTION 1. The Board authorized a letter to be sent to area legislators protesting the Sovereign Land Grab Bill, otherwise known as HB 1807 and SB 1824.

ACTION 2. The Board approved purchase of a 10x12x12 canopy.

ACTION 3. The Board approved initiating budget item to collect donations for the purchase of a scope to be used on HRAS field trips.

DORA CANAL TRIP

by Willie Burns

On April 7, a boatload of HRAS birders boarded a pontoon boat at the Heritage Lake Tours dock on the Dead River in Eustis. Captain David Hollander, our pilot, and his wife, Lynne, who narrated our tour, showed us in the next two hours how "Dead River" was a decidedly wrong name for this beautiful waterway.

We cruised slowly west to Lake Harris, then to a Great Egret rookery on Lake Eustis to the north. Along the way we saw many Purple Gallinules, one less than three feet from the boat and willing to be photographed! Nesting Great Blue Herons and Anhingas filled the trees. A power line carried the nests of twenty or more Osprey.

Alligators, several large Florida Green Water Snakes and at least one Brown were seen, along with herons,

egrets, ibis, and two Limpkin who noisily announced their presence so we would not miss them.

The many nesting Great Egrets at a rookery on Lake Eustis are accustomed to boats and ignored us completely. While our boat stopped when we were almost on top of them, they went about their business in total unconcern. All sizes of young were present.

Following a trip cross the lake we entered the high point of the trip, the Dora Canal. This is actually another slow moving river linking Lake Eustis with Lake Dora. It was left unspoiled by the loggers nearly a century ago.

Two and three hundred foot tall cypress trees reach aloft, their tops battered by storm winds and lightning. Several are over 800 years old! The nests of Great Blues, Osprey, Anhingas, and most of the egrets were everywhere.

Many of our members were able to add the hard to find Prothonotary Warbler to their Life Lists. The lovely little birds obligingly announced themselves in song before hopping boldly about on tree trunks and bushes in plain sight.

Also in close view were several Green-backed Herons, more 'gators, some Great Blues within three feet of the boat, posing for pictures, and large number of Wood Ducks and their ducklings.

The trees rang with the croaks of young Herons and other birds. The trees form an interlaced canopy overhead to provide shade and a fine frame for photos. In one location a tree had fallen overnight, causing a small concern about damage to propellers.

The Lake County Water Commission maintains the waterway. Nothing is removed from the area, merely cut and thrown aside to keep the channel clear. Logs lie moldering on both sides, returning to the Circle of Life.

We ate at the charming Gables Restaurant in Mount Dora in a large room all to ourselves. There was a special event in progress at Mount Dora that weekend but despite the crowds, the service and quality of our lunch were excellent.


Sadly, our planned train ride was cancelled because of a breakdown, but we didn't really miss it because our morning had been so fulfilling.

The Hollander's run their boat all week, closed on Sundays. If you would like another boat ride, or missed the field trip, you can reach them at (352) 343-4337. You will not be disappointed!



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

Names & Numbers

May 2000

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

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Gail Lincoln	673-9535
Corresponding 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

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 Kieran	672-2927
Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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>

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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! 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 at the May General Membership Meeting.

WELCOME

Ana Cekowski, Ms. Gayle Clark, Linda Ann Hensley, Nancy Kay Moore, and Jewel L. Slingerland 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

Thank you **Pat Mihalic** and **Fran Carr** for the delicious refreshments provided for our March Meeting.

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 45 - NO. 12 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JUNE 2000

BIRDING HELPS THE ECONOMY

President Lois Robinson

Birdwatching is a growing business. Let me share with you some facts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of which you may not be aware. You are helping the economy while you are birding.

Sixty-three million people in the U.S. watch and feed wild birds each year. That works out to one out of every three adults. One survey in 1990 found that twice as many vacationers preferred to watch birds rather than play golf. (John Carr and I, attending the "Teach the Teacher" Birdwatching Class, were told that birders coming into Florida spent more money than golfers visiting the state.)

Birdwatching is most prevalent between the ages of 30 and 70. Still, one in five adults between the ages of 16 to 29 say they watch birds. My 43-year-old daughter has just set up a birdbath and feeders in her back yard and she is amazed how much she is enjoying it. She thought she had to be retired to get hooked on birding.

Birdwatching is one of America's favorite forms of outdoor recreation, baseball notwithstanding. Far more adults in the U.S. birdwatch than play baseball

Bird-related recreation contributes enormous sums of money to local and state economies. Americans spend more than \$3.5 billion each year on birdseed, birdhouses, birdbaths and birdfeeders. Eighteen million adults take trips annually for the express purpose of watching birds. Of course, on these trips they spend a great deal on equipment and supplies.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, birdwatchers spend an average of \$100 million in each state, birdwatching supports more than 200,000 jobs and generates in the U.S. more than \$1 billion in state and federal taxes.

As you have read, environmentalists are encouraging third world countries to preserve their natural habitat so they might benefit from the money and jobs birders bring into their countries. It makes sense to me.

But I have yet to reconcile this amount of money and jobs generated by birdwatchers around the world with my article in the April *Pelican* which stated that the more we travel, using fossil fuels and using up precious resources the more we are polluting our planet. Which do we choose---stay home, live simply and help the environment or travel, spend generously on birding activities and help the economies of our country and others?

CALENDAR

Monday, June 5

HRAS 2000-2001 Program planning meeting. All members welcome. See article in this issue.

Tuesday, June 6, 1:00 p.m.

"Volusia's Environmental Treasures." Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Thursday, June 8

HRAS 2000-2001 Field trips planning meeting. See article in this issue.

Tuesday, June 20, 1:00 p.m.

"Florida's Rare and Endangered Plants." Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Saturday, June 24, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

"Florida Forever: A Conference on Conservation." Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Monday, September 18

First HRAS program meeting of the 2000-2001 year.

MYSTERY DINNER THEATER POSTPONED

The Mystery Dinner Theater has not been canceled, only postponed until January 2001. The Ways and Means Committee members, who are working very hard to bring you an excellent and entertaining program, decided we would have more people able to attend in January than we would have this month when many of our members are out of town. More on this later.

THANKS

To **Jan Petito** and **Barbara Kieran** for the delicious refreshments provided for our April Meeting.

MARY KELLER

Baby bird season is now in full swing and Mary Keller needs the following supplies to help care for the 100+ babies in her care plus the ill and injured: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Hand Feeding Formula, wild bird seed, millet sprays, suet cakes, small cans of cat food, white paper towels, old towels and wash cloths, and small aquariums. If you can supply any of these items, please take them directly to the Keller home at 1216 Denece Terrace, Holly Hill (off Derbyshire north of Mason Ave.) or call **Marie Oglesby** for pick up and delivery: 767-5553.

Mary says that a large number of her patients are due to roaming cats and irresponsible tree and bush trimming. Check for nests before trimming, try to keep cats inside.

LAKE DISSTON FIELD TRIP

by *David Hartgrove*

It was a beautiful sunny morning when we met at City Island for our trip to Lake Disston. By the time we arrived at the southwest Flagler County home of our hostess, **Ann Moore**, scudding gray clouds darkened the skies and the rising wind was pushing white caps across the lake.

On our way we stopped to check out a small, wet pasture on the north side of the road on CR 304 in Flagler County. This was a good stop: Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red Shouldered Hawks, and a pair of Blue-winged Teal in a small pond.

We were looking forward to the pontoon boat trip on the lake since that was headlined as the highlight of the trip. But the wind and the white caps made that idea downright unsafe. Though it was out of her control, Ann apologized for the weather and, undaunted by the cast on her injured foot, took us for a short bird walk along Lake Disston Road. She showed us two Swallow-tailed Kite nests, both of which were from last year. A pair of kites earlier had refurbished one, in late March. After sitting in the nest for several days, the birds suddenly disappeared. Birds from both of these nests were radio tagged last year and tracked to Cuba, southern Brazil and back to Lake Crescent and Lake Woodruff. While we ate lunch, Ann gave us a talk on the history and hydrology of the lake. We said good-bye and headed off for a final stop. Again, our sincere thanks for her hospitality.

Several of the folks along with us said they'd never seen a Brown-headed Nuthatch. We took a different route back to Daytona so we could stop in Plantation Pines, a known nuthatch hangout. The dirt road we stopped on wasn't the one I was looking for, but it turned out to be the right one. After ten minutes of "pishing" and playing the owl tape, we were about to get in the cars when **Rob Bowden** said, "Is that a warbler?" It turned out to be the Brown-headed Nuthatch. We were feeling quite pleased with ourselves as the tiny bird continued to cling to the side of a pine tree. Then he or she hopped around the trunk and into the nest hole in the dead branch that had been right in front of us all along! For the next ten minutes we watched through a scope as the parents worked in relays feeding the unseen, hungry nestlings inside.

Who knows? If we'd gotten to take the pontoon boat trip, we might have missed the nuthatches. Either way, it turned out to be a fine day.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

by *Pat Mihalic*


As we all know, Ospreys build their nests on the tops of trees, where they have a good view of the surrounding area. This year three pairs have chosen to build at area ballfields. The first call I received was from **Pat Kosuta** from South Daytona who was very concerned about the

Osprey nest on top of a light pole at the new ballpark on Big Tree Road. She was afraid that when the lights were turned on it would result in a fire or at the very least it would disturb the nesting pair. I advised her to call South Daytona City Manager **Joe Yarborough's** office. She was directed to their animal control officer who told her that they were aware of the situation and that they had disconnected the light. He told Pat that they are going to construct a platform on a nearby pole and move the nest after the babies had fledged and the nest was empty.

The second nest was brought to my attention by Daytona Beach's *The News-Journal*. On the front page was a picture of an Osprey nest on top of a pole at the Ormond Beach ballfield on Nova Road. I reached Ormond Beach's **Alan Burton** who informed me that this was the second year for the nest and that the birds were not the least bit disturbed by the lights at the park. He told me that the city had purchased a platform from Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) and would be erecting a pole nearby and moving the nest after the babies had fledged and the nest was empty. Their reason for moving the nest was not because of the fear of fire or of disturbing the birds, but because the birds had built the new nest on top of the old one and they were concerned about the size. He felt that the presence of the Ospreys at the ballpark was very important to the children who play there. He assured me that the birds held a very special place in the hearts of all that have watched the activity in the nest for the past two years.


The third nest is on top of a light pole on the soccer field at Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University on Clyde Morris Boulevard. I spoke with their Community Relations Department's **Tom Vogel** about the nest. He was not aware that they had an active nest on the field, but assured me that he would notify his staff to keep an eye on it. He informed me that the field was undergoing renovations and the lights were not being used. He is also going to call FPL to inquire about a platform that they can place on an adjacent pole to accommodate this nesting pair.

If more people were like those from South Daytona Animal Control, Ormond Beach's Alan Burton and Tom Vogel from ERAU, maybe wildlife would have a better chance in our world.



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LETTER FROM GALAPAGOS

by *Pat Bennett*.

The Galapagos – “Islands of the Turtles.” The place is a magic kingdom, and I don’t mean Disney’s. Even if you’re near-sighted (as I am), and if your binoculars aren’t strong enough (as mine aren’t), you can’t fail to see birds. On Genovesa Island you walk right up to Red-footed Boobies. There are 200,000 pairs in the Galapagos Islands! Their young are white fluffy cuddly balls that look almost as big as their mothers – sometimes even bigger when glimpsed in nests together. Short-eared Owls stand on rocks watching for petrels flying by. Unlike most owls that are nocturnal, these owls are diurnal, giving them more time to hunt. A good plan, it would seem.

Magnificent Frigatebirds are everywhere. March is mating season, so males with puffed out red pouches to attract females are sitting over mangrove branches – usually 3-4 males surrounding one female. We saw them in the same courting mode flying alongside our ship. Most sea birds nest around June, July, or August. Frigatebirds are pelagic sea birds that feed far from the coast. They are the pirates of the bird world, stealing food from other birds. Frigatebirds have no preening glands for feathers; therefore, they would drown in the water if they dived in. Boobies, on the other hand, preen themselves twice a day so that they can dive for food and avoid frigates.

Nowhere can you better observe birds’ courtship and mating than on the Galapagos. The Masked Booby has a hilarious ritual, which we observed. The male offers small sticks to the female for nest building. If she accepts the stick, they mate, if not, he offers one after another until she is pleased. The funny part is that these birds no longer build nests; they lay eggs on the ground, delineated by circles of guano. The custom is anachronistic and, like male human rituals, symbolic.

On the way to Floreana (one of the islands Darwin visited), we saw a myriad of Swallow-tailed Gulls sitting amongst the rocks on the cliffside. Their guano has whitewashed the grayish-brown rocks below. On land Blue-footed Boobies, Whimbrels, sandpipers, and, appropriately, Darwin finches abound. These finches are the birds studied by Darwin that had evolved from a common ancestral stock and adapted to conditions on each island, providing the proving grounds for his theories on evolution. Galapagos Herons live there too. If you can’t recall the name of a bird, just put “Galapagos” or “Darwin” in front of dove, finch, hawk, or mockingbird, and you’re probably right.

No animals on the islands are afraid of humans – a very unusual experience for most of us—so you get closer to them than in a zoo or aviary. If you can avoid stepping on sea lions with offspring nursing, you see Darwin finches nesting in giant cacti, colorful marine iguanas digging

holes for nests, and Hood Mockingbirds. Hood mockingbirds (named for Hood Island) are like vampires. They attack baby birds of other species and drink their blood because they need liquid during a drought. Darwin’s “survival of the fittest” in action! Another interesting survival technique can be observed in Galapagos Hawks where four males mate with one female, and all stay together. The female lays two eggs. Two babies are born, but only one lives to grow up. The older, stronger chick kicks the sibling out of the nest and it starves to death. Apparently, the reason for two eggs is so that one will live and carry on the species. If by chance both chicks survive, the mother bird will not live so long as the mother with only one chick does. Only 800 hawks are left on the islands, so survival is necessary.

The Waved Albatross favors the island of Espanola. This wandering bird, with the broadest wingspan of any on earth, can fly for five years before landing to mate, so they’re not always around to see. Lava Gulls and Red-billed Tropicbirds go flitting by like blown confetti. On land the Large Cactus Finch is able to eat because cacti on this island have soft spines. The hard, sharp spines are no longer needed to protect the plant from giant tortoises as none exist on Espanola. Espanola, the oldest island, has moved 100 feet southeast over the years.

Plovers, pelicans, Yellow Warblers, flamingos, Black-billed Stilts, terns, Mourning Doves, flycatchers and penguins (the smallest in the world) are amongst the many birds scattered throughout these islands. The Galapagos Archipelago is truly a birdwatcher and naturalist’s dream. For anyone who can walk over lava rocks on volcanic islands in the tropic sun of the equator, it’s an unforgettable experience.

CLAY HENDERSON ADDRESSES HRAS

by *Lois Robinson*

Monday night, May 15, Past President of Florida Audubon Society (now Audubon of Florida) **Clay Henderson** spoke to Halifax River Audubon Society. He began his message by sharing with us some birding highlights from his recent trip to Egypt and the Middle East. Clay’s main emphasis for this evening was on land acquisition plans for Volusia County. Our county has to raise matching funds so that we can participate in the Florida Forever program launched last year by the state legislature. The only way, realistically, we can save wild lands for our birds and for our grandchildren to enjoy is to buy land which will become part of the public trust, safe from development. Clay stated there are still parcels of land around Spruce Creek and along the St. Johns River that need to be kept forever undeveloped. He urged us to contact our county council members to let our wishes be known.

JUNE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

President Lois Robinson

You are invited to attend our June Planning Meetings. We need your ideas and welcome your participation!

1 Program planning for the year September 2000 through May 2001 will be in the Board Room of the City Island Library June 5, Monday at 2 p.m. The Board of Directors makes up the Program Committee but all are welcome. If you have ideas but can't come, call **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480

2 Field Trip Planning Committee for the coming year will meet Thursday, June 8 at 2 p.m. at **Barbara and Stephen Kieran's** home, 1843 Old Tomoka Road, Ormond Beach, 672-2927. Directions: At intersection of I-95 and SR-40 (Granada Blvd.), go west on route 40. Turn left at the second traffic light (Tymber Creek Road). Go about one block, then turn left on Old Tomoka Road. Drive to the end. Their house is the last house on the left. Call 672-2927. Call **David Hartgrove** at 788-2630, if you have field trip suggestions.

We will be putting out a brochure as usual in the early fall with program and field trip dates and information.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Four of the worst environmental bills ever to reach the floor of our state's legislature went down in defeat on the session's final day. Thanks go to Senate Majority Leader, **Jack Latvala** and Senate President, **Toni Jennings**.

The Sovereign Lands "Land Grab" Bill, the Rodman Reservoir Bill, the Growth Management Bill (should have been titled mismanagement), and the Administrative Procedures Bill all died a well deserved death thanks to the many folks who called Tallahassee and pleaded with their legislators to vote to save Florida's future. No doubt, we'll see some if not all of these bills back in some form next year. They lost by slim margins and their supporters will be looking for new friends. DEP Secretary **David Struhs** can prevent the reappearance of the Rodman bill by exercising his authority and having the dam removed and the Oklawaha River restored. You could e-mail Secretary Struhs: STRUHS_D@epic5.dep.state.fl.us and ask him what the hold up is. The funds have been appropriated and all he has to do is issue the orders.

One bad bill did slip through. The so-called "Right to Farm Bill" essentially eliminates local control over farming operations. Included in this bill was an exemption for agricultural interests from responsibility for contamination of soil and water by pesticides. This portion was made retroactive. So whoever polluted the Zellwood property will almost certainly not have to pay for the damage. Governor Bush could still veto this bill.

A small item tucked away on an inside page of the paper announced that an administrative law judge had

concluded that constructing a cement kiln wouldn't harm the Ichetucknee State Park two miles away. Anderson Columbia, the company seeking to build the plant has been reaping profits by desecrating the land of our state since the early 1940's. They've been involved in bribing public officials, some of whom are currently serving jail terms. Perhaps the path for the plant has been greased by the substantial campaign contributions that have been made. There have been so many questionable actions involving this plant and its permitting that, in my opinion, a federal investigation should be launched.

I've heard the first plaintive cries of the fledgling mockingbirds. I've seen Brown Pelicans carrying nesting material. When I spoke with **Ann Moore** at Lake Disston last week, she was attempting to count the nestlings in a Wood Stork colony. The breeding season is well underway. While most water bird populations will be adversely affected by the continuing drought, Old Flinthead, as the Wood Storks are called, should do well. The shrinking ponds and canals help them to find prey.

Have a good summer and be careful. We'll see you all in September.

OCALA NATIONAL FOREST FIELD TRIP

by John Carr

The trip's highlights began at the parking lot on **Granada**, by spotting a Green Heron building a nest. Then a Common Moorhen swam out of the rushes followed closely by two tiny chicks. A third chick attempted to join, but the mother pecked it until it retreated, unfed. This is nature's way of insuring that with a limited food supply, some of the chicks will survive. Florida Scrub-Jays were spotted on SR 40 and also in the National Forest. The purpose of the trip was to locate Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and seven were spotted in two locations. Red-bellied, Red-headed, Downy, Northern Flicker, and Pileated Woodpeckers were seen also. Trip leader **Lois Pauchey** led us to the spots where the Red-cockadeds were found. Eight observers were certainly rewarded on this last field trip of the year.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Glade Koch is collecting donations to purchase and supply *Audubon Adventure* Kits for fifth grade classes for the 2000-2001 school year. A complete kit for a class costs \$40.95 and an individual kit costs \$23.95. It is not necessary to donate an entire kit, as **HRAS** will be happy with a donation of any size. You can contact Glade at 253-8438 for more information.

You may send a check, made to the Halifax River Audubon Society, to Glade at 128 Fiddlesticks Circle, Daytona Beach FL 32114-1145.

MAY BOARD MEETING

ACTION The Board approved a donation of \$100 to Audubon of Florida for the Birds of Prey Center.

...MORE ON WATER FOR BIRDS

by Madeline Shaddix

A good timer on your type of water source for birds is a very handy addition, as it doesn't need to run 24 hours a day, and turning it off and on manually is time consuming. In my yard, I have had the most bathers in my water sources in the afternoon, from about 2 to 6 PM.

Ground level is the natural place for birds to find water, and a dripper, mister or pump that provides movement and sound, adds appeal to a receptacle there. I have had some real surprises in my water on the ground; the most recent was a Sharp-shinned Hawk. But if you have outside cats, that may be inviting disaster, and a better choice is a birdbath on a pedestal or a mister in a shrub. If you decide to get more elaborate than the basic shallow dish, local birding stores may stock some options, or Avian Aquatics 1-800-788-6478 will send you a catalog.

I can't promise you that you will have a constant stream of new birds, but water is a necessity for life and an inexpensive attraction. It may be a good alternative for those of you who want to attract birds to your yard and do not choose to go through the hassle or expense of maintaining feeders.

AUDUBON SUMMER CAMPS FOR ADULTS

*Environmental Workshops and Programs Offer Adults
Chance for Outdoor Adventure*

Five Audubon camps located in Maine, Wyoming, Minnesota, Connecticut and Wisconsin, offer week-long sessions from June to September that allow grown-ups to enjoy outdoor adventures in a camp setting. Ranging from \$450 to \$975 per person per session, Audubon camps include meals, lodging and activities.

