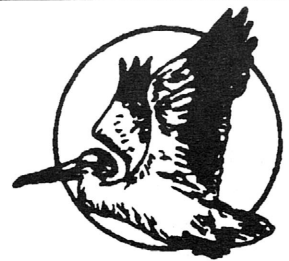


# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 47 - NO. 67 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JANUARY 2001**

## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

*by President Lois Robinson*

Some of you may be interested in participating in Project FeederWatch sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. All you need is a birdfeeder or a bird bath and a willingness to count birds. I know some of you are already doing this, but it would be great to have more HRAS members involved.

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long (November through April) survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, schools, community centers and other locales in North America. All skill levels and backgrounds are invited to take part, including children, classrooms, nature centers, retirees and other groups. You count the birds that show up in your count site because of something you provide: suet, feeders, water, natural foods etc. You select your own bird count day and count on that day (or part of a day) once every two weeks. Your count is then sent in to the Cornell Laboratory on forms sent to you by Cornell or you can do it via the Web Site <http://birds.cornell.edu.pfw>. You do pay a minimum fee to enroll yourself in the program but you receive a Research Kit and a quarterly newsletter. The kit contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a guide to bird feeding and other information.

It's all right to be a novice. You learn as you go along. You, too, can be a citizen-scientist and help in the study of distribution of birds, the rise and fall of bird populations, the presence and spread of bird diseases and other scientific inquiries into understanding birds. If this sounds interesting to you, you can log onto the web site mentioned above or write to:

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
attn: Project FeederWatch  
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd.  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850-1999

See the article on the Great Backyard Bird Count in this *Pelican*, another way to count birds. Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480 for more information.

## JANUARY PROGRAM

Those of us who went on a field trip last year to the Lyonia Preserve in Deltona were amazed to discover this unusual scrub habitat so close, so complete, and so beautiful.

It is a perfect example of Florida scrub, and abounds with the unique animals and plants that survive well in scrub, including the Florida Scrub-Jay. These birds hopped all about us, landed on our heads and hands and were quite tame.

The preserve naturalists guided our visit, and all who were there appealed, "Tell us more!" So this year the naturalists are coming to us to tell us about the ecology of scrubland plants, birds, and animals.

**Randy Schleister**, Habitat Management Supervisor of Volusia County Environmental Management Services will speak about Lyonia Preserve at our January 15 meeting.

## BLACK POINT WILDLIFE DRIVE

*by David Hartgrove and John Carr*

There were two trips to the winter birding Mecca: Friday and Saturday, the 9th and 10th of December. We do two trips to this spot every year since so many people like to this location. Some people go both days since you rarely see the same birds on successive days.

On Friday, the two rarities we saw were a Wilson's Phalarope and a Redhead (that's a duck, not some hitch hiking dancer!) The phalarope flew along while we were looking at some American Avocets. The avocets used to be quite rare in Florida but their numbers seem to be increasing here now. The phalarope, when it's seen here, is usually seen in the center of the state around the phosphate mines and on flooded farm fields. The Redheads winter here but their numbers are in serious decline nationwide.

All tolled, we ended Friday's trip with 80 species. It was the first time we could use the new Leica 77mm spotting scope that has been donated to our group by an anonymous benefactor. It came in very handy for seeing those far away birds that your binoculars just don't quite bring in close enough.

Saturday's trip was a great success but with fewer species seen - 71. We were fascinated both days by the thousands of birds in the ditches along the left side Black Point Drive. Wood Storks, Snowy and Great Egrets, White Ibises, and several species of herons were feeding in shallow water where food had apparently concentrated as water receded.

## CALENDAR

All **HRAS** field trips will originate at the east end of the Court House Annex, City Island, unless otherwise noted.

### Tuesday, January 2

**HRAS** Board Meeting. City Island Library, 2:00 p.m.  
Note date change due to New Year's Day.

### Saturday, January 13

W. Volusia AS outing. Tomoka Landfill. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Monday, January 15

**HRAS** Program Meeting. Lyonia Preserve, by **Randy Sleister**, Habitat Management Supervisor, Volusia County Environmental Management Services.

### Friday, January 19

**HRAS** Field Trip. Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area - Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee. Meet at Publix Parking Lot at Taylor Rd. & Williamson Blvd., 5:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

### Saturday, January 20

Merritt Island NWR – Black Rails Program & Excursion to St. Johns NWR. 3-6PM. (321) 861-0667

### Wednesday, January 22

St. Johns County AS field trip. Blue Springs State Park, Hontoon Island State Park Boat Ride. Reservations required. Call **Bert Charest** at (904) 794-0701 for information.

### Saturday & Sunday, January 27-28

Manatee Festival

### Wednesday, January 31

W. Volusia AS outing. Merritt Island NWR. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Saturday, February 3

**HRAS** Field Trip. Zellwood of St. Johns Water Management Authority on Lake Apopka, 6:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

### Monday, February 5

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

## EXCITING OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP PLANNED

*by Lois Robinson*

Mark your calendars now for April 19 and 20, 2001. We are going to Ft. DeSoto Park at the mouth of Tampa Bay for the great influx of migratory warblers that flood the area during the height of the spring migration season from mid April through mid May. Ft. DeSoto Park is the premier area in Florida to see the spring migration in process. Also this wonderful area has duck habitat and shore bird habitat in abundance. In April we should see some of the wintering ducks still around as well as thousands of shore birds and wading birds. From the published checklist of birds of Ft. DeSoto, I see the following birds listed as common sightings in spring: Magnificent Frigatebirds, Red Knots and many other

sandpipers, Sandwich terns, Skimmers, Ground-Doves, Monk Parakeets as well as migratory thrushes and 36 species of migratory warblers as well as Indigo Buntings and occasional Painted Buntings. When I was there in the fall there were Roseate Spoonbills, a Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrels and five or six species of terns. We have much to see. Walking will be minimal; the bus will take us right up to each viewing spot. Cost will be approximately \$100. More details coming in the February, March and April *Pelicans*.

## DORA CANAL TRIP SIGNUP

*by Willie Burns*

**Willie Burns** will start taking reservations for the field trip to the Dora Canal at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of **HRAS**. Deposits of \$15.00 will be appreciated to save your place on the boat ride on the Doral Canal on Friday, April 6. We will be limited to 38 participants, same as last year. This is due to the size of our tour boat. Lunch will be at a county park next to the south end of the Dora Canal, so remember to bring your picnic lunch!

Photos from a trip earlier this season will be available at the next few meetings. The Prothonotary Warbler has agreed to put in several appearances, as have the Limpkins and Purple Gallinules.

Last year's trip was sold out, with a waiting list, so sign up early.

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*by Lois Robinson*

This February will be the fourth year for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology sponsored Great Backyard Bird Count from February 16-19, 2001. We had great **HRAS** participation last year and we are hoping for even more this year. This count differs from Project FeederWatch as FeederWatch goes on from November-April while the GBBC is only four days. That makes it easier for some of us to take part. You, too, can be a citizen-scientist. You, too, can contribute to the on-going research on bird populations and bird migratory patterns.

More about this in the February *Pelican*. The Web Site for the GBBC is [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). Next month we will tell you how you can take part.

## MARY KELLER

Bird Rehabilitator Mary Keller will need her usual supplies for helping sick and injured birds this month. She needs 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 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.



## MEMORIALS

*by Madeline Shaddix*

As reported in last month's Pelican, a committee that was appointed to explore the options for the application of funds donated to the chapter in memory of two board members who passed away this past summer. The money that had been given in **Marie Oglesby's** name has been set aside for Audubon Adventures, which was a favorite program of Marie's. The committee also recommended that any contributions made in **Gail Lincoln's** name be used to make an area more bird-friendly, possibly using the native plants that Gail loved.

From that recommendation, a whole concept was born: Develop local sites into areas that provide the basic needs of birds in order to attract, nurture and protect them. The people who had served on the Memorial Committee were appointed to a new committee to study this project. They are **Morrell Robinson**, who is serving as chairman at least for this formative phase, **Barbara Kieran**, **John Williams**, and **Madeline Shaddix**. At the November BOD meeting, **David Hartgrove** was also appointed to serve on this committee. Folks, this could and should be a major project for our chapter. There are endless opportunities for the improvement of sites all over our area. We hope to tackle them one by one. The committee invites the participation of any of you who would like to assist with this ambitious project. Our agenda includes site selection, provision for water, food and shelter for birds, and of course, funding. Other places have been able to do this sort of thing, even some very small communities. If we can fire up the local birding community, WE CAN TOO. If you have expertise in any of these mentioned areas, or are willing to help in some way, please call Morrell, who will tell you when the committee will next meet. I would like to share with you that the funding has had a jump start with the contribution of \$500.00 toward the project in memory of Gail by her widower, **Dr. David Kitay**. He also issued a challenge to us to match the funds. One chapter member has already done so, and it is the fervent hope of committee members that others will also contribute. If we can make this a reality, it will not only be boon to resident and migrating birds, but to those of us who love to watch them as well. As Morrell said at a recent meeting of the committee, "We could establish our own local birding trail". Which reminds me, we also need a name for this project. Any suggestions?

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*by David Hartgrove*

Recently, I received notice of the death of large numbers of birds in the Marco Island area on Florida's southwest coast. The dead birds included Piping Plovers, one of the most endangered birds on the planet. The list

also included most of the "peep" sandpipers, gulls, terns, Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons among others. The reason for this tragedy is the use of an insecticide called Fenthion. This stuff was released on the market in 1960 and sold under the name "Rid-A-Bird" because of its high avian toxicity. It was marketed as a remedy to "pest" birds, like starlings, pigeons, etc. In 1998, Fenthion was pulled from the market due to the high numbers of raptors and other animals killed after eating sick and dead birds exposed to the poison.

So why are so many waders dying now? Because Fenthion is still registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use as an aerial spray for mosquito control here in Florida! This is the only licensed use of this substance here in this country. It almost certainly continues to be marketed overseas. DDT still is. There are far less hazardous substances that are just as effective available.

There is something we can do. Carol Browner will soon be leaving the EPA where she has served as administrator since Bill Clinton's first term. We could request that she give the birds of her home state (she was DEP Secretary here before moving to Washington) a gift before she leaves office. Write her and ask that she ban the use of this awful compound before any more birds become statistics in the never ending war against what should be Florida's state insect, the mosquito. The address is at the end of this article.

When Hurricane Andrew blew through the Homestead area back in 1992, it nearly destroyed the old Air Force base there. Rather than rebuild it, the government declared it surplus and immediately plans were laid to turn it into another commercial airport. As has been reported in this column before, the proximity of this property to both Everglades National Park and the Biscayne National Monument make this perhaps the worst place in the state for yet another airport. Sometime before January 15th, President Clinton will decide whether to OK this travesty or not. Call or write both he and Governor Bush and ask that they not allow the degradation of these two national treasures. Our voices can make a difference.

President Clinton:

Phone: 1-800-663-9566 or 202-456-1111  
E-mail: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
(There's not enough time for regular mail)

Governor Jeb Bush:

Phone: 850-488-4441  
E-mail: [jeb@myflorida.com](mailto:jeb@myflorida.com)

Carol Browner:

Phone: 202-260-4700  
E-mail: [browner.carol@epa.gov](mailto:browner.carol@epa.gov)

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

January 2001

### 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

#### 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
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Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity	Barbara Bowden	672-4956
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>

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Lois Robinson	msrobn512@juno.com
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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.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 359 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! NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE. The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach.

### THANK YOU

**Barbara Kieran**, our Hospitality Chairperson, and all the wonderful cooks, members and guests who made our December meeting a great success.

### WELCOME

**Ms. Doris D. Clifton, Collier, Gail Distetano, Mr. Charles C. Dodd, Jr., Mrs. Daphne L. Downer, Mrs. Patricia Drum, Mr. Robert J. Foster, Geho Gold, Rebecca Goldenberg, Mr. Ralph I. Goodwin, Ms. Sandy Hartung, Olive MacDougall, Alan Hovey, M. L. Lowell, John Roessler, Sawyers, Ms. Scotte, Ms. Nida Sileo, Mr. Harold L. Tallman, Ethel I. Taylor, D. M. Wale, James E. Ward, and Mrs. Elizabeth D. William.**

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 46 - NO. 9 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY MARCH 2001**

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS

*by President Lois Robinson*

The meeting in Orlando on February 3rd of the Regional Conservation Committee of *Audubon of Florida* was both disturbing and optimistic. Disturbing because so many new ways to destroy wetlands and promote urban sprawl are being discovered by those who put profit ahead of the environment. Optimistic because all across Florida people are rallying to do what they can to save the environment and preserve our wildlands. Some of the business covered in the meeting includes:

1. A report from **Lynda White** on the Eagle Watch Program.
2. A plea from several members of the committee that we all support the appointment of **Ann Moore** to replace **Reid Hughes** on the board of the St. Johns River Water Management District. (you can support **Ann** by writing, faxing or emailing Governor Bush). Reid rotates off the board this year along with two others.
3. Lake Disston has received Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) designation for which we are grateful. Now we hope to include Little Haw Creek in that designation in the future.
4. A reminder to all of us that the Florida Scrub-Jay population is steadily declining. A new proposal being pushed by Audubon of Florida is to reward (monetarily) rural landowners who maintain their private property as suitable Scrub-Jay habitat.
5. St Johns River Water Management District is "streamlining" their Rules and Regulations Manual for efficiency. But according to **Chuck Potter** (*Audubon of Florida* Board member) these changes will not only change the language but will change policies as well. One policy change, for example, would make it easier to clear land before getting approval, paving (pun intended) the way for more urban sprawl and loss of wetlands. HRAS Board has written a letter to **David Struls**, Head of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection protesting these policy changes.

Those attending this meeting were **Fran Carr**, **John Carr** and **Lois Robinson**. The next regular Committee meeting will be April 28 in Palatka at 10 am.

In other news, Halifax River Audubon Society Board of Directors welcomes the following new Board members:

**Jean Lesh** Recording Secretary  
**Gina Holt** Corresponding Secretary  
**Barbara Bowden** Publicity Chairperson

We are grateful for the dedication of all the Board members and their contributions above and beyond the call of duty. We still need a Membership Chair for Recruitment and Retention.

## CALENDAR

*All HRAS field trips will originate at the east end of the Court House Annex, City Island, unless otherwise noted.*

### Saturday, March 3

**HRAS Field Trip.** Volusia County Landfill, 8:00 a.m.  
Led by **Kevin DeWall**.

### Monday, March 5

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

### Friday March 16

**HRAS Field Trip.** Local Hotspots - Port Orange Causeway Park and McElroy Park, 12:00 noon. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

### Saturday, March 17

**Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge.**  
**Dr. Ken Meyer** on Swallow-Tailed Kites. See article.

### Monday, March 19

W. Volusia AS outing. Daytona Area & Mary Keller's Wildlife Rehab Center. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Monday, March 19

**HRAS Program Meeting.** **NOTE: PROGRAM CHANGE.** See article.

### Tuesday, March 27

W. Volusia AS program meeting. Presentation by St Johns River Water Management District. "Water Management and Desalinization." 7:00 p.m., Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand.

### Monday, April 2

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

### Friday, April 6

**HRAS Field Trip.** Dora Canal at Mt. Dora with picnic lunch, 8:00 a.m. Reservations required. Led by **Willie Burns**.

## BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASSES OFFERED AT NIGHT

It's not too late to sign up for the new birdwatching class beginning March 6th, cost \$35.00. Call **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480, to sign up for the course. Details are as follows:

Location: The Casements Cultural Center, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach

Time: Classes: March 6, 13, 20, Tuesdays at 7 pm

Field trips: March 17, 24, 31, Saturdays at 8-11 am  
(we will meet at the Casements Parking area)

Teachers: **Lois Robinson, Madeline Shaddix and Lois Pauchey**

Course instruction includes:

How to Identify Birds, Birding Etiquette, Getting Acquainted with Binoculars, Field Guides and How to Use Them, How to Find Birds, Fundamental Skills of Birding, Bird Friendly Backyards, and other information and skills.

## PAYNES PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP

*by David Hartgrove*

This trip was originally scheduled for Zellwood Farms. But for a variety of reasons we ended up going to Paynes Prairie instead. If you've ever driven south from Gainesville on US 441, you've driven across that open expanse of wetland grass prairie. That stretch had the highest incidence of road kill of any highway in the state. New improvements to the shoulders and wildlife underpasses have now been completed that should make the road safer for drivers and animals alike.

We met in the cold, dark of predawn on Saturday morning, February 3rd, to drive over and rendezvous with **Michael Meisenburg**, of Alachua Audubon, for what turned out to be an excellent day of birding.

To begin with, the Paynes Prairie State Preserve is a lot more than just open range. A forested portion on the south offers excellent warbler habitat and that's where we started. Actually, our first good sighting of the day was in the parking lot of the Jiffy store where we met Michael. 100 or so Cedar Waxwings were feasting on cabbage palm berries across the street. Once in the woods, we saw Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed and White-eyed Vireo and the spectacular Yellow-throated Warbler. There's an observation tower that looks out over the prairie behind the visitor's center. Using our new spotting scope, it was amazing how many hawks we could see. The place was raptor heaven. Then a male Northern Harrier began to fly back and forth right in front of the tower. This was far and away the best view any of us had ever had of this gorgeous bird.

The La Chua Trail is at the north end of the preserve and rather than hike the several miles, we opted to drive. Along the way, we stopped along 441 at the overlook on

the east side of the road. We spent half an hour and dragged out every field guide we had trying to turn the light phase, immature, Red-shouldered Hawk perched 50 yards away into something more exotic. In the end, we had to settle for the truth. It's moments like these that make birding the exciting challenge it can be.

Though we didn't see the resident Great Horned Owl, our hike along the trail to Alachua Sink produced a surprise; Limpkin, Song and Swamp Sparrows and about 200 alligators with some 12 to 14 feet or so. The sink has most of what water remains in the drought stricken area. After a late lunch, during which a calling Barred Owl was lured into view with a tape, we headed home. Seven of us went along and we ended the day with 63 species. It's a spot we'll have to go back to one day. Our thanks to Michael for his invaluable assistance.

## REPORT FROM CANAVERAL

*by Willie Burns*

On Sunday January twenty first, **Kitty Albee** and I did some birding in Mims, just west of the Indian River Lagoon. We topped our sighting of fifty or so Cedar Waxwings on the Shiloh Marsh trail the next weekend. There were hordes of Robins and Cedar Waxwings, together or separate, each in flocks of hundreds or a few and in every numerical combination.

They seem quite happy together, feeding, drinking from roadside puddles, preening, or just roosting in close proximity. This is contrary to birding books that say both of these birds are species selective during migration, keeping separate from other species. And there were thousands of both species!

We also saw an almost grown Bald Eagle, several Red Shouldereds and Kestrels, a Red Tail or two, and a couple of Cooper's. There was nothing unusual in the Lagoon, or on the islands close enough that we could see what was about.