Maine

Campers will experience boat excursions, island hikes, seabird island visits and other field trips. The camp's facility on Hog Island, just 60 miles northeast of Portland, is also the base of operations for Audubon's Ornithology Program. View colonies of Atlantic Puffins with **Dr. Stephen Kress**, Director of Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program and Audubon's Project Puffin.

Wyoming

In a valley below Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, the Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp is home to scores of wildlife, including moose, beavers, bald eagles, trumpeter swans and big horn sheep. In addition to classes in geology, animal behavior, plant study, aquatic habitats, birds, big horn sheep and invertebrates, the staff offers sessions on Native American petroglyphs, uses of plants, star gazing, and conservation in the West.

Minnesota

The Minnesota Experience: challenging skywalk ropes course and climbing wall, or simply grab a good book and get comfortable at one of the Center's lakeside overlooks. The 535-acre sanctuary provides the perfect setting for the discovery of aquatic organisms, bird life and beaver ecology. An additional feature of the Minnesota camp is Audubon Adventures, a program for educators.

Connecticut

Specially designed for teachers and educators, the Audubon Center in Greenwich is located on a 522-acre sanctuary complete with original homestead buildings and a 200-year-old barn. Participants will study a variety of ecosystems first hand, and learn real world techniques for educating and exciting students about the environment. Lectures and lab sessions support outdoor studies, and emphasize practical teaching methods for classroom teachers, youth group leaders and community educators.

Wisconsin

Campers will discover plants and wildlife unique to the region's cold, acidic environment. Canoe and boat excursions are used to study water chemistry and wildlife, which includes deer, wolves and black bears. For the adventurous, snorkeling excursions to investigate the underwater world more closely take place along the lakeshore. Evenings feature campfires, stargazing and a traditional "fish boil."

For more information or to register, please contact the appropriate Audubon camp directly: To register online, visit www.audubon.org/educate/cw.

Connecticut, Minnesota, Wyoming 888/404-7743

Maine 888/325-5261

Wisconsin 715/635-6543

LETTER FROM GAYLORD, MICHIGAN

by Joan Treves and Carol Branch

These "group names" came from a wonderful book by James Lipton called *An Exaltation of Larks* published by Grossman Publishers in 1968. It is an absolute favorite of ours, and we try to use the proper names if we can - then we usually laugh.

A murmuration of starlings	A gaggle of geese
A covey of partridges	A murder of crows
A rafter of turkeys	A fall of woodcock
A ostentation of peacocks	A congregation of plovers
A mustering of storks	A watch of nightingales
A parliament of owls	A sparkle of goldfinch
A bouquet of pheasants	A flight of swallows
A descent of woodpeckers	A walk of snipe
A peep of chickens	A paddling of ducks
A siege of herons	A charm of finches
A dule of doves	An unkindness of ravens
A cast of hawks	A host of sparrows
A spring of teal	A tidings of magpies

THE PELICAN



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

June 2000

Names & Numbers

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Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
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Willie Burns	253-2150
Meret Wilson	672-2625

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Education	Glade Koch	253-8438
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Hospitality	Barbara Kieran	672-2927
Publication	John Carr	255-9360
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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>

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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 not held during the summer and will resume September 18. 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.

WELCOME

Leonilda D. Amico, Lesly H. Arnold, Ann Awdey, Jeanne Barbour, George W. Britton, Ms. Linda M. Clay, Rita Davis, Mr. Robert W. Elton, Ms. Phyllis Frazier, Kayla Gasper, Mr. David Glaysher, Rashida N. Hakeem, Cathy Hames, Allen Hull, Patricia R. King, James G. Lamar, Marilyn J. Lavelle, Florence Lichtl, Wayne McDole, Ms. Kathryn Morris, Tammy Niebielski, Jean C. Royce, Estelle Sabasko, Lavada M. Sain, Raymond Scory, Joyce Smith, Dorothy H. Spak, Ms. Josephin Termini, Mrs. Linda J. Vosbury, Joe and Sherri White, and Karol Wunk 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. 46 - NO. 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JULY 2000

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

President Lois Robinson

In the recent Florida Naturalist (Spring, 2000) there is an article I want to call to your attention. Audubon of Florida is developing a new program entitled "Important Bird Areas". Under the leadership of **Bill Pranty**, Audubon of Florida is seeking to do more than acquire conservation lands (important as that is). We want to identify key areas for maintaining bird populations and protecting habitats of rare species beyond what we are already doing in our wildlife refuges and bird sanctuaries. These important bird areas may be privately or publicly owned, and they may encompass only a few acres, but they should be large enough to supply all the needs of a targeted species during its residence on site. Heavily disturbed or artificial sites are generally excluded. I am writing this to let you know that we (Halifax River Audubon Society) are submitting a site we hope will meet the criteria and be included as an Important Bird Area. This site is the Port Orange Causeway Park under the Dunlawton Bridge. Many of you have been delighted at the number of species you have been able to count there including Yellow and Black-Crowned Night Herons, Reddish Egrets, American Oystercatchers, a pelican and egret rookery, Marsh Wrens and even an over-wintering female Oldsquaw. Also loons and mergansers are seen there frequently in the winter. If this site is accepted it, will be included in a book to be published in late 2001 or early 2002.

Some of you may know of private holdings that might meet the criteria. Private lands must have landowners that are committed to long term conservation. If you do, contact **David Hartgrove** and he can give you the details. This program has been successful in Europe as well as in Pennsylvania and New York and ought to be a boon to our resident and migratory friends.

SOCK IT TO 'EM

Don't throw out your old, beat-up white cotton socks. We need them. **Shirley Owens** says they are used by the Lake Apopka Field Station to help replant the shoreline of the lake. It works like this. First any holes in the socks are stitched up by sewing machine, then the socks are filled with sand, a grass stalk is stuck down into the sand and the socks are tied around the stalks. A bunch of these filled socks are then dropped off into the water near the

shore. The heavy socks drop to the bottom, the grasslets root through the cotton onto the shoreline, and the socks eventually disintegrate. In a few years, a more beautiful shoreline is built for all of us, humans and water creatures, to enjoy.

Start saving your old socks now and bring them to a HRAS meeting this fall to give to Shirley, or you can get in touch with Shirley at 677-0385 or bring them to her home at 22 Ponce de Leon Drive, Ormond Beach 32176.

A SUMMER TREAT

by Lois Robinson

If you are hot and bored sometime this summer, check out the Museum of Arts and Sciences new exhibit by **Clyde Butcher** entitled *Visions of Florida and Visions for the Next Millennium*. Mr. Butcher is a photographer and lives in Florida. His photos are black and white after the style of Ansel Adams and are some of the most striking and beautiful Florida landscapes I have seen. He states one of his goals is to "preserve and restore the environment" and certainly his works speak volumes. Tuesdays are free for seniors at the Museum, other days there is a charge.

MEMORIAL TO GAIL LINCOLN

by Lois Robinson

We are all mourning the loss of **Gail Lincoln**, our recording secretary, who passed away May 30th at Florida Hospital in Orlando. Gail had a Master's Degree in Nutrition and served as chief nutritionist for the Maternal and Infant Care Project at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, before coming to Florida. While in our area, she worked in the nutrition department of Memorial Hospital in Ormond Beach. She was married to **Dr. David Kitay**. Along with her dedication to and participation in HRAS, Gail was active in the Seaside Herb Society, the Native Plant Society and other environmental organizations. She also mentored students while volunteering with the Volusia Literacy Council. We loved Gail for her courage, her cheerful spirit and helpfulness to all of us.

HRAS is planning a memorial in her honor. It will be a birdbath with a memorial plaque, the location of which will be announced later.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

ACTION 1 The Board approved a memorial to Secretary **Gail Lincoln** to consist of a birdbath with a plaque, to be installed in a public place. **Lois Robinson** and **Barbara Kieran** will report at next Board Meeting.

ACTION 2 The Board approved purchase of magnetic signs for sides of cars while on chapter field trips and business. These will be funded by a donation from members **Carol Branch** and **Joan Treves**.

SNEAKY SNAKE

by Meret Wilson

It never occurred to me that I could get to do what I am most passionate about as a real job! I was hired to monitor for nesting species at the Inlet Jetty Extension Project at Ponce Inlet. The Army Corp of Engineers provided a list of migratory birds that are known to nest in our area. My job is to cover a certain portion of the Inlet twice a day watching for nesting tendencies. In effect, I get to birdwatch and get paid for it! I am the "Bird Police".

There have been herons, egrets, plovers, rails, terns, pelicans, and even two gannets that I rescued from the mudflats in April. There is such a plethora of birds (besides shorebirds) on that tiny little space I am in charge of, but none has stolen my heart like the little Wilson's Plovers who dared, against all odds, to nest on the island.

A tiny little barking sound first alerted me to the Wilson's Plover pair. As they scurried ahead of me, or flew around to get behind me, I learned how they attempt to confuse an intruder as to where a nest might be. It took three days of diligent hunting to locate the depression with scratch marks all around and lined with a few shell pieces. Over time I learned their different calls, diversionary tactics, peculiarities, and personal characteristics. And they in turn became tolerant of me and my daily inspections. Then one day, three little brown speckled eggs appeared, and according to my nest book, in 24 days there would be three new little plovers to delight me.

With the help of the park ranger we put up "No Trespassing" signs and netting and set about viewing the Wilsons from afar. Everything proceeded nicely and we were only 4 days away from the first hatching. Sunday evening, the female was sitting on the nest. She was so used to me now that she didn't even jump off any more. The male was barking out his usual warnings. Things looked real good.

Then along came Sneaky Snake. In the dark of the night, Sneaky Snake slithered up behind the unsuspecting female. With swift strikes she and her three little eggs were gone. When I returned on Monday morning to do my usual run, I found a frantic male running all about and crying out a different call than I had heard before. I didn't see the female anywhere, but after keeping my distance

for the last 20⁴ days and with the nest empty for a moment, I went over to take a look at how things were going. Empty. The nest was empty. Only the carefully placed seashell pieces remained. My eyes filled with tears. I could see the snake slither marks on the ground and could only imagine how it all happened. My heart broke for the Widower Wilson. For days after that, walking past the empty nest, I felt sad and lonely

Just as there is always a new day to come, so there is knowledge that life does go on. Nature adjusts, redesigns, replenishes and brings wonderful surprises. Three Wilson's Plovers appeared, one of them being the Widower Wilson along with a female and a bachelor. As I watched Widower Wilson win a stand off with the younger plover then start digging little depressions in the sand, flinging bits of shell to line them, I knew he had won the heart of a new female. A couple of days later I actually saw them mate and now the whole cycle is starting over. In 24 days there will be a new plover brood. Just beware of Sneaky Snake.

WHOOPING CRANES IN SAMSULA

by David Hartgrove

The Whooping Crane is the largest wading bird in the United States. It's also one of the rarest birds on Earth. In 1941 there were just 15 left. Through a comprehensive captive breeding program and the placing of some whooper eggs in the nests of Greater Sandhill Cranes, those meager numbers have risen to around 500. Ten percent of those are in Florida. Those of you who attended our January meeting this year heard **Steve Nesbitt** of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission describe the program to reintroduce a breeding, non-migratory flock here in the state. Most of these birds are in areas south of Gainesville and around the Kissimmee Prairie.

But not all of them. Two of them showed up in Samsula on the Spring Migration Count. Their presence created quite a stir among local birders. The birds were seen almost daily in a pasture that had been flooded due to the continuing drought. This attracted the cranes and lots of other birds. Both of the cranes are banded and both have satellite-tracking devices on their left legs. They have been seen "dancing", which is the main form of courtship and bonding behavior. So far, there have been no reports of nest building activity. The migratory flock that winters in Texas, nests in June in Canada. There's still time for our non-migratory birds to nest this year. If they do, it'll be quite an event. Last year saw the first Whooping Crane eggs laid in the wild in Florida in well over one hundred years. Some unknown predator destroyed that nest. This year they hatched two eggs, but predators destroyed both chicks. Let's hope "our" birds are more successful.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by *David Hartgrove*

By the time you read this, the Bald Eagle will have been removed from the Endangered Species List by the Department of the Interior. This is a victory for not only the Endangered Species Act and the Bald Eagle Act of 1940, but for the EPA's decision to ban DDT in 1972. In 1968 (6 years after the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*) only 2,772 Bald Eagles were counted in the lower 48 states. In 1979, the count was up to 9,824. Alaska has always had large numbers of the species. Now Florida is second only to Alaska in the number of nesting and wintering Bald Eagles.

So, somewhere in the bowels of the Interior Department the decision was made that the bird had recovered enough to be "de-listed". They will continue to be protected under the 1940 Act as our national bird, though in spite of heavy fines, they're routinely shot by bored or inexperienced hunters. But a much bigger threat to their survival is the loss of habitat. Yes, there are such things as "Urban Eagles". They have somehow been able to tolerate the encroachment of our housing developments' increased land use. But these few birds won't be able to salvage the species if there's another crisis like DDT.

When the decision was announced to de-list the Bald Eagle, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that essentially, nothing would change. The birds would still be protected. The incident involving the nest at Julington Creek* causes even the casual observer to wonder about just how strenuously that protection will be enforced.

* See the article in this issue on the Regional Meeting.

LEAST TERNS

by *David Hartgrove*

This is the last year of a 5-year study of nesting shore birds conducted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). Due to the large numbers of people using Florida's beaches, Least Terns (and some other species) have adapted to using roof tops for nesting. But not just any roof top will do. It must be a gravel roof, no more than 3 stories tall and near a water source that provides the small fish necessary to their survival.

HRAS, along with other Audubon chapters, was asked to assist in the study since there are too many suitable roof tops available for the FFWCC folks to cover while they look at all the natural sites too. A roof top colony can be as small as 3 or 4 pairs or as large as 100 or more pairs. River Point Apartments, at 1025 S. Beach St. here in Daytona Beach, used to have one of the largest colonies in the state. But about half the buildings there have had the roofs replaced with a new vinyl surface that is of no use to the birds. The loss of these nesting sites is one of the greatest threats to the survival of the terns. Last year, the

largest colony in our area was on the City Island Library.

At our December meeting **David Ackley**, from Duval Audubon, described some methods he has developed to help insure the survival of the chicks once they've hatched. One is the installation of short, lightweight fencing around the perimeter of the roof to prevent the chicks from wandering off the edge while looking for shade in the brutal heat. Building owners are not always amenable to this solution. Another, and perhaps better, solution is to install small, temporary shade devices. These consist of a 9"x9"x1" piece of wood mounted on 4, 3" wooden legs. These provide not only shade but give cover from avian predators. They can be easily placed and removed after nesting season. This year, there are only three roof top colonies in our area: The Boater's Lounge, at the north end of Halifax Marina, the K-Mart in Ormond Beach, and the Volusia County Correctional Facility. Management personnel at each of these locations have cooperated with us. Shade devices (approximately 1 for every 4 pairs of birds) are installed on the first two.

Least Terns are listed as a "Threatened" species, one step below "Endangered". The idea is to keep them from reaching that next plateau. They are in our area for 4 or 5 months to nest and then spend the rest of the year in Brazil and Argentina.

My thanks to **Rachel Ramsey**, **Meret Wilson** and especially **Ray Scory** for their help in compiling this year's data for the study. These little birds need all the help they can get.

LOCAL ACTIVISTS LOOK TO WATER

by *Alexa Abercrombie Ross*

The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Ormond Beach Action Committee pronounced water the most all-encompassing environmental concern, and hosted the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in a water workshop on Saturday June 10th.

The first speaker, **Dr. Don Brandeis**, manager of the water conservation program, said the state's five water districts were created in the early 1970's and have the responsibility for monitoring water supply for all reasonable and beneficial uses, water quality, flood protection and natural systems. The District helps local governments with comprehensive land use planning. *Water 2020* is the supply plan for the future and predicts a 24% increase in use over 20 years. Recreational demand (golf courses) will increase a third. Overall use will rise from 1995's 57 million gallons per day to 72 mgd in 2020. A 22-foot drawdown in Orlando is anticipated.

Many of us feel the district rubber-stamps development and sprawl while current residents are scrimping now. District development constraints are: minimum levels and flows in streams and lakes, salt water intrusion, the needs of existing legal users, and native vegetation or wetlands.

Rural areas use much less than urban areas. Alternative supply possibilities include: aquifer storage and recovery; recharge, with reclaimed water; brackish desalinization (far less salty than seawater); reuse of reclaimed water; mitigation for natural systems; and more conservation. Raw water diversion and pumping stations are another possibility.

The St. Johns River runs from the Indian River 270 miles to Jacksonville and drops only twenty-two feet in that distance. A dam would flood too much land to be practical. Salt water is upwelling into the river from the deep aquifer, which has a "lens" of fresh water floating on it. During times of high river flow, extra water might be treated and stored, but this is an expensive \$500 million dollar project requiring federal, state and local support. There are technical solutions to our future water supply needs - the sticking problem is the political will to implement them.

The second speaker was **Katherine Pordeli** of SJRWMD. Nineteen counties make up our water district, relying on groundwater for 90% of their needs. 39% of the water goes to public supply, 35% to agriculture.

Only 1% of earth's water is fresh and available; (2% is frozen in the polar ice caps) and 97% is seawater. Our Florida aquifer extends into Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. It took the natural system millions of years to develop the pressure of its springs. Millions of gallons per day are removed and the demand is increasing.

Hard to believe, but Florida's average rainfall is 54-57 inches a year. Yet only a small amount, ten to twenty inches, ever returns to the deep aquifer. Sinkholes arise from fissure in the underlying limestone of the aquifer.

We are water hogs, using in Florida 175 gallons per person a day, while Britain uses only 59 gallons and France, 30. Sadly our population continues to increase while the supply does not. In our district, per capita use is 152-169 gallons per day, while in the Keys, where water is piped for miles, residents consume 75 gallons a day. Half of our water use is indoors, half outdoors. Wastewater treatment costs two to four times as much as fresh water. Delivery costs for 1000 gallons range from 94¢ to \$4.12.

Clearly xeriscaping (xeros = dry) or the use of drought-tolerant low-maintenance native plants, is the way to go, and cuts water use in half. Pordeli outlined the seven principles including soil analysis, planning, grouping plants with similar water needs, use of native vegetation, efficient irrigation, and wise use of grass and mulch to hold moisture, reduce weeds and keep the temperature constant.

Some Florida friendly ground covers are aloe, coontie, saltmeadow cord grass, pink muhly grass; flowers include periwinkle, daylily, stokes aster, blanketflower, amaryllis lily, and purple cornflower; some vines are allamanda, beach morning glory, coral honeysuckle, yellow jessamine, passion flower, shining jasmine, creeping fig,

and bougainvillea; shrubs include necklace pod, palmetto, pampas grass, seagrape, wax myrtle, beautyberry, butterfly bush, arborvitae, and Indian hawthorn; and trees, bald cypress, bottlebrush, crape myrtle, dwarf elm, yaupon holly, shumard oak, slash pine, redbay, sugarberry, Washington palm and sweetgum. All this and more is in the SJR-WMD publication *Xeriscape Landscaping*.

Automatic shut-off devices for lawn watering have been required by law since 1991: when the cup fills with rainfall, irrigation ceases. Grass lawns are an oasis, needing watering, once or twice a week in summer, once every two weeks in winter. Watering from 4-8 a.m. is legal, at a rate of 2/3 to 3/4 of an inch, because of the low evaporation rate before sun-up. Water droplets magnify the sun's heat and can burn plants at midday.

If you see a bug with a pointed thorax, that's a friend, a carnivore who will dine on the insects devouring your plants. But less than 1% of insects are pests and only 25% of the people buying yard chemicals go to the trouble of reading the warning label (in microscopic 60-point type).

This article will be continued in the August issue and will feature the remarks made at the meeting by Dr. Mark Soskin and Mr. Reid Hughes.

KELLER'S KORNER

by Marie Oglesby

Baby birds continue to be brought to Mary Keller's bird sanctuary in record numbers. She is in constant need of the following: Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Hand Feeding Formula, wild bird seed, "year round" suet cakes; millet sprays, small cans of cat food, white paper towels, and small aquariums. If you can supply any of these items, please take them directly to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call Marie Oglesby for pick up and delivery: 767-5553.

Please continue to urge cat owners in your area to try to keep cats indoors during this crucial time for both parent and baby birds. Also, remember to check for nesting birds before cutting trees and bushes.

HRAS MOURNS AUDREY CHRISTIE

by Marie Oglesby

Long time Board Member and friend, Audrey Christie, Daytona Beach, died June 18 at Sunshine Manor South Assisted Living, Port Orange.

Audrey served on the HRAS Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large both before and after her six-year term as Membership Secretary from which she resigned in 1996. She rarely missed a meeting until her health failed and was always ready and willing to help with an HRAS project. She spent most summers in her native Canada visiting her daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and sisters. HRAS has lost a faithful, dedicated member.

Halifax River Audubon Society Spring Bird Count

1997	1998	1999	2000	
5/ 10	5/ 9	5/ 8	5/ 13	
0	12	0	0	Loon, Common
1	3	0	0	Grebe, Pied-billed
56	34	52	45	Gannet, Northern
0	1	0	0	Booby, Brown
354	503	531	707	Pelican, Brown
34	108	56	195	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
21	17	41	29	Anhinga
1	0	0	0	Bittern, American
10	0	12	0	Bittern, Least
65	67	64	67	Heron, Great Blue
145	196	297	239	Egret, Great
99	118	178	89	Egret, Snowy
37	61	53	25	Heron, Little Blue
39	76	43	18	Heron, Tricolored
0	4	1	14	Egret, Reddish
414	406	547	381	Egret, Cattle
28	12	41	15	Heron, Green
4	0	6	0	Night-Heron, Black-crownd
1	1	12	7	Night-Heron, Yellw-crownd
124	174	143	112	Ibis, White
2	64	54	0	Ibis, Glossy
0	0	3	0	Roseate Spoonbill
46	12	15	13	Stork, Wood
0	0	0	2	Whistling Duck, Blk-bellied
0	1	0	0	Goose, Canada
15	42	58	22	Duck, Wood
5	10	10	4	Duck, Mottled
25	84	68	99	Mallard
0	2	0	0	Teal, Blue-winged
0	2	0	0	Shoveler, Northern
0	0	2	0	Scaup, Lesser
3	6	3	22	Merganser, Red-breasted
225	307	795	314	Vulture, Black
214	108	112	128	Vulture, Turkey
78	63	71	68	Osprey
14	4	23	10	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed
11	12	20	10	Eagle, Bald
0	9	0	2	Harrier, Northern
2	1	1	0	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
0	3	0	0	Hawk, Cooper's
22	26	39	25	Hawk, Red-Shouldered
8	7	3	7	Hawk, Red-tailed
0	0	0	3	Buteo sp.
4	4	2	1	Kestrel, American
2	0	0	0	Merlin
0	15	0	0	Falcon, Peregrine
3	7	10	2	Turkey, Wild
30	10	14	17	Bobwhite, Northern
0	10	1	22	Rail, Clapper
0	0	1	0	Rail, Virginia
0	0	1	0	Rail, Sora
12	0	29	1	Gallinule, Purple
78	35	73	45	Moorhen, Common
36	106	5	25	Coot, American

1997	1998	1999	2000	
5/ 10	5/ 9	5/ 8	5/ 13	
17	1	1	3	Limpkin
66	32	62	46	Crane, Sandhill
0	0	0	2	Crane, Whooping
0	1	0	2	Plover, Wilson's
0	0	0	20	Plover, Semi-palmated
0	0	0	39	Killdeer
12	15	8	16	Oystercatcher, American
3	96	61	0	Stilt, Black-necked
0	18	2	0	Yellowlegs, Greater
1	7	25	15	Yellowlegs, Lesser
0	2	11	6	Sandpiper, Solitary
47	35	1	20	Willet
11	7	12	13	Sandpiper, Spotted
3	0	0	0	Godwit, Marbled
261	89	89	65	Turnstone, Ruddy
4	4	20	5	Knot, Red
722	293	218	148	Sanderling
9	193	2	55	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
8	10	16	0	Sandpiper, Western
22	17	0	4	Sandpiper, Least
2	1	0	0	Sandpiper, White-rumped
0	20	0	0	Dunlin
0	20	4	0	Peep, Sp.
1	0	1	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed
1	0	2	0	Snipe, Common
2632	1166	3553	865	Gull, Laughing
364	98	208	363	Gull, Ring-billed
7	3	10	12	Gull, Herring
0	6	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed
0	10	1	6	Tern, Caspian
151	262	53	177	Tern, Royal
0	2	0	0	Tern, Sandwich
7	1	0	0	Tern, Common
11	0	1	19	Tern, Forster's
0	0	1	0	Sterna, Sp.
177	301	142	153	Tern, Least
14	4	6	6	Skimmer, Black
159	225	359	128	Dove, Rock
33	234	60	93	Dove, Eurasian Collared
393	561	508	496	Dove, Mourning
0	25	7	63	Ground Dove, Common
0	8	2	1	Cuckoo, Yellowbilled
0	1	0	0	Owl, Barn
3	11	6	10	Screech-Owl, Eastern
3	6	0	1	Owl, Great Horned
11	8	8	14	Owl, Barred
7	5	6	1	Nighthawk, Common
49	51	31	46	Chuck-will's-widow
0	1	0	1	Whip-poor-will
208	321	499	335	Swift, Chimney
11	3	5	5	Hummingbird, Rubythroatd
12	7	0	3	Kingfisher, Belted
40	20	23	13	Woodpecker, Red-headed
77	88	108	68	Woodpecker, Red-bellied

1997	1998	1999	2000	
5/ 10	5/ 9	5/ 8	5/ 13	
0	1	0	1	Woodpecker, Hairy
9	21	28	30	Woodpecker, Downy
12	12	9	8	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
26	21	27	14	Woodpecker, Pileated
0	1	0	0	Peewee, Eastern Wood
0	5	6	0	Phoebe, Eastern
56	34	52	71	Flycatcher, Great Crested
0	0	0	5	Kingbird, Eastern
1	0	0	0	Kingbird, Gray
88	85	85	87	Martin, Purple
24	90	25	0	Swallow, Tree
0	0	100	2	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
2	1	0	0	Swallow, Bank
0	13	0	0	Swallow, Cliff
319	481	53	193	Swallow, Barn
114	46	163	136	Jay, Blue
10	9	0	6	Jay, Scrub
61	64	55	84	Crow, American
258	115	177	176	Crow, Fish
128	146	147	90	Crow, Sp.
2	0	0	4	Chickadee, Carolina
109	93	180	76	Titmouse, Tufted
0	1	0	8	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
107	164	116	132	Wren, Carolina
0	0	0	16	Wren, Sedge
0	1	0	0	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
14	35	15	29	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
0	0	7	7	Bluebird, Eastern
0	0	1	0	Thrush, Wood
0	6	8	5	Catbird, Gray
408	485	443	348	Mockingbird, Northern
38	48	24	46	Thrasher, Brown
36	0	43	1	Waxwing, Cedar
36	23	31	4	Shrike, Loggerhead
144	219	184	227	Starling, European
17	46	10	16	Vireo, White-eyed
0	1	0	2	Vireo, Blue-headed
2	2	0	0	Vireo, Yellow-throated
19	9	8	8	Vireo, Red-eyed
1	0	0	0	Vireo, Sp.

1997	1998	1999	2000	
5/ 10	5/ 9	5/ 8	5/ 13	
67	52	95	50	Parula, Northern
0	2	1	0	Warbler, Yellow
0	1	0	0	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
0	3	0	0	Warbler, Cape May
20	18	1	5	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
3	11	28	20	Warbler, Pine
5	11	0	0	Warbler, Prairie
1	7	2	0	Warbler, Yellow Palm
34	45	6	5	Warbler, Blackpoll
1	13	4	0	Warbler, Black-and-white
65	65	23	24	Redstart, American
0	1	0	0	Warbler, Worm-eating
2	4	0	1	Waterthrush, Northern
1	0	0	0	Warbler, Prothonotary
13	3	1	0	Ovenbird
14	30	11	20	Yellowthroat, Common
3	1	1	3	Tanager, Summer
239	342	216	216	Cardinal, Northern
1	0	0	3	Grosbeak, Blue
0	0	1	2	Bunting, Indigo
1	1	0	4	Bunting, Painted
1	0	0	0	Dickcissel
21	86	24	74	Towhee, Eastern
0	2	1	0	Sparrow, Bachman's
0	12	0	0	Sparrow, Chipping
3	0	0	0	Sparrow, Field
0	12	1	0	Sparrow, Savannah
0	0	1	0	Sparrow, Grasshopper
251	157	2576	0	Bobolink
319	343	217	192	Blackbird, Red-winged
13	45	41	5	Meadowlark, Eastern
533	382	662	526	Grackle, Boat-tailed
112	87	130	116	Grackle, Common
8	17	0	22	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1	0	0	0	Cowbird, Shiny
0	3	12	0	Blackbird, Sp.
1	0	0	0	Oriole, Baltimore
0	15	0	1	Goldfinch, American
56	33	99	66	Sparrow, House
0	0	0	6	Peacock, feral

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.

May 13, 2000 Count: Total species: 128. Total individuals: 9378. Observers: 30 in 14 parties. Time: 3:00AM-7:15PM Owling: 7.5 hrs. and 135 miles. Owling observers: 5 in 3 parties. All else: 28 hrs and 25.5 mi. by foot, 55.75 hrs and 467 mi. by car. Total hrs: 86.75. Total mi. 492.5. Temp: 67-92°. Wind: variable 5-18 mph Clouds -30%. No precip.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

by *David Hartgrove*

The St. Johns River/Indian River Lagoon Regional Committee met on Saturday, June 5th, at the Dixie Crossroads restaurant in Titusville. Our president, **Lois Robinson, John and Fran Carr** and I attended, representing our chapter.

The first order of business was a report by **Lynda White** of the Center for Birds of Prey about an incident in St. Johns County at a development called Julington Creek. A pair of Bald Eagles had used a nest site on this property for at least 5 years. Earlier this year, they hatched two eaglets. At about this same time the developer decided that it was imperative that he begin building houses on lots adjacent to the nest site. Both the Endangered Species Act and a St. Johns County ordinance protecting eagle nests stood in the way of his plan. The developer first applied to senior biologist **Don Palmer**, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Jacksonville, for a variance to the heretofore strict rules governing activity around Bald Eagle nests. Without ever leaving the office to investigate the site or the veracity of the developer's claims, Mr. Palmer granted the variance. With the federal agency's permission in hand, the developer then appeared before the St. Johns County Commission and received their permission to start building. The Eagle Watch volunteer in St. Johns County began to notice that the adults were disturbed by all the construction activity so near by. Rather than caring for and feeding the two chicks, they spent considerable time away from the nest. She complained to the county commission and the commission secured a promise from the developer that all work would cease until the young birds had fledged. A few days later the work resumed in spite of the promise. St. Johns County finally issued a stop work order. The young eagles have now fledged but their arrested development has cast doubt about their ability to survive this first critical year.

The committee was outraged. Mr. Palmer is the USF&WS point man on Bald Eagle/development issues. In a video taped question and answer session before the St. Johns County Commission, he made several statements which called into question both his judgment and his knowledge of Bald Eagle biology. The committee called upon Audubon of Florida vice president **Charles Lee** for advice in how best to proceed. He suggested that we direct Audubon of Florida to contact the Secretary of the Interior and the head of the USF&WS and request a full investigation of Mr. Palmer's actions in this matter. The implications of this case reach far beyond St. Johns County and Bald Eagles. A motion was made to direct Audubon of Florida to proceed and to particularly single out the actions of Mr. Palmer since his ill advised decision had precipitated the events that followed. At this point, committee co-chair **Joe Carroll**, said that as a retired

USF&WS employee, he knew Mr. Palmer and asked that the language in the letter be softened to spare Mr. Palmer too much embarrassment. He then called for the vote. Though several others and I abstained, the motion passed. After the meeting, John Carr pointed out that the vote was improper since only the senior representative from each chapter is allowed to cast a ballot. We have definitely not heard the last of this matter.

Other issues raised in the meeting included a presentation by St. Johns County Audubon on Nocatee Plantation, a 14,500 acre project whose developer has set aside vast tracts for green space and a corridor connecting the Tolomato and St. Johns Rivers; a proposal for a feral cat sanctuary in Alachua County that has bird lovers up in arms; trespass violations on Egret Island in Lake Windemere in Orange County and a request that we maintain contact with our legislators at the local, state, and federal levels.

There will be two more committee meetings before the state Audubon Assembly the first weekend in November in Fernandina Beach. One is on Saturday, August 12th, the other is Saturday, October 14th. **Laurilee Thompson** of Indian River Audubon Society will probably arrange for us to meet at the Dixie Crossroads again but that decision hadn't been when the meeting closed. And a word of praise for the Audubon of Florida staff who have been facilitating our meetings. They have done an outstanding job! It appears that water, its scarcity, its quality and its importance to us and to wildlife will be a major topic for our committee in the future. We'll keep you posted.

CALENDAR

Friday, September 1


Field trip to Smyrna Dunes County Park, led by **David Hartgrove**. Meet at City Island Court House Annex at the east side parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 16

Fall Migratory Bird Count, led by **David Hartgrove**. Meet at City Island (see above) at 8:00 a.m.


Monday, September 18

First HRAS program meeting of the 2000-2001 year.



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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

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Kevin DeWall	codewall@hotmail.com
David Hartgrove	birdman9@earthlink.net
Barbara Kieran	bkieran@altavista.com
Glade Koch	clecras@aol.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
Diane Talley	dtalleystr@aol.com
John Williams	jwill390301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	Mileybug@aol.com

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

REID HUGHES

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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WELCOME

John Clark, N. W. Eisenschmid, Virginia Eldridge, Daniel D. Ensminger, David E. Horrigan, Katherine Irely, Laurene J. Redmond-Cujko, Sally J. Page, and Mr. Donald E. Spitz 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. 46 - NO. 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY AUGUST 2000

— AND THE BEAT GOES ON

President Lois Robinson

During the summer months while the rest of us are taking a well-deserved break the work of HRAS continues. I want to highlight three busy people whose dedication and commitment mean so much to the success of our chapter of Audubon.

Fran Carr keeps *The Pelican* going through the summertime with the able help of John who tries to keep our summer addresses straight. I know you appreciate as I do all the effort it takes to put out a newsletter 12 times a year. Fran says sometimes it feels like she is Sisyphus, you know, the character in Greek Mythology who is condemned to eternally push a boulder up a hill only to have it roll back down and he has to start all over again. Really, Fran loves the job.

Diane Talley has also been hard at work this summer writing a grant which we hope will result in funding for both the Rose Bay Project and *Audubon Adventures*. One of the creative ideas in the grant will join the efforts of Louise Chapman and her high school students with the work of the fifth graders who receive *Audubon Adventures* to do some joint bird identification and produce a booklet about birds. We won't know for certain if the grant will get picked up until this fall but it is one of the many grants that we hope will be submitted on behalf of HRAS in the future. Grant writing is time consuming and labor intensive. Thanks so much, Diane. P.S. Don't stop your regular gifts to *Audubon Adventures*. They are as important as ever. Last year individual gifts totaled only half of the cost to HRAS of *Audubon Adventures*.

Finally, it is with a sad heart that I mention the work Marie Oglesby was doing for us this summer. Before she passed away (see the memorial article regarding Marie) she was working on our annual report to National Audubon Society. Marie was greatly loved and will be greatly missed. The Annual Report determines whether we will continue to be a chapter in good standing with NAS. It is required from all chapters. The report, which is quite lengthy, includes a report on our field trips, our programs, our educational projects, and our conservation efforts as well as a full financial statement. It takes hours of work to get it all together. Marie had done this work for several years until Gail Lincoln took it over last year and she was willing to take it on again after Gail's death.

My appreciation of these three and all of you who work tirelessly for the causes HRAS believes in knows no bounds! Thank you.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES NOMINATED FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

by Glade Koch

National Audubon Society office, New York, and we, too, are happy to report *Audubon Adventures'* nomination by National Educational Publishers' Association for an award for excellence. On June 9, at a National Press Club banquet in Washington, the award winners were announced.

Audubon Adventures was nominated in two categories: "Adventures", 1999 to 2000 Teachers' Manual in the Curriculum and Instruction Category, and "Adventures", 1999-2000 Newspaper Issue "Wild Alaska" for Design Whole.

Competition was very stiff. In general nominees had much larger budgets and staffs than AA. The staff is very gratified by being nominated among competitors such as *National Geographic's* and *Time's* youth publications.

The winner in Category 1 was "The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development" and in Category 2 was "Mazou Magic", University of Missouri.

Audubon organization is very pleased, not only to have the environmental content and design recognized nationally, but also for AA's instructional scope and curriculum material quality.

If you know a classroom or teacher that might like to receive a *Audubon Adventures* Kit, please let us know. We will contact them. A Kit for 32 children, grades 4, 5 or 6 costs \$35, plus \$4.95, H & M charges. Please send your check made to HRAS to P O Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115.

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Our wonderful HRAS cookbooks are for sale this summer at a great store nearby that specializes in bird supplies. If you can't wait to get another copy of the cookbook at our program meetings this fall, you will find the cookbook at Bird Feeders, 2279 South Ridgewood Ave., South Daytona FL 32119. The Ramirez's phone number is 761-1727. We thank them for carrying the book at no profit to themselves as a way to show their support for Audubon.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

On the morning of September 13th, 1803, Captain Merriweather Lewis noted that as the keel boat he was on floated down the Ohio River, the migratory flocks of Passenger Pigeons passing overhead blocked out the sun. Eleven months later, on August 8th, 1804, the keel boat was moving up the Missouri River on the first journey into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. Captain Lewis was called on deck to explain an odd phenomenon. A blanket of white was coming down the river toward the boat. It turned out to be feathers, solidly covering the surface 70 yards wide for the next 3 miles! As the boat rounded a bend, a sand bar several acres in size came into view, completely covered with American White Pelicans preening in their summer molt. These two incidents are among many examples of the amazing abundance our country produced before we became so numerous.

The Passenger Pigeons became extinct because so many barrels of them were shipped east for the dinner tables of our expanding population. Their eventual fate and that of millions of birds killed for their plumes helped spawn the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the federal government's first real attempt to do something about the unregulated slaughter of wildlife.

On June 30th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a plan to designate a number of sites around the country as "critical habitat" for the endangered Piping Plover. Piping Plovers don't nest in our area but they do winter here. They're most often seen on the south side of Ponce Inlet at Smyrna Dunes Park. Last year, on our first field trip of the season, we saw a large flock of these smallest of the plovers. There were eight birds. For this endangered species, that's a huge flock! Smyrna Dunes Park is one of the sites listed as wintering "critical habitat". Our sister chapter, Southeast Volusia Audubon is working on the nomination process to have Smyrna Dunes Park listed as an Important Bird Area. The presence of the Piping Plovers will help that process along considerably. It should also help in getting the county staff and a few Council members to stop trying to turn a large part of the park into an off beach parking lot!

The latest word from the Florida Defenders of the Environment is that the governor's office has announced a restoration plan for the Oklawaha River. If this is true, it begins to bring to a close a long and sordid chapter in Florida's history. There are probably a number of incidents where the stated will of the overwhelming majority of the state was held hostage by the whim of one or two powerful legislators. Rodman Dam, its strangle hold on the Oklawaha River and the actions of Senator **George Kirkpatrick** is surely one of the most egregious examples in recent memory. The senator was term limited out of office after this last session and though every trick in the book was used, it appears that finally, the will of the people will be followed. The dam is a remnant of the long

dead Cross Florida Barge Canal. The reservoir behind it flooded acres and acres of beautiful riverine forest and left a wasteland of dead stumps and algae blooms. Oh, a small group of bass fishermen thought it was great. But the restored river would be a far better place to fish and provide far more recreational opportunities for a lot less money. Now it appears we'll get to see the restoration take place.

In a recent poll conducted by the Nature Conservancy, the people of Volusia County said what we all knew all along. If we don't do something now to protect what's left of our environmentally sensitive lands, there won't be a lot left to protect for our children and theirs. The poll also said that, as in the past, we tax payers would be willing to tax ourselves to pay for this land acquisition. The current tax levy suggested is only one quarter of one mil. for ten years. That means a home assessed at \$65,000.00 (minus its \$25,000.00 homestead exemption) would have its annual tax bill raised by just \$10.00. That's about as good a bargain as there is around. The real question for the County Council will be whether or not to include increased assessments for cultural and heritage projects in with the environmental lands portion. Since the public has voiced far less support for those projects, their advocates want the questions all lumped together in one big, catch all initiative. I firmly believe that art, music and historical buildings are every bit as important to the quality of our life as a wetland forest. But if there's even a remote chance that lumping all of these critical tax questions together will doom the passage of the issue, then they should be separated to allow the public to speak its will freely. To do otherwise cheats us all.

REPORT FROM MERRITT ISLAND

by Willie Burns

Most of the "dike trails" at Merritt Island have had their hurricane damage repaired and reopened. All are more or less passable. **Kitty Albee** and I traversed the Biolab and the Peacock Pocket trails on Friday, July 14. We saw oodles of Reddish Egrets, many spoonbills (too many to count) and so many young Green Herons and Tri-colored Herons that it got annoying!

The Peacock Pocket Trail is still the most productive, far surpassing Black Point, but not so easy a drive. We had a possible sighting of a Sooty Tern, briefly, just before it took flight in a large mixed flock.

A low car will have difficulty with Peacock Pocket. The repairs are rough in spots, but if your vehicle could handle the trails before, you still can.

Afterward we had dinner at Mom's Tree House Restaurant on Route 1 north of Mims. It is better than Mom ever cooked at home, and you get more than enough to eat a very reasonable price. "Take home boxes" are provided when the meal is served, as almost everyone needs one.