The low point of the weekend was finding a stranded Common Loon on the beach in Daytona. He seemed to have an injured left eye, and allowed me to walk within a foot of him. We decided to take him to **Mary Keller** for rehabilitation.

That was not in his game plan. As soon as I grasped his head and tried to get a hand on his body, he exploded into furious activity. Flapping his wings violently, he pulled his head from my grasp and stabbed my leg with his bill.

With all the Loons we've rescued at Canaveral, this is the first that put up a fight. Usually they are quite docile, sometimes cooing softly but more curious than defensive.

He wobbled into the shallow water and started swimming into the light surf. Keeping his good eye fixed on me, he swam off into the sea, and began diving merrily as he headed for the horizon.

I was left to bandage my minor wounds and reflect upon the ungratefulness of this loony Loon. Oh, well.



## HRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 5, 2001

**ACTION 1:** Board moved to send a letter to Volusia County Council protesting the use of a beach rake at Smyrna Dunes Park. **Mr. Lee Bidgood** of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society had notified the Board that he had observed the beach rake in use at the park below the high tide line. Used there the rake disturbs the feeding habitat of shore birds.

**ACTION 2:** Board moved to send a letter to Volusia County Council protesting the use of the pesticide fenthion for mosquito control. Notification will also be sent to other *Audubon of Florida* chapters and information will be published in *The Pelican*.

**ACTION 3:** Board received a report from its Committee for the Selection and Development of Bird Friendly Sites in East Volusia, and voted approval of its recommendation to develop Sanchez Park in Ormond Beach as its first bird friendly site. The committee also reported that the local Pawpaw chapter of the Native Plant Society had voted to work with HRAS in this development and contributed funds for that purpose. The Park is located on Ridgewood Avenue north of Granada Boulevard, then left on Sanchez Street.

### INJURED PELICAN

*By Mary Keller*

On Monday, February 5th, **Shirley Reynolds**, an animal lover in New Smyrna Beach, brought an injured young Brown Pelican to me. **Bill Bessinger**, a New Smyrna Beach ranger, had taken the bird to Shirley. It had a compound fracture of one wing and the bone had broken through the skin.

I called the ranger station and was told that some swimmers had rescued the pelican and that the rangers had put it in the box by their lifeguard station on Friday, February 2nd. And there it stayed for three days.

It rained off and on all weekend. The bird sat in water and it's own droppings with no food and with the injured wing hanging down in dirty water. No one called **Dee Ann Snyder** or me, both of us bird rehabilitators.

After Shirley brought it here on Monday I called a vet in Ormond to help the pelican but he couldn't see it until Wednesday.

Shirley then took the thin and weak bird to **Dr. Leo Nevis** in Edgewater. He set the wing. Friday Shirley took the bird to the Sun Coast Sea Bird Sanctuary on the west coast.

I called them and was told the bird had an infection in the wing and it was rotting and that bacteria from all the dirty water could have helped make it worse. The bird was put to sleep.

There is no reason this bird should have had to suffer so long. **Bill Bessinger** helped as soon as he knew about the bird. Both State and Federal law protect the pelican. It was just a small Brown Pelican, but it felt pain the same as humans. Just one of the many wild creatures pushed aside by man.

*Comments by Pat Mihalic*

*The plight of the Brown Pelican in this letter is just one example of the problems faced by bird and wildlife rehabilitators in Volusia County every day. We, as members of the Halifax River Audubon Society, must join together to support the proposed Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility to be located at the new Marine Science Center at Lighthouse Point in Ponce Inlet.*

*This facility is desperately needed. Mary Keller and Dee Ann Snyder care for over 3000 injured or sick birds each year. This number continues to grow because of habitat destruction and the use of pesticides. These dedicated women rehabilitate all of these birds in their homes without any compensation except the donations of supplies that are provided by interested members of the community. This situation must be addressed by making sure that money for the rehab facility is set aside in this year's Volusia County budget.*

*Please ask everyone that you know to ask the Volusia County Council to fund the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.*

### WELCOME TO HRAS

**Melanie Abercrombie, Jay Allen, Mrs. Mary Allman, Kim Best, James Bishop, Valerie Bourbour, Joan M. Brennan, Mark Carruthers, William C. Denison, Elizabeth J. Dobbie, Mrs. Kristal Ennis, Terry Filbert, Robin Fitchett, Sharlene S. Fox, Nancy Gill, William T. Gordon III, Joann Gunter, Sharon Gunther, Chris Hartgrove, Martha Harty, Barbara Hoffman, Dorothy Holbrook, Gifford S. Horton, Joan Kinder, Arthur B. Kissel, David Kitay M.D., Edmund and Mary Kronenberg, Steve Kulinski, Lacey Lange, Louis Lester, J. Elaine Linebaugh, Tom Longstreth, Marie A. Lovell, Sheri Mellor, Sunnie Merrell, Mr. Greg Metz, Sheri Myers, Thelma B. Nemece, Ruth Nichell-Cortes, Sheilell Parker-Taylor, Katherine Pernat, Jane Peters, Charles Radford, Arlene G. Renner, Columbia L. Robertson, Ann Rogers, Mrs. Janet Rogers, Courtney Ronca, Millie Schnazi, Gail Serle, William Stanley Shaddix, Steve Sherard, George Sibley, Turie T. Small, Joe Tulack, Laura Turner, Mrs. Andrea M. Vicente, Diane Walker, Philip Webster, Marianne Weisshaar, and Ted M. Wygant** 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.

### DORA CANAL TRIP UPDATE

The Dora Canal field trip and boat excursion will be held on Friday, April 6, 2001. Please register in advance with Willie Burns. The cost is \$20.00 per person and should be paid before the trip. Willie will have his Magic Clipboard at meetings along with his Florida Nature Books and the Rainforest Crunch products.

Lunch on the field trip will be a bring-your-own picnic at a county park alongside the Dora Canal after the boat ride. There seems to be a resident Green Heron and several Great Blues there, as well as many other birds.

Numerous Prothonotary Warblers will surely be in evidence again, as well as Purple Gallinules, Limpkin, and many Hawks and other raptors. The boat is roofed and has toilet facilities if needed.

### PESTICIDES: BILL MOYERS ON PBS

*by John Bianchi of National Audubon Society*

On Monday night, March 26th, your local public television station will air a groundbreaking investigative report on the chemical industry.

In TRADE SECRETS: A MOYERS REPORT, correspondent Bill Moyers and producer Sherry Jones uncover how our health and safety have been put at risk and why powerful forces don't want the truth to be known. This investigative report, accompanied by a PBS.org web site, is based on a massive archive of secret industry documents as shocking as the "tobacco papers."

TRADE SECRETS provides everyone working on toxic chemicals and environmental health issues a tremendous education and outreach opportunity. To help maximize that opportunity, various environmental health groups are launching Coming Clean, a project aimed at cleaning up the chemical industry's contamination of our food, our bodies and our environment.

### "FRIENDS" PRESENTS KEN MEYER ON THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

March 17 at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Ken Meyer will be the guest of the Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR at the Woman's Club of DeLand, 128 Michigan Ave., DeLand. In his talk Dr. Meyer will present slides and share the latest research findings from Brazil where our local Swallow-Tails will have wintered.

The Friends of Lake Woodruff are pleased to have this opportunity to augment Dr. Meyer's research funds on this occasion. Wine, cheese and other refreshments will be served to kick off the kite season. March means we may be seeing endangered Swallow-Tails sailing in Daytona area skies.

Please call Kathy Barnard, 734-6123 if you plan to take advantage of this opportunity to hear Dr. Meyer. Donations will be accepted in cash or checks payable to "Avian Research & Conservation Institute.

### WILLIE'S SALE ITEMS

The Golden Dog has had pups! Actually it may be accurate to say Willie Burns' Golden Dog book sales have expanded. Willie is now marketing environmentally friendly products from the Rainforest Company along with his marvelous Florida Nature Books.

They make Rainforest Crunch, used in Ben & Jerry's ice cream for years. The company tries to use products produced naturally in the rain forests to provide residents of those regions an income-producing alternative to clear cutting for agriculture.

Willie is selling the Crunch in 1.2 oz. bars or 7 oz. boxes of pieces. The boxes come either original or chocolate covered. Bars sell for \$1.25, boxes for \$3.80 and \$5.00, respectively.

Crunch is made from Brazil nuts, Cashews, sugar cane syrup, other interesting things and has no preservatives or nasty additives. As with the books, all profits go to the Halifax River Audubon Society.

Try some at the March meeting. Willie may even give out samples!

### OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO FORT DESOTO ON APRIL 19 AND 20

You will miss a wonderful trip and birding experience if you don't join us for this trip to Fort DeSoto, site of more spring migrating species than any other spot in Florida. Here is what you need to know:

1. You need to register and pay \$100 for the trip by March 15. Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480 if you have not already signed up.
2. We leave at 8:30 am April 19 from Covenant United Methodist, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. (the parking lot).
3. Bring a lunch and snacks for the first day. HRAS will provide beverages for lunch.
4. Bring a folding stool if you have one, the warblers are concentrated in a small area and you can sit and watch them.
5. We will be spending all our time at Fort DeSoto and may not quit birding till 7 PM on Thursday. Bring snacks if you need them. Dinner is on you at the Ponderosa Steak House.
6. We will have our overnight and breakfast at Eckerd College, the Elderhostel Wing. Each room has two beds and private baths.
7. Lunch on Friday will be a box lunch delivered to us at one of the picnic areas in Fort DeSoto.
8. We will start home by mid-afternoon on Friday. While there we will visit duck ponds, shore bird habitats and a mulberry grove full of warblers, hummingbirds, and other migrants.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by *David Hartgrove*

Last year, in the closing days of the 106th Congress, the House of Representatives passed CARA (the Conservation and Reinvestment Act) by a wide margin. This bill would have provided dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and for state level conservation projects across the nation. But maneuvering in the Senate doomed the bill and only a temporary, weakened version was passed. Coupled with the crisis in the nation's wildlife refuge system, including the drive to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, the environmental movement has its work cut out.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the wildlife refuge system and they have seen funding cut back so severely that our national refuges are suffering a myriad of major problems. There are 520 Refuges in the country and Audubon has selected 10, which represent the worst of the lot. They are threatened by pollution, adjacent development and a lack of funding for operations and maintenance needs. The system will collapse from neglect if things aren't turned around. Our two nearest Refuges, Merritt Island and Lake Woodruff are in dire need of funds for basic maintenance to trails, sanitation and for wildlife conservation programs. The recent spate of vandalism at Lake Woodruff hasn't helped the situation any. Nearly \$1,000.00 in damage was done during one recent Saturday night of mayhem.

Audubon will work with members of Congress to initiate a funding package to address these issues. Our Refuges house 1/3 of our nation's remaining wetlands, provide habitat for 250 members of the Endangered Species List (many of which are not being adequately protected under the current funding crisis) and provide recreational activities for millions of Americans. Rather than deciding how much of a tax cut to provide to a population who, by a wide margin, isn't asking for it, the Congress should be finding constructive ways to fund the country's needs.

The 2001 International Piping Plover Census has wrapped up and we didn't see any. The census is held every five years. In 1991, there were 4 reported in Volusia County and 554 in the state. In 1996, there were 6 reported in Volusia and 369 in the state. The only time I've ever seen the birds here is in September. In this survey, our chapter worked the area on the north side of the Inlet. Members of Southeast Volusia Audubon worked the south side, including Smyrna Dunes Park. **Debbie Thomas**, their compiler, called to say that their teams saw no Piping Plovers either. My sincere thanks to **Kitty Albee**, **Willie Burns** and especially **Meret Wilson** for the long hours and many miles driven to look for these birds.

Under the guidelines of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a plan to designate the area around Ponce Inlet as Critical Habitat

for this little bird whose numbers continue to dwindle. It is estimated that there are less than 5,200 Piping Plovers left, spread among 3 populations. The Great Lakes group is estimated at around 30 nesting pairs. As you can see, it wouldn't take much to push this bird over the edge of the cliff to extinction. Our efforts here could help to prevent that.

## NEW SUNDOWNER TRIP SUCCESSFUL!

by *Glade Koch*

We had a beautiful Friday afternoon and evening February 16 when 16 of us visited Blue Heron Wetland Treatment System, Titusville, and the Orlando Wetlands Park. Our goal: to observe birds during the late afternoon feeding and the returning of birds to their night roosts. **Mark Sees** of the Orlando Wetlands enthusiastically suggested this experimental trip because of the great number of birds to be seen near dusk in the wetlands.

"I never saw so many birds," said **Mary Ellen Baker**. "It is good to know so many birds are in the wild and still flying in our skies," said **Barbara Kieran**. We saw an Osprey courting sky dance and Sandhill Crane parents with two small light orange chicks. We saw Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Marsh Hawks, quite a few Sora Rail and American Bittern, hundreds of vultures, many and all species of herons and egrets, great numbers of Glossy Ibis and White Ibis, and some saw the Purple Gallinule. We saw many Blue-winged Teal, other ducks and Pied-billed Grebes.

As the light changed from bright afternoon to a deep red line on the horizon, it had an interesting effect on what we were seeing in our binoculars. As the sky became lavender and then purple, the lines and formations began their flight towards us and into the tree stands. Some flights were white, some black, some white and black, many hundreds in view at once whichever directions you turned. Thousands of Tree Swallows cut through the formations. When we trained glasses on the tree roosts we marveled at the hundreds of shapes and shades of birds perched for the night. The sounds were intriguing, too, "a magic time," some said. Another Sundowner Field Trip is in our future.

## FIELD TRIP TO VOLUSIA COUNTY LANDFILL

by *Kevin DeWall*

On March 3rd we will be doing our annual trip to the Volusia County Landfill on Tomoka Farms Road. We will be leaving from City Island at 8:00 a.m. This is always a good trip for Bald Eagles and involves very little walking. We will take our lunch at Bopper's Hotdog Stand at Sopotnick's Cabbage Patch. He serves good hotdogs but if you prefer, bring your own lunch. After lunch we will visit a couple of good birding areas near Samsula.



## FENTHION PESTICIDE REPORT

Published in *The Observer*, New Smyrna Beach, February 6, 2001. "Natural Connections: A Bird-killing Pesticide Controversy" by Lee Bidgood.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has blamed mosquito spraying with fenthion, an organophosphate nerve poison, for killing 200 birds on Marco Island in Collier County. Mosquito control officials deny any responsibility.

A federal investigation of Marco Island bird deaths revealed that between October 1998 and August 1999, dead birds were found at least 12 times after helicopters sprayed fenthion nearby. Lab tests found fenthion on legs, beaks, and feathers and/or in stomach contents.

Three years ago, fenthion spraying killed fiddler crabs in Rookery Bay National Estuary Preserve and before that it nearly wiped out a rare butterfly in the Florida Keys.

After the Marco Island bird kills, the EPA last month proposed curtailing fenthion uses. The agency expressed concern about the effect fenthion spray might have on birds, golfers, toddlers playing outside and other living creatures.

Controversy surrounding fenthion is not surprising. For several decades, the giant chemical company, Bayer, sold fenthion under various trade names throughout the US, to kill mosquitoes. But, in 1988, Bayer planned to cease manufacturing fenthion because of bad publicity about its side effects and tighter use restrictions. Florida's mosquito control districts begged the company to continue supplying them and Bayer agreed.

Florida remains the only state that allows fenthion in mosquito spray.

Fenthion has had other controversial uses. It was the active ingredient in Rid-A-Bird. The product killed unwanted birds when they landed on a perch impregnated with fenthion. Like other organophosphate nerve poisons, fenthion is rapidly absorbed through the skin of warmblooded animals. Pigeons and starlings that lit on Rid-A-Bird treated perches soon foamed at the beak, went into convulsions and died. Other birds were supposed to avoid the poison.

Eventually though it wasn't unlucky sparrows or blackbirds that caused controversy over Rid-A-Bird. Owls and various hawks, including falcons, soon died after eating birds poisoned with fenthion, causing outrage among bird lovers.

The Environmental Protection Agency might have banned Rid-A-Bird, but that could have taken several years. Incensed bird lovers could not be ignored, however, and Bayer withdrew Rid-A-Bird from the market last year.

Bayer marketed another fenthion product, ear tags for cattle to ward off pest insects for five months. (Note its persistence.) Subsequently, Bayer detected fenthion in cow's fat and milk and pulled the cattle ear tags off the

market. The chemical company wanted to avoid controversy over beef and dairy product contamination with a potent nerve poison.

Let's return to mosquito spraying. The Volusia County Mosquito Control District sprays a very fine mist of Baytex, a fenthion product, from trucks on city streets to kill adult salt marsh mosquitoes. Bayer provides this information on the Baytex container: "This pesticide is highly toxic to shrimp, fish and wildlife. Birds, fish, shrimp and crabs in treated areas may be killed. Do not apply where these are important resources. Drift and aquatic transport from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in adjacent aquatic sites." The package label also discloses that Baytex is highly toxic to bees.

Mosquito Control points out that the District uses Ultra Low Volume technology that produces tiny droplets ranging from 5 to 20 microns in diameter. The District claims "Most droplets drift through the air and never deposit on any surface."

REMINDER: Anyone whose doctor recommends that they should not be exposed to mosquito spraying should notify Mosquito Control, by telephone at (904) 424-2920. The district will provide advance warning of aerial or truck spraying in the neighborhood.

As we approach the spring mosquito season, one wonders why Florida is the only state that tolerates fenthion in mosquito spray.

## CHANGE TO MARCH 19 PROGRAM

by David Hartgrove

Our scheduled program was to have been a presentation by Louise Chapman and some of her students from Mainland High School on the progress at Rose Bay. However, due to some scheduling conflicts, we will be having a bird slide identification presentation. Our chapter recently acquired a number of rather good slides to add to our already sizeable collection. These programs are always among our most popular, so you won't want to miss this month's meeting. I will give a brief update on the Rose Bay project that night.

## THANKS, MARY LOU

HRAS would like to send a huge bouquet of thanks to Mary Lou Weiner for her contribution of the pelican photograph, which adorns our newest project. The tee shirts, mugs and tote bags have been a real hit and if you haven't purchased one yet, you're missing out! We are thrilled that Mary Lou shared one of her favorite prints with us, and making an idea turn into reality.

## WANNA SEE EAGLES?

You can peek inside an active Bald Eagle nest in Orlando and watch the birds raise their two eaglets? Log on to live video at [adoptabird.org](http://adoptabird.org) or [orlandosentinel.com](http://orlandosentinel.com)



## SAVE FLORIDA'S BIRDS FROM A DEADLY PESTICIDE

*From "Defenders of Wildlife"*

Fenthion, a powerful pesticide used in Florida to control mosquitoes, is responsible for the deaths of thousands of migratory birds every year. Vulnerable species such as the endangered piping plover are being exposed to lethal doses of this pesticide during their winter stopover on Florida's coastline. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently considering pulling fenthion off the market due to its disastrous effects on birds. The protection of Florida residents and tourists from mosquitoes need not endanger the lives of millions of migratory birds. Florida wildlife officials can substitute proven and less destructive alternatives to fenthion. The use of fenthion comes at too high a cost for Florida's wildlife and habitat.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Send an e-mail to U.S. EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman urging her not to re-register fenthion for use in mosquito population control. The deadline for comments is **MARCH 17**, so please send your e-mail today. You may e-mail a letter to: [opp-docket@epa.gov](mailto:opp-docket@epa.gov) or mail it to: The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M. Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

### SAMPLE LETTER:

Re: Docket # OPP-34135A, Fenthion  
Dear Administrator Whitman:

As a committed environmentalist, I urge you to deny re-registration of fenthion, an organophosphate pesticide used for the control of mosquitoes in Florida. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented the recent deaths of hundreds of birds in Florida after aerial application of fenthion. Historically, thousands of birds, many of them migrants, have died following the use of fenthion for mosquito control in the United States.