WHERE'S THE WATER - CONTINUED

by Alexa A. Ross

Dr. Mark Soskin of the Boardman Foundation and University of Central Florida (UCF) and an expert on environmental economics, was the final speaker. He sees no water scarcity, but a pricing system problem. We pay 1/10000 of a cent per gallon, almost nothing. Water has been the cash cow, government taking fees to manage infrastructure. Urban sprawl in the center of the county is destroying our recharge area thanks to a 3 for 1 state subsidy. Land must be protected from sprawl and development to conserve water resources, and outright acquisition is the way to do it. As a consultant for Enterprise Florida, he found that high tech industry seeks, most of all, quality of life for its workers, not cookie cutter sprawl. Environmentalists and industry must unite against the developers.

Environmental activist **Reid Hughes** concluded the presentation with sobering remarks. During that morning, four species of the world were lost forever and 400 people moved into our state. He recently attended National Audubon Board Meetings in Venezuela and Alaska. By 2020 the rainforests will be doomed if present activity continues, and our rainfall here is dependent on that natural system. The Florida comprehensive plan looks to 100 million people, 1 million of them in Volusia County. Local government has not been following the state mandate and the Florida Growth Management system is **about to be destroyed**. He said we have the best of growth management of Florida in this county - in Ormond Beach and Port Orange - and also the worst, which he declined to name. The legislation creating the water management districts is excellent - hydrology-based self-government - and Florida has bought more land in the last seven years than any state in the country, 7 million acres.

We want to acquire 150,000 more acres in Volusia, a greenbelt through the center of the county that will control sprawl, and protect wetlands recharge, habitat, and recreation. We need to tax ourselves to buy this land. A quarter mil initiative will be on November's ballot and passage is necessary to acquire matching state, federal, water management and Florida Forever funds. The Nature Conservancy will help County Council to pass this initiative.

The St. Johns has dropped 3 feet from Melbourne to Jacksonville and Blue Springs' flow is down 10 million gallons per day. We could remove 350 million gallons per day more from the St. Johns; a dam is not advisable but an off-stream reservoir would be very costly. The cities have been selling water without reinvesting in water infrastructure.

This article is a continuation of Alexa's report of a June 10 conference in Ormond Beach.

MY PLOVERS - THE REST OF THE STORY

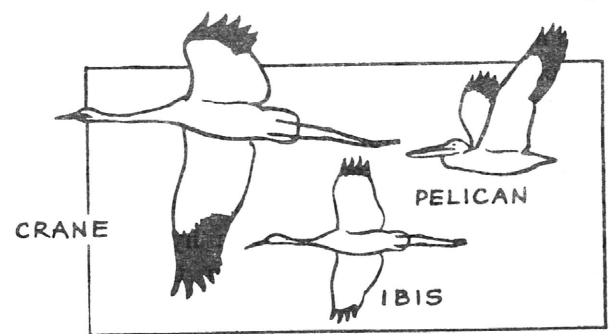
by Meret Wilson

Sometimes things are just not meant to be. I left you with my Widower Wilson finding a new mate and tending two eggs in what appeared to be a very safe haven. The nest was further away from the foliage edge of the beach where predators seemed to lurk such as Sneaky Snake, raccoons, foxes and crows. The pair alternated sitting on the nest and it really looked like we were home free; only two more days to go before the first of the eggs was scheduled to hatch. But there was one factor neither Wilson nor myself anticipated: the long July 4th weekend.

Natural predation, though seemingly cruel, does not compare to the thoughtless predation of humans along with their beloved pet, the dog. All around the jetty extension site are orange fences and No Trespassing signs clearly meant to keep all people off the site. To add extra protection, the Park Ranger had put up netting around the Plover nesting site to hopefully ward off the disobeying wanderer. Apparently for some, these signs did not apply to them. The traffic, judging by the number of foot and paw prints left behind, was horrendous. This means the Plovers were constantly harassed off the nest by the fear for their own lives. It is very possible that the amount of time they were forced off the eggs was too long and the eggs became nonviable. The other possibility is that a hawk may have swooped down and snagged the male, who was the last one sitting on the nest. There are no slither marks of a snake nor raccoon or fox tracks anywhere near the nest.

I will never know for sure how it all ended for my Plovers. I do know they are gone from the island. After discussing the future of the eggs with Mary Keller, we decided that I would bring them home and try to incubate them through the hatching period. The first one was due in a few hours but there was no peeping from within. Neither egg ever opened.

The summer is not quite over and, if the Plovers are still alive merely having abandoned lifeless eggs, maybe the third time will be a charm. If by chance natural predation ended the future generations of a pair of Plovers then that is the way it is supposed to be. It does come to my mind, though, how insensitive humans can be. Even if no one knew about the Plovers, the need to push rules beyond the limit threatens us all at some level. Only time will tell the karmic effect of two less Wilson's Plovers on our planet.



MARIE OGLESBY

by Fran Carr

With great sadness I report that on July 5 Marie suddenly passed on. A mainstay with HRAS, she had served as secretary of the society for many years and been involved in most of our projects. Just this year she was the lead person in putting together our cookbook, manned a booth at Port Orange Earthday, was a judge of an Audubon award for natural science at the high school science fair, and was the contact for donations to Mary Keller's Bird Rehabilitation work. She was also a valuable member of the HRAS Board of Directors, offering good ideas and devoting her time and effort wholeheartedly.

But we weren't the only organization she graced with her presence; she worked for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, and the Association of Florida Science Teachers. She was the wonderfully supportive and happy mother to children Joe II, Rudy, Richard, Rusty and Holly, and grandmother to her four grandchildren.

Our Society will miss her, her many friends will miss her, and I miss her very much.

PROP GUARDS PROTECT MANATEES, AND INCREASE BOAT EFFICIENCY

Indian River Lagoon Update Vol VIII No. 2 Spring 2000

The sharp blades of boat motors can be unforgiving when they strike the flesh of submerged lagoon animals. A prop guard has now been developed to help reduce the severity of injuries sustained from such impacts.

1999 was the worst year on record for boat-related animal injuries, with 82 watercraft-related manatee deaths. In the last four years, collisions with watercraft accounted for the deaths of 262 manatees out of 1,156 known manatee deaths.

In 1998, there were more than 800,000 registered boats in Florida, and according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there is a clear correlation between the number of registered boats and manatee mortalities. In the same year, boats killed 66 manatees.

"The root cause of the problem is loss of habitat from coastal development and the resulting increase in dangerous boat traffic," said popular recording artist **Jimmy Buffett**, co-chairman of Save the Manatee Club's board of directors, in a news release.

In 1981, Buffett founded the club with U.S. Sen. Bob Graham to help raise public awareness about the endangered manatees.

Club spokesperson **Nancy Sadusky** said the most effective approach is to establish and obey safe-speed zones, because it is the force of the impact with a fast-moving watercraft that causes most injuries and deaths.

In addition to helping protect manatees, prop guards improve boat handling by creating a hydrofoil effect, allowing the boat to ride higher in the water and

improving forward visibility. Riding higher is especially important in the shallow lagoon because of the sea grasses that are subject to prop scars.

The devices also shield propellers from potential damage by submerged objects, reduce groundings on sandbars and allow takeoffs when the motor is touching the bottom.

For more information about the prop guards, you may call the manufacturer in Volusia County at (904) 426-0890, toll-free nationwide at (800) 218-890, or send an e-mail to www.hydroshld@aol.com.

*Published by Indian River Lagoon Program, Palm Bay Service Center,
525 Community College Parkway, Palm Bay, FL 32909*

Brown Pelican



CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted. Field trips will leave from the east parking lot of the Court House Annex at City Island.

Sunday, August 12

Meeting of St. Johns River/Indian Lagoon Regional Conservation Committee of Audubon of Florida in Titusville.

Friday, September 1

HRAS Field Trip. Smyrna Dunes County Park, City Island, 8:00 a.m., led by **David Hartgrove**.

Monday, September 4

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2 PM.

Saturday, September 16

HRAS Field Trip. Fall Migratory Count, City Island, 8:00 a.m., led by **David Hartgrove**.

Monday, September 18

HRAS Program Meeting. **Carole Adams**, Regional Director of Audubon of Florida, and **Mary Lou Weiner**, with bird slides.

Monday, October 2

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2 PM.

Friday, October 6

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at Palm Bay. Meet at Publix Parking Lot on Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., 6:30 a.m., led by **Madeline Shaddix**.

Monday, October 16

HRAS Program meeting. **Rich Paul** will speak on "The Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries: Jewels in the Audubon Crown."

Tuesdays on October 17, 24 and 31

HRAS Beginning Bird Classes. Location to be announced.

Saturday, October 21

HRAS Field Trip. **Washington Oaks State Gardens**, City Island, 8:00 a.m., led by **Kevin De Wall**.

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL 2000

The County Council meets in regular session at 9 a.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Thomas

C. Kelly County Administration Center in DeLand. The meetings are open to the public and are carried on the Internet at www.volusia.org.

NAME	CITY	DISTRICT REPRESENTED	MEMBER SINCE	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jim Ward, Chair	Port Orange	2	Jan. 1997	(904) 322-5171	jeward@co.volusia.fl.us
Dwight Lewis, Vice-chair	DeLand	1	Nov. 1998	(904) 740-3200	ddlewis@co.volusia.fl.us
Frank Bruno	Ponce Inlet	3	Nov. 1998	(904) 304-5533	fbruno@co.volusia.fl.us
Joseph Jaynes	Ormond Beach	4	Jan. 1999	(904)615-6044	jjaynes@co.volusia.fl.us
Ann McFall	Deltona	5	Jan. 1997	(407) 574-4437	amcfall@vo.volusia.fl.us
Patricia Northey	Deltona	At-large	Jan. 1993	(904) 789-7200	pnorthey@co.volusia.fl.us
Big John	Daytona Beach	At-large	Jan. 1999	(904) 239-7745	BIG@co.volusia.fl.us

BIRD SOUNDS

Carolina Chickadee They have at least 15 distinct vocalizations, and each bird has a dominance rank within the flock that does not change, even with injury. *Dee-dee* is uttered after a chase or skirmish. *Checeche* means "Get away. I outrank you." Members keep in contact with a high-pitched *tseet-tseet*. Individuals that have strayed may attempt to relocate their comrades with the *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* call. The sweet, clear *fee-bee* song of the male, heard in the late winter, indicates the onset of breeding behavior. The bird that spots a predator freezes the flock with a whistled warning in perfect English: *See-see. See-see ...* (from *Audubon* January-February 2000) Also heard in this area: *fee-bee-fee-bay; see-dee-dee-dee*

Tufted Titmouse *cheeva, cheeva, cheeva...; fer-da, fer-da, fer-da...; peter-peter-peter*

Carolina Wren *chooble-dee, chooble-dee, chooble-dee* (varied triplet phrases)

Mourning Dove *hooo-ah hoo-hoo-hoo*

Northern Cardinal *cheer-cheer-cheer...; purtry-purtry-purtry... theodore-theodore-theodore-dore-dore*

Northern Parula Warbler *zipper going up; tsyoo; zeeeeeeeeee(buzzy)-chyooof*

Prothonotary Warbler *sweet, sweet, sweet... (single pitch)*

Red-eyed Vireo *where are you? and here I am*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *see, see; type-writer bird; ji-dit-ji-dit, ji-dit (rattly)*

Rufous-sided Towhee *drink-your-teeeee!; too-wheel!; jhour-ee (slurry)*

SAVING OUR PELICANS: CALAMITY JANE


by Sue Higgins

It just goes to show you, if we all do our part, a little joy can come to our lives and we can feel like heroes! Last year, I watched a juvenile brown pelican die in "my arms" and it was published in *The Pelican*. This year's "Pelican story" is a success story!

Before unloading my crabbing gear from my car under the Dunlawton Bridge, I decided to walk on the dock. I asked "Murph" the fisherman if he had seen any injured birds lately. He pointed to an adult pelican, with chick-feeding plumage, alone on some rocks. Murph said, "I never saw a bird fly directly into the pilings." On closer examination I saw an open wound, quite large, under its left wing and a hook and line dragging. The phone at the dock was out of order, so I had to go home and call the sea-bird rehabilitator, **DeeAnn Snyder**. She met me back at the dock (this time I brought my net) and informed me how the lifeguard station at the beach can help. It really was a pleasure to have met her.


Of course, after she left, there was the injured bird! Murph was still begrudgingly interested in helping me. I caught the pelican in my net, and conned Murph into coming with me in my car to the lifeguard station where they have cages and a direct line to DeeAnn. I was afraid the bird would get out of the net and injure itself even more, or worse, interfere with my driving! I delivered the bird to DeeAnn and later she called me back and said it was doing fine, that she'll feed it antibiotics in its fish and let it go in a few days. I was so happy, it was worth the hole I had to cut in my net! Murph and I named him/her Calamity.

Where is a lesson in this? We shouldn't have cut the fishing line; DeeAnn needed to know exactly where that hook was. And secondly, after reading the material sent to me, I realized I should have covered the injured bird with a towel to calm him down. Happy birding, everyone!



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

August 2000

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Membership Sec'y	John Carr	255-9360
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Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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Diane Talley	dtalleystr@aol.com
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Meret Wilson	Mileybug@aol.com

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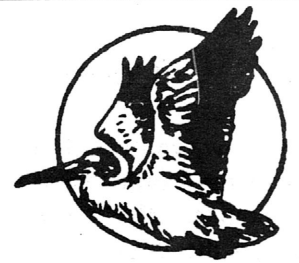
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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 46 – NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY SEPT. 2000

THE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

by President Lois Robinson

Those of you who participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), which included 17 participants from HRAS and the rest of you fellow bird lovers, will be interested in this report from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

A total of 62,500 persons sent in their checklists. This included reports from all the states in the continental U.S., Alaska and Canada. All totaled, counts came in from 12,875 zip codes. Some more interesting facts: Pennsylvania submitted the highest number of checklists, New York was second, Virginia Beach, VA was the city with the most participation. The most frequently reported species (on the most checklists): Mourning Dove, followed by Northern Cardinal and Dark-eyed Junco. The most numerous species were first, Canada Goose, then European Starling and House Sparrow.

Why is this head count important? For example, one of the questions involved reporting House Finches seen with swollen, crusty eyes (evidence of Mycoplasmal Conjunctivitis) in order to ascertain where and how far this disease has spread. The GBBC found the disease has spread beyond the Great Plains into several Western states. The prevalence of the disease had been unknown. Another bit of new data showed new locations of high Bald Eagle density, one of them northern Florida.

This count also enables us to see the distribution of each bird species depicted on a map of the U.S. and Canada for the late winter season. For instance, the greatest distribution of the Downy Woodpecker occurred in a large band from New England reaching down into the Ohio Valley, then curving up into NW Canada. The count of Downies from Florida was low (0-0.8, mean number of birds reported at a site). Much more information will continue to come in about the count as the data is studied.

Next year's count will take place February 16-19, 2001. Let's all take part!

FALL MIGRATION

by David Hartgrove

Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Semi-palmated Sandpipers are passing through now. Soon their numbers will be joined by millions of other birds. By the time you read this, it will be nearly impossible to find an American Swallow-tailed Kite. All of these birds are headed south.

As we currently suffer a sweltering summer, it's hard to believe that it's time to begin thinking about the Fall Migration Count. The purpose of the North American Migration Count (NAMC) is to:

- Obtain a "snapshot" of the progress and "shape" of Spring and Fall Migration.
- Obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species.
- Initiate more participation among birders within a state and between states.
- Initiate more participation among birders within a state and between states.
- Create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information.
- Aid in the organization and centralization of data.
- Have fun.

That last one is important and I think we do. I hope you'll join us. It's not necessary to be an "expert", whatever that is. This is an excellent way to learn about birds with folks who may have had a little more practice. The Fall count is always held on the third Saturday of September. This year, that's the 16th. As always, this is an all day event but we can easily accommodate schedules, which permit only half a day. Please, if you're planning to come out, call me or send an e-mail. The more organizing I can get done before 7:00 a.m. on the 16th, the easier it is for everyone. Grab your binoculars and your lunch and we'll see you at City Island for a fun day.

"BIRDS OF FLORIDA"

by Glade Koch

Part of the program for our first meeting, September 18, at 7 p.m., at Seabreeze United Church, will be a slide show, "Birds of Florida," presented by Marylou Weiner. Perhaps you have read her column, "Bird of the Month," in the Spruce Creek Fly-In newsletter, *UPDATE*.

Marylou is a birder, photographer, horse trainer and rider, world traveler and budding artist. She became interested in birding while trail riding one day when she caught a brilliant blue flash out of the corner of her eye. It turned out to be an Indigo Bunting. She took up bird watching soon after that first bunting. Next followed photography courses so she could photograph birds. She has since won awards for her photography. Maybe you will see an Indigo Bunting in the informal slide show Marylou has prepared just for us.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

By now, you've all heard of the plan to turn the north half of the North Peninsula State Recreation Area into a golf course. The meeting that was held at High Bridge Park on the beautiful sunny afternoon of July 28th was reported in the newspaper. I last wrote in these pages on this subject in December 1999. I said at the time that, "this will be a doozy." It turns out that the plan is even worse than first believed.

A copy of the proposal to Governor Bush by Course...Link, LLC, the development company, was sent to Audubon of Florida Vice President, **Charles Lee**. It shows that they want a 99 year lease on the property; that they intend to have a nature trail and a manatee viewing platform and that they want to use an exotic grass developed to utilize the salt contaminated ground water available in the area. In addition, the whole thing is being touted as a remedy for the supposedly deprived young golfers of the area who would be able to use the facilities. When you're trying to steal a public treasure, while the public's watching, you need all the tools available from modern public relations techniques.

The proposal, bound, color graphed, and a little under 100 pages, reveals far more than I think Course...Link intended. Their so called expert stated that, "this area is a remnant piece of coastal scrub, with no particularly special ecological value." He went on to say that there were no Florida Scrub-Jays on the property and that the only colonies of Scrub-Jays on the east coast of the state were in Brevard County. This will be disheartening news to the two families of Scrub-Jays currently nesting in the area as well as the other Threatened and or Endangered species, such as the Gopher Tortoise, Mole Skink and Indigo Snake. As to the presence of other coastal Scrub-Jay colonies nearby, there are several just to the north in Flagler County. In the final pages of the "Preliminary Environmental Study" the "expert" requests half his fee in shares of the company that will own the golf course. So much for objective science: this guy wants a piece of the action in exchange for saying there's nothing on the property worth saving.

Another odd element to this sordid little tale is the involvement of Audubon International. A former National Audubon staffer resurrected this group, disavowed by the Audubon Society, from a defunct Audubon Society of New York State. It is bank rolled by a one hundred thousand dollar a year grant from the U.S. Golf Association. Audubon International's mission: to certify golf courses around the country as wild life sanctuaries. The base rate for the signature program is \$9,500 per course, with a \$500 a year membership fee. Course...Link is trying to say that their project has the backing of Audubon. They may eventually have the backing of the Audubon group with its hand in the pocket of the U.S. Golf Association. It will never have the backing of

Audubon of Florida, whose first and foremost concern is the preservation of bird and wildlife species and their habitat.

Finally, there is some space devoted to whining about the opposition of the local press. These folks have a lot more to worry about. A Flagler County Cooperative Extension service agent called the decision to develop the golf course in this spot a, "political and public policy issue, and I will not touch that issue with a ten foot pole." Numerous county commission members in both Volusia and Flagler Counties have voiced opposition to the plan, as have state personnel.

The possible repercussions of this plan stretch far beyond Volusia and Flagler Counties. If the state decides to lease land to a private developer for a golf course, where does this lunacy end? Could portions of Tomoka State Park soon house the next Wet and Wild franchise? In spite of what we thought back in December, this project still has its champions. Powerful interests have been brought in to smooth the way. But a lot of powerful interests are against it too. We're one of those groups.

The latest draft of the revised Volusia County Manatee Protection Plan has been released. This one is more restrictive in permitting marina development but passes the issue of boat speeds to state regulators. The failure of the last MPP to address this critical issue prompted its rejection by state and federal regulators. It remains to be seen how this one fares.

NEW BIRDWATCHING CLASS IN OCTOBER

Some of you have requested a new Birdwatching Class. **John Carr** and **Lois Robinson** will be offering a new class in Beginning Birdwatching at the Clubhouse at Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Boulevard from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on October 17, 24, and 31, followed by three field trips from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on days to be determined by the class. The cost is \$35.00. Please call John Carr at 255-9360 or Lois Robinson at 760-8480 to reserve a place in the class. We will cover all the basic birding skills. The course outline will be in the October *The Pelican*.

We are also interested to know if any of you want to attend an advanced Birding Class or an evening class in Beginning Birdwatching. If there is enough interest, we may be able to schedule these classes in the spring. Don't hesitate to let us know what time and what course interests you.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

Scientists believe 135 bird species inhabited the Hawaiian islands before the first human settlers arrived by canoe 1,500 years ago. Only 30 are still in existence today, with only ten having any chance of long-term survival. (National Geographic website)

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, field trips will leave from the east parking lot of the Court House Annex at City Island.

Friday, September 1

HRAS Field Trip. Smyrna Dunes County Park, 8:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

Tuesday, September 5

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2:00 p.m. Note date change due to Labor Day.