Florida's unique natural beauty is recognized by scientists and environmentalists as an outstanding example of biodiversity. Florida is home to vast numbers of birds, but perhaps more importantly, it is a key migratory stopover and overwintering site for up to 75% of all the birds in eastern North America. The poisoning of these birds on Florida's beaches and salt marshes concern people from the northern U.S. states of New York, Michigan and Minnesota, as well as Canadians, and, of course, Floridians.

The dusky seaside sparrow has already been extirpated from Florida, due to habitat destruction and degradation, in part because of mosquito control measures. Endangered species such as the Cape Sable seaside sparrow and the Florida grasshopper sparrow are severely threatened by the continued use of this pesticide. Continued use of fenthion could cause these two species

to meet the same fate as that of the dusky seaside sparrow. These two sparrows – difficult to see because they inhabit dense vegetation – could easily be exposed to pesticides, die, and never be noticed.

Alternatives to fenthion are available for the handful of Florida counties that continue to use it for mosquito control, even while their neighboring counties long ago ceased to use this pesticide. The Florida Department of Health should invest in more advanced disease surveillance protocols, as suggested by the Centers of Disease Control, and explore new technology in controlling nuisance and disease vector mosquitoes.

I urge the EPA to deny the re-registration of fenthion due to its great toxicity and disturbing record of bird mortality. But most importantly because of the availability of effective alternatives.

## LAKE WOODRUFF MANAGER SPEAKS

*by Glade Koch*

Henry Sansing illustrated his talk on Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge with slides of birds, habitats and management practices, when he spoke at our February 19 meeting. Woodruff is a "clean" refuge (free from many contaminants). For example, gator eggs have an 80% hatch rate, far above hatch rates in other areas of Florida.

Henry stressed how important prescribed burning is for a healthy, lasting marsh. After a burn last year Black-necked Stilts moved in immediately. Swallow-tailed Kites will return this month.

The refuge rangers enjoy new office facilities. But, sadly, they not only must enforce regulations, but deal with human mischief and vandalism.

We thank Henry for his informative talk and for bringing it to us on the evening of a Federal holiday, President's Day. He fielded many questions and his sense of humor was enjoyed by his Audubon audience.

## FRIEND

*by Barbara Kieran*

The Halifax River Audubon Society has a friend. This lady has sold at least fifteen cookbooks for us at cost and when I tried to thank her she said, "We help each other; that's what it's all about."

Who is this lady? She's **Linda Ramirez**, the nice lady at the BirdFeeder store on 2279 S. Ridgewood Ave., phone 761-1727. We also supply the store with copies of *The Pelican* to give to tourists who want to contact an Audubon chapter. So if you need birding supplies such as feeders, birdhouses, birdseed, squirrel supplies and other wonderful things for the backyard birder, give your business to her. If she doesn't have what you need she will tell you where to find it or offer to get it for you.

Pick up a cookbook while you are there or call me at 672-2927.

# THE PELICAN



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

March 2001

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#### BIRD INFORMATION

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	<b>Maitland FL</b>	(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 2000-2001 *The Pelican* Underwriters

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 359 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 will meet on Monday, March 5, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach.

### THANK YOU

**Kitty Albee** and **Ray Scori** for the delicious refreshments provided for our February meeting.

### FIELD TRIP, FRIDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>

by *David Hartgrove*

This field trip will be to local "hot spots" meaning it's to places that we locals know to be destinations where we can be "guaranteed" of seeing birds. Of course, when you're trying to say anything for sure regarding nature, it comes with a caveat. But these are places where we almost always have good sightings. So, we'll be going to McElroy Park, the Museum of Arts and Sciences, the Port Orange Bridge and possibly Sugar Mill Gardens. But these are only suggestions at this point. Bring your lunch and your ideas and we'll decide on an itinerary when we get together. That's 12:00 noon at the usual place, the Courthouse Annex parking lot. See you there?

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 46 - NO. 10 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY APRIL 2001**

## NUISANCE BIRDS

*By President Lois Robinson*

No matter how much we love birds, there comes a time when some birds become a problem for us. This time of year I usually get a few calls from irate homeowners about woodpeckers attacking their home, birds diving into their windows, or Rock Doves (Pigeons) roosting where they are not wanted. You may get some of these calls yourself from friends who know you are a member of the Audubon Society. The following information comes from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

1. For woodpeckers who make holes in houses and for birds who attack their reflections in your windows try these things--dangle small mirrors, shiny party favors, or cutout models of raptors around the area. Put netting over your windows to break up the reflections or paste owl or falcon silhouettes on the glass. Make sure the wood around your eaves is free from carpenter ants and other insects. I have heard that loud music also keeps birds away but most of us live too close to neighbors to try that.
2. Rock Doves can be very messy on a house or building. The Cornell Lab suggests buying "Nixalite" (strips of stainless steel needles) and putting it on all perching and nesting areas so birds will have no place to land. I have recommended this to a couple of callers but have not heard back from them to see if it works. If you know about or have tried Nixalite I would like to know and if it is easy to install.
3. European Starlings are one of the most widespread bird pests in North America, robbing native birds of food and nest sites and damaging agricultural products. To prevent them from nesting on your property make sure your nest boxes are small enough to keep them out and plug up holes in your house and outbuildings where they often try to nest. If you have a flock roosting in your area give me a call (760-8480). There are several things you can do but the suggestions are too many for this article. I have not had any complaints about Starlings so it may not be a problem in this area. I would be interested in anything you have tried against nuisance birds that has worked so I can pass it on to others. Good luck and good birding!

## STUART STRAHL TO SPEAK

*By Lois Robinson*

We are honored to have **Dr. Stuart Strahl** as our program speaker for our April 16th meeting. Dr. Strahl is President and CEO of Audubon of Florida and Vice President of National Audubon Society. He has a background in science, environmental education and conservation. He has worked as a field scientist in South America for the Wildlife Conservation Society for over ten years and became Director of the WCS's Latin America program. He also has a strong history in Audubon, serving as Executive Director of Chesapeake Audubon Society's Pickering Creek Environmental Center. Dr. Strahl has a Ph.D. from SUNY at Albany, N.Y. and degrees in biology with emphases on ecology and applied field investigations.

Invite your friends and neighbors to come to this program!

## HRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**March 5, 2001**

**ACTION 1:** Board moved to send a letter to Honorable **Paula Dockery**, Chairman, House Committee on General Government Appropriations, requesting that the Non-Game Trust Fund of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission be maintained and not repealed. Some of the programs funded in the Non-Game Trust Fund are: Black bear conservation and management, Whooping crane reintroduction, Bald eagle surveys, research, management, Critical Wildlife Area management, Great Florida Birding Trail, Project Wild educational programs, and all the conservation and management programs for species from red-cockaded woodpeckers, to bats, to Florida mice.

**ACTION 2:** Board moved to donate \$50.00 to the Nature Conservancy of Florida, which purchases environmentally valuable land, and to consider an additional donation during the 2001-2002 HRAS fiscal year.

**ACTION 3:** Board moved to spend \$100.00 to fund the purchase of bird slides from Cornell Ornithology Lab for use by the Chapter for programs and education.

**ACTION 4:** \$40.00 was sent to **Mary Keller** from an individual donor.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hartgrove*

As I write this, I've just finished packing for several days in Tallahassee. Earlier tonight, I heard a great story. A story made possible in part by the tax dollars you and I pay into the state of Florida each year. Florida has been a model for other states to emulate with its Non Game Wildlife Trust Fund. This dedicated source of funding helps provide grants for the study of species not yet listed on the Endangered Species List. When you buy your auto tags, you are asked if you wish to donate a dollar to this worthwhile fund. But being a dedicated source of funding means the governor and the legislature don't have a hand in doling out the money. They want to put a stop to this.

Tonight, I went to DeLand to an event sponsored by West Volusia Audubon and the Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. It was a wine and cheese fundraiser for **Dr. Ken Meyer** and the Avian Research and Conservation Institute. Dr. Meyer presented an excellent slide show about the American Swallow-tailed Kite. This beautiful bird has been his main subject of study since 1986 and he probably knows more about them than anyone else. For the past 6 years, he has been radio tagging captured birds and releasing them. The birds can be tracked by car, plane or on foot but only from a nearby location. To track the birds on their long flight to southwestern Brazil, he uses satellite tags. These cost approximately \$7,000 apiece for a year's information. The first ones he got were battery powered and lasted only several months. The new ones are solar powered and provide much more information.

Last year, several birds were captured in Polk County, on a piece of Nature Conservancy property called the Tiger Creek Preserve. A male was fitted with one of the radio tags and was later found and tracked in Brazil. A female was fitted with one of the new solar powered satellite tags. She too was tracked down to the same area in Brazil. Part of the new information gleaned from these tracking studies has been that nearly all 5,000+ (that's all there are) birds from the U.S. spend the winter in the same small area of Brazil on private ranch land property. These birds take their time in migration, unlike most passerines that fly as fast as possible from their wintering to their breeding grounds. In early December of last year, tracking information from the satellite tagged female showed she'd begun the trip back north.

This past Monday, March 12th, she was on the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. She took off that night with a 30-knot tail wind straight across the Gulf of Mexico. Usually, the southwest winds this time of year would have carried her to the west coast of Cuba and then on to the Keys. Surely, you remember the storm and tornadoes we had here on Tuesday, the 13th. That's the storm front she ran into in the middle of the night over the Gulf. Dr. Meyer had been tracking her progress. He felt there was no way she could

survive the storm 200 miles out in the Gulf in that kind of rain and wind. It was Wednesday morning when the next signal was beamed up to the satellite. She was in the Crystal River area.

The year before, **Gina Zimmerman**, one of Dr. Meyer's assistants, had held the female in her hands while he had secured the satellite tag in place. On Thursday, the 15th, Gina was back down in Polk County, looking for the radio tagged male from last year. She had her directional antenna up and soon located the beep of his specific frequency. She followed it to the location of the nest tree from which the female had been satellite tagged the year before. To her surprise, the nest from last year was still there. Swallow-tailed Kites build notoriously sloppy nests, so this wasn't expected. She saw the radio tagged male in a tree nearby. Then she realized there was another bird in the nest. The birds like to build in the highest trees around so she couldn't see the bird too well. Suddenly, the bird flew from the nest to another tree and Gina was able to see the slender satellite antenna. It was the female who all the researchers were sure had been lost at sea. What's more, it was the same bird that Gina had held in her hands the year before! She told me that her hands were shaking so hard she could hardly dial the cell phone to call Dr. Meyer and tell him the good news. The male was later seen bringing her sticks to refurbish the nest. Until then, the research team hadn't known that this was a mated pair of birds.

As I said at the beginning, our tax dollars helped to make this amazing story possible. Through the research conducted by these valuable people, we're learning more and more about these resilient yet fragile birds. Some of the people we've sent to Tallahassee want to put an end to the funding for this kind of research. I hope we can talk them out of it. Call or write your representatives in Tallahassee and the governor's office. Tell them you'd like the Non Game Wildlife Trust Fund left just as it is. Their numbers are: Reps. Suzanne Kosmas 427-4466, Evelyn Lynn 676-4000 and Sens. Locke Burt 738-9002, James E. King, Jr. 888-861-9761.

## ATTENTION: SNOWBIRDS AND VACATIONERS

*Publication Chair John Carr*

Do you want to receive *The Pelican* when you are away from home? The Postal Service requires us to maintain an up-to-date mailing list, which means they notify us when you have **moved** or are **temporarily away**. Each notification costs us \$.50, so to avoid future notification costs, we pull your name from our mailing list.

So please, when you move or are away, phone or e-mail me (see Names & Number section) noting your name, departure and return dates, and forwarding address. This way I can send you your newsletters while you are away and change back to your old address when you return.



## SPECIAL CONCERNS THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION

### **AUDUBON OF FLORIDA:**

#### **Priorities set for 2001 Legislative Session**

**EVERGLADES** – Audubon supports \$200 million in state funds for Everglades restoration. Key actions are amendment and passage of the General Appropriations Act.

**FLORIDA FOREVER** – Audubon supports funding Florida Forever at \$300 million per year. Key actions are passage of the general Appropriations Act.

**PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT** – Audubon supports increased spending to manage and restore natural areas. Key actions are specific allocations in the General Appropriations Act.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION** – Audubon supports existing environmental education programs and recommends added dedicated spending for “experience-based environmental education programs.” Key actions are special allocations in the General Appropriations Act.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT** – Audubon supports retaining the Non Games Wildlife Management Trust Fund along with current dedicated revenue sources. Key actions are passage of the General Appropriations Act and rejection of Governor’s budget proposal on issue.

**RURAL LAND CONSERVATION** – Audubon, along with farm groups, supports creation of a Rural Lands Conservation Program to raise \$100 million a year to purchase ranch and timberland conservation easements. Key actions are passage of legislation currently pending in the House and Senate.

**WATER SUPPLY** – Audubon supports conservation, natural storage and assurances for natural systems as primary mechanisms to ensure abundant water for residents, the economy and the environment. Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) is a potentially risky and expensive approach to storing water. Key actions are rejection of any ASR legislation that weakens Florida water quality law, and other legislation that is not based on protecting health and protecting the public’s water.

**OCKLAWAHA RIVER** – Audubon supports restoration of the Ocklawaha River and removal of the Rodman Dam. Key actions are a specific line-item appropriation of \$800,000 and rejection of legislation mandating continued operation of the reservoir.

**NW FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MILLAGE** – Audubon supports amending the Florida Constitution to allow the District to levy the same millage as other water management districts. Key actions are passage of a resolution placing an amendment to Florida’s Constitution.

*The Pelican* Vol. 46, No 10 April 2001

**SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS** – Audubon opposes any proposal to weaken state ownership of sovereign submerged lands or to facilitate private claims of ownership of Trust Lands. Key actions are opposing legislation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY** – Audubon opposes any changes to state laws that would result in reduced protection of water, wildlife or other natural and environmental resources.

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT** – Audubon believes our Growth Management laws are not effective enough, and should be improved.

*Editor’s Note: More information is available from the Audubon Advocate published weekly on the Audubon of Florida web site <http://www.audubonofflorida.org>. Click on the Publications page. The lobby team of Audubon of Florida is Deveron Brown: [deveronbrown@earthlink.net](mailto:deveronbrown@earthlink.net) – (850) 224-7546. Eric Draper: [edraper@audubon.org](mailto:edraper@audubon.org) (850) 224-7546, and Charles Lee: [clec@audubon.org](mailto:clec@audubon.org) – (407) 620-5178.*

### **COMMENTS ON WATER SUPPLY ISSUES**

*By Eric Draper,  
Conservation Director, Audubon of Florida  
To the House Natural Resources and Environmental  
Protection Committee, March 7, 2001*

Audubon of Florida is science-based education and conservation organization with 40,000 members and 43 chapters and 200,000 education program participants. We own or care for over 50,000 acres of high quality sanctuaries in the headwaters of key watersheds. Audubon has been the lead private organization providing science and technical input to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the associated Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan. We have been involved in just about every step of the process to guarantee a balance between human and natural needs for water.

Water is the key element for maintaining healthy habitats and foraging areas for wading birds and other wildlife and to maintain estuarine habitats so critical to marine life. The past 100 years have seen manipulation of Florida’s water resources, first in favor of drainage and now in favor of water supply, with little regard for environmental impacts. We cannot continue to handle excess water like trash, dumping it into the nearest drainage ditch or pit. Nor can we rely only on expensive manipulation with reservoirs, pumps and treatment for new supply.

Florida has always experienced what we are now calling drought. Our average rainfall fluctuates greatly. Historically, our natural systems have absorbed and stored excess rainwater and dried out slowly. We have robbed and continue to rob ourselves of those natural storage benefits, our greatest single source of water supply.

Audubon takes the position that successful water supply development requires that Florida's water managers do three things and that we do them well before we get into expensive schemes to manufacture water and store water:

1. Retain or restore the natural water storage functions of Florida's landscape.
2. Reduce consumption through linking consumptive use to actual supply
3. Educate Florida's citizens so they can play a meaningful role in helping to conserve water.

Our experience in the Everglades and other watersheds is that managers are not doing a particularly good job of holding onto natural water storage functions. Examples:

The Green Swamp, location of recent fires and headwaters for four rivers has been listed a priority for land acquisition for nearly a decade.

The Corkscrew Swamp in Collier County is becoming surrounded by development.

A key land component of Everglades restoration, a section of Acme Basin B in Palm Beach County, was up for auction and subdivision last month.

Drainage of much of the land around Lake Okeechobee has led to the loss of natural storage functions diminishing the Lake's ability to help provide continuous water supply. Plans to recapture natural storage around the Lake have been shelved in favor of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), which has not been tried on the scale proposed.

Erosion and uneven enforcement of wetlands protection laws continues to dramatically reduce the extent of these natural storage areas. In Lee and Collier Counties we face the potential loss of nearly 400,000 acres of wetlands along with their storage capabilities.

Managers are also falling short in linking consumption to actual supplies as nature provides them.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) have been required by state law since 1972. Yet, few MFLs have been established. As a result, consumptive use of water continues to be divorced from actual supply.

Lake Okeechobee has been managed as huge reservoir instead of a natural lake. High water levels have drowned marshes, allowed build up of phosphorous concentrations and reduced the Lake's fish and wildlife habitat.

In Florida's Panhandle, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, with a tiny budget limited by the State Constitution, is incapable of establishing a reasonable linkage between use and supply.

Education of Florida's citizens is far from adequate. The State has no education program to help our citizens understand the role their activities play in water supply. Last year the Legislature repealed the Environmental Education Act. This year, state environmental education money is being phased out. The Water Management

Districts do some very limited education. It is not benchmarked, coordinated or consistent. In tight budget years, education is the first area to get cut.

Audubon makes the following specific recommendations on Water Supply Development:

1. Maintain natural storage benefits of floodplains, short hydro-period wetlands and swamps by limiting development and drainage and restoring the natural capacity of Florida's landscape to hold water.
2. Provide meaningful, benchmarked and consistent conservation education to Florida's citizens and school children.
3. Expand on Governor Bush's recent proposal to link water to growth policies.
4. Give the Northwest Florida Water Management District and other districts the ability to set their own budgets at a consistent level approved by voters in the Constitution.
5. Ensure adequate Everglades funding and planning to get in front of current land acquisition backlogs.
6. Incorporate the underlying principle of CERP into state policy: Water supply, water quality and environmental benefits are interdependent.
7. Go slow on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). ASR is proposed as a major water storage component, yet the technology is not proven at the scale proposed. Contingency plans to store the equivalent amounts of water using such alternative means including deeper and larger surface storage should back up ASR plans. Aquifer management plans and regional studies of ASR are also needed.
8. Expedite the setting of Minimum Flows and Levels to prevent harm to water resources and put the environment on equal footing with the economy.