Saturday, September 16

HRAS Field Trip. Fall Migratory Count, 7:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

Monday, September 18

HRAS Program Meeting. "Audubon of Florida Regional Committees: What's in it for the Chapters" by **Carole Adams**, Regional Director of Audubon of Florida, and Bird Slides, **Marylou Weiner**.

Monday, October 2

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday October 5 through Sunday, October 8

Florida Birding Festival & Nature Expo, Harborview Center, Clearwater.

Friday, October 6

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at Palm Bay. Meet at Publix Parking lot on Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., 6:30 a.m. Led by **Madeline Shaddix**.

Monday, October 16

HRAS Program meeting. **Rich Paul** "The Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries: Jewels in the Audubon Crown."

Tuesdays on October 17, 24, and 31

HRAS Beginning Bird Classes. Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. 9:30-11:00 a.m. Led by **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr**. See article.

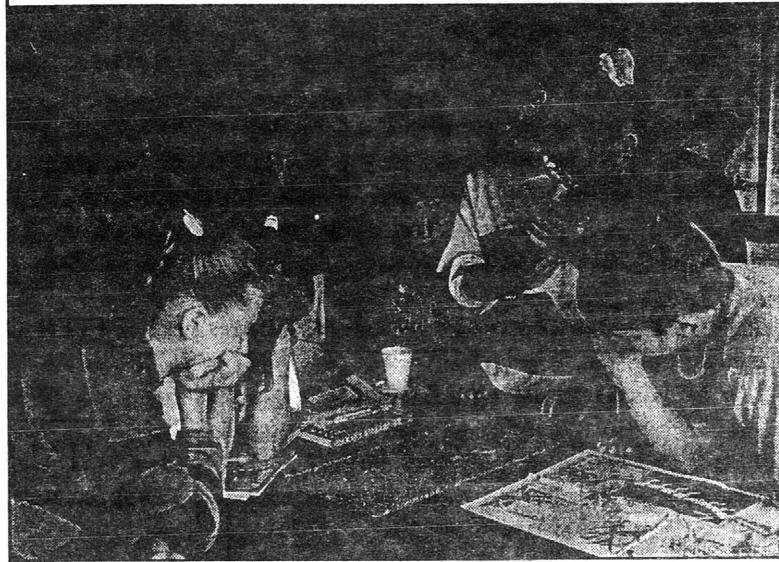
Saturday, October 21

HRAS Field Trip. Washington Oaks State Gardens, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Kevin DeWall**.

OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Rep. John Mica**, (202-224-4035) for Orange, Seminole, West Volusia, S.E. Volusia, and Halifax River Audubon Societies.
2. **Rep. Tillie Fowler**, (202-225-2501) for Duval, St. Johns and Flagler Audubon Societies.
3. **Rep. Corrine Brown**, (202-225-0123) for Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Ocklawaha Valley, West Volusia, Seminole, and Orange Audubon Societies.

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National Audubon Society

THE PELICAN



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

September 2000

Names & Numbers

2000-2001 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Open	
Corresponding Sec'y	Open	
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
Finance	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Hospitality	Barbara Kieran	672-2927
Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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>

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Meret Wilson	Mileybug@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 not held during the summer and will resume September 18. 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.

WELCOME

Sheri Small, and John S. Root, 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.



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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 46 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY OCTOBER 2000

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGES

by President Lois Robinson

National Audubon Society is launching a national membership program beginning in January 2001 which will put the responsibility for recruiting and maintaining members on the shoulders of the local chapters. With this change in policy your chapter Board of Directors is looking at strategies to increase and hold our membership in the years ahead. National has had to make this change due to increased costs of direct mail solicitation and related expenses.

Let me first explain NAS's program as it affects us.

- (1) Beginning in January 2001 **HRAS** will receive from National the total first year membership dues (\$20.60) from each new member we recruit. National expects us to recruit 26 new members (6% of our current membership of 435) each year, which is a stretch for us.
- (2) For all of us who are current members, as well as our new recruits, when we renew National will send us the total net dues revenue (currently at \$2.61 each member, each year). Our membership has declined during this year so our income may be down next year.
- (3) For new members who come to us who have been recruited by State or National Offices, we will split the net dues revenue with the State Office (\$1.30 per renewal to us). These dollar amounts are subject to change by NAS.

This means, of course, that it behooves us to launch an active and vigorous membership campaign of our own. Your Board is already reviewing membership strategies and ideas which we will be implementing in the months ahead. We are looking for a Membership Strategist to get us all involved in this. **John Carr**, as Membership Chair, will continue his good work but he has asked for help as the responsibilities have greatly increased.

I still have questions about this new concept which have not been answered to my satisfaction. For example, how will persons who transfer in from other chapters be categorized, as being recruited by us or by National? I will continue to seek answers as this new plan goes into effect. It also appears we will be in competition with Audubon of Florida for new members. I would prefer it to be a cooperative effort. I have tried to be as accurate as possible but since we are in the learning process I will correct any errors I have made and keep you informed as we go along.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES RECEIVES SECOND HONOR

by Glade Koch

Late this summer, *Audubon Adventures* received an APEX Award! APEX Awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content, and ability to achieve overall communication excellence. "With some 4,900 entries, we are

honored to be recognized for these achievements," said Elaine O'Sullivan, director and managing editor of *Audubon Adventures*.

Each kit contains four *Audubon Adventures* newspaper issues, a dolphin adventures video; an Audubon/Disney TV Channel Series, a classroom resource manual containing hands-on activities, duplicating masters, and research materials to enhance newspaper and video topics, and a classroom certificate. The themes for 2000-2001 season are: 1. Nature's banquet (fruits and seeds), 2. The living ocean, 3. Owl prowl, 4. From dying to thriving (endangered species).

A kit for 32 children, grades 4, 5, or 6, costs \$35 plus \$5.95 for H&S charges. To help us pay for a kit please send a check made to **HRAS** to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166.

HRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2000

1. **Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Bistowich** of Tennessee gave a donation in memory of **Marie Oglesby** to **HRAS**.
2. BOD voted to endorse a Yes vote on Proposition 1, Volusia Forever, and Proposition 2, ECHO initiative, which will be on the ballot for the November 7 election; and also, if the propositions pass, the Board will closely follow the actions of the groups formed to implement the propositions to see that environmental concerns remain paramount.
3. BOD voted that a committee shall be appointed to consider and propose a policy on memorialization of board members who die in office; and this committee shall report to the board at the next board meeting. Appointees were **Morrell Robinson, John Williams, and Barbara Kieran**.

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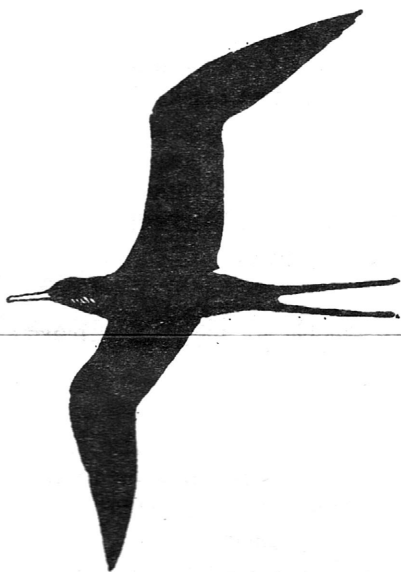
MOTHER AND CHILD

by Meret Wilson

Being a believer in Karma, the philosophy of cause and effect, I knew I was in the right place at the right time. Everything happens just as it is supposed to. I was in the Keys with friends for a week of diving. Because the seas were very rough we were forced to snorkel inside the bays around little islands. The snorkeling was kind of boring as there were few fish to view and even fewer shells to admire. But we were anchored off what has been known as "Frigate Island" because of the huge population of Frigatebirds that roost in the mangroves. Along with the Frigatebirds were nesting Double-crested Cormorants, Green Herons, Reddish Egrets, and Tricolored Herons. Never mind the snorkeling. Seeing all these birds and their babies was worth the inconvenience.

As I was playing around under the mangroves, trying to get better views of the nests and babies, my friend Joe screamed, "A bird just fell in the water and it's drowning!" Being as I could walk through the water faster than I could snorkel with flippers,

I took my flippers off and "ran" as best I could towards the area where he was pointing. As I got closer I could see it was a huge Frigatebird. It took about three to four minutes to get to her and by the time I was there she was just about drowned. Her eyes were full of fear as I scooped her up into my arms. I looked above me and saw 30 to 40 Frigatebirds circling tight right above my head. I had never heard of a Frigatebird being an attack bird so I set to work.



The poor bird was hopelessly tangled in monofilament with which, during her struggle to free herself, she had only succeeded in tangling herself more, including twice between her upper and lower beak. Monofilament was wrapped around her head, her neck, through her beak, around each wing and around one leg. It all came from a single line attached to the mangroves.

I was lucky. The monofilament was of a low enough strength that I was able to break her loose from the mangrove. I then started the laborious process of untangling her from the line. At first she tried to bite me and strike at my face. Having done years of rehabbing, I knew just how to guard my face and still work with her. She finally gave up fighting me and relaxed as I got the last of the monofilament off her. Close up her eyes were black and her beak was a beautiful light blue much like a Northern Gannet's. Her breast was white and the rest of her was black ... and soaked!

I walked her to the mangrove island and found a perfect dead branch that she could sit on while she dried out in the sun and the fairly warm, stiff breeze we were experiencing that day. I decided to snorkel for a bit to keep an eye on her in case she was

so weak that she fell back into the water. If that were to happen then I would take her ashore to a rehab center in Key West. She teetered a bit but relaxed, spread her wings, and began the drying out process. The Frigatebirds overhead had loosened up their circle and seemed to know she was faring well.

About 30 minutes later, my girlfriend had snorkeled over to me to see what I had been up to. Just as she got there, the Frigatebird started to flap her wings. She flew up to the next higher branch, flapped some more and started to rise above the mangroves. I held my breath knowing this was the test of her strength. She rose, and just as she was about 30 feet over our heads, a juvenile Frigatebird flew to her and they touched beaks like a gentle kiss of relief. The two flew together in tandem for several minutes right over us until they blended in with the other Frigatebirds. A mother and child had been united all because I was in the right place at the right time.

THE FALL MIGRATION COUNT

by David Hartgrove

As Hurricane Gordon threatened the west coast and sent a calling card of several inches of rain our way, fourteen hearty souls turned out to work on the Fall Migration Count on Saturday, September 16th. Actually, it all went pretty smoothly. We were all able to dodge most of the rain and finished the day having counted lots of birds and, for some of us, having seen new species. We also had some near misses. John Carr's team wished they could count the Cerulean Warbler they're pretty sure they saw. They just didn't see it long enough. For my team, it was a Merlin. It kind of looked right but we just didn't get a good enough look before it disappeared beyond the trees. Birding certainly has its ups and downs. For John's team, the ups were the five Clapper Rails and the Magnolia Warbler they saw. For us, it was the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and the Arctic Terns.

My sincere thanks to all the team members and their leaders: **Rachel Ramsey, Kevin DeWall and John Carr** for helping to make this another successful count, in spite of the weather. I should have the totals compiled from the other teams around the county in time for the next issue of *The Pelican*.

BIRDWATCHING CLASS OFFERED

Now is the time to sign up for the new Beginning Birding Class being offered by **HRAS** at Colony in the Woods Home Park (in the Community Center), 4000 S. Clyde Morris, Tuesday mornings. Oct. 17, 24 and 31 from 9:30 to 11 am. The classes will be followed by 3 short birding trips led by John Carr at times convenient to the class members.

To sign up for the class, taught by **Lois Robinson and John Carr** (\$35 for the classes) call John Carr at 255-9360 or **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480.

Outline for the Course

1. Introduction
2. Discussion of the value of birds
3. How to Identify Birds: Size and Shape, Color and Patterns, Behavior, Vocalizations, Habitat and Range.
4. How to find birds.
5. Fundamental skills of birding
6. Birding Equipment
7. Migration facts
8. Birding Etiquette

RICH PAUL TO SPEAK

Our October 16 HRAS program meeting will host **Rich Paul** with a program titled "The Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries: Jewels in the Audubon Crown." He will talk about the birds and programs of the sanctuary, including some of the things they do with the assistance of chapter volunteers. As Manager of Audubon of Florida's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries he has responsibility for the protection and management of 30 coastal islands that are home to some 50,000 breeding pairs of 25 species of colonial waterbirds.

Rich graduated from Haverford College and received his Master's Degree in Wildlife Ecology from Utah State University, where he studied the social behavior of Uinta ground squirrels. He also spent four months in the Antarctic, studying Adelle Penguins. He has broad experience with colonial waterbirds, especially herons and egrets, in Florida, Texas, Mexico, and also Thailand and the Central Pacific. He joined Audubon's Research Department in the Florida Keys in 1972, where he assisted with studies of south Florida wading birds, Bald and Golden Eagles, Flamingos, and White-crowned Pigeons before carrying out a detailed life history study of the Reddish Egret in both Texas and Florida. In 1980 he moved to Tampa.

In 1994 he received the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award from the Florida Wildlife Federation, and in 1995 he received the Golden Egret Award, Audubon's highest career service award.

We are privileged to have Rich Paul speak to us and share his extensive birding experiences.

PELICAN RESCUE

by *Pat Mihalic*

Several months ago the Beach Patrol captured an injured Brown Pelican on the beach and removed hooks and fishing line that had been hampering the flight of the bird since December. They released the bird instead of taking it to a rehabilitator even though one wing was severely damaged from the fishing line. The pelican could not fly and would have starved if not for the efforts of **Carolyn Heisley** of Ormond Beach. She became the bird's guardian angel. With the help of her neighbors **Dr. Alexandra Kostick** and her mother **Wilma Kostick** who provided fresh fish for this hungry juvenile, she made sure that it was fed on a regular basis.

Carolyn watched for signs that the bird was recovering from its injuries, but much to her dismay it could only manage to fly two feet off the ground. This prevented it from hunting for fish, so it became more and more dependent on the food supplied daily by Carolyn and her neighbors. The pelican had bonded with Carolyn and could recognize her from a great distance when she walked on the beach. It would come running after her and follow her like a puppy. It was becoming "too tame" and Carolyn worried that someone or something would harm it. She called **Mary Keller** who referred her to me to arrange to have the bird picked up and taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary on the west coast of Florida. At the suggestion of Volusia County Economic Resource Officer **John Crisp**, I contacted **Nancy Price** from the Turtle Patrol, who went to Carolyn's home and together they rescued the pelican again. Nancy took it to Mary Keller who examined the bird and determined that its best chance for rehabilitation was with the experts at the west

coast sanctuary. John Crisp made arrangements with the sanctuary and he personally delivered the bird; all within 48 hours of Carolyn's call.

Carolyn called the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary the next day to see how her pelican was doing and learned that it was expected to make a full recovery and some day would be returned to the wild.

This rescue emphasized the need for the bird rehabilitation center at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet to become a reality so that injured birds can find refuge close to home.

SMYRNA DUNES FIELD TRIP

by *David Hartgrove*

Just four of us showed up for the first field trip of the season, to Smyrna Dunes Park, on Friday, September 1st when **Lois Robinson, Novita Duffer, Elaine Linebaugh** and I found our walk out the Smyrna Dunes boardwalk was a disappointment. We saw a few Royal Terns flying overhead and when we walked out on the beach, we saw one Piping Plover standing near two Black-bellied Plovers. They quickly disappeared, scared off by a woman out for her morning stroll. We were hampered by not having a spotting scope along when we saw two tiny pinkish blobs way across the water. We knew they had to be Roseate Spoonbills. We also had a hard time identifying any specific terns we saw resting on the sandbar just west of the first walkover.

Our next stop was River Breeze Park in Oak Hill. According to the tide tables, it should have been low tide when we arrived. But a combination of especially high seasonal tides and strong northeast winds made it look an awful lot like high tide. As a result, there was no exposed sandbar for the Willets, plovers, sandpipers, etc. we hoped to see there. We ate our lunch and enjoyed the scenery.

In hopes of finally seeing more birds, we stopped at the Port Orange Bridge on the way back. The tide was up there too but we did see a Bald Eagle sitting on a small oyster bar, lots of this year's bumper crop of young Brown Pelicans and 50 or so American Oystercatchers. The real treat here was the Reddish Egret tucked back in the mangroves preening and the juvenile Little Blue Heron we saw walking the edge of the pond. He was completely white except for some barely visible gray-blue tail feathers. No doubt within several days he developed that blotchy appearance characteristic of young birds of his species. Seeing him walking along with several Snowy Egrets was a good lesson in the rigors of bird identification.

MARY KELLER

by *Pat Mihalic*

This month Bird Rehabilitator **Mary Keller** needs these items to help her care for the birds: white paper towels, canned cat and dog food, bird seed, "Peanut Treat" suet, and millet sprays.

Mary passed on the remarks below to me in memory of **Marie Oglesby** who passed away this summer.

"Birds and the environment lost a good friend this summer. Marie Oglesby was a friend to both. She was also a good friend to us and the wild birds in our care. She called me every month to ask if the birds needed anything *The Pelican* could ask for.

"When we release a bird back to the wild we have a saying we say as they go free. Marie, we will miss you and we say this to you, 'May you go with God.'"

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, field trips will leave from the east parking lot of the Court House Annex at City Island.

Monday, October 2

HRAS Board meeting. City Island Library at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 5

Flagler AS program meeting. Center for Birds of Prey presentation featuring live hawk, owl, and falcon. Call **Joe or Judie Dziak** 445-8490 for information.

Thursday, October 5 through Sunday, October 8

Florida Birding Festival & Nature Expo, Harborview Center, Clearwater.

Friday, October 6

HRAS Field Trip. Turkey Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at Palm Bay. Meet at Publix Parking lot on Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., 6:30 a.m. Led by **Madeline Shaddix**.

Saturday, October 7

St. Johns County AS field trip. "Lake Disston. Pristine Florida in Flagler County." Call **Bert Charest** at (904) 794-0701 for information.

Sunday, October 8

Rose Bay Day (part of Family Days Festival) in Port Orange at the City Center off Dunlawton Ave., from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. to celebrate projects to restore Rose Bay. **HRAS** will host a bird information booth. Call **David Hartgrove** to volunteer and for information.

Tuesday, October 10

W. Volusia AS outing. Ponce de Leon Inlet and Lighthouse Point Park. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

Saturday & Sunday, October 14-15

Florida Keys Birding & Wildlife Festival. Crane Point Hammock, Marathon, FL. Call **James Bell**, Florida Keys NWR at (305) 872-2237 or email james_bell@fws.gov for information.

Saturday, October 14

St. Johns River/Indian River Lagoon Regional Conservation Committee. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Dixie Crossroads Restaurant, Titusville.

Saturday, October 14

"Discover your National Wildlife Refuge," Family Fun Day. Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at Lake Woodruff NWR. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tram tours, Free Admission. Shuttle bus from Lighthouse Christian Center. Lots to do and see for kids and adults. (Rain Date: 10/21). Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

Monday, October 16

HRAS Program meeting. **Rich Paul** "The Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries: Jewels in the Audubon Crown."

Tuesdays on October 17, 24, and 31

HRAS Beginning Bird Classes. Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. 9:30-11:00 a.m. Led by **Lois Robinson and John Carr**.

Saturday, October 21

HRAS Field Trip. Washington Oaks State Gardens, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Kevin DeWall**.

Tuesday, October 24

Flagler AS outing. Rose Bay 2-hour narrated cruise for \$10. Depart from Aunt Catfish Restaurant dock in Port Orange and lunch at the restaurant. Call **Arnie Levine** at 446-1906 for reservation.

Tuesday, October 24

W. Volusia AS program meeting. **Gwen Straub**, New Smyrna Beach Activist. "Environmental Issues." 7:00 p.m., Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand.

Thursday - Sunday, November 2-5

Audubon Assembly. Fernandino Beach. The Inn at Fernandino Beach.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

by Diane Talley

Your Ways and Means committee is gearing up for the coming year. We need you help in the production of the MYSTERY THEATER play "Who Killed Da Bird?" We need back stage help in advertising and press releases, all which can be done at home. If your forte is in the front lines, we have a few parts open for those that want to act. BUT all need to support the production with dinner reservations and show, at just \$15 per ticket. January 19th will be the big evening so circle your calendar to come out with your friends and enjoy yourself.

Birds, birds, and more birds. Are you done with the old magazines, books and pictures that are hanging around your home? Call 258-3816 for pickup. We will hand these out to people who visit **HRAS** booths at festivals we support.

Halifax River Audubon Society T-shirts and name badges will soon be for sale and we will start taking names and sizes at upcoming meetings.

MEMORIALS TO GAIL LINCOLN AND MARIE OGLESBY

by Lois Robinson

HRAS has received a total of \$435.95 in memorials in memory of Marie and Gail. \$120.95 has been earmarked for Audubon Adventures and has gone into that fund. The remaining \$315.00 will be spent in accordance with the wishes of the donors. If you would like to contribute to this fund to honor Gail and Marie or someone else please send you contribution to Treasurer **Morrell Robinson** at 6118 Jasmine Vine Dr., Port Orange, FL 32124 or make your contribution to Morrell at the next program meeting.

At the last Board meeting a committee was set up to establish a policy regarding memorial gifts in memory of board members and all other members who have contributed to **HRAS** in many countless and outstanding ways.

CAROLE AND MARYLOU - MEETING HITS

Members and visitors at our first **HRAS** program meeting of the year on September 19 were treated to our Audubon Regional Director **Carole Adams**. She most engagingly brought us up to date on what is happening with Audubon of Florida as it completes its union with National Audubon Society. And in addition, we got a brief history of the bloody beginnings of Florida Audubon during the plume wars.

Then we got to see the wonderful slides that **Marylou Weiner** and **Kevin Doxstater** have taken of Florida birds. She charmed us with her comments on the behavior of the birds being photographed and her circumstances in taking the photos.

It was good for all of us to see our old birder friends again and meet new folks who love and enjoy birds too.

LOCAL BIRD HOTLINE

by *Madeline Shaddix*

Nothing quickens the pulse of a birder much more than seeing or even hearing a report of a bird seen that is not one of our common residents. I have been thinking for a long time that it would be interesting and helpful if our members had a quick and easy way to communicate birding observations to one another. Collectively we live all over the area, and watch our own yards and favorite birding sites as much as time permits. If we could share the information about migrant or uncommon birds, we could alert interested members as to which birds are showing up and the areas that are the most promising in which to spend our birding time.

For several months, I have been receiving such information from birders in the southwest portion of the state from an email network dubbed "Birdbrains". While they report sightings in places too far from here for a fast look, I still find it interesting to know which birds are in the state at any given time. I would like to propose that we might do the same thing for members in our vicinity. Many of our members have Internet access, and emails would certainly be the fastest and easiest method of relaying information. A telephone chain is also a possibility for the members who do not have computers, but would require some volunteers to make the calls. An example of process: I recently sent an email to a few Audubon members to report Black-and-white, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Yellow, Prairie, and Hooded Warblers. **Pat Mahalic** answered me with a report of a Painted Bunting in her yard. You can bet your life I checked to make sure that my seed feeders were clean and stocked. I haven't seen the bunting yet, but I'm looking.

If you are interested in participating in either method, please email me at meshaddix@aol.com, or call me at 761-0301 so that I can report the amount of interest to our Board of Directors and see where we can go with the idea.

FLORIDA BIRDING FESTIVAL & NATURE EXPO

You may want to make plans now to attend this unique event October 5-8 at the Harborview Center in Clearwater.

Whether you're a beginning birder, life-lister or nature lover, you won't want to miss this festival! Last year, 169 species were spotted on field trips. These included the Magnificent Frigatebird, Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Reddish Egret, Bald Eagle, Crested Caracara, Snowy Plover, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Curlew, Florida Scrub-Jay, Eastern Towhee and many more fabulous species – including lots of specialties unique to Florida. You never know what will fly by on a trip, like an exciting rare find last year, the Elegant Tern. The possibilities are endless!

Enjoy unique field trips such as: Bird banding, Shell Key, Brooker Creek Preserve, Wildlife on Well Fields, Honeymoon Island State Park, Florida Specialties, Fort De Soto, Kayak at Caladesi, Pursuing Pelagics, and more!

Workshops and seminars include topics such as: Young Birder's Basics, Birds of the Everglades, Eagles: A Florida Success Story, Woodpeckers, Florida Habitats, Florida Scrub-Jays, Birding by Ear, Flamingos, Frogs, Butterflies, Owls, Photography, Bats, and Landscaping.

John Fitzpatrick, head of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will discuss *Bird Source*, an international bird computer database. **Kenn Kaufman**, author of *Lives of North American Birds*, *A Field Guild to Advanced Birding* and *Kingbird Highway*, will

lead an identification workshop. **Scott Weidensaul**, author of *Raptors: The Birds of Prey* and *Mountains of the Heart*, will give a talk on *Living on the Wind*. **Dr. Lincoln Brower**, international expert on monarch butterflies, will share the history, strategies and the migration saga. The *Nature Expo* features the latest products you need to get the most out of birding and enjoyment of the great outdoors, and lots of fun kids' activities.

Web site: www.floridasbeach.com/bird/festival.html and address: 14450 46th St. North, Suite 108, Clearwater, FL 33762.

To Register call (toll free): 1-877-FLA-BIRD.

LOST WHOOPERS (A True Snow Bird Story)

From *The Pelican September 2000*, newsletter of *St. Johns Audubon Society*, by *Tina Van Ghent*

Living in Florida, we are only too familiar with the term "snow bird." (Not being retired yet, I can only dream about going up North and driving slow in the fast lane!)

You remember when we had **Steve Nesbitt** at one of our program meetings to talk about Whooping Cranes? And some of us were even lucky enough to see these stately birds in Central Florida on one or more of our field trips. Well, Steve is head of the Whooping Crane reintroduction project for Florida Fish and Wildlife and he reports that two of the non-migratory Florida Whooping Cranes have moved North to Michigan!

Let's back up a bit. Since 1993, researchers have released 208 cranes into the wild. Today, 78 of the birds are still alive; some of the mated pairs produced chicks this year although none of these survived more than a few weeks. However, the good news is that this was the first time since 1939 that Whooping Cranes have hatched in the U.S.

Our "snow birds" paired up as mates in the Spring of 1999 and moved around central Florida for the past year as drought conditions dried up their favorite habitats. About 4 months ago, the pair, equipped with radio transmitters, disappeared from radio range.

The male is 5 years old and is well known to the local Florida researchers. In 1996, the bird swallowed a fishing lure with two treble hooks. These were successfully removed and the bird was returned to the wild. Then his radio transmitter went into the "mortality mode" (an indication that the bird had not moved for many hours). His transmitter was found wrapped around a power line and no one is quite sure how the bird managed to do that.

The female was released into the wild in Florida in 1996. As the whoopers mate for life, she simply followed her mate to Michigan.

But the interesting thing is that these two birds were raised in captivity and never had an opportunity to "learn" to migrate from their parents. Steve Nesbitt and his staff are, of course, eager to see if the birds will return to Florida this fall.

Why Michigan? It's a mystery. There are no whoopers in that state. They chose a 1475-acre parcel of reclaimed wetland in Sandusky. The land is owned by the Michigan Peat Co., which produces agricultural peat products for gardening and landscaping. The firm's vice president and general manager, **J. David Newman**, said the company is delighted to have the endangered birds. The staff is taking steps to protect the cranes and blocking access to the area so they will not be disturbed. Kudos to Michigan Peat!

Stay tuned for further news.

**AUDUBON ASSEMBLY:
ANNUAL GATHERING OF FLORIDA'S
CONSERVATION LEADERS**

November 2-5
Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, Florida

Registration before October 14 is \$75 and includes four meals. The beautiful Inn at Fernandina Beach will host the meetings, meals and programs. The Inn is offering a special rate of \$54 per night for single or double and provides a complimentary hot breakfast.

EVENTS

THURSDAY 6-8 PM

Welcome Reception – Poolside
Dinner on your own.

FRIDAY 7 AM – NOON

Field Trips

- Egen's Creek
- Amelia Island – Birds of Amelia
- Fort Clinch

Workshops

- Membership for Audubon's Second Century
- Conservation Education and Centers
- Skills for Chapter Leaders
- Colonial Waterbirds
- Important Bird Areas

12:30

Buffet Lunch – Assembly Kick Off – “Setting Florida's Conservation Priorities”

Richard Pettigrew, Chair – Audubon of Florida
Stuart Strahl, PhD, President – Audubon of Florida

2 – 5 PM

Audubon Assembly – Plenary I - Proposing Conservation Priorities

6 PM

Reception – Poolside

7 PM

Dinner and Evening Program

John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society
John Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

SATURDAY 9 AM – NOON

Audubon Assembly – Plenary II

NOON

Lunch with Bill Belleville

Award Winning Author of *River of Lakes – A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River*

1 – 5 PM

Field Trips

- Spoonbill Pond and Blackroot Point
- Local Migrants
- Beachwalk
- Florida Flora and Fauna Phenom

Workshops

- Birdwatching for Beginners
- Birds of Prey
- Membership for Audubon's Second Century
- Conservation Education
- Leadership Skills

6 PM

Reception – Poolside

7 PM

Dinner and Evening Program

Get Out The Vote – Speaker TBA

SUNDAY 8 AM – NOON

Audubon of Florida Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

All Day - Field Trips

- Kayak Amelia
- Cumberland Island

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

In 1989 the state mandated that Volusia, and 12 other counties where manatees are known to congregate, develop plans specifically geared to protecting these gentle mammals. Nine years later, in 1998, The Volusia County Ad-Hoc Manatee Protection Plan Advisory Committee met to try to hammer out some compromise positions so that the completed plan could be submitted to the state for approval. It would be hard to imagine a more divided group. Forty-five people, who were listed as either members, observers, staff or alternate representatives from Audubon (I represented our chapter), Sierra Club, the Volusia Turtle Patrol, state and federal wildlife law enforcement, marina owners, members of fishing and boating clubs, county staff and other interested community members, came together under the guidance of the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium. Early on it had been decided that if anything tangible were to come from the deliberations of this disparate group, a neutral facilitator would be necessary to keep the process on track.

The process was hobbled from the start when it was decided that any formal recommendation from the committee be made by consensus. Some of the folks around that table would have trouble agreeing on whether the sun was shining at noon, much less on how fast boats should be allowed to travel along the St. Johns River. Or where new marinas could be built and how many boat slips should be permitted.

There are a number of things affecting manatee mortality. Exposure to extremes of cold can cause pneumonia. Other natural causes can result in high infant mortality rates. These things we can have little or no control over. Speeding boats, discarded fishing lines and other entangling debris and the siting of marina facilities in known manatee habitat we can exert some control over. These are the kinds of things that can have a positive or negative effect of manatee deaths and injuries. We just have to have the will to make the necessary changes in human behavior patterns.

Since any recommendation from the committee had to be the result of a consensus decision, and since there would never be consensus on boat speeds, that portion of the plan was withdrawn from consideration. What was forwarded to the state for approval had several hundred pages about educating the public about manatee habitat, threats to their survival, recommendations for research, and a marina siting section. The state promptly rejected the plan noting that there was nothing in the plan about boat speeds. Preventing collisions between boats and manatees is one of the few ways we can affect manatee mortality. We can't prevent the temperature from dropping or revive a stillborn manatee calf. But a manatee has a chance of avoiding a boat traveling 5 to 10 knots. He has little chance of avoiding a boat traveling at 35 or 40 knots. If we allow new marinas to be constructed in the middle of manatee habitat, this increases the number of boats and thereby the chances of further collisions between boats and manatees.

Now the Volusia County Council has approved a newly revised Manatee Protection Plan for submission to the state. This one still doesn't address boat speeds, and for good measure, the county staff removed the section regarding marina siting at the suggestion of the USF&WS. This was done, we're told, because the Save the Manatee Club has a law suit against various state and federal agencies for not effectively enforcing current protections and the county wants to see what comes from these law suits before making new rules. Meanwhile, more manatees die and a boating industry lobbying group tries to have the manatee removed from the Endangered Species List.

This version of the Volusia County plan will be rejected too since the state's objections to the first draft still haven't been addressed and now, with the marina siting section withdrawn, it's an even more useless document. Aside from some vague references to improved law enforcement, there's nothing in the plan to protect manatees. Until our county leaders have the strength to do what needs to be done, maybe we should just call this the Manatee Information Plan. Governor Bush recently stated that the manatee was his favorite animal. Give his office a call. Ask that he put an end to this charade and put some teeth into a real protection plan for manatees. The number is 850-488-4441.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2000

November 2-5
Historic Fernandina Beach

Join hundreds of Audubon members, volunteers, leaders, allies, birders, conservationists and scientists for three days of fun, learning and decision-making at the Audubon Assembly 2000 at Fernandina Beach.

Featuring:

- ✓ Grassroots Training Workshops
- ✓ Expert Speakers and Programs on Environmental and Wildlife Issues
- ✓ Exciting Field Trips to Historical Sites and Birdwatching Hotspots
- ✓ Setting Florida Conservation Priorities for 2001 and beyond

The beautiful Inn at Fernandina Beach will be the location for meetings, meals and programs. The Inn is offering a very reasonable rate and provides a complimentary hot breakfast.

To register for the Assembly, call 850-224-7546, e-mail eddraper@audubon.org, or fill out the form below and mail to: Audubon of Florida, Conservation Center, 2507 Callaway Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

- Sign me up for the Audubon Assembly 2000 and charge me the early-bird registration fee of only \$75, which includes four meals.
- Send me more information on the Audubon Assembly.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number (home/work/fax) _____

- Enclosed is my check
- Charge my Visa Mastercard
- # _____ Expiration date _____
- Signature _____

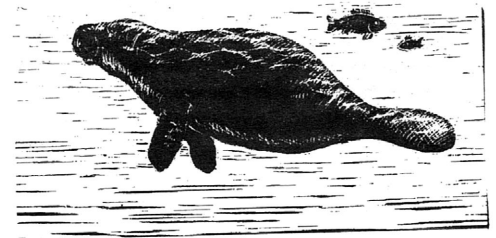
ACCOMMODATIONS:

Please make reservations directly with hotel:

The Inn at Fernandina Beach

(904) 277-2300 or Toll Free (877) 843-4667

Room Rate: \$54.00 per night for single or double



THE PELICAN



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

October 2000

NAMES & NUMBERS

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

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Jean Lash	761-6893
Corresponding Sec'y		
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Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	255-9360

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Pat Mihalic	767-9437
Willie Burns	253-2159
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 Kieran	672-2927
Publication	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity		
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		(561) 340-0079

WEB SITES

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

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

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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! 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.

WELCOME

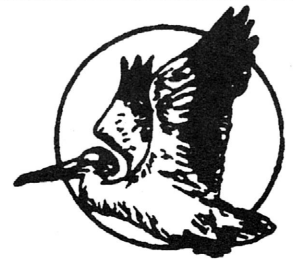
Patricia S. Acker, Siri Bernstein, Ruth Brasol, Lois E. Carnahan, Guion Joan P. Deemer, Margaret Dunn, Jessie Ferguson, Carolyn Gion, Mary Jane Hauptert, Stella Hauser, Judith L. Hopkins, Ralph W. Kinsell, Robert Maddern, Tom Maries, William McClain, David Natera, Dot Parshley, Billie Pomar, Patricia Race, Margaret M. Reddick, Crystal Ruh, Linda A. Schoals, Elaine A. Stacy, Edward Stephens, Dilena Talley, and Jackie Thumser 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

Barbara Bowden, Harriet Damesek, Mary Ellen Baker and Susan Baker for the delicious refreshments provided for our September meeting.

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 46 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2000

ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT AND US

by *President Lois Robinson*

Do you know what your environmental address is? I didn't until I attended a class last week at an Elderhostel. Our environmental address is the watershed area in which we live. In our case, the St. Johns River, its surrounding feeders, lakes, and estuaries. I think it behooves us to learn more about this river system of which we are a part. The importance of watershed areas has increased in Audubon of Florida's mind since our new regional conservation committees are aligned with the water management districts (five of them) of the state.

A year ago the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) drafted a management plan, which must be updated and submitted to Florida's DEP every five years. This plan is a book of almost 300 pages (I will be glad to lend it to anyone interested). So what can we glean from its pages? The mission statement of SJRWMD is "to manage water resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing both environmental and economic benefits." The goals of the district include such things as providing adequate, inexpensive and clean water to meet the needs of the area, to minimize flood damage and provide flood control, to protect ecosystems and to restore degraded ecosystems back to a healthy state.

How do we protect the environment and provide economic benefits to the public at the same time? This is what SJRWMD wrestles with all the time. In an era of increasing population and decreasing potable water supply it becomes more and more difficult. Conservation of water will be a major push across all of Florida's water districts. What can we do to conserve water? These quotes are from *Streamlines*, a publication of SJRWMD: "excess lawn irrigation is the single biggest waste of water in the 19-county area of this district," and "85% of us get our water from a public supply utility and those utilities supplied us with 155 gallons of water per person in 1997." A high proportion of that water is used for lawn irrigation.

Some of the other projects for which the district is responsible include the continuing clean up of high levels of pesticides at Lake Apopka associated with bird deaths in 98-99, restoring the Ocklawaha river basin (a part of SJRWMD), and erosion control along the Little Wekiva river.

Again a quote from *Streamlines*: In all of its endeavors the district daily forms partnership with government at the local, state, regional and national levels to protect Florida's unique environment and to ensure that taxpayer dollars are wisely spent. Let's keep ourselves informed and remember to conserve our precious water.

CALENDAR

Thursday - Sunday, November 2-5

Audubon Assembly. Fernandino Beach. The Inn at Fernandino Beach. To register for assembly call (850) 224-7546. For Inn reservations call 1-877 843-4667.

Saturday, November 4

~~HRAS Field Trip. Bird Banding at Wakiva State Park in Altamonte Springs, 8:00 a.m.~~

➤ **NOTICE. THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED.**

Monday, November 6

HRAS Board Meeting. City Island Library, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday - Sunday, November 9-12

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival. Nature and space. Great Florida Birding Trail with Seminars, field trips, workshops, exhibits, etc. Call Laurilee or Karla at (321) 258-5000 for information.

Friday, November 17

HRAS Field Trip. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, 7:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

Friday, November 17

Indian River AS program. **Spence Wise**, Falconer. Contact **Julie Seberry** at (321) 452-3738 or juliet@palmnet.net for information.

Saturday, November 18

W. Volusia AS outing. Disney Preserve. Joint Outing with Native Plant Society. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

Monday, November 20

HRAS Program meeting. Lighthouse Point Bird Rehabilitation. **John Crisp**, Volusia County Economic Resource Officer.

Saturday, November 25

Merritt Island NWR. Florida Scrub-Jay Tour. 9am-11am. Meet at Refuge Center. Includes a special tour of the New Scrub Trail.

Tuesday, November 28

W. Volusia AS program meeting. **Parks Small**, Park Biologist, Wekiva Basin GEOPark. "Bird Behavior." 7:00 p.m. Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

Listening to the local talk radio stations, you begin to realize just how tenuous a grip some folks have on reality. All too often, it seems that grip has slipped. Did you know that the campaign to pass the "Forever and ECHO" initiatives is part of a socialist plot to steal all the land in the country and close roads, denying the public access? Were you aware that the Nature Conservancy is a multi-billion dollar socialist front group in cahoots with those who would dominate the world? If there was ever a doubt in your mind that the lunatic fringe is alive and well right here in our fair city, you need only tune around on your radio dial some afternoon.

Propositions I and II, which will appear on the November 7th ballot, are designed to provide funding for the acquisition of water recharge areas in the "wet heart" of Volusia County; purchase other environmentally sensitive lands; fund improvements to existing parks, museums and recreational facilities and build a new performing arts center. In total, the two bond issues will raise 160 million dollars. And it'll only cost each of us home owners about ten dollars a year each.

This money from the bonds is only about a third of what's needed. The rest will come from state and federal sources. Yes, that's our money too. We paid the taxes that will provide those funds. But if we don't vote for the initiatives and set the bond issues in motion, those state and federal monies will go somewhere else. In short, we have to tax ourselves a little to get a lot.

Volusia County has doubled in population in the last twenty years. At the rate we're going, we'll be experiencing the same problems facing Orange County and Miami Dade before we know it. These are not happy thoughts. We can take steps now to plan for the future and help protect the quality of life for ourselves and for our children. Or we can listen to the voices of those who hear "voices" and believe that the environmental movement is some sort of sinister, socialist plot. It's all in an afternoon's choices.

As I write this, Congress has grudgingly granted itself another week to work on the public's business. They're anxious to get home and campaign for reelection. So far, there's no appropriation for Everglades restoration or Wildlife Refuge system improvements, but they may ban shark finning. They're still considering legislation, which would make hunting the number one priority on public lands, weaken protections for fish stocks that are already seriously over fished and force states to establish a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants. There's an old saying that compares law making and sausage making. I believe the next week will show the truth of that adage.

PELICAN RESCUE UPDATE

by Pat Mihalic

Carolyn Heisley who rescued the Brown Pelican that you read about in last month's *Pelican* called to inform us that her pelican had been returned to the wild. Carolyn had been calling the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary on a regular basis to keep tabs on the progress that "Pink #156" was making. The sanctuary assigns each patient a color for the month it is brought in (June was pink) and a number that corresponds to the number of birds brought to the shelter in that particular month. Her last call at the end of September resulted in the shelter staff person telling her that the injured wing had healed and that the bird was released on September 26, 2000. This made for a very happy ending for all involved in the rescue and for all bird lovers.

MARY KELLER - BIRD REHABILITATOR

With the fall migration in full swing, Mary is in need of the following items: white paper towels, millet sprays, apples, gauze for wrapping cuts and breaks, small blankets, towels, shower curtains, peanut suet, dry dog food, small cans of cat food, sunflower seeds and wild bird seed. Donations of money are also accepted to buy vitamins and medicines that help to save the lives of many of our feathered friends. Donations can be taken to the Keller home at 1216 Deneece Terrace, off of Derbyshire (near the intersection of LPGA and Derbyshire) or call **Pat Mihalic** 767-9437 to arrange pick-up.