## ... AND ALSO SOME NATIONAL NEWS

### **ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

*Information from Defenders of Wildlife*  
[www.defenders.org/wildlife/arctic](http://www.defenders.org/wildlife/arctic)

Hurrah for our legislators! No Florida Senator co-sponsored a bill allowing oil drilling of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Florida Senator **Graham** co-sponsored Sen. Joe Lieberman's bill designating the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as untouchable wilderness

Six Florida Representatives co-sponsored a bill to permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic refuge: **Hastings, David, Deutsch, Brown, Meek, and Wexler.**

One reason we care: The Lesser Scaup that over-winters in Florida, breeds on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## CALENDAR

All HRAS field trips will originate at the east end of the Court House Annex, City Island, unless otherwise noted.

### Monday, April 2

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

### Friday, April 6

HRAS Field Trip. Dora Canal at Mt. Dora with picnic lunch, 8:00 a.m. Reservations required. Led by **Willie Burns**.

### Saturday, April 7

Native Plant sale. See article.

### Saturday, April 7

W. Volusia AS outing. Canaveral National Seashore. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Monday, April 16

HRAS Program Meeting. Audubon of Florida, by **Stuart Strahl**, President and CEO.

### Wednesday, April 18

W. Volusia AS outing. Washington Oaks State Gardens. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20

HRAS Field Trip. Fort DeSoto on Gulf Coast. Meet at Covenant Methodist Church on Clyde Morris Blvd., 8:30 a.m. Reservations required. Led by **Lois Robinson**.

### Friday, April 20

Indian River Audubon Society program. **Dr. Ross Hinkle**: Endangered Species Researcher at KSC. Contact **Julie Seberry** at (321) 452-3738 or [juliet@palmnet.net](mailto:juliet@palmnet.net) for information.

### Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21

Welcome Back Songbirds & Earth Day: Wakulla Springs State Park. Bird banding demos, bird walks and boat rides on the Wakulla River, children's events, etc. contact **Lora Silvanima** (850) 487-0516, [silvanl@gfc.state.fl.us](mailto:silvanl@gfc.state.fl.us)

### Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22

Earth Fest in Port Orange. HRAS will maintain booth for education and sell items. **Barbara Kieran** and **Rachel Ramsey**.

### Tuesday, April 24

W. Volusia AS program meeting. Presentation by *Fly by Night*. "Bats!" 7:00 p.m., Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand

### Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29

Washington Oaks Earth Fest. HRAS will maintain booth for education and sell items. Volunteers needed: contact **David Hartgrove**.

### Monday, May 7

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

### Friday, May 4

W. Volusia outing. Alligator Farm and Wading Bird Rookery in St. Augustine. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Saturday, May 5

HRAS Annual Picnic at **Angelo Cerrito** home.

### Saturday, May 12

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

### Saturday, May 19

HRAS Field Trip. Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, 8:00 a.m.

### Monday, May 21

HRAS Program Meeting. Eagle Watch Program, by **Meret Wilson** and **Tom Arbogast**. Vote for new officers and board.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2001-2003

### HRAS OFFICERS

The following members of the Halifax River Audubon Society have been appointed by the President as a committee to nominate officers for two-year terms on the Society's Board of Directors for the 2001-2003 chapter years. Positions to be nominated are President, Vice President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Member-At-Large (3-year term).

The Nominating Committee consists of Chair **Tom Arbogast**, who can be reached at 761-2283, **Mary Ellen Baker** at 767-3916, and **John Williams** at 255-8631.

HRAS members who wish to nominate a Director, should first acquire agreement to serve from the nominee. Then he must submit the name of the nominee to a member of the nominating committee prior to the May annual members' meeting when voting shall take place.

## FT. DESOTO TRIP

*By Lois Robinson*

Just a brief reminder for those of you going to Ft. DeSoto on April 19 and 20th. There is still room so sign up now!

1. Be at Covenant United Methodist Church at 8:15 a.m. (we leave at 8:30), Thursday, April 19. Church address is 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.
2. Bring a lunch and a snack. (Dinner will be late, around 7 or 7:30).
3. HRAS will provide water, colas, and tea for the lunch.
4. Emergency phone calls can be made to Eckerd College, Elderhostel Division at 727-867-1166. Bring a folding chair if you have one. HRAS will have 5 to loan out.
5. No other program is planned. We will bird till dark if the numbers are as predicted and then go to Ponderosa Steak House for dinner. (This is on you).
6. Bring insect repellent and sunscreen and a bottle of water.

We ought to be home in the early evening, Friday the 20th. Call Lois Robinson if you have further questions.



## BIRD REHABILITATOR NEEDS

**Mary Keller**, the bird rehabilitator for our area, has a full house of injured or sick birds she is treating. She depends on contributions from interested and caring people for the supplies she needs to care for the birds.

Her list of supplies needed now are: Kaytee Exact baby bird hand feeding formula, square blocks of suet with peanuts of seeds, apples, plastic ice cube trays, wild bird see (see in buckets keep fresh longer), white paper towels, gallons of white vinegar for cleaning cages, small cans of Pedigree dog food, and millet seed.

Donations can be taken to the Keller home at 1216 Denece Terrace or call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 to arrange pickup.

## FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE

The Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will have a variety of Florida native plants for sale at the annual Master Gardener plant sale. The sale will be held Saturday, April 7, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Agricultural Center (Volusia County Fairgrounds) on SR 44, just west of I-4, exit 56.

Over 40 varieties of Florida native wildflowers, trees, vines and shrubs that have value to wildlife (birds, butterflies, animals) will be featured, including Simpson's stopper, coral honeysuckle, beautyberry, tropical sage, 'muhly' grass, and many others. Call Kim Johnson for more information at 441-7591.

## SPRING MIGRATION COUNT COMING

*By David Hartgrove*

This is just a short reminder that the Spring Migration Count will be on Saturday, May 12th. We'll meet at the east end of the City Island Courthouse at 7:00 a.m. Please note that this is an hour earlier than we usually meet. I should also stress that it isn't necessary for you to be a "good" birder. The way you get good is by going out with people with more experience. This is an all day event but we can easily accommodate those who have other commitments at some point. If you're only available for half a day, please, come on out. As usual, we'll be doing picnic lunches.

Now this next part is really important. **PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU ARE GOING TO PARTICIPATE.** It makes it so much easier to put together teams if I have some idea who's coming and for how long. Thanks in advance for your usual fine help.

## A GOOD LOOK AT WARBLERS

Our March chapter program drew a surprisingly large group of gale-weather-bravers to see slides and hear **John Carr's** comments on warblers. The slides, some new ones purchased from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, were beautiful, and John's comments reflected his thorough familiarity with warblers and their behavior.

This program was given in anticipation of the HRAS upcoming overnight trip to Ft. DeSoto, where tired migrating warblers will be numerous and easily seen.

## THE LOCAL "HOT SPOTS" FIELD TRIP

*By David Hartgrove*

The skies were cloudy and it looked like the rain we'd already had might continue. This was on Friday, March 16th when eight of us met at the City Island Courthouse for an afternoon field trip. We went to the marina to find a covered picnic space and shared a delightful meal while watching the resident Loggerhead Shrikes cruise the grounds for their preferred snacks, insects and anoles.

On our way to the Museum of Arts and Sciences, it rained quite hard but by the time we arrived, the rain had stopped and we were dry for the rest of the day. The trusty owl tape helped us find a pair of Northern Parula Warblers and a pair of Cardinals. Then it was off to Reed Canal Park Lake. There we saw several pairs of Lesser Scaup. One of the males had a pinkish bill. This is not shown in any field guide and we were at a loss to explain this anomaly.

Our next stop was in a subdivision in South Daytona called the Orchards. Several large live oaks there have been taken over by Great Blue Herons and Anhingas as a rookery. Some of the residents weren't too happy about this turn of events and decided to have the branches cut down to chase off the birds. Thanks to board member, **Pat Mihalic**, and the South Daytona zoning department, the residents have been advised that their planned course of action would be a direct violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The birds are sitting on their nests and nature is progressing at her own speed. We next went to Sugar Mill Gardens. Some days at the gardens can be great for birding. This wasn't one of them. On to the pond at the southeast corner of Christiancy and Niver Streets, in Port Orange. We saw more nesting Anhingas, some Hooded Mergansers and a nice pair of Wood Ducks we wouldn't have seen if not for a 10 year old on a bicycle. There was also an immature Little Blue Heron and a Snowy Egret. It was a good opportunity to compare the differences between these two very similar birds.

We went on to the Port Orange Bridge and got some good views of a pair of American Oyster Catchers in the late afternoon sun. This is usually a good spot for Yellow-crowned Night Herons. We couldn't find a one but we did see the Great Egret nests with their gawky, fuzzy young out on the island where the Brown Pelicans will be nesting soon. McElroy Park was the final stop and we saw lots of warblers: mostly Yellow-rumped but also Palm, Black-and-white and another Northern Parula. It was a good day with a total of 52 species. Join us for another trip one day? Information on our trips is in *The Pelican* and our brochure or from any board member.



## LETTER ABOUT PELICAN ISLAND

Hi All,

You'll probably be hearing about the new structure at the island south of the Port Orange Bridge. This is commonly called Pelican Island. Actually, Pelican Island is the larger island north of the bridge. This little oyster bar, with all the Pelicans on it, is called Island #3 on the charts. I spent all day today helping erect and 3 story blind on the southeast side of the island. Two film makers, Neal Williams and Mary Helsaple, from Colorado, are here to spend the next 3 months filming the breeding cycle of the Pelicans for an HD TV "Nature" special. These two Emmy winning artists are really nice folks, and yes, they do have all the necessary permits. They're going to post information sheets in the nearby restaurants and apartment complexes so there will be a minimum of complaints. Still, you may hear from someone concerned about the birds' welfare. Rest assured, they're quite content. We were there all day today. They paid little, if any, attention to us at all. I'll be going out with them again tomorrow morning (Friday, March 23) to make some final adjustments to the blind. After that, they'll be filming almost daily. The film they're making will include footage of nesting Greater Flamingoes in Mexico, Anhingas in the Everglades and Great Blue Herons there too. Also Sage Grouse in Colorado. I've seen their work. You probably have too. I was honored to have even a small part in helping on this worthwhile project

David Hartgrove

## FISH AND WILDLIFE RECREATION CREATES HUGE ECONOMIC BOON FOR FLORIDA

*January 19, 2001 - FWC News Release*

Outdoor enthusiasts spent twice as much money last year in Florida on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing as Florida lottery players did on buying tickets.

According to a recent study conducted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) hunting, wildlife viewing and saltwater and freshwater fishing annually generate approximately \$5.5 billion in retail sales resulting in an economic impact to Florida of \$7.8 billion.

In addition, the study revealed sales tax benefits to the state are estimated at \$336 million, and 138,210 jobs are directly associated with Florida's fish and wildlife-related recreation.

"The sheer scale of the economic benefits provided by fish and wildlife to Florida's economy is one reason for maintaining wildlife populations and habitats in a healthy state," said Dr. Allan L. Egbert, executive director of the FFWCC.

The economic benefits by type of activity are:

### Hunting:

Participants - 233,992. Retail Sales - \$356,812,910.

Sales Tax - \$21,408,775.

Economic Impact - \$383, 994, 869. Jobs - 12,492.

### Freshwater Fishing:

Participants - 1,375,875. Retail Sales - \$958,117,521.

Sales Tax - \$57,487,050.

Economic Impact - \$1,029,352,530. Jobs - 18,759

### Wildlife Viewing:

Participants - 3,938,918.

Retail Sales - \$1,887,887,300.

Sales Tax - \$113,273,243.

Economic Impact - \$1,993,645,537.

Jobs - 52,140

### Saltwater Fishing:

Participants - 2,493,858. Retail Sales - \$2,395,869,789.

Sales Tax - \$143,752,189.

Economic Impact - \$4,474,842,714. Jobs - 54,819.

Florida sales tax revenue from hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing is more than the annual tuition paid by 34,000 in-state university students.

More than one out of every five state residents are wildlife viewers and spend an average of \$696 annually on trip-related and equipment expenditures.

"Our strategy for maintaining abundant wildlife populations is to remind decision makers that Florida's wildlife resources should be considered economic assets as well as natural assets to be conserved and managed for the benefit of all Floridians," Egbert said.

The FFWCC recently completed the economic study of Florida's fish and wildlife-related recreation in 2000. The study was based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

## WELCOME TO HRAS

Ms. Mary Back, Robert and Lisa Bentkofsky, Sidney Blair, Eve Booth, Paulette Capwell, The Carters, Brad Cochrane, Ms. Sheila Cogan, Eileen Colson, Barbara Cook, Frank Cowan, Madeleine Davis, Julia Decker, Beverly K. D'Heur, Marge Dolne, Amber K. Dupois, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Eales, Olive Fink, Bruce Hall, Ben Harrington, Dora A. Hill, Alan Jorczak, Julie Knose, Ruth E. Little, Patricia A. Long, C. Loveless, Hazel L. Lozier, Anthony Miotke, William Motzel, Suzanne Ottman, Julianna Peterson, Mr. Ray Pivec, Sidney Possick, G. A. Richards, Lucille Schmieder, Lois E. Seitter, Helen J. Settles, Rita Shamer, Mary Snow, Michael Sorano, Hazel C. Theal, M. G. Thompson, Derek Toms, Elinor Virgona, Jeff Wheatley, J. Wieboldt, and Pat Workman have recently joined HRAS. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in our meetings, field trips, and environmental efforts.

# THE PELICAN



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

April 2001

### 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	Gina Holt	253-3466
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
Publicity	Barbara Bowden	672-4956
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		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

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

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HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
appreciates the support of its 2000-2001 *The Pelican* Underwriters

REID HUGHES

ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 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 will meet on Monday, April 2, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach.

### THANK YOU

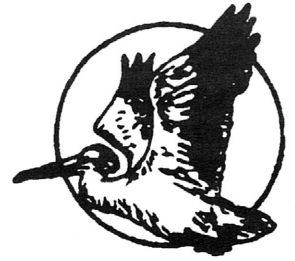
Joan and Andy Anderson, and Rachel Ramsey for the delicious refreshments provided for our March meeting.

### LOCAL EAGLE WATCHERS

The Audubon Eaglewatch program for 2000-2001 has 224 volunteers monitoring over 20% of the recorded nests in Florida, primarily in urban areas. Eaglewatch volunteers reported nine new nests in the past year.

As of January 31, 2001, there are 11 volunteers for Volusia County watching 13 nests, 7 of which are in Volusia County. These volunteers are Terry Palmer, Barbara Samler, Roger and Ana Amrhein, Duke and Jean Case, Meret Wilson, Heather Joyce, Tom Arbogast, Kevin Doxstater, and Robert Morin.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 46 - NO. 11 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY MAY 2001**

## EXTINCTION OF SPECIES

*By President Lois Robinson*

The next time someone asks you what does it matter if some specie of beetles or snail darters, for example, becomes extinct give them this quote from **Jared Diamond** in his book "The Third Chimpanzee" (Harper-Collins Publishers, 1992). Dr. Diamond says, "---the ecological row of dominoes is much too complex for us to figure out which dominoes we can dispense with. For instance, could anyone please answer these three questions: Which ten tree species produce most of the world's paper pulp. For each of those ten tree species which are the ten bird species that eat most of the insect pests, the ten insect species that pollinate most of its flowers, and the ten animal species that spread most of its seeds. Which other species do these ten birds, insects, and animals depend on? You'd have to be able to answer those three impossible questions if you were the president of a lumber company trying to figure out which species you could afford to let go extinct."

Dr. Diamond goes on to tell about how the extinction of large predators (jaguars, pumas, Harpy Eagles) on Panama's Barro Colorado Island lead to the extinction there of the little Antbirds. The big predators kept the medium-sized predators (monkeys, peccaries and others) in check. When the big predators were gone the medium-sized predators exploded in population and ate all the Antbirds and their eggs. This extinction also lead to massive changes in the composition of the trees in the forest because of the seed eating habits of the species left on the island.

If we keep selling off 2 ounces of our valuable flesh (to developers and others) sooner or later we will sell some part that will cause our whole system to crash. This could apply to our own bodies or to our eco-system. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but spread the word around to your friends who may not be so aware.

## STUART STRAHL SPEAKS

*By Lois Robinson*

**Dr. Stuart Strahl** spoke to HRAS Monday night, April 16th and delighted his audience with his humor and wide range of knowledge regarding conservation and Audubon issues in Florida. He began with an overview of the changes in Audubon from the old Florida Audubon to the new Audubon of Florida, which is more streamlined,

better coordinated and more fiscally responsible than the old model.

He then spoke of the goals of Audubon of Florida, which included preserving, conserving, restoring and educating the public about the wonderful natural resources we have enjoyed in Florida. The Everglades Restoration Funding received much of his attention as the whole world is watching us to see if we, in Florida, can pull off the biggest land reclamation project ever attempted anywhere. We need to do it right!

Dr. Strahl mentioned some of the positive and negative measures now going through committees in the State Legislature that will impact our environment. One positive new bill is the Rural and Family Lands Act, which will keep rural lands largely intact and in a more natural state.

But the attempt of the Legislature to "raid" Preservation 2000 to help fund Everglades restoration is an example of a poor bill that threatens the intent of both of these bills. These bills are wending their way through both houses at this writing. You still have time to write or call your representatives to make your views known.

Dr. Strahl also described the problems regarding the Rodman Dam. Bass fishermen oppose removal of the Dam, while conservationists want the Dam removed to again allow free flow of the Oklawaha River. Dr. Strahl said the river needs cleaning up before the Dam comes down, if it ever does.

Dr. Strahl asked the audience why they think the legislature (Florida) keeps raising issues against good land management and other conservation matters when many counties (including Volusia) voted 70-80% for preserving and protecting the environment. A good discussion followed this inquiry.

To close, Dr Strahl urged us to form alliances with like-minded groups to maximize our strength in our battle for the future of Florida.

## LETTER FROM MARY KELLER

I would like to thank the person who gave me the \$40.00 through the Halifax River Audubon Society. I bought six boxes from a pet shop. They look like small clear lunch boxes. They have a door in the lid and will sit inside a fish tank one to three at a time. The box sits on a heating pad in the fish tank with a small towel inside holding the babies, who stay warm and free from being sat on by the other birds.



### CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hartgrove*

Last month, I wrote of the threat to the Non-Game Wildlife Trust Fund. I asked that you write or call our area's legislators. When I was in Tallahassee last month, I spoke to them (the ones I could see) about this issue. Earlier tonight, I got confirmation from **Representative Joyce Cusack's** office that the Trust Fund has been reestablished without any changes. I don't know that we can take all the credit for this happy turn of events, but we sure helped. So, give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. Now, there is still a potential problem. **Governor Bush** could veto the bill. After all, it was his idea to roll the Trust Fund into the general revenue budget. Call his office and ask that he sign the bill. It's a good idea.

Another problem that has once again reared its ugly head is Rodman Dam. **Senator Jim King** (whose district includes a portion of the North Peninsula) has decided to become the chief sponsor of this environmental nightmare since its original champion, **Senator George Kirkpatrick**, was term limited out of office. The latest compromise bill will allow the construction of boat ramps, parking lots, "bleachers" and a covered pavilion on the shores of the reservoir while yet another water quality study is done. These new amenities will enhance the proposed bass tournaments. The amended bill passed the House Fiscal Responsibility Committee by a vote of 13 to 6. Two of our local representatives, **Suzanne Kosmas** and **Evelyn Lynn**, sit on this committee and both voted against this bad bill. They should hear from us with a word of thanks. The plan to turn this weed choked pond into a state park failed in last year's session. Fortunately, Governor Bush favors removal of the dam and restoration of the free flowing Oklawaha. Perhaps he'll use his line item veto power on this turkey and get restoration of the Oklawaha back on track. Once again, a phone call to his office could help move him in that direction.

Finally, could there be a more cynical use of a photo-op than the one in the April 12th News-Journal? It shows **Interior Secretary, Gale Norton**, watching the release of 5 California Condors. Apparently, the PR folks in her office thought that the sight of the Secretary attending the release of these magnificent reminders of the efficacy of the Endangered Species Act would over shadow the story the picture accompanies. The Bush administration (having deluded itself into thinking it has a mandate) is proposing to limit the ability of environmental groups to obtain court orders to force the Interior Department to do its job as outlined in the Endangered Species Act. Of course, if the Department was doing its job in the first place, court orders wouldn't be necessary. The idea is that Secretary Norton will use her own discretion in deciding how best to protect endangered species. This is the same Gale Norton who has spent most of her adult working life fighting

against these rules on behalf of the mining, timber and oil industries. She was a protegee of **James Watt** at the Mountain States Legal Foundation and has repeatedly argued in court that the ESA should be abolished as too oppressive on the ability of corporations to make a profit. She has also argued that exploration of the mineral and timber wealth in our national parks and monuments should be explored. But this picture is supposed to lull us into believing that all her past is just that. She's a bird lover now and we can trust her to do the right thing. Anybody want to buy a bridge?

Two months ago, I wrote that we were in for some "interesting" times. I guess when you're contemplating the selling of the country's crown jewels at wholesale prices to the friends who've bankrolled you up to now, there's no reason to try being tactful. The sooner the drilling and sawing can start, the sooner the party's coffers can be refilled for the next election.

The current legislature session ends May 5.

### SLATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tom Arbogast**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the following slate of officers at the April HRAS meeting.

- President..... Lois Robinson
- Vice President ..... Rachel Ramsey
- Vice President ..... Madeline Shaddix
- Recording Secretary ..... Jean Lesh
- Correspondence Secretary... Gina Holt
- Membership Secretary ..... John Carr
- Treasurer..... Morrell Robinson
- Historian..... John Carr
- Member-at-Large ..... Willie Burns

Members present at the May program meeting will be able to nominate and vote for the chapter board members.

### WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE FILMING?

*By David Hartgrove*

In last month's *The Pelican*, I reported about the film makers from Colorado, **Neal Williams** and **Mary Helsaple**, who are using the blind on the island south of the Port Orange Bridge. The initial filming went well and they got some great footage of Brown Pelican breeding rituals and Great Egrets and Double Crested Cormorants with their young in the nest. There will be more filming later in the cycle as the eggs hatch, the young grow, and finally when they fledge and leave the nest.

Thanks to **Andy** and **Joan Anderson's** report, they're also filming the Sandhill Crane nest at Lake Woodruff NWR. Refuge manager, **Henry Sansing**, told me that this is the first Sandhill Crane nest he knows of on the refuge in years. Stay tuned for future updates. "Our" birds will be the focus of a major film on national television.

## EVERY THURSDAY FOR FIVE THURSDAYS

*By Glade Koch*

The Youth Garden Committee of the Garden Club of the Halifax Country invited HRAS Education Committee to work with their Youth Gardening Project to help two first grades at Ormond Beach Elementary School start a garden.

Garden Club Committee Chair, **Andrea Truslow**, **Anita Emery** and **Frances Wilson** bought shrubs, plants and seeds and helped the children plant them. Anita donated an attractive birdbath in memory of **Marie Oglesby** and **Gail Lincoln**. A plaque in the school office commemorates the gift of the garden birdbath.

HRAS Education Committee helped with birds and butterflies in three of the Thursday sessions. From the HRAS slide collection we showed children the birds they might see in their garden. We observed physical characteristics and shared facts and stories about Mockingbirds, Cardinals and Doves, etc. The first grade favorite seemed to be the Blue Jay. We looked through binoculars, studied an Audubon chart of backyard birds and first graders listed the birds they were seeing at home and on the way to school. They also made bird feeders of pine cones, peanut butter and sunflower seeds. Each drew a bird portrait. Two Master Gardener volunteers working with Volusia County Extension Service shared information about butterflies and hummingbirds and brought seeds for the classes to plant.

Our last Thursday was the day for a little review and sharing bird portraits outside by the garden near the picnic tables and gazebo.

First grade teachers **Ms. Randall** and **Ms. Durden** were very supportive. Ms. Durden said part of her class now spends half their recess time looking for birds on the playground. The teachers photographed the busy gardeners and presented a photo record to the Garden Club. **Mr. Ben**, the custodian, will be watching out for the garden this summer, especially the birdbath.

Parents also seemed interested. They attached a whimsical birdhouse in a tree above the garden and some parents placed a decorative container and sunflower seeds in the garden. They took pictures of birds in their yards and the children brought them to share. One little girl brought pictures of an Eagle nest with an adult and two large chicks that her family observed during our project.

Next Spring we hope to return to the school where we had such a warm welcome from the Principal and staff. A fond memory of this "Auduboner" is that of a little boy who, in the closing minutes of our last session outdoors by the garden, abruptly pointed and called out, "Mrs. Koch, what is that bird up there?" I looked. My answer, "a Cowbird!" His reply, "A COWBIRD??!" as he walked off for the party of animal crackers and juice.

Thanks, Garden Club of the Halifax Country!

## MARY KELLER

*By Pat Mihalic*

Mary has an unusual number of baby birds for so early in the season. Many of her young charges come from trees that are being cut down or bushes and shrubs that are being trimmed. She asks that if you must trim in the spring, please make sure that there are no nesting birds in there.

She has received a number of injured Pelicans in recent weeks. Most of the injuries come from contact with humans. Mary asks our members who go to the beach to volunteer to be a person whom she can call when a bird needs to be picked up from one of the cages on the beach. Sick or injured birds are put in the cages by rangers or people on the beach and if no one is available to pick them up and take them to Mary or **Dee Ann Snyder** then the birds remain in the cages and usually die. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call Mary at 252-2794.

Mary needs Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula (this is the only food that will keep babies alive), millet sprays (sick birds or fledglings will eat millet when they will not eat anything else), white paper towels, white vinegar, Pedigree canned dog food, canned cat food and birdseed.

## MARINE SCIENCE CENTER TOUR

*By Pat Mihalic*

**John Crisp**, Program Manager of Volusia County Park and Recreation Service, will conduct a tour of the Marine Science Center on Friday May 11th at 9:00 a.m. for members and friends of HRAS. The Center will house static displays of ocean and reefs and feature a huge fish tank. It will house a fully equipped lab for turtle research and tanks for turtle rehabilitation.

Boardwalks and trails around the center create a wonderful birding area. The proposed bird rehabilitation pavilion is of special interest to Audubon members.

The Center is located near the boat ramp at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Follow the road past the Lighthouse and the dock. You will see a parking lot to your left. John will meet us at the pavilion that is the proposed site of the bird rehabilitation center.

## AUDUBON CAMPS

If you and/or your family is interested in attending an Audubon camp, call toll-free 866/4AUDUBON (866/428-3826) for details or to receive copies of camp brochures.

Camps are: Audubon in the North Woods (Minnesota), Audubon Camp in Maine (Maine), Audubon Vermont Camps (Vermont), and the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary (Wisconsin).

## CALENDAR

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

### Friday, May 4

W. Volusia outing. Alligator Farm in St. Augustine.  
Wading Bird Rookery. Call **Sam Root** at 734-4178 for information.

### Saturday, May 5

**HRAS Annual Picnic at Angelo Cerrito home.**

### Monday, May 7

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

### Saturday, May 12

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

### Saturday, May 19

**HRAS Field Trip.** Alligator Farm in St. Augustine,  
8:00 a.m.

### Monday, May 21

**HRAS Program Meeting.** Eagle Watch Program, by  
**Meret Wilson and Tom Arbogast.** Vote for new officers and board.

### Monday, June 4

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

## HOW TO CONTACT OUR LEGISLATORS

Florida Representatives and Senators are in session now through May 4th. Important legislation may be decided at the last minute, if this session follows tradition. You may wish to send them a message. A toll free number for bill information is (800) 342-1827.

To send an email message to a Senator use this format:  
**lastname.firstname.web@leg.state.fl.us.**

### SENATORS

**Locke Burt** (District 16 – Volusia Co.)  
410 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 487-5033 or (386) 738-9002 FAX (386) 676-4082

**Jim King** (District 8 – Flagler and Volusia)  
300 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 487-5030 FAX (904) 487-5368

**Daniel Webster** (District 12 – Seminole and Volusia)  
316 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 487-5047 FAX (407) 297-2064  
email address: drawdy.ann.web@leg.state.fl.us

To send an email message to a Representative use this format: **lastname.firstname@leg.state.fl.us.**

### REPRESENTATIVES

**Joyce Cusack** (District 26 - Flagler and Volusia)  
212 The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-0580 or (386) 943-7900

**Doug Wiles** (District 20 – Flagler, Clay, St. Johns, Volusia)  
316 The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-2977 or (904) 823-4660 FAX (904) 823-4662

**Suzanne Kosmas** (District 28 - Volusia)  
1402 The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-6653 or (386) 427-4466 FAX (386) 424-2367

**Tom Feeney** (District 33 – Seminole and Volusia)  
414 The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-1450 or (407) 977-6500 FAX (407) 977-6504

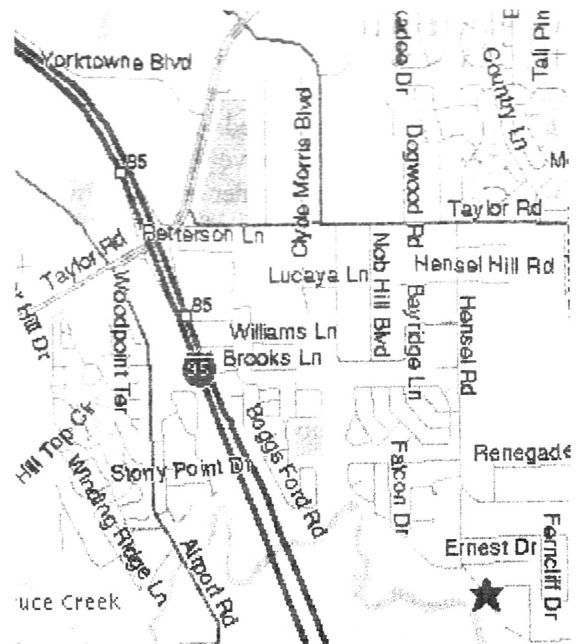
**Carey Baker** (District 25 - Lake)  
300 House Office Building, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-0348

**Evelyn Lynn** (District 27 - Volusia)  
221 The Capitol, Tallahassee 32399  
(850) 488-9873 or (386) 676-4000 FAX (386) 676-4002

## HRAS ANNUAL PICNIC

On Saturday, May 5, 2001, **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. Angelo has lots of chairs, but bring your own folding chair just in case, as we usually have a large crowd.

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.





## FT. DESOTO PARK IS A HIT

*By Lois Robinson*

Twenty-four birders from HRAS descended on Ft. DeSoto Park Thursday noon, April 19. We weren't too sure what we would find there, as reports of sightings from the previous week were not too promising but we were gloriously surprised by the treasures that awaited us. Some of the rarest sightings included: a Lazuli Bunting, a Shiny Cowbird, a Heerman's Gull (immature), a Hooded Warbler, a Cape May Warbler, Orchard Orioles, a Vesper Sparrow, Indigo Buntings, Black Poll Warblers, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers (both male and female) and two species of Parakeets. Our grand total of species came to 114, which also included a Turkey and Swallow-tailed Kites seen while in transit.

We saw many other warblers as well as vireos and terns, gulls, Dunlins, Dowitchers, egrets and herons in abundance. With Magnificent Frigatebirds soaring overhead we spent the night at Eckerd College (Continuing Education Division) in a very new and comfortable accommodations. All in all the group had a great trip. If you have a chance to travel to the Tampa Bay area be sure to visit Ft. DeSoto Park especially in April or May. We even had a banner prepared for us by the catering staff of Apostolu Enterprises.

What a way to go!

## ALLIGATOR FARM TRIP

*By Fran Carr*

Saturday, May 19th will be our chance to re-visit the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine. This has been one of HRAS's favorite places to see nesting herons, egrets, woodstorks and even the occasional Roseate Spoonbill. Alligators teem in ponds between islands of tall trees. A high walkway has been built so visitors can also look down on the alligators. But from the walkway visitors can look right into the nests of breeding birds. One year, an egret mom and I watched as one of her chicks hatched. I don't know who was happier, me, mom, or the baby.

Birds like to nest above alligators because the alligators prevent raccoons, snakes, and other smaller predators from raiding the birds' nests. Of course, there is often an accident, a baby falls from the nest, and the gator gets a meal. But birds have discovered the odds are good for them to raise their chicks, and time has proven this true.

You can take a picnic lunch, buy a lunch at the Farm, or eat at one of the good seafood restaurants nearby. You are bound to have a great time. Bring your camera!

## BE A BIOLOGICAL VOLUNTEER

You may have a chance to take part in an extraordinary volunteer program as a Biological Volunteer at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers will monitor wetland birds on selected impoundments at the refuge. If

you are interested, contact **Marc Epstein** at the address below. Mr. Epstein said that some of their volunteers have retired and/or moved away and he is making an effort to recruit some more.

Contact: Marc Epstein, Refuge Biologist  
Merritt Island NWR Complex  
PO Box 6504  
Titusville FL 32782

Tel: 321-861-0667 Fax: 321-861-1276

Email: Marc\_Epstein@fsw.gov

## PORT ORANGE EXPANDS USE OF REUSE WATER

*From StreamLines, Spring 2001, publication of SJRWMD*

The city of Port Orange recently completed its water reuse augmentation project. Four ponds now capture stormwater runoff and reroute it to a treatment plant so that it can be used as reuse water. Reuse water is wastewater that has been thoroughly treated to remove harmful organisms and substances so it can be reused in other applications.

The reuse water from this project will be used primarily for residential areas. More than 3,100 residences in Port Orange are served by reuse water. This number is increasing as more sewers are being installed throughout the city.

Common uses of reuse water include irrigating golf courses, residential landscapes, corporate grounds, agricultural fields and sports fields. It can also be used for industrial heating and cooling, for car washes and to replenish wetlands during times of drought.

The project is permitted for up to 1.2 million gallons a day, depending on water levels and rainfall conditions.

The St Johns River Water Management District provided \$45,000 and technical support for the project. It also partnered with the city of Port Orange to purchase one of the ponds for the project. The District's cost was \$250,000 for the 23-acre site, known as the Bushman Stormwater Park.

## SANDHILL CRANE PAIR

*From Friends of Lake Woodruff newsletter*

A pair of Sandhill Cranes built a nest at Lake Woodruff in Pond One in mid-March – the first confirmed nesting of sandhills on the refuge. On March 23, the crane on duty in the saucer-shaped nest passed the time by adding sticks, grass and mud to reinforce the structure. A few days later, a second or "insurance" egg appeared. One of the eggs, ejected intentionally or by accident, lay exposed to the elements for several days while the cranes brooded the other. The abandoned egg was observed back in the nest in early April.

# THE PELICAN



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

May 2001

### 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	Gina Holt	253-3466
Membership Sec'y	John Carr	255-9360
Treasurer	Morrell Robinson	760-8480
Historian	John Carr	255-9360

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Pat Mihalic	767-9457
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
Publicity	Barbara Bowden	672-4956
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		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

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

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### THANK YOU

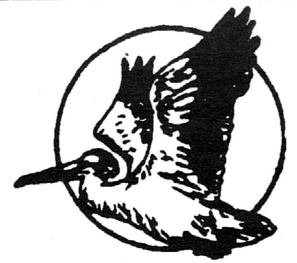
Barbara and Steve Kieran for the delicious refreshments provided for our April meeting.

### A SPRING MIGRATION COUNT REMINDER

*By David Hartgrove*

As mentioned in last month's *The Pelican*, the Spring Migration Count will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2001. We'll meet at the east end of the City Island Courthouse parking lot at 7:00 a.m. That's an hour earlier than usual. If you plan to participate, please contact me by phone or e-mail (the numbers are to the left) so I can get an idea who's coming. Also, you can let me know if you'll be with us all day or just a portion of it. This is citizen science at its best. You'll have a good time, I promise.

# THE PELICAN



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**VOL. 46 - NO. 12 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JUNE 2001**

## AUDUBON OF FLORIDA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS

*By President Lois Robinson*

On April 28th the Audubon of Florida's Regional (St. Johns River District) Conservation Committee met in Palatka at the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) main office. In the midst of these very nice surroundings, **Fran and John Carr** and myself listened to and enjoyed three main speakers.

**Kathryn Manella**, Counsel for the Water Management District, led us through the rule making process the district uses to get any new rules adopted or changed. Any person or group seeking to make changes in the SJRWMD's policies needs to understand and abide by these rules. This was especially helpful to us as an environmental group who might, in the future, want to do this.

Next on the agenda was **Ron Brockmeyer** (employed by SJRWMD) who spoke about **Impoundment Management in the Indian River Lagoon and Mosquito Lagoon**. He and 18 partner organizations are restoring and restructuring impoundments (diked ponds) by connecting them with culverts which allows tidal flows and exchange of waters between the ponds. This increases the number as well as species of spawning fishes in these areas. Impoundments were originally built for mosquito control and will continue to function in this capacity with the culverts being closed during mosquito breeding time only. The amount of time varies with the amount of mosquito activity in a particular section. Where possible, dikes are being leveled with wetland restoration going on. In the Mosquito Lagoon, dragline ditch restoration is removing spoil piles and filling in ditches. Quickly, he states, the wetlands are coming back with an abundance of fiddler crabs (the largest biomass in the lagoons) and the beginning of the food chain for both birds and fish. The fish eat the fiddler crab larvae.