TURKEY CREEK FIELD TRIP

by Madeline Shaddix

Four people rolled out for an early departure for the Turkey Creek field trip on October 6: **Novita Duffer, Ray Scory, David Hartgrove** and I. Joining us there were **Gail** and **Rich Domroski** from the South Volusia Audubon Chapter.

The great weather conditions that we had last year did not exist this year, so the number of warblers seen was down to eight. They were: Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Cape May, Pine, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Black-and-white, and American Restart. We also saw a Scarlet Tanager and some Sandhill Cranes. We were about a day early for the cold front. Still, it remains a great birding destination during fall migration, with a wonderful range of habitat. Palm Bay should be very proud of the preservation of the area and the improvements that have been made, such as the extensive boardwalk.

On the return trip we did a quick drive around the Blue Heron Waste Water Management area west of Titusville and there we saw the waterfowl typical for fall, plus some waders and an American Bittern. We ended the day's trip with a respectable total of 57 species.

Fall Counts for 1997, 98, 99 & 2000 VOLUSIA COUNTY

1997	1998	1999	2000	Bird Name
19	7	12	40	Pied-billed Grebe
0	30	0	0	White Pelican
661	529	123	914	Brown Pelican
38	71	25	73	Double-crested Cormorant
17	52	50	41	Anhinga
42	51	45	117	Great Blue Heron
131	123	185	203	Great Egret
298	107	196	263	Snowy Egret
239	32	38	87	Little Blue Heron
163	11	21	41	Tricolored Heron
2	1	4	5	Reddish Egret
860	1905	2493	1430	Cattle Egret
8	19	16	32	Green Heron
1	2	0	0	Black-crowned Night-heron
2	7	2	8	Yellow-crowned Night-heron
1643	1287	2459	629	White Ibis
1	48	11	29	Glossy Ibis
0	4	7	0	Roseate Spoonbill
2	51	90	17	Wood Stork
6	0	0	0	Canada Goose
40	26	24	21	Wood Duck
0	6	2	22	Mottled Duck
99	67	19	9	Mallard
11	54	0	69	Blue-winged Teal
0	0	1	0	Ring-necked Duck
0	0	0	1	Lesser Scaup
277	150	1847	233	Black Vulture
240	566	401	422	Turkey Vulture
78	27	48	105	Osprey
8	14	32	15	Bald Eagle
1	1	1	1	Northern Harrier
1	0	1	3	Sharp-shinned Hawk
0	0	0	1	Cooper's Hawk
13	20	47	31	Red-shouldered Hawk
14	4	11	14	Red-tailed Hawk
14	4	26	7	American Kestrel
0	1	0	0	Merlin
0	0	0	1	Peregrine Falcon
18	19	97	4	Wild Turkey
15	23	10	7	Northern Bobwhite
17	1	0	16	Clapper Rail
0	1	0	0	Sora
0	1	3	0	Purple Gallinule
32	74	48	69	Common Moorhen
10	18	2	12	American Coot
1	1	3	2	Limpkin
10	81	59	72	Sandhill Crane
0	0	0	2	Whooping Crane
38	8	5	30	Black-bellied Plover
124	0	0	0	Wilson's Plover
202	47	2	302	Semipalmated Plover
1	0	0	0	Piping Plover
4	45	26	28	Killdeer
5	8	3	1	American Oystercatcher

1997	1998	1999	2000	Bird Name
0	0	12	0	American Avocet
0	0	1	0	Greater Yellow-legs
0	3	0	0	Solitary Sandpiper
49	19	19	50	Eastern Willet
3	3	4	1	Spotted Sandpiper
170	69	35	151	Ruddy Turnstone
2	0	0	1	Red Knot
449	194	67	556	Sanderling
0	1	20	65	Semipalmated Sandpiper
70	2	0	0	Western Sandpiper
0	0	40	15	peep sp.
0	0	0	2	Dunlin
0	5	0	1	Common Snipe
2294	1659	2605	3905	Laughing Gull
70	26	0	86	Ring-billed Gull
16	0	3	2	Herring Gull
0	1	0	0	Lesser Black-backed Gull
3	0	0	0	Great Black-backed Gull
1	0	0	0	Gull-billed Tern
3	3	8	32	Caspian Tern
1805	14	27	662	Royal Tern
22	5	2	37	Sandwich Tern
69	4	0	0	Common Tern
0	0	0	4	Arctic Tern
26	2	0	104	Forster's Tern
0	25	3	2	sterna sp.
4	0	4	0	Least Tern
43	1	32	2	Black Skimmer
186	785	248	345	Rock Dove
63	121	50	100	Eurasian Collared Dove
761	743	584	723	Mourning Dove
8	0	26	19	Common Ground Dove
0	3	1	0	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
5	9	1	2	Eastern Screech Owl
5	1	0	0	Great Horned Owl
6	6	7	4	Barred Owl
0	0	10	0	Common Nighthawk
1	0	1	0	Chuck-will's-widow
88	252	37	130	Chimney Swift
1	2	4	6	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
11	18	30	37	Belted Kingfisher
48	48	13	17	Red-headed Woodpecker
86	113	83	101	Red-bellied Woodpecker
23	29	22	54	Downy Woodpecker
2	0	0	2	Hairy Woodpecker
30	11	11	14	Northern Flicker
20	28	38	47	Pileated Woodpecker
0	0	0	2	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
0	0	0	1	Acadian Flycatcher
1	3	2	1	Eastern Phoebe
2	1	4	0	Great Crested Flycatcher
13	5	17	4	Eastern Kingbird
0	0	11	42	Purple Martin
2	35	40	537	Tree Swallow

1997	1998	1999	2000	Bird Name
0	0	0	20	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
0	0	17	0	Cliff Swallow
0	70	30	52	Barn Swallow
188	179	193	222	Blue Jay
9	14	9	13	Florida Scrub-Jay
353	81	41	34	American Crow
258	619	159	98	Fish Crow
573	587	10758	59	crow sp.
0	0	4	3	Carolina Chickadee
68	56	83	140	Tufted Titmouse
0	0	0	1	White-breasted Nuthatch
72	61	49	111	Carolina Wren
0	0	1	0	House Wren
0	0	2	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
30	30	19	31	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
0	2	0	2	Eastern Bluebird
7	3	1	0	Veery
1	0	0	0	Swainson's Thrush
0	3	3	3	Gray Catbird
308	316	268	283	Northern Mockingbird
8	12	20	16	Brown Thrasher
28	34	17	32	Loggerhead Shrike
261	1082	13462	928	European Starling
24	11	6	31	White-eyed Vireo
0	0	1	1	Blue-headed Vireo
1	0	5	0	Yellow-throated Vireo
29	20	4	9	Red-eyed Vireo
2	2	1	0	vireo sp.
0	0	1	0	Tennessee Warbler
4	4	5	15	Northern Parula
3	0	0	2	Yellow Warbler
0	5	0	1	Magnolia Warbler
1	0	0	0	Cape May Warbler
1	3	8	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler
0	0	0	1	Black-throated Green Warbler
0	0	1	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler*
2	0	0	0	Blackburnian Warbler
7	6	6	3	Yellow-throated Warbler
3	6	7	26	Pine Warbler
3	1	1	17	Prairie Warbler
1	3	3	5	Palm Warbler
1	0	0	0	Bay Breasted Warbler
3	3	8	16	Black-and-white Warbler
2	11	28	29	American Redstart
0	1	2	4	Worm-eating Warbler
0	2	2	1	Ovenbird
1	0	0	0	Northern Waterthrush,
9	1	13	52	Common Yellowthroat
1	1	2	0	Summer Tanager
142	127	165	200	Northern Cardinal
1	0	1	0	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
2	9	1	34	Eastern Towhee
18	18	0	0	Chipping Sparrow
120	301	258	58	Red-winged Blackbird
6	16	10	1	Eastern Meadowlark
96	895	3896	799	Boat-tailed Grackle
338	285	268	62	Common Grackle

1997	1998	1999	2000	Bird Name
4	26	0	0	Brown-headed Cowbird
0	3	0	0	blackbird sp.
8	0	2	1	Baltimore Oriole
0	0	1	8	American Goldfinch
17	48	63	60	House Sparrow

* Documented

September 20, 1997 Count. Total species: 127. Total individuals: 14,907. 27 persons in 10 parties. Time: 3:45a.m. – 7:30p.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: 2:30a.m. – 6:30p.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: 6:00a.m. – 6:00p.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.

September 16, 2000 Count: Total species: 129. Total individuals: 16,774. 35 observers in 12 parties. Time 3:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hours: foot; 19.75, car; 58.25; boat; 3.5. Miles: foot; 14.5; car, 525; boat, 8. Feeder watch: hours, 18; watchers, 4; stations, 3. Owling; hours, 3.75; miles, 57; observers, 1. Temp: dawn, 75; am, 82; noon, 88; pm, 91; sunset, 78; night, 71. Wind: dawn, SW5; am, SW5; noon, SW10, pm, SW10, sunset, SW10; night, SW8. Clouds percent: dawn, 100; am, 100; noon, 100; pm, 95; sunset, 95; night, 100. Precip: dawn, 0; am, 0; noon, lt. Rain; pm, lt. Rain; sunset, rain; night, rain. Coordinator: David Hartgrove.

Participants:

Kathy Barnard	Cyndy Barry	Barbara Bowden
Rob Bowden	John Carr	Joie Clifton
Don Davis	Kevin DeWall	Novita Duffer
Michael Dunn	Regina Dunn	Dot Freeman
Nancy Grindle	Phil Gottshall	David Hartgrove
Jerry Pace	Sylvia Parrillo	Jan Petito
Chuck Potter	Bob Putney	Rachel Ramsey
Paul Rebman	Donna Reynolds	Lois Robinson
Mary Jean Rogers	Dorothy Root	Sam Root
Barbara Samler	Don Schaeffer	Ray Scory
Madeline Shaddix	Louise Stanley	Sara Taylor
Larry Wallberg		

Two things are unlimited: the number of generations we should feel responsible for, and our inventiveness. The first provides us with a challenge: to feed and provide for not only the present, but all future generations, from the Earth's finite flow of natural resources. The second, our inventiveness, may create ideas and policies that will contribute to meeting that challenge. (*Jan Tinbergen, Nobel Laureate in Economics*)

WE GET LETTERS

by *Glade Koch*

HRAS Education committee is grateful to many members for their substantial contributions to AUDUBON ADVENTURES KITS. Thank you very much. Sometimes a note comes with a contribution. Here's one:

Dear "Auduboners", As one who is and has been very concerned about all stages of our environment and a member of many organizations that are actively interested, I wish to support the classroom kit exercise. This is an excellent way to get children interested in our real world --- what is left of it --- and perhaps interested enough to work at preserving it. Much success to you! Martha Schnaubelt

We visited the fourth grades at Palm Terrace Elementary School recently that were studying wetlands. We showed slides of and talked about wetland birds. The children were good listeners. Here are excerpts from two letters we received afterwards:

My name is Broderick. You came to visit my school yesterday. I want to let you know how much I appreciated your lesson and to tell you what I learned. In winter eagles go South. In summer they go North. I also know about the Swallow-tailed Kite. It loves flying so much, it eats while it is flying. The owl can twist its neck almost all they way around. Well, that is all I am going to tell you because I got to go. Sincerely, P.S. come again.

Thank you, Mrs. Koch, for coming and sharing with our class. We learned a lot about Florida wetlands. I found the eagle is interesting because it swoops down to feed. I really enjoyed your exhibit. I hope you will come visit our class again.

If you would like to sponsor a class, you may make your check to HRAS and send it to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach 32115-0166. The kit is \$35. plus \$5.95 handling. An individual kit is \$19. with a handling charge of \$4.95.

RICH PAUL SPEAKS

by *Madeline Shaddix*

At our October meeting **Rich Paul**, Manager of Audubon of Florida's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, gave an impressive talk on the birds and habitat that he is entrusted to protect. It's a big job. His slide presentation gave us some of the history of these islands, so essential for the survival of some of our most beautiful birds. The vast areas that hosted so many birds at one time have been developed into "good address for people, but not for the birds". He also reminded us of the bird populations that were nearly decimated in the slaughter of herons and egrets for plumes for ladies' hats. Three men who served as Wardens were killed while trying to protect the birds.

With thus greatly reduced bird numbers and habitat, protection has been necessary to protect these islands which are, as Rich put it, "Jewels in the Audubon Crown". He asked for volunteers who could help monitor the islands in our area, particularly during nesting seasons. If you can, Rich would be glad to hear from you at 1-813-623-6826 or email him at rpaul@audubon.org.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

The upcoming Audubon Assembly will not only be a lot of fun but will be a serious occasion to discuss and seek solutions to problems common to all of Florida's people and especially to Auduboners. Over the past several months, leaders of Audubon's forty-five chapters have been setting their sights on the most important issues and places. So the following is Audubon's:

Priority List 2001

- Improve Florida's growth management laws to increase oversight of development in environmentally sensitive areas and increase public participation.
- Limit the terrible impacts on birds, wildlife and habitats from over-pumping groundwater in Southwest Florida.
- Preserve one million acres of North Florida forests.
- Stop the rapid destruction of the Lake Wales Ridge scrub ecosystem,
- Restore the Everglades ecosystem through land protection, water storage, and water quality improvements proposed in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
- Save wildlife habitat on privately owned land in rural Florida. Create incentives for landowners to preserve natural areas.
- Educate citizens and children to create a culture of conservation throughout Florida, and encourage the state to put significant new funds into conservation education.

The Assembly will offer valuable workshops on bird watching, field trips, chapter membership, grassroots advocacy, conservation education centers, and citizen science. Displays will feature the best work of local Audubon chapters. Evening programs anchored by some of the nation's most respected ornithological leaders, such as **John Fitzpatrick**, will make the 2000 Audubon Assembly a rewarding experience.

It's not too late to join in the fellow bird lovers and habitat huggers on November 2-5 in Fernandino Beach. Call Audubon of Florida at (305) 371-6399.

AUDUBON'S GUIDE TO HOME PESTICIDES

Carbamate and Organophosphate Insecticides

Active Ingredient: **ACEPHATE** (Organophosphate insecticide)

Product: Orthene and other products.

Names:

Used Against: Aphids, leafminers, caterpillars, sawflies, thrips and others.

Toxicity: Highly toxic to ALL insects. Moderately toxic to humans and wildlife.

Alternatives: Beneficial insects, hosing down plants, insecticidal soaps, superior/summer oil, synthetic pyrethrum or *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)

Active Ingredient: **BENDIACARB** (Carbamate insecticide)

Product: Ficam and other products.

Names:

Used Against: Mosquitoes, flies, ants, wasps, cockroaches, fleas, silverfish, and ticks, as well as snails, slugs, and soil insects.

Toxicity: Highly toxic to ALL insects. Fairly toxic to humans. Highly toxic to birds and fish.

Alternatives: Pyrethrum, boric acid (indoors), baits and traps, and parasitic nematodes (for fleas).

Active Ingredient: **CHLORPYRIFOS** (Organophosphate insecticide)

Product: Dursban, Dragon, Ortho-Klor, and other products.

Names:

Used Against: Widely used to kill a variety of insects including ants, chinch bugs, termites, turf weevils and white grubs.

Toxicity: Slightly to moderately toxic to humans. Toxic to fish, shrimp, crabs, birds, and other wildlife.

Alternatives: Bait stations with diflubenzuron or hexaflumeron, a Bt biopesticide, insecticidal soaps, superior oil, milky spore disease (for Japanese beetle grubs), nematodes and other solutions.

Active Ingredient: **DIAZINON** (Organophosphate insecticide)

Product: Bonide Diazinon Soil Granules, Knox-Out, and other products.

Names:

Used Against: Aphids, bagworms, carpenter ants, lacebugs, scale, whiteflies, grubs, cockroaches, fleas, termites, and many other insects around the home, lawn, and garden.

Toxicity: Diazinon can be harmful to humans if swallowed, inhaled, or if it contacts the skin. Highly toxic to birds, fish, and other wildlife. Nearly half of all reported wildlife poisonings from home or garden pesticide use involve diazinon.

Alternatives: Try the same alternatives as for chlorpyrifos, above.

Active Ingredient: **DIMETHOATE** (Organophosphate insecticide)

Product: Cygon and a variety of other products.

Names:

Used Against: Caterpillars, mites, aphids, thrips, plant hoppers, and whiteflies.

Toxicity: Dimethoate is toxic to humans if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Highly toxic to birds, honeybees, and aquatic insects. Moderately toxic to fish.

Alternatives: Superior/summer oils, Bt biopesticides, Rotenone and pyrethrum.

Rodenticides

Active Ingredient: **BRODIFACOU** (Anticoagulant rodenticide)

Product Names: d-CON, Talon-G and other products.

Used Against: Brodifacoum is an increasingly popular active ingredient in pellet baits and bait blocks for rats and mice.

Toxicity: Pellets are toxic to wildlife. Most wildlife poisonings occur when predators (including hawks and owls) eat poisoned rodents.

Alternatives: Traps and exclusion. Try cotton balls or peanut butter for bait.

Herbicides

Active Ingredient: **2,4-D** (Chlorinated phenoxy herbicide)

Used Against: Most commonly used pesticide in the home and garden market, 2,4-D is used to control many broadleaf weeds in gardens and lawns.

Toxicity: Can cause serious skin and eye irritation in humans. Slightly to moderately toxic to birds. Some formulations are highly toxic to fish and aquatic plants.

Alternatives: Soap-based spot sprays, hand weeding, mowing dethatching, aerating, planting suitable grass mixtures, and maintaining a healthy lawn to crowd out weeds.

Active Ingredient: **GLYPHOSATE** (Aliphatic herbicide)

Product Names: Roundup and other products.

Used Against: Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide, which means it kills virtually any plant including annuals, perennials, grasses, sedges, broadleaf weeds, and woody plants.

Toxicity: Low toxicity to humans, although some formulations can cause eye and skin irritation, or be acutely toxic if inhaled; Generally low toxicity to fish, birds, honeybees and worms.

Alternatives: Better mowing techniques, mulching and weeding your garden, spot treatment with soap-based sprays.

Adapted from The Audubon Guide to Home Pesticides by Joel Bourne.

CANAVERAL CAT

by Willie Burns, October 15

Those of us on The Canaveral Amphibian Work Team have been working diligently at capturing an exotic cat that had been dumped at Canaveral Seashore National Park. It is either an Ocelot, or as a second guess, a Civet Cat. The alternative to removing it live is to terminate it with extreme prejudice.

There was an auspicious beginning. Silver Springs loaned us two very nice traps. The Central Florida Zoo in Sanford has agreed to take the captured beast. Then came the first huge problem. Of all things, we could not find live chickens for bait.

After several weeks of frustrating phone calls, it seemed there were no chickens in Volusia County. Finally this past Wednesday I discovered a chicken farm in Samsula that is going out of business and would part with two chickens. The only other future for these chickens, old and tired, is the landfill.

We set the traps with the chickens in their own compartments, complete with feed and water. A thunderous silence followed for several days, a veritable quiet riot of no excitement. Then Friday and Saturday nights there was action.

Sunday morning Trap Two near HQ was filled with an unhappy Bobcat and in its own compartment a very nervous but alive chicken. One of our Rangers released the Bobcat, with a support team fifty feet away on the second floor balcony.

Trap One near the Fee Booth had its chicken killed Friday evening. Either a Raccoon or our cat had reached through the wire to snare the chicken. That night the dead chicken was used as bait in the main compartment. Sunday morning the trap was tripped, the door shut, but the chicken was gone and nothing was inside.

Plan seventeen is now in effect, which is to use some old meat inside the main compartment as bait.

Plan eighteen is in the works, to "three side" the bait cage with smaller wire and hope the cat returns for seconds.

Watch this space for further results! If you are sarcastic, you can mumble about lack of results, but we must have faith in this Olympic Season of underdog victories! And yeah, we HAVE wondered if the cat is too big for the trap.

Update by Willie, November 19

The Canaveral Cat has become a stalemate. After capturing an Opossum, a Bobcat, a feral house cat, and several Raccoons, we have run out of chickens for bait.

Why, you may well ask. Well, the miserable Raccoons eat them, pulling the entire bird through the two-inch mesh and eating everything, bones and all, even feathers! Since we have no interest in plump Raccoons, our trapping program is on Hold.

The Ocelot may have died of excess laughter.

ATTENTION: BACK YARD BIRDERS

by Madeline Shaddix

Again I would like to encourage you to provide clean water for your birds. As I write this, a dry spell continues. The birds, both resident and migrant, are thirsty and eager to bathe. On Sunday, Oct. 15 I goofed off much of the day because so much was going on in my back yard that I couldn't concentrate on anything else. I kept a running list, and at about 4:30 PM had a total of 29 species. Many of these, including a female Painted Bunting, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 9 species of warblers were attracted to my MISTER. Many of them bathed repeatedly, giving me time to get marvelous looks and confirm their identification. They are in their new winter plumage, and gorgeous. Love this armchair birding!

WADERS AT LAKE WOODRUFF

by David Hartgrove

Friday, November 17th, will be our field trip to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. By then, large numbers of wintering waders will be in residence along with ducks and, no doubt, lots of Yellow-rumped warblers. I expect we'll see yellow legs, dowitchers, ibis and both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. These, along with the year round residents should make for an interesting trip.