**Gian Basilli**, in charge of Land Acquisition and Management for the District, talked to us about acquiring land in the Pin Hook Swamp area (Baker County) and the Cummer Tract in St. Johns County. Both properties will soon be, if not already, in the public domain. In an update on the Lake Apopka bird kill, Gian Basilli continues to believe a dumping of a very large amount of toxaphene in one farm area caused the deaths. 513 birds died on site and 400 others died off site. A suit is pending to require those responsible to pay for the clean up.

In the afternoon, we presented two drafts, one on Coastal Resources Protection and one on Water Quality in the Indian River Lagoon. Both proposals were given to Charles Lee to rework and possibly combine.

We also discussed tree ordinances (Gainesville has the best in the state) and prevention of bird kills due to cell towers. We were asked to check with our county commissioners to see if our particular county has adopted the ordinance put out by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. (Volusia has). The next meeting will be July 21 at 10 a.m. possibly in Titusville.

### *It's Order Time*

## AUDUBON ADVENTURE KITS

*By Glade Koch*

HRAS Education Committee is renewing as many of its twenty-three classes for next year as teachers respond to renewal-offer letters. Here are some comments from teachers about last year's kits:

"This program fosters a respect for the environment."

"Topics go nicely with our educational goals."

"Ties in with graphing and vocabulary lessons."

Each kit contains:

1. Four all-new editions of *Audubon Adventures*, our student newspaper (32 copies per edition).
2. Audubon Adventures Classroom Resource Guide for Teachers and Students with background information on each newspaper topic, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, hands-on activities, research material, duplicating masters, relevant web sites and glossaries.
3. Insert: Audubon's Guide to a Healthy Schoolyard.
4. Membership to National Audubon Society.
5. A class certificate acknowledging participation in the program.
6. Watch List for Kids.

After June 30 handling and mailing costs will go up, so we have a goal of sending in our order by that date if at all possible. If you know of a teacher who would like a free kit from HRAS please get in touch with me.

### OUR COSTS

Kits	Classroom	\$35.00	Individual	\$19.00
Handling		<u>5.95</u>		<u>4.95</u>
Total		\$40.95		\$23.95

Please send your check made to HRAS, P. O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-166. AND WE THANK YOU!



## CONSERVATION NOTES

By David Hartgrove

This year's legislative session in Tallahassee was gavelled to a close just before midnight on May 4th. The final outcome wasn't nearly as bleak as was feared back in March when the session began. **Senator Jim King's** bill to enshrine the Rodman Dam and the weed choked Kirkpatrick Reservoir into an arena for fishing tournaments died when it became clear that **Governor Bush** would probably veto it anyway.

A couple of bills which would have limited citizen "standing" (the ability to initiate court challenges and to testify before regulatory agencies) in a variety of environmental and development issues also weren't voted on and died.

A good deal of column space in local newspapers has been devoted to Aquifer Storage and Recovery. The Governor and **Senator Ken Pruitt**, (R, Port St. Lucie) were pushing this innocuous sounding legislation. Billions have been spent in our state over the last forty years trying to assure clean drinking water. "ASR" is a plan to pump vast amounts of untreated stormwater runoff deep underground. It can then be pumped back out in times of drought, run through the local water treatment plant and sent on its way to your kitchen faucet. The theory is that the same water that was contaminated with pesticide and fertilizer runoff from agriculture and residential lawns, along with the oil and heavy metals from all of our parking lots, can be rendered safe. What's more, in spite of testimony from a variety of very credible witnesses, the Governor and Senator Pruitt insist that this water won't contaminate our existing water source, the Floridan Aquifer. In reality, this is a gamble of monumental proportions. For if the Governor is wrong and all these experts are right, this plan could permanently contaminate our principal source of fresh water. Fortunately, enough legislators thought that the risks outweighed any potential benefits. The Governor and the Senator think their colleagues were duped by environmental extremists. Several bills that did pass contain language designed to smooth the way "ASR". No doubt, it will be reintroduced next year.

But not all the news was good. Tucked into HB 1225, an economic development bill, is a section that triples the threshold that requires a developer to file a "DRI". That's a Development of Regional Impact statement. This represents the loss of a significant review mechanism that slows down the kind of suburban sprawl that leads to clogged roads, water shortages and a general reduction in the quality of life for us all.

The news from Washington is far grimmer. In spite of repeated public opinion polls showing that up to 70% of Americans consider themselves conservationists, the Bush administration continues its wholesale assault on the nation's environmental treasures. No, they aren't drilling

in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge nor off Florida's Gulf Coast ... not yet. For now, the assault is in the form of the people being nominated to the various regulatory agencies whose mission it is to protect those treasures and us. I've written recently about James Watt protegee, **Gale Norton**, becoming Secretary of the Interior. Now a mining industry lobbyist has been tapped to be her second in command and a lobbyist for the Cattlemen's Beef Association is to be the department's chief counsel. Watt further proof of the "let's put the fox in charge of hen house security" mentality rampant in this administration! How about a lobbyist for chemical giant, Monsanto, as Assistant Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, and as chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, a lawyer who represented General Electric in its fight with the EPA over clean up of toxic waste sites!

So far, the Senate has shown an appalling lack of backbone in facing up to its duties under the "advise and consent" provisions of the Constitution. If they wanted to, they could reject a few of these nominations that are such obvious paybacks to the folks who bankrolled the administration's march to the White House. Our country's health and environmental welfare could very well depend on their doing just that.

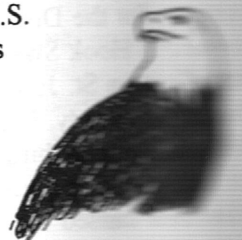
## EAGLEWATCH PROGRAM

Our last program of the year, on May 21, was an outstanding presentation of eagles nesting right here in Volusia County. Our members **Meret Wilson**, **Tom Arbogast**, and **Kevin Doxstater** watch eagles during the breeding season and report their observations to the staff of Prey Center in Maitland, Florida. They told us about the thrill of seeing "their" birds court, mate, lay their eggs, brood the eggs and the hatchlings, and see the chicks grow and fledge. There are 83 known nests in Volusia County this year and in the 59 active nests, 78 young were produced. Twelve of these nests are being watched. Anyone interested in joining the program can call **Tom White** at the Birds of Prey Center (see Names and Numbers).

Tom and Kevin showed beautiful slides of the eagles nesting at Rose Bay, behind Daytona Brick and Stone yard on Nova Road in South Daytona, USA in Volusia, Smyrna Beach, and Merritt Island. Some birds, however, found in wild places, seem to be becoming urbanized.

The EagleWatch program is unique to Florida. It is nesting home to the greatest number of Bald Eagles in the contiguous U.S. National Audubon Society plans to sponsor EagleWatch programs in other states.

Eagle watchers seem to get great satisfaction in watching birds live their wild and beautiful lives.



## CALENDAR

### Monday, June 4

**HRAS Board Meeting.** City Island Library, 2:00 p.m.  
2001-2002 program planning.

### Wednesday, June 6

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, 7:00 p.m. presents **Thomas Eason**, FFWS wildlife biologist. "Black Bear in Florida".

### Tuesday, June 12

Volusian Water Alliance. "Mastering your Automatic Sprinkler System." City Island Library. 5:30-6:30 and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 304-5570 for reservation.

### Thursday, June 14

**HRAS Field Trip Planning Committee.** See article.

### Saturday, September 15

Fall International Migratory Bird Census.

### Tuesday, June 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Florida Butterfly Gardens" by **Dr. Minno**, Botanist for the St. Johns Water Management District. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, at 7 p.m.

### Saturday, July 21

St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee meeting.  
No location as yet.

### Tuesday, September 4

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

### Monday, September 17

**HRAS General Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. To be announced.

### Saturday, September 22

St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee meeting.  
No location as yet.

## THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

*By David Hartgrove*

Fourteen of us got together, in various places, to begin the Spring Migration Count. Our territory covered the area from Pioneer Trail on the south to the Volusia county line on the north. The western boundary was roughly SR-11 and the eastern boundary was as far out as we could see from the beach. For good measure, we threw in a trip along the St. Johns River. **John Carr**, **Lois Pauchey**, **Rachel Ramsey**, **Diane Bodkin** and **Ray Scory** went out with **John Roessler** on his boat and worked the Volusia County shore of the St. Johns for several hours before returning to work Ormond Beach areas after lunch. The boat trip yielded plenty of Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, Least Bittern and Mottled Duck.

In spite of two cases of keys being locked inside cars, team members not having each other's cell phone numbers to facilitate rendezvous (we'll correct that situation before the next count) and the oppressively hot day, it was a very successful count.

**Kevin DeWall** and **Kevin Doxstater** worked the

Landfill and were to meet up with **Meret Wilson**, who was coming from her daily census of the Inlet area. Their difficulties in finally finding one another were offset by the discovery of a pair of Whooping Cranes, Indigo Buntings and lots of other good birds.

**Barbara Kieran** and **Kitty Albee** spent the morning walking the River Bend neighborhood off SR-40 and later met up with **Lois Pauchey** and **Jeri Wyli** to finish out the day covering the area west of I-95. **John Carr** and **Ray Scory** spent the afternoon in frustration covering Tomoka State Park and Boardman Pond. They saw lots of bugs but very few birds.

**Madeline Shaddix** and I covered the area south of LPGA Boulevard and east of Nova Road. The tree in the small park adjacent to the Port Orange/South Daytona Chamber of Commerce that on last year's Fall Count gave us a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, this time around gave us a very nice Cooper's Hawk. But the real treat was the Wilson's Storm Petrel cruising south along the main channel of the Halifax River in Ponce Inlet! This is a pelagic bird that's supposed to be 40 miles off shore. Due to the fierce easterly winds we had for 10 days or so, lots of these birds and their cousins, the Leach's Storm Petrel, were being seen all along Florida's east coast.

Finally, as I tried to determine how many Laughing Gulls were sitting on the sand bar south of the Port Orange Bridge, **Madeline** said, "It sure would be nice to get a Roseate Spoonbill." Two minutes later, as if cued by central casting somewhere, there appeared a solitary spoonbill in the golden, late afternoon sun. It was a perfect end to the day.

## HRAS BOARD VOTED IN

Members present at the May 21 annual meeting voted unanimously for the officers presented by the Nominating Committee. These officers will serve on the **HRAS** Board of Directors for a 2-year term. They are: **Lois Robinson**, President; **Rachel Ramsey**, Vice President; **Madeline Shaddix**, Vice President; **Jean Lesh**, Recording Secretary; **Gina Holt**, Corresponding Secretary; **John Carr**, Membership Secretary; **Morrell Robinson**, Treasurer; **John Carr**, Historian; and **Willie Burns**, Member-at-Large. President Robinson announced that **Ray Scory** has accepted the position on the Board as Field Trip Chairman.

**Madeline Shaddix**, Chairperson of the Bird Friendly Area committee of the **HRAS** Board, described the work by the committee, working with the Pawpaw Chapter of the Native Plant Society, to construct a bird friendly area at The Casements, 25 Riverside Drive, in Ormond Beach. **Angelo Cerrito** moved, and the vote carried, that monies donated as a memorial to past Board member **Gail Lincoln** be used for the garden.

## STATEMENT ON BUSH ADMINISTRATION ENERGY POLICY

*National Audubon Society President John Flicker  
May 17, 2001*

The Bush Administration's energy policy is a series of misguided proposals that will be destructive for birds, wildlife, and their habitat. By emphasizing supply and production the policy encourages the destruction of the last wild places in America, places like the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The energy policy encourages the blowing off of mountaintops in West Virginia, destroying endangered cerulean warbler habitat for a small amount of coal. The energy policy calls for the construction of 1,300 new power plants - the equivalent of 26 in every state - creating acid rain and producing other wildlife habitat destroying pollutants.

There is a smarter, quicker, bird-friendly way to address America's energy needs-energy efficiency. The Department of Energy has estimated that using the energy efficiency technology we have today could cut in half the number of new power plants the President wants to construct. Technology available today can increase the nation's vehicle fuel economy by at least 65% over the next 10 years.

Investing in energy efficiency is investing in supply and generation of energy but is also investing in birds, wildlife, special places, and the future. We should invest in new energy supplies and new power plants. But the emphasis must be on how we use what we have better and smarter.

Audubon was established nearly 100 years ago. The Bush Administration energy policy is almost a century old in its approach. It reflects little in the way of creative policy making or the use of innovative technology. A national policy based on energy efficiency and new technologies will help Americans keep their lifestyles while letting birds and wildlife live too.

Let's work for an energy policy that invests in the future - for people and birds.

### PLANNING MEETINGS SCHEDULED

*By Lois Robinson*

Two meetings in June will set the agenda for the 2001-2002 HRAS season. You are invited to attend either or both of these meetings. The more heads, the better!

The Board of Directors, which has responsibility for the programs, will meet June 4 at 2 p.m. at the City Island Library in the Board Room.

The Field Trip Planning Committee will meet June 14, 2 p.m., at **Barbara and Steve Kieran's** home, 1843 Old Tomoka Road, Ormond Beach. Directions: Go west on Granada Boulevard from its intersection with I-95. Turn left on Timber Creek Road. Turn left on Old Tomoka Road. Their house is the last one on the left.

We are very pleased to announce that **Ray Scory** has consented to serve as Field Trip Chairman. We are delighted to welcome him to the standing committee chairs. Please let him know if you have any favorite field trips. His phone number is 763-4260.

### DORA CANAL TRIP

*By Willie Burns*

Our April 6 field trip to the Dora Canal was a great success. 34 participants enjoyed the pleasant day and the warm sun. The canopy of the boat was very welcome.

The water level in the area is almost a foot and a half below normal, but the Captain managed to avoid shoals and rocks very nicely. The main problem was to the Great Egrets, whose rookery is high and dry this year. They have not begun nesting at all.

Seeing all the Great Egrets lined up along the water's edge in front of where they had such a large number of nests last year was quite sad. It seems they only nest over water, perhaps since alligators deter raccoons and snakes that would predate the young birds.

We saw a plethora of birds, including Prothonotary Warbler, Limpkin, and Purple Gallinule. Five Bald Eagles put in an appearance, two soaring high and three perched in trees near the end of our trip. The Limpkin we saw near its nest on the west end of the Dead River has now hatched several babies.

A few otters and alligators mixed in with all the bird sightings. A Red Shouldered Hawk was heard but not seen, although all the nesting Great Blue Herons over the Dora Canal stood up and stared at the predator. Many Anhinga and dozens of Osprey nests were also evident.

After the boat trip we drove to a small county park beside the Canal for our picnic lunch. Several Tufted Titmice (Titmouses?) joined us, feeding on insects in Spanish moss right in front of us. A flock of Grackles serenaded us through out our repast.

The Green Heron I often see in that park was nowhere about, but several White Ibis and a Great Blue did their best to make up for his absence. Several of us saw Sand Hill Cranes along the road to and from the Dora Canal. All in all, it was a great day.

### LEAST TERNS NESTING

**David Hartgrove** reported that about 40 pairs of Least Terns are nesting on the roof of the Boaters Lounge at the Marina on Beach Street in Daytona Beach. He laid flats on the roof to provide some shade and protection for the chicks.

He also reported that the terns are nesting on the roof of the K-mart at the corner of Granada Avenue and Williamson Boulevard in Ormond Beach.

These birds nest on gravel roofs when their natural graveled beach habitat is destroyed.



## MAY 7 BOARD MEETING

The HRAS Board welcomed visitor **Bill McQuilkin** from St. Johns County Audubon Society, who is a candidate for election to the National Audubon Board of Directors. Bill is running against **Leah Galanter Schad** of Audubon Society of the Everglades, the only other candidate running for the office. The winner will represent Audubon Societies in seven southern states on the board, and Bill says he will visit all 80 of them (45 are in Florida). He promised that he would work to improve communication between local chapters and National Audubon. Our chapter has two votes, based on the size of our membership. The Board will consider what we know of the candidates and cast our votes at the next board meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Board voted to purchase 10 *Audubon Adventures* kits immediately from funds on hand. The cost of this year's kits will increase by \$1.00 on June 30; this action will save us \$10.00.

## MARINE SCIENCE CENTER VISIT

Ten people from HRAS visited the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet on May 11 as guests of **John Crisp**, Program Manager of Volusia County Park and Recreation Service. They toured the construction area and site of the proposed bird rehabilitation pavilion. The group was impressed with the beautiful new addition to Volusia County's park system.

## THE ALLIGATOR FARM

*By David Hartgrove*

Half of us met at City Island and we met the other six folks in the parking lot. Along the way, we saw Scrub Jays near High Bridge Road, a Swallow-tailed Kite near the Hammock and Least Terns along A1A in Ormond by the Sea. Twelve people went through the turnstile and into the birder's paradise that is the St. Augustine Alligator Farm during breeding season.

There were Tricolored Heron nests so close you could reach out and touch them. The normally silent Snowy Egrets made sounds reminiscent of a Siamese cat gargling rocks. Their usually yellow feet and lores were now blood red. Their showy breeding plumes arched in near constant display. The Great Egret chicks were almost constantly calling for their parents to feed them. And below, the huge gators cruised the murky, green water waiting for any tidbits to fall into range. A couple of them made tender and passionate love to the delight and amazement of onlookers.

Among the branches, we spotted three Roseate Spoonbills and a tiny Common Yellow Throat. We took lots of pictures and enjoyed the shade in the amphitheater while one of the announcers told us about various rain forest critters, including a Prehensile Porcupine with a wild nose that kind of reminded me of W.C. Fields

with quills.

Somewhere along the way, we kind of got separated, so only half of us made it over to the Light House picnic grounds. Those who did get some great looks at a pair of Blackpoll Warblers and a very vocal Great Crested Flycatcher.

On the way home, we stopped at Matanzas Inlet and found a Willet nest. The books show that they breed here but this was the first proof that I've ever seen. It was a good time and a nice way to end our field trip season. Have a good summer. Be safe, be happy and we'll see you in September. Wait, isn't there a song about that?

## VOLUSIA FOREVER - UP AND RUNNING

*By Fran Carr*

The Volusia County Commissioners have appointed the Volusia Forever Board and the Board has had its first organizational meeting. County citizens have already submitted suggestions for land to be acquired for preservation by the county and the Board expects to act energetically to review, evaluate, and recommend purchase of environmentally valuable land.

The Commissioners did a fine job in their appointments by choosing a Board that consists of active citizens concerned with the future of Volusia County. Members are: **Dennis Bayer, Doug Daniels, Lonnie Groot, Anne Hallum, Reid Hughes, Gordon Kipp, Dick Schuler, Carrie Stewart, and Bob Williams.**

## JOHN WILLIAMS APPOINTED TO BOARD

Past President **John Williams** has been appointed to the Beach Advisory Board by County Councilman **Big John**. The Board's duties include advising the Volusia County Council on the condition of the oceanfront and suggestions for its improvement. Williams asks that you contact him with ideas that might help him keep our beaches healthy.

## ANDREW SPAR IS BIG WINNER

He doesn't know it yet (he had to leave early), but Andrew had the winning ticket at HRAS Annual Meeting drawing and won himself a beautiful bird feeder. The feeder was donated to the Society by **Joe and Linda Ramirez**, owners of BirdFeeders, 2279 South Ridgewood Ave. Thanks, Ramirez's, and congratulations to Andy!

## MARY KELLER - BIRD REHABILITATOR

**Pat Mihalic** reports that Mary's husband and son are both ill, and that the sick and feeble birds are still coming in. Mary is still in need of Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Food along with all the usual things. Pat suggested that if you want to donate and don't know exactly what to give, buy Mary a gift certificate at the Bird Factory at 957 N. Beach St. in Daytona Beach, 32117.

# THE PELICAN



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

### Names & Numbers

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

President	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Vice Pres.	<b>Rachel Ramsey</b>	673-1037
Vice Pres.	<b>Madeline Shaddix</b>	761-0301
Past President	<b>John Williams</b>	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	<b>Jean Lesh</b>	761-6893
Corresponding Sec'y	<b>Gina Holt</b>	253-3466
Membership Sec'y	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Treasurer	<b>Morrell Robinson</b>	760-8480
Historian	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

<b>Pat Mihalic</b>	767-9437
<b>Willie Burns</b>	253-2150
<b>Meret Wilson</b>	672-2625

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	<b>David Hartgrove</b>	788-2630
Education	<b>Glade Koch</b>	253-8438
Electronic Comm.	<b>Kevin DeWall</b>	767-3031
Field Trips	<b>Ray Scory</b>	763-4260
Finance	<b>Angelo Cerrito</b>	767-5397
Hospitality	<b>Barbara Kieran</b>	672-2927
Publication Comm.	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Publicity	<b>Barbara Bowden</b>	672-4956
Newsletter Editor	<b>Fran Carr</b>	255-9360
Ways and Means		

#### BIRD INFORMATION

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407) 644-0190
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

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

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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June 2001

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
appreciates the support of its 2000-2001 *The Pelican* Underwriters

**REID HUGHES**

**ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 359 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 will meet on Monday, June 4, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the City Island Public Library, Daytona Beach.

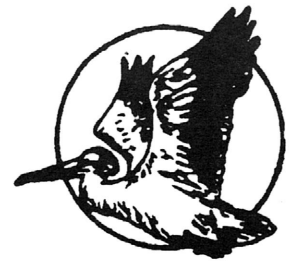
### THANK YOU

**Mary Ellen and Susan Baker, Elaine Linebaugh, and Barbara Kieran**, for the delicious refreshments provided for our May meeting.

### WELCOME TO HRAS

**David Anderson, F. Denny Ariola Jr., Toni Austin, Carolyn Foy Barry, Dorothy K. Carrigan, David Castagnacci, Peg Cayler, Bernadette A. Devery, Pearl Farnsworth, Paul Flaherty, Mrs. Lorraine Freeman, Glenda Frese, Herbert Korb, Angela Mayfield, Mary G. McAllister, Carl Persis, Helga M. Reeves, David Reveal, Ms. Erma Rice, Laurie Scherer, Mrs. Edward Smith, Mrs. Jean Smith, D.A. Toon, Bill Vandenbosch, Linda Viola, Darlene Wilson, and Marilyn V. Yelvington.**  
We look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 47 - NO. 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY JULY 2001**

## **AUDUBON'S ANNUAL REPORT AND MINORITY INCLUSIVENESS**

*By President Lois Robinson*

Each year National Audubon Society publishes its annual report in the form of a 40-page (this year) booklet. (Available from me if you are interested.) In addition to what we are doing in the way of expanding knowledge in the realms of science, education and public policy there is included reports from several states, including Florida, and the Audubon Centers around the nation. I want to high light one report of something that went on in South Florida last year that I hadn't heard about.

Yes, I knew about Audubon's investment in time and money on the restoration of the Everglades, and, yes, I know about the new Blair Audubon Center at Corkscrew Swamp, both great endeavors. But also Audubon of Florida (AOF) secured funding to provide educational opportunities for students from minority and underprivileged communities in Miami to participate in Everglades experiences. Nearly 1500 students were a part of this program. Some of them will be future Auduboners and/or environmentalists.

As Florida becomes increasingly multicultural and multilingual in population we, in Audubon, need to discover ways to attract minority groups into our fold. We are not doing a very good job at present but that is changing. The example from South Florida is just one of the evidences of this. Some of you heard AOF President Stuart Strahl say that Audubon has a natural affinity with black political groups (i.e. the Black Caucus in Florida). Their voting record is more "green" than any other political group in the state. We need you ideas and suggestions as how to do this at our Board's Long Range Planning session this August 24th when we will set long range plans and goals for membership recruitment in HRAS. Let your board members know. It is going to take all of us to stop urban sprawl, runaway growth, and increasing pollution of our waters and skies.

## **BLUEBIRD EGGS AND THE WEATHER**

*From Bluebird Trails - A Guide to Success by Dorene H. Scriven. Published by the Bluebird Recovery Comm. of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, 1993.*

Occasional cooling of the eggs for very short periods is not harmful, especially during the first week of incubation, but may prolong the hatching time. **Robert Weidner**

(1992), a Wisconsin bluebirder and former chicken hatchery operator, writes: "Eggs don't have to freeze to cause them not to hatch. Chilled eggs also will not hatch; when they are not quite chilled to the same extent, they might hatch but will result in what are called 'sticky chicks'.

"There is a layer of mucus between the shell and the chick that allows the chick to make a complete circle inside the egg in order to peck off the cap of the shell, creating a hole that it can crawl through. Chilled eggs result in the mucus becoming glue-like rather than remaining the slippery substance that it is supposed to be.

"If eggs are chilled, the chick pecks a few holes in the cap (from inside the egg) and obtains enough air so that it stays alive, but it cannot make the necessary circle within the egg to peck enough of the cap to exit. It might struggle four to five days before it gets out - if it doesn't die in the shell. (The chick doesn't starve in those four to five days because it still has the yoke attached.) This delay in emergence causes the uneven size of nestlings within the brood. The last eggs laid may very well hatch before the earlier chilled ones, even though all are incubated the same length of time.

"Eggs which have been frozen rather than just chilled will be cracked. Under cool, rather than freezing conditions, eggs will keep very well for two weeks until incubation is started."

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### CALENDAR

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

Saturday, July 21

St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee meeting.  
No location as yet.

Friday, August 24

HRAS Long Range Planning. Lois Robinson home, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 31

HRAS President's Field Trip. Rodman Dam, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, September 4

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

Saturday, September 15

Fall International Migratory Bird Count, 7:00 a.m.  
David Hartgrove.

Monday, September 17

HRAS General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. To be announced.

### CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hartgrove*

While bills designed to allow the desecration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge slowly wind their way through the legislative process in Washington, there are other things needing our attention too. The large numbers of pesticide caused bird deaths for instance. Every once in a while, there's an article in the paper about some large bird of prey brought down by pesticide poisoning. Little evidence is ever published of the havoc wreaked on smaller bird species.

The concern over West Nile Virus in the northeast prompted the state of New York to request that all counties in the state send any dead birds found to the state's wildlife pathology lab. Of the over 80,000 birds sent in, the vast majority died not from any virus but from commonly used lawn pesticides. "Millions of us use pesticides like Diazinon and Dursban at home," said **Frank Gill**, Audubon's Senior Vice President of Science. "We deserve to know as much as possible about their effects on us. Like canaries in a coalmine, birds warn of danger in our environment. If these chemicals kill birds, what are they doing to our kids?" Audubon is calling for further study and release of all information available on pesticide related bird deaths and asking for further studies into possible human health concerns. Somehow, I think I already know how the industry will respond.

The bird blind on Island #3, south of the Port Orange Bridge, has been removed. The film makers have moved on to the Yucatan Peninsula where they're filming the breeding Greater Flamingos - all 30,000 pairs. Can you imagine the noise level or the incredible beauty? The emerald green of the Caribbean, the brilliant blue of a cloudless sky, the deep green of the mangroves and suddenly the electric, shocking pink of this swirling,

heaving mass of 60,000 flamingos. Bird watching certainly has its high points. My sincere thanks to **Jim Wilkinson** and **Captain Jim Boyle** for their sweat and toil in helping me get the blind removed.

Finally, last month's issue of "Winging It", the American Birding Association newsletter, had a list of population estimates for shore birds. Here's a sample: Western Sandpiper, 3,500,000; Piping Plover, 5,913; American Oystercatcher, 7,500. So those 3 oystercatcher nests on the south side of the Port Orange Bridge are very important! Let's hope that our efforts to have Island #3 declared and renamed the Port Orange/Audubon Sanctuary are successful.

### STANDING COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED

*By Lois Robinson*

The following people are appointed and have accepted to serve on the HRAS Board for the coming year:

- Bird Habitat Committee **Madeline Shaddix**  
(This committee's name may change)
- Conservation Committee **David Hartgrove**
- Editor of *The Pelican* **Fran Carr**
- Electronics Committee **Kevin DeWall**
- Education Committee **Glade Koch**
- Finance Committee **Angelo Cerrito**
- Field Trips Committee **Ray Scory**
- Hospitality **Barbara Kieran**
- Membership, Recruitment & Retention ----- open -----
- Publications Committee **John Carr**
- Publicity Committee **Barbara Bowden**
- Ways & Means Committee ----- open -----

As you can see, two posts are vacant. If you would like to help in these areas please notify one of the Board members. **HRAS** needs you! These committee chairpersons labor long and hard to give us all the best possible Audubon Chapter. Let's give them a round of applause.

### BOARD'S PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The Board and interested members met at the City Island Library and at **Barbara** and **Steve Kieran's** home to plan programs and field trips for the Halifax River Audubon Society's 2001-2002 year. Once the plans have been verified, **HRAS** will send members a brochure telling about our exciting Calendar. New Field Trip Chair **Ray Scory** brought us some new ideas for our field trips, yet we haven't forgotten to include some of our old favorites.

**P**oor Florida. Everything is going to stop working all at once. Then watch the exodus.

*Cinnamon Skin*, by John D. MacDonald

## Volusia County Audubon Societies Spring Bird Count

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Name of Bird	0	0	0	20	146	Plover, Semi-palmated
0	12	0	0	0	Loon, Common	0	0	0	39	36	Killdeer
1	3	0	0	0	Grebe, Pied-billed	12	15	8	16	9	Oystercatcher, American
56	34	52	45	2	Gannet, Northern	3	96	61	0	13	Stilt, Black-necked
0	1	0	0	0	Booby, Brown	0	18	2	0	0	Yellowlegs, Greater
0	0	0	0	1	Pelican, White	1	7	25	15	1	Yellowlegs, Lesser
354	503	531	707	558	Pelican, Brown	0	2	11	6	0	Sandpiper, Solitary
34	108	56	195	147	Cormorant, Dbl-crested	47	35	1	20	13	Willet
21	17	41	29	118	Anhinga	11	7	12	13	5	Sandpiper, Spotted
1	0	0	0	0	Bittern, American	3	0	0	0	0	Godwit, Marbled
10	0	12	0	8	Bittern, Least	261	89	89	65	245	Turnstone, Ruddy
65	67	64	67	78	Heron, Great Blue	4	4	20	5	5	Knot, Red
145	196	297	239	412	Egret, Great	722	293	218	148	156	Sanderling
99	118	178	89	192	Egret, Snowy	9	193	2	55	250	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
37	61	53	25	77	Heron, Little Blue	8	10	16	0	0	Sandpiper, Western
39	76	43	18	60	Heron, Tricolored	22	17	0	4	8	Sandpiper, Least
0	4	1	14	1	Egret, Reddish	2	1	0	0	0	Sandpiper, White-rumped
414	406	547	381	717	Egret, Cattle	0	20	0	0	2	Dunlin
28	12	41	15	13	Heron, Green	0	20	4	0	0	peep, sp.
4	0	6	0	3	Night-Heron, Black-crownd	1	0	1	0	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed
1	1	12	7	6	Night-Heron, Yellow-crownd	1	0	2	0	0	Snipe, Common
124	174	143	112	510	Ibis, White	2632	1166	3553	865	859	Gull, Laughing
2	64	54	0	14	Ibis, Glossy	364	98	208	363	224	Gull, Ring-billed
0	0	3	0	1	Roseate Spoonbill	7	3	10	12	4	Gull, Herring
46	12	15	13	82	Stork, Wood	0	6	0	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed
0	0	0	2	0	Whistling Duck, Blk-bellied	0	0	0	0	1	gull, sp.
0	1	0	0	0	Goose, Canada	0	10	1	6	2	Tern, Caspian
0	0	0	0	19	Duck, Muscovy	151	262	53	177	147	Tern, Royal
15	42	58	22	36	Duck, Wood	0	2	0	0	0	Tern, Sandwich
5	10	10	4	5	Duck, Mottled	7	1	0	0	0	Tern, Common
25	84	68	99	85	Mallard	11	0	1	19	4	Tern, Forster's
0	2	0	0	0	Teal, Blue-winged	0	0	1	0	0	sterna, sp.
0	2	0	0	0	Shoveler, Northern	177	301	142	153	87	Tern, Least
0	0	2	0	1	Scaup, Lesser	14	4	6	6	0	Skimmer, Black
3	6	3	22	0	Merganser, Red-breasted	159	225	359	128	234	Dove, Rock
225	307	795	314	507	Vulture, Black	33	234	60	93	139	Dove, Eurasian Collared
214	108	112	128	155	Vulture, Turkey	393	561	508	496	464	Dove, Mourning
78	63	71	68	113	Osprey	0	25	7	63	21	Ground Dove, Common
14	4	23	10	12	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed	0	8	2	1	0	Cuckoo, Yellowbilled
11	12	20	10	26	Eagle, Bald	0	1	0	0	0	Owl, Barn
0	9	0	2	0	Harrier, Northern	3	11	6	10	5	Screech-Owl, Eastern
2	1	1	0	0	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	3	6	0	1	1	Owl, Great Horned
0	3	0	0	2	Hawk, Cooper's	11	8	8	14	3	Owl, Barred
22	26	39	25	46	Hawk, Red-Shouldered	7	5	6	1	4	Nighthawk, Common
8	7	3	7	18	Hawk, Red-tailed	49	51	31	46	51	Chuck-will's-widow
0	0	0	3	0	Buteo sp.	0	1	0	1	0	Whip-poor-will
4	4	2	1	2	Kestrel, American	208	321	499	335	241	Swift, Chimney
2	0	0	0	0	Merlin	11	3	5	5	9	Hummingbird, Rubythroated
0	15	0	0	0	Falcon, Peregrine	12	7	0	3	8	Kingfisher, Belted
3	7	10	2	9	Turkey, Wild	40	20	23	13	6	Woodpecker, Red-headed
30	10	14	17	23	Bobwhite, Northern	77	88	108	68	112	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
0	10	1	22	2	Rail, Clapper	0	1	0	1	0	Woodpecker, Hairy
0	0	1	0	0	Rail, Virginia	9	21	28	30	37	Woodpecker, Downy
0	0	1	0	1	Rail, Sora	12	12	9	8	5	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
12	0	29	1	4	Gallinule, Purple	26	21	27	14	35	Woodpecker, Pileated
78	35	73	45	103	Moorhen, Common	0	1	0	0	0	Peewee, Eastern Wood
36	106	5	25	19	Coot, American	0	5	6	0	2	Phoebe, Eastern
17	1	1	3	12	Limkin	56	34	52	71	97	Flycatcher, Great Crested
66	32	62	46	62	Crane, Sandhill	0	0	0	5	0	Kingbird, Eastern
0	0	0	2	3	Crane, Whooping	1	0	0	0	0	Kingbird, Gray
0	0	0	0	52	Plover, Black-bellied	88	85	85	87	96	Martin, Purple
0	1	0	2	0	Plover, Wilson's	24	90	25	0	9	Swallow, Tree

0	0	100	2	6	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
2	1	0	0	0	Swallow, Bank
0	13	0	0	0	Swallow, Cliff
319	481	53	193	28	Swallow, Barn
114	46	163	136	135	Jay, Blue
10	9	0	6	10	Jay, Scrub
61	64	55	84	40	Crow, American
258	115	177	176	292	Crow, Fish
128	146	147	90	67	crow, sp.
2	0	0	4	27	Chickadee, Carolina
109	93	180	76	137	Titmouse, Tufted
0	1	0	8	7	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
107	164	116	132	145	Wren, Carolina
0	0	0	16	0	Wren, Sedge
0	0	0	0	1	Wren, Marsh
0	1	0	0	0	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
14	35	15	29	17	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
0	0	7	7	6	Bluebird, Eastern
0	0	1	0	1	Thrush, Wood
0	6	8	5	3	Catbird, Gray
408	485	443	348	556	Mockingbird, Northern
38	48	24	46	49	Thrasher, Brown
36	0	43	1	15	Waxwing, Cedar
36	23	31	4	63	Shrike, Loggerhead
144	219	184	227	276	Starling, European
17	46	10	16	8	Vireo, White-eyed
0	1	0	2	0	Vireo, Blue-headed
2	2	0	0	0	Vireo, Yellow-throated
19	9	8	8	11	Vireo, Red-eyed
1	0	0	0	0	vireo, sp.
67	52	95	50	75	Parula, Northern
0	2	1	0	0	Warbler, Yellow
0	1	0	0	0	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
0	3	0	0	0	Warbler, Cape May
20	18	1	5	2	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
3	11	28	20	12	Warbler, Pine

1	11	0	0		Warbler, Prairie
1	7	2	0	0	Warbler, Yellow Palm
34	45	6	5	1	Warbler, Blackpoll
1	13	4	0	0	Warbler, Black-and-white
65	65	23	24	0	Redstart, American
0	1	0	0	0	Warbler, Worm-eating
2	4	0	1	0	Waterthrush, Northern
1	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Prothonotary
13	3	1	0	0	Ovenbird
14	30	11	20	5	Yellowthroat, Common
3	1	1	3	1	Tanager, Summer
239	342	216	216	345	Cardinal, Northern
1	0	0	3	0	Grosbeak, Blue
0	0	1	2	2	Bunting, Indigo
1	1	0	4	0	Bunting, Painted
1	0	0	0	0	Dickcissel
21	86	24	74	7	Towhee, Eastern
0	2	1	0	0	Sparrow, Bachman's
0	12	0	0	1	Sparrow, Chipping
3	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Field
0	12	1	0	0	Sparrow, Savannah
0	0	1	0	0	Sparrow, Grasshopper
251	157	2576	0	2	Bobolink
319	343	217	192	604	Blackbird, Red-winged
13	45	41	5	18	Meadowlark, Eastern
533	382	662	526	1015	Grackle, Boat-tailed
112	87	130	116	172	Grackle, Common
8	17	0	22	12	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1	0	0	0	0	Cowbird, Shiny
0	3	12	0	10	blackbird, sp.
1	0	0	0	0	Oriole, Baltimore
0	0	0	0	1	House Finch
0	15	0	1	0	Goldfinch, American
56	33	99	66	56	Sparrow, House
0	0	0	6	0	Peacock, feral
0	0	0	0	1	Wilson's Storm Petrel

**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.

**May 12, 2001 Count:** Total species: 130. Total individuals: 12,355. Observers: 33 in 14 parties. Time: 2:30AM-7:30PM. Owling: 6 hrs. and 87 mi. Owling observers: 2 in 2 parties. All else: 25.5 hrs. and 12.75 mi. by foot, 73.25 hrs. and 876 mi. by car, 4 hrs. and 20 mi. by boat. Total hrs 102.75. Total mi. 908.75. Temp: 59-83°. Wind: WNW-5mph, NE-15 mph. Clouds 10-25%. Precip. None. Participants: Halifax River Audubon Society Kitty Albee, Diane Bodkin, Willie Burns, John Carr, Kevin DeWall, Devin Coxstater, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Lois Pauchey, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, John Roessler, Ray Scory, Madeline Shaddix, Meret Wilson, Jeri Wyli; Southeast Volusia Audubon Society Dail Domroski, Richard Domroski, Patty Moody, Richard Moody, Don Picard, Nancy White; West Volusia Audubon Society Kathy Barnard, Phil Gotschall, Christian Gowan, Maggi Hall, Justin Holder, Carol Mason, Gail Palmer, Terry Palmer, Sylvia Parrillo, Jane Rodgers, Mary Jean Rodgers, Arnette Sherman, Harry Wilton.