Bring your lunch, we'll picnic at another park a short distance away from Lake Woodruff. Please note, we'll be meeting a little early: 7:00 a.m. This will give us time to drive over and get started soon after the birds are active. We'll probably walk two miles or so before the morning's over. As usual we'll meet at the east end of the City Island Courthouse parking lot. See you there.

PROGRAM - MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

John Crisp, Volusia County Economic Resource Officer, will be discussing the Marine Science Center to be built at Ponce Inlet at HRAS program meeting November 20. He will cover the design, the displays, and the educational benefits for school children. He also will give us information about the bird and turtle re-hab center.

FLORIDA BOOKS FOR SALE

Willie Burns is still selling the "Florida's Fabulous" nature books. As the name implies, these books are specific to Florida birds, flora, and fauna. This collection and our HRAS cookbooks will be available at our meetings. All profits go to benefit HRAS and a ten-percent discount is given with the purchase of three volumes or more.

Excellent photography, accurate text, and the large format make the books a good quick source to identify local birds, trees, reptiles, seashells, and everything else in and around our homes.

THE PELICAN



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

November 2000

Names & Numbers

2000-2001 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Jean Lesh	761-6893
Corresponding Sec'y	Open	
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

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Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity	Open	
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Diane Talley	258-3816

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>

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Lois Robinson.....	msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson.....	msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix.....	meshaddix@aol.com
Diane Talley.....	dtalleystr@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

ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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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! 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.

THANK YOU

ALEXA ABERCROMBIE and RUTH HOUGH for the delicious refreshments provided for our October meeting.

Forever/ECHO

NOVEMBER 7TH

A YES-YES vote

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 46 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY DECEMBER 2000

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES SET BY AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

by Lois Robinson

At the Assembly of Audubon of Florida the main business of the session was to refine and approve 16 resolutions regarding conservation of the environment that had been submitted by the five regional Conservation Committees (we are in the St. Johns River district). These conservation priorities will guide and direct Audubon's conservation efforts in the coming years as we seek to become a real force for conservation around the state. Audubon of Florida has 44 chapters and approximately 30,000 members. When we work with other agencies with like-minded goals, there is no telling what we can accomplish. Here are our priorities in very brief form:

1. Coastal Resources Protection: to preserve, expand, and protect coastal habitat.
2. Conservation Education: to develop Science and Nature Centers; to improve environmental curricula throughout the state.
3. Everglades Ecosystem: to urge implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
4. Growth Management: to minimize urban sprawl and promote growth management plans that will protect ecosystems, habitats, and natural resources statewide.
5. The Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem: to recognize the uniqueness and critical conservation status of this region.
6. Land Acquisition and Habitat Restoration: to acquire lands and protect fragile habitat.
7. Parity for Northwest Florida Water Management District: to allow the same one mil limit for this water management district that applies to the rest of the state.
8. Pinhook Swamp, Osceola, and Okefenokee Ecosystem: to begin now to purchase and preserve these 600,000 acres of priceless wild lands.
9. Addendum to Phosphate Mining Resolution: to request an Environmental Impact Study be done to determine future impact of Phosphate mining in Central Florida.
10. Rural Land Protection: to keep rural lands from being purchased for subdivisions.
11. St. Joe Company Lands: to preserve and protect approximately one million acres that St. Joe Company is proposing to sell in the near future.
12. Southwest Florida Land Use: to prevent fragmentation of aquatic systems and draining or filling of wetlands in Southwest Florida.
13. Southwest Florida Water Resources: to advocate a revision of current water policies that deprive natural systems of water.
14. Transportation Policy: to stop unnecessary road building projects using the Revolving Toll Trust Fund.
15. Water Quality and the Indian River Lagoon: to improve and protect water quality in this important coastal region.
16. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge: to urge renewal of leases of land owned by the State of Florida and the U.S.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING November 6, 2000

ACTION ITEM 1: Kevin Doxstater made the display used at Audubon Assembly that can be used for our future festival events. Board voted to pay back Kevin for his expenses for the poster and to waterproof it with money raised from money from half-and-half tickets.

ACTION ITEM 2: Board voted to support an Ecology award for two students' projects at the Tomoka Region Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Volusia School Board on January 13, 2001. **HRAS** members will judge projects and award two prizes of \$25.00 each.

ACTION ITEM 3: Board approved the recommendation of the Committee on Memorials that memorial contributions for **Marie Oglesby** be used only to purchase Audubon Adventure kits.

ACTION ITEM 4: Board approved the recommendation of the Committee on Memorials that memorial contributions be used for the creation, development and maintenance of **HRAS** bird-friendly sites. A committee consisting of **Barbara Kieran, Madeline Shaddix, Morrell Robinson, David Hartgrove and John Williams** was appointed by the President to oversee this project.

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 2

Merritt Island NWR. Butterfly & Wildlife Gardening.
10am-11am. Refuge Center.

Sunday, December 3 and 17

Merritt Island NWR. Beginning Bird Watching Tour.
9am-12pm. Refuge Center.

Monday, December 4

HRAS Board Meeting. City Island Library, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 7, 14, 21, and 28

Merritt Island NWR. Beginning Bird Watching Tours
9am-12pm. Meet at Refuge Center.

Thursday, December 7

West Volusia AS outing. Spring Garden Creek
Birding Cruise. Reservations required. Call **Sam Root**
at 734-4178 for information.

Thursday, December 7

Flagler AS meeting. 7:30 pm. Gamble Rogers State
Recreation Area Ranger **Kevin Marzak** with specimen
animals. Call **Joe Dziak** 445-8490.

Thursday, December 7

Evening at Whitney Lab: *A microscopic view of life.*
9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., Marineland. Call 461-4000.

Friday December 8 and/or Saturday, December 9

HRAS Field Trip. Black Point Drive at Merritt Island
National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at east end of City
Island Court House Annex at 8am. Led by **John Carr.**

Friday, December 8

Indian River AS program. **Edward Winn:** Trips in
Time – Early Florida History. Contact **Julie Seberry** at
(321) 452-3738 or juliet@palmnet.net for details.

Friday, December 8

Merritt Island NWR. 10am-11am. Insects of Florida's
Endangered Lands. Refuge Center.

Saturday, December 9

Merritt Island NWR. Bird watching Workshop, 9am-
1pm. Refuge Center. Also Manatee Slide Show,
11am-12am.

Saturday, December 9

Flagler AS outing. Safari River Boat Tour, DeLeon
Springs. Tour tickets \$10. Lunch at Sugar Mill
Restaurant afterwards. Call **Arnie Levine** 446-1906
for reservations (required).

Saturday, December 16

West Volusia AS Christmas Bird Count. Call **Sam
Root** at 734-4178 for information.

Saturday, December 16

Merritt Island NWR. Youth Bird Watching Tour.
9am-1pm. Refuge Center.

Monday, December 18

Merritt Island NWR. Christmas Bird Count. Call (321)
861-0667 for more information.

Monday, December 18

HRAS Holiday Dinner and Meeting at 6 pm. Slides of
Favorite Birds, by **Meret Wilson.** Silent Auction.

Saturday December 30

HRAS Christmas Bird Count, Publix Parking Lot at
Granada Blvd. and Williamson Blvd. 7:00 a.m. Led
by **David Hartgrove.**

Tuesday, January 2

HRAS Board Meeting. City Island Library, 2:00 p.m.
Note date change due to New Year's Day.

FIELD TRIP TO LAKE WOODRUFF

by David Hartgrove

On an overcast, chilly morning we met at City Island for the ride to Lake Woodruff NWR. About half of the ten people who went met us in there. We heard the bizarre call of a Sora Rail while walking past the first pond but never saw him. Usually, when you see mixed flocks of White and Glossy Ibis, the White Ibis outnumber the Glossies by twenty to one. On that day, the ratios were reversed. There were lots of the usual suspects around: Tri-color and Little Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets and a few Great Blue Herons which were already starting to develop breeding plumage. A Northern Harrier glided across the area and put on quite a show for us. The trees across the pond were filled with both Black and Turkey Vultures waiting for the land to warm and produce the thermals they like to soar on.

We found evidence of the relentless cycle of life and death that goes on in the wild: the remains of an immature Moor Hen and the freshly severed head of a King Rail. Obviously, hawks can see them more easily than we can. By nine, the sun was out and the sky was blue and we walked up quite an appetite finding over fifty species. For lunch, we drove to Chuck Lennon Park a mile or so north, and watched an immature Red Shouldered Hawk trying to catch lizards on the adjacent baseball field. Then we watched a pair of immature Bald Eagles soaring over the fields with one of their parents.

On arriving back at City Island, I watched an adult Bald Eagle soaring over the river and the roof of the Courthouse. At times, he was no more than fifty feet high. The four fishermen along the river bank were so interested in their fishing lines, they missed the entire show. It pays to look up once in a while.

WASHINGTON OAKS STATE GARDENS

by Kevin DeWall

Our annual field trip to Washington Oaks State Gardens took place on Saturday October 21st. There were 11 participants on the field trip. The weather was beautiful and the birds were out. We saw a larger variety of birds than on past trips to this location. Our final count including the trip up and back, was 59 species of birds. In the past, the counts have been lesser by 10 to 20 species, so all in all it was a very successful trip. The two most interesting finds we had were a Blue-winged Warbler and winter coated Indigo Buntings.

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA ASSEMBLY

Ten members of **HRAS** attended the state-wide meeting of Audubon of Florida, called the Audubon Assembly 2000 in Fernandina Beach, Nov. 2-5. We, in **HRAS**, may have had the largest attendance with the exception of Duval County, our host chapter.

The setting was comfortable, the meals delicious, and the field trips offered were entertaining and educational. Some highlights included workshops covering everything from "Protection of Florida's Colonial Waterbirds," "Important Bird Areas," to "Membership Strategy" and "Conservation Leadership Skills." Seven workshops were offered in all.

Other treats were talks by **Richard Pettigrew**, Chairman of the Board of Audubon of Florida, **John Fitzpatrick**, Director of Cornell Ornithological Laboratory, **Stuart Strahl**, President of Audubon of Florida, and **David Struhs**, Secretary of Florida's DEP. I was also pleased to hear **Bill Bellville**, author of "River of Lakes--A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River," talk about a river that is dear to all our hearts. **John Flicker**, President of National Audubon Society was also on the agenda to speak but could not come due to recent heart surgery.

As mentioned in another article in this *Pelican*, we worked long and hard to pass a list of conservation priorities which will guide our decisions in the coming years. I was impressed with **Stuart Strahl**, President of Audubon of Florida. He is a strong leader but listens well and is full of humor. You will get to hear him when he speaks to us in April. All in all, I think Audubon of Florida is off to a good start.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by David Hartgrove

December 5th, **Ann Moore** and some other friends of Lake Disston, will journey to Tallahassee to once again request Outstanding Florida Waters status for Lake Disston. Like me, you probably thought this had been accomplished last January when, after a three year battle to get state regulators to protect this pristine lake, the Environmental Regulation Commission voted to name Lake Disston and two Haw Creeks as Florida's newest OFW designates. The addition of Haw Creek and Little Haw Creek to the plan was done at the direction of the Department of Environmental Protection. But this represented a change from the original proposal so when the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee reviewed the language, this gave them the ammunition to torpedo the whole plan. Though the plan grand fathered in the development named Lake Disston Ranch and many silviculturists, the developer plans to sue to stop the issuing of the OFW status unless he gets some other permits he wants from the St. Johns River Water Management

District. DEP has now said they're no longer interested in having the Haw Creeks listed in the plan for "budget reasons" (more about this in a minute).

Ann has said that she feels that the ERC will once again vote to designate Lake Disston an OFW. But Mr. Skinner, the developer, will sue to stop implementation until he gets his permits from SJRWMD so he can build the 380 homes with septic tanks, the golf course and equestrian center he has planned for the southeast shore of the lake. It should not be so difficult to extend an extra level of protection to one of Florida's cleanest lakes. There are Wood Storks and Swallow-tailed Kites nesting in the area, both listed federally as Threatened Species. At this point, we have to hope that black mail won't win out over common sense and that state regulators will do the right thing.

The "budget reasons" mentioned above are apparently related to the edict issued from the Governor's office that all state agencies must develop plans to reduce their staffs by 25% over the next five years. Sailing into Tallahassee with what he assumed was a mandate and chanting the conservative mantra that less government is better government, Governor Bush has decided on the meat axe approach to state employee staffing decisions. Dedicated Park Rangers face being replaced with part time, less experienced personnel. Already under staffed, regulatory agencies that try to protect what's left of our state's fragile ecosystem will have even fewer people to do their job with. And corporate campaign contributors chuckle all the way to the bank.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION PASSES!

by President Lois Robinson

It was fitting that the bill to restore the Everglades passed the Senate while we were attending the Audubon of Florida Assembly, where the thrilling news evoked a loud cheer from the crowd of Auduboners.

For five years Audubon staff in Florida as well as board members and volunteers labored tirelessly for this bill's passage. This is a monumental achievement. The restoration of the Everglades is the largest environmental restoration ever attempted and will cost \$7.8 billion! How did it all come about? The strategy of Audubon and other environmental organizations was to build a strong basis of support across the political spectrum including liberal and conservative politicians, sugar growers, local activists, and the Indian tribes.

This bill's passage is just the beginning as the restoration is expected to last 30 years and encompasses 60 different projects. **Lois Robinson** has much more information on what it will entail if you are interested. In the meantime, you can be assured Audubon of Florida will keep elected officials' feet to the fire to see that the work goes forward as planned.

DINNER THEATER CANCELED

by Lois Robinson

Due to lack of interest, the Ways and Means Committee has decided to cancel the Mystery Dinner Theater scheduled for January 19th. We really appreciate all the work the committee put into this especially the Chair, **Diane Talley**. They had some great ideas but not enough volunteers to carry it out. Let the committee know if you would like to have it again another year.

JOHN CRISP

HRAS NOVEMBER PROGRAM

by Pat Mihalic

John Crisp, Program Manager for Volusia County Parks and Recreation, was our guest for the November 20th meeting. He gave a report on the progress that has been made on the Marine Science Center at Lighthouse Point in Ponce Inlet. **Sherry Robbins**, who will be the manager when the Center opens, accompanied him.

The building is 90% complete and the next phase involves the exhibits and displays in the main building. The turtle rehabilitation tanks are also in the works. John told those present that educational programs and a curriculum for second, fifth and tenth grades were in place, but that students of all ages will benefit from the programs offered at the Center. John had blueprints with him for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center that has been proposed for a bird rehabilitation facility that includes an injured wildlife holding area and turtle lab. He was open to suggestions concerning the Center and the rehabilitation project from our Audubon chapter. He also invited all of our members to tour the center and the surrounding trails. You can reach John to make arrangements for a tour at (904) 736-5953.

BIRDING CLASS AWARDED

CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION

The third Beginning Birdwatching Class is finished and Certificates of Completion were awarded to the following people: **Harriet Anderson, Robin Solitare, Marianne Weisshaar, Barbara Oehme, Ed and Frederica Joseph, Elizabeth Zealor, Beverly Schafer, and Elizabeth Strong**. This has been a great class (as have the others) with participants eager and excited to learn more about birding. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

MARY KELLER

In addition to her regular needs for birds she is rehabilitating, Mary has a special need this month, fingerling mullet to feed an injured Pelican that must be fed for at least another 2 to 3 weeks. Her standing requests are for: white paper towels, millet sprays, apples, gauze for wrapping cuts and breaks, small blankets, towels, shower curtains, peanut suet, dry dog food, small

cans of cat food, sunflower seeds and wild bird seed. Donations of money are also welcome to buy the vitamins and medicines required to help save the lives of many birds. Donations can be taken to the Keller home at 1216 Denece Terrace (off of Derbyshire near the intersection of LPGA and Derbyshire) or call **Pat Mihalic** 767-9437 to arrange pick-up.

Pat wishes to remind us to include a little something for Mary on our Christmas lists. Pat says, "She does so much for the birds and wildlife and so little for herself; we are very lucky to have someone like her as a part of our world."

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL OFFER STILL IN EFFECT

by Lois Robinson

The offer by National Audubon Society to give us \$30 for each new member we sign up has been extended through December 31. This is a wonderful time to join at reduced rates of \$20.60 (\$15.60 for Seniors) and benefit our chapter at the same time. Another wonderful idea is to buy gift memberships for family and friends at the same low rate and give them as Christmas gifts. This benefits the recipient, the chapter, and you. Checks should be made out to National Audubon Society and brought to our December meeting or sent to **John Carr**. John's new address is 359 Brookline Avenue, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3311.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES IN GOOD HANDS

Education Chair Glade Koch reported that Audubon Adventure kits have been purchased for local schools. The response from teachers using the kits has been gratifying. Glade speaks for our chapter in thanking the many people who donated money to purchase the kits, some of which were given as memorials for bird lovers. Thanks go to **Carol Branch, Joan Treves, Kathy Marsh, John Hough, John and Fran Carr, Georgie Carleton, Martha Schnaubelt, Madeline Shaddix, Lois and Morrell Robinson, and David Hartgrove**.

WATER: Humanity's use of freshwater soared sixfold over the last century, and continues to rise. Demand is expected to increase by over a third over the next 25 years and to almost double for drinking water. And yet water is getting scarcer. Already, one-third of the world's people live in countries where water is in short supply; by 2025 two-thirds of them will do so. About one in every five people on Earth now lacks safe drinking water.

Reprinted from Our Planet: The United Nations Environment Programme, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2000, written by Geoffrey Lean.

HRAS CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING

Our December 18th meeting will be our special gala Holiday dinner program at our usual place but at an earlier time – 6pm. Hospitality Chair **Barbara Kieran** promises drinks and wonderful meats. Bring vegetable, salad, or dessert dishes to share. This year we will also have a Silent Auction, so bring items to sell – not necessarily bird related – and your pocketbook. We promise some exceptional goods. Bring your memories of great birding events and share them with us all. **Meret Wilson** will show some bird slides and tell us about her incredible bird trip around the United State these last few months.

101ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by *John Bianchi, National Audubon Society*

National Audubon Society urges volunteers across the western hemisphere to participate in one of Audubon's great traditions, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), being held from December 14, 2000 to January 5, 2001. This year marks the first season that Bird Studies Canada is the Canadian partner in the CBC.

This year marks the 101st anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count since 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of history. On Christmas Day 1900, the group initiated an alternative to the traditional holiday "side hunt," in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds. Instead of hunting, the group counted the birds they saw, thus founding one of the most significant citizen-based conservation efforts and a century-old institution.

Today, almost 55,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific islands will count and record every individual bird and bird species seen during one 24-hour calendar day. About 1,800 individual counts will be held during a two-and-a-half week period. Each group has a designated circle 15 miles in diameter - about 177 square miles - where they try to cover as much ground as possible within a day.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

From *The Skimmer, Newsletter of Southeast Volusia AS*

A century ago, the Eurasian Collared-dove was found primarily on the Indian subcontinent. In the early 1900s, the species began expanding its range significantly and by 1950 had reached the British Isles. Today it even lives above the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia.

The species was introduced into the Bahamas in the 1970s. At some point in the 1980s the species migrated, without assistance, to Florida. It wasn't until the mid-1980s that ornithologists realized the suddenly prolific "turtle-doves" were actually Eurasian Collared-doves.

NOTE: One of the interesting bits of information the Christmas Bird Counts have been showing for the last few

years is the continuing increase in Eurasian Collared-doves in our area. The Counts also should show whether these birds are competing with our indigenous Mourning Doves.

WELCOME

Ms. Yvonne Barnett, Donna Bloosworth, Robert J. Coughlin, Patricia Drifka, Dr. Elizabeth Gennarino, Della Graham, Lawrence T. Griffin, Dorothy Jones, Darlene Lafond, Carol Lecras, Bruce Mastron, Mariann Oneil, Steven Remmert, Mr. Bruce Spiller, Raymond A. Sylvestre, Peggy Warren, Vera M. Wolpert and Peggy Yokubonus 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.



MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Your membership also includes membership in National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida. Members receive *Audubon* and *Florida Naturalist* magazines in addition to our monthly chapter newsletter *The Pelican*.

JOIN OR GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP! The month of December 2000 brings a special deal for our local chapter. Each new chapter-generated membership during December costs the joining member \$20.60, and National Audubon Society will give us back \$30.00.

Use this form or send the information and a check made payable to **National Audubon Society** for \$20.60 to John W. Carr, Membership Secretary, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311, or to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 51005, Boulder, CO 80323-1005. Be sure to include the codes at the bottom of this form.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ - _____

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THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Meret Wilson	Mileybug@aol.com
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THANK YOU

Butch Chisenhall, Diane Talley, Rachel Ramsey, Tom and Jerry Arbogast for the delicious refreshments provided for our November meeting, **John Williams** for his glorious beans, and a belated thanks to **Florence Waldman** for her contribution for our October meeting.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Board of Directors issues a very special thank you to **Willie Burns** who purchased and sold Florida Nature books at HRAS meetings and at events in our area. The books have sold very well. Willie has donated every penny of profit from their sale to our Audubon chapter. Willie, thank you for the contribution of your time and effort and your very real donation of money.