## BIRDS PAYING A PRICE FOR GLOBAL SPRAWL

*By John Flicker,  
President of National Audubon Society*

For thousands of years, birds have been one of our most important early warning systems. Birds have predicted the change of seasons, the coming of storms, the presence of land at sea, and the rise of toxic levels of pollution in the food chain.

Now birds are telling us something is terribly wrong with the environment. More than 50 percent of migrant songbirds in vast sections of the United States are in decline.

In Pennsylvania, for example, populations of Eastern Wood-Pewee, Golden-winged Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Wood Thrushes have plummeted over the course of the last 20 years.

Across the nation, warblers are in decline, as are Painted Buntings, Bobolinks, and dozens of other songbirds. Scientists now think the decline of these songbirds is due to habitat destruction, both overseas and in the United States, caused by rapid rates of human population growth.

Many of "our" songbirds spend four to nine months of the year in the tropical forests of Latin America and the Caribbean. These forests are being cut to the ground at record rates.

In Central America, for example, more than 40 percent of the forest canopy has been destroyed in the last 30 years as the population of that region has doubled.

Here in the United States, where we are adding more than 2 million people a year to our own population, suburban sprawl consumes in excess of 500,000 acres of forest and farmland per year, more than 20 million acres since 1980.

To put it another way, the United States is adding a population larger than Philadelphia, Camden, N.J., Wilmington, Del., and Trenton, N.J. every year, while suburban sprawl is consuming an area five times larger than the city limits of Philadelphia and Camden combined.

In short, whether the birds are flying north or south, they are being hammered by rapid rates of population growth. But it's not just the birds.

What's happening to birds in the United States is happening to wildlife habitat all over the world, to tigers and elephants in Asia, to birds and chimpanzees in Africa, to jaguars and parrots in South America.

And while many of the world's creatures are in peril now, the real trouble lies ahead. Across the globe, more than a billion teenagers are now entering their reproductive years, the largest cluster of teenagers in world history.

The choices these young people make in the next decade will determine the fate of our natural world for

generations to come. If birthrates remain at current levels, demographers say the world will add more people in the next 50 years than it has in the previous 500,000 years.

The good news is that most of these young people want to do the right thing: they want to have smaller families. Across vast parts of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, however, the kind of basic family planning services that you and I take for granted are simply unavailable: the people are too poor, the family planning options not understood, the access to birth control limited or non-existent.

One reason for this is that the United States has done so little to help. While world population has climbed 60 percent since 1970, U.S. family planning assistance, as a percent of total federal budget outlays, has declined by 40 percent.

And while we joined with 179 other nations in Cairo in 1994 in pledging specific support for international family planning efforts, the United States has actually made good on less than one-third of that commitment.

Population growth is about more than the environment, of course.

It's also about dizzying rates of infant and maternal mortality, crushing unemployment rates, and rising levels of social and economic instability in the developing world.

Most experts agree that no single investment in human health, environmental protection, or political stability can ever match investments made in international family planning.

Yet, here in the United States we continue to act as if population growth never comes home to roost. The birds tell us a different story, however.

They remind us that long before there were multinational corporations, or fiber optic cables, birds connected us to the larger world and served as barometers of environmental health.

Now, like a canary in the coal mine, they warn us of the price we may yet pay, in our own back yard, for failing to adequately fund family planning services in the developing world.

*This opinion piece on population and habitat was run in the Seattle Post Intelligencer and subsequently picked up for national distribution by Knight-Ridder Newspapers. This particular version of it ran in the Bergen (NJ) Record, April 4, 2001.*

The earth ... is a gem of rare and magic beauty hung in a trackless space filled with lethal radiations and accompanied in its journey by sister planets which are either viciously hot or dreadfully cold, arid, and lifeless chunks of raw rock. Earth is choice, precious, and sacred beyond all comparison or measure.

*This Little Planet, by William Pollard*

# THE PELICAN



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

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<b>Willie Burns</b>	253-2150
<b>Meret Wilson</b>	672-2625

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Publication Comm.	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Publicity	<b>Barbara Bowden</b>	672-4956
Newsletter Editor	<b>Fran Carr</b>	255-9360
Ways and Means		

#### BIRD INFORMATION

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407) 644-0190
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

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

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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July 2001

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
appreciates the support of its 2001-2002 *The Pelican* Underwriters

REID HUGHES

ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 359 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 next General Meeting will be on September 17, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

### WELCOME TO HRAS

**David J. Boris, Inez M. Bruce, Dale C. Burger, Rebecca M. Carr, Louise Chapman, Henry Christofferson, Doris Cronin, Anthony J. Dellavechia, Sue Spencer Dill, Jerome N. Doliner, Susan Downer, J. R. Durden, Brian Falk, I. N. Fitchett, Suzanne W. Fussell, Catherine Garner, Helene Heer, Carolyn Hoffman, Robert D. Holmquist, Michelle Kisner, Nancy Leip, E. Mamarchev, Kenneth McMillen, Helen A. Molnar, Tu-Quynh Nguyen, Marjorie L. Purcell, Victor Renaud, Nancy Sorrentino, Mary Strange, Jodi L. Tomlinson, Doris West, Helen West, Judy Westfall, Susan Wisniewski, and Judith E. Wuttrick.**

We look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 47 - NO. 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY AUGUST 2001**

## TWO NEW FIELD GUIDES

*By President Lois Robinson*

As many of you are aware we have been blessed with two new excellent Field Guides, the *Sibley Guide to Birds* by **David Allen Sibley** and *Birds of North America* by **Kenn Kaufman**. For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure of their acquaintance, I want to recommend them to you. **Kevin McGowan** gives an excellent review of these two books in the 2001 Spring issue of "Living Bird", entitled "A Tale of Two Field Guides." As for any new field guide there are good points and bad points.

Sibley is too large to carry into the field and is fairly expensive.

Kaufman's computer enhanced photographs are sometimes too small and make distinguishing between some birds difficult (for example, the difference between the adult and juvenile Great Blue Heron). Also, the order in which the species are presented in Kaufman is different from what we see in the other field guides.

These two books are complementary rather than competing guides. Sibley is more for advanced birders and Kaufman is more for beginners, though, certainly, excellent birders will want to consult Kaufman and beginners will want to explore Sibley's fine detail work. As I have mentioned, Kaufman's book is the first effective guide for teaching how to identify birds using photographs, according to Dr. McGowan. It is also the first field guide to use manipulated or enhanced photographs.

This quote from "A Tale of Two Field Guides" really sums it up: "Despite the inevitable shortcomings of both these books, they are truly excellent works that will probably dominate their respective markets. They both set new standards in field guides that will be difficult to surpass".

Dr. McGowan recommends buying both field guides if you are able and making them a part of your regular bird research program. Dr. McGowan is curator of Cornell's bird and mammal collections at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

**T**he birth of dawn from sun and darkness is a mystery, very sacred, though it happens every day.  
*From a Pawnee song.*

## CALENDAR

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

### Friday, August 31

**HRAS President's Trip.** Lois Robinson, Rodman Dam. 8:00 a.m.

### Tuesday, September 4

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

### Saturday, September 15

**Fall International Migratory Bird Census.** 7:00 a.m. David Hartgrove.

### Saturday, September 22

**St. Johns Regional Conservation Committee meets.** No location as yet.

### Thursday, Friday, Saturday, October 4-7

**Florida Birding Festival & Nature Expo.** Clearwater, Florida.

## ZIP CODE NOTICE

*By John Carr, Membership Secretary*

The Postal Service is changing Zip codes in our membership areas. If you have received a notice from the Postal service concerning a change in your Zip code, please let me know. Mail the form below, or give me the information on my answering machine, or notify me by e-mail. This will insure that you continue to receive *The Pelican*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: FL

New ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: John W. Carr  
359 Brookline Ave.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311

e-mail: [jcarr14@juno.com](mailto:jcarr14@juno.com)

Phone: (386) 255-9360



## CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hargrove*

Seven nights a week, a television announcer declares that, "More people get their news from ABC News than from any other source." Recent events demonstrate that maybe those folks should be looking elsewhere for their news. One of ABC's star reporters has once again been caught shilling for corporate interests, this time in an effort to cast doubts on the value of environmental education programs in our public schools.

**John Stossel** has been caught manufacturing evidence to support a biased report before and ABC was forced to issue an apology for his distorted reporting on a segment about organic foods that ran on 20/20 a year or so ago. This time around, 20/20's producer and Mr. Stossel were working on a piece that eventually was titled, "What's Wrong with Tampering with Nature?" Earlier this spring, ABC sent out e-mails to people across the country soliciting the participation of children who had been "scared green." Apparently, that means having acquired doubts about the "wonders" of the mass consumer, fossil fueled life style that this country has developed for itself.

National Audubon's Chief Operating Officer, **Daniel Beard**, sent a letter to ABC taking the network to task for the biased reporting. "In addition, it appears in reports that you breached ethical standards by trying to coerce specific answers from the children who were interviewed for the special. It was with great disappointment that we read news stories, which, as you are aware, ran in papers across the country, cataloging Mr. Stossel's efforts to direct children in their responses and attacking their teachers without provocation. ... Your segment left viewers with the clear impression that these teachers are engaged in a loose conspiracy to intentionally scare America's youth. Nothing could be further from the truth."

If the various trade groups who influenced ABC and its producers to run this biased report have their way, we'll all side with **Rush Limbaugh** and **Dick Cheney**: thumbing our noses at the rest of the world and their Kyoto Protocols, global warming, ozone depletion and other impediments to unbridled corporate greed. After all, when the bill for this folly comes due, it'll be our children and grandchildren who'll pay the tab.

On a lighter note, Light House Point Park and Smyrna Dunes Park, on the north and south sides of Ponce DeLeon Inlet, have been designated as critical habitat for wintering Piping Plovers. Several of us helped in the survey of the area conducted by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service earlier this year. This is another layer of protection for these environmental oases. These little birds can begin showing up in our area as early as late July. So keep an eye out for them if you're down around the Inlet.

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

*By Glade Koch*

With the school year approaching fast, it is more and more needful to provide funding for this year's *Audubon Adventures* program for our area grade schools. We are getting requests from teachers who have received the kits in the past asking for renewal this year. They tell us how much pleasure and benefit they and the students have gotten from them.

The cost of a kit for one classroom is \$41.00, and donations of any amount are welcome. You may send your check made to **HRAS** to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-166. To all of you who have already donated a gift, thank you.

## PISCATORIAL DISCIPLES

*From Mountain Lake Almanac: Around the year with a Naturalist, by Ken Morrison, published by Pineapple Press, 1984.*

People may not regard me as a great leader, but I have a fish following that thinks I can do no wrong.

Walking along the sandy east shore of Crooked Lake today. I paused to admire the gradations of blue and purple as the water deepens offshore. Suddenly I became aware of half a dozen three-or four-inch fish eyeing my feet and ankles. One of them boldly nipped my great toe, then retreated and probably communicated to his pals that it is nonedible. Knowing there had been no feeding of fish in the area, I realized that this was not welfare state friendliness.

I continued strolling in the shallow water. Looking back, I saw that the friendly fish were "following" me. I dismissed this as a coincidence but when I stopped again, they did too.

Putting the fish to the ultimate test, I reversed my course. So did they. I kept going, 200 feet or so, quite sure that they would tire of the game. Once I thought they had abandoned the chase but after a minute or so they caught up with me. I had been walking too fast for them. Upon reversing my course again, the fish did likewise and at once I felt like an evangelist with a faithful flock. I sensed how easily power could go to one's head.

Most of the time there were eight fish following me. Once in a while, two of them "defected" for a spell, but there was a hard core of six finny disciples that stayed with me until I walked up on the shore. Then they came right up to my point of entry onto land and stayed with little motion, their heads pointed in my direction.

I called out, "Farewell, faithful followers."

Certainly it isn't possible that I heard them reply, "Long live the King!"

*This charming book may be ordered by calling 800-746-3275.*

## WHAT ARE THEY?

*William Bartram explored Florida and published a book about his journey in 1791. The descriptions of three birds are from his book **The Travels of William Bartram***

*Can you identify the birds?*

There is inhabiting the low shores and swamps of this river [St. Juan] and the lakes of Florida, as well as Georgia, a very curious bird, called by an Indian name (Ephouskyca) which signifies in our language the crying bird. I cannot determine what genus of European birds to join it with. It is about the size of a large domestic hen: all the body, above and beneath, is of a dark lead colour, every feather edged or tipped with white, which makes the bird appear speckled on a near view; the eye is large and placed high on the head, which is very prominent; the bill or beak is five or six inches in length, arched or bent gradually downwards, in that respect to be compared to one half of a bent bow; it is large or thick near the base, compressed on each side, and flatted at top and beneath, which makes it appear four square for more than an inch, where the nostrils are placed, from whence, to their tips, both mandibles are round, gradually lessening or tapering to their extremities, which are thicker for about half an inch than immediately above, by which the mandibles never fit quite close their whole length; the upper mandible is a small matter longer than the under; the bill is of a dusky green colour, more bright and yellowish about the base and angles of the mouth; the tail is very short, and the middle feather the longest; the others on each side shorten gradually, and are of the colour of the rest of the bird, only somewhat darker; the two shortest or outermost feathers are perfectly white, which the bird has a faculty of flirting out on either side, as quick as a flash of lightning, especially when he hears or sees anything that disturbs him, uttering at the same instant an extreme harsh and loud shriek, his neck is long and slender; and his legs are also long and bare of feathers above the knee, like those of the bittern, and are black or of a dark lead colour.

There are two other species of this genus, which agree in almost every particular with the above description, except in size and colour. The first of these I shall mention is a perfect white, except the prime quill feathers, which are as black as those of a crow; the bill and legs of a beautiful clear red, as also a space clear of feathers about the eyes.

The other species is black on the upper side, the breast and belly white, and legs and beak as white as snow. Both these species are about half the size of the crying bird. They fly in large flocks or squadrons, evening and morn, to and from their feeding place or roosts; both species are called Spanish curlews; these and the crying bird feed chiefly on cray-fish; whose cells they probe, and with their strong pinching bills drag them out: all the three species are esteemed excellent food.

It is a pleasing sight at times of high winds and heavy thunder storms, to observe the numerous squadrons of

these Spanish curlews driving to and fro, turning and tacking about, high up in the air, when by their various evolutions in the different and opposite currents of the wind high in the clouds, their silvery white plumage gleams and sparkles like the brightest crystal, reflecting the sunbeams that dart upon them between the dark clouds.

## RODMAN DAM BIRDING TRIP

*By Lois Robinson*

On August 31, Friday, we will journey to Rodman Dam for our first field trip of the 2001-2002 HRAS year. This is the President's Choice, as designated by our Field Trip Chair, **Ray Scory**.

Several of you have expressed an interest in seeing the Dam to better understand the environmental problems it poses. On the way there we will visit Salt Springs in the Ocala Forest and a camping site on the lake formed by the Dam. On the way back we may visit Ravine Gardens in Palatka if the birding is promising (if not, we'll pick another site).

Meet at 8 am at the Publix Store (corner Williamson and Granada Blvds. at the north end of the parking lot), bring a lunch and we will car pool from there. Let's have a great group out for our first trip of the year.

## AUDUBON PESTICIDE REPORT

The quantity of pesticides applied annually to lawn areas equals .26 pounds for every man, woman and child in the U.S. That is three times more pesticide than farmers use!

## VOLUSIA COUNTY'S PRECIOUS AQUIFER

*From Volusia Water Alliance*

*The Floridan aquifer supplies over 99% of Volusia County's drinking water.*

Almost all of Florida's water mostly comes from groundwater. Specifically, this water comes from an aquifer, a porous rock, shell, sand or gravel layer from which water can be removed.

In Volusia County, the uppermost layers are made of sand, underlain in some areas by clay. Clay is not very permeable. Beneath the sand or clay is the Floridan Aquifer, a porous limestone aquifer, underlain by limestone of lower permeability filled with saltwater.

*The Floridan Aquifer underlying most of Florida has an average thickness of 1200 feet.*

The Floridan Aquifer under all of Volusia County (and a small part of Flagler and Putnam Counties) has been designated a "sole-source aquifer." This designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) applies only to aquifers that supply over 50% of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer.

The high dry sandy ridges of western Volusia County, which have very permeable soil, are the best aquifer recharge areas in Volusia County.

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

### Names & Numbers

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

President	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Vice Pres.	<b>Rachel Ramsey</b>	673-1037
Vice Pres.	<b>Madeline Shaddix</b>	761-0301
Past President	<b>John Williams</b>	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	<b>Jean Lesh</b>	761-6893
Corresponding Sec'y	<b>Gina Holt</b>	253-3466
Membership Sec'y	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Treasurer	<b>Morrell Robinson</b>	760-8480
Historian	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

<b>Pat Mihalic</b>	767-9437
<b>Willie Burns</b>	253-2150
<b>Meret Wilson</b>	672-2625

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	<b>David Hartgrove</b>	788-2630
Education	<b>Glade Koch</b>	253-8438
Electronic Comm.	<b>Kevin DeWall</b>	767-3031
Field Trips	<b>Ray Scory</b>	763-4260
Finance	<b>Angelo Cerrito</b>	767-5397
Hospitality	<b>Barbara Kieran</b>	672-2927
Publication Comm.	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Publicity	<b>Barbara Bowden</b>	672-4956
Newsletter Editor	<b>Fran Carr</b>	255-9360
Ways and Means -		
Membership Recruitment and Retention -		

#### BIRD INFORMATION

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407) 644-0190
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338

#### WEBSITE

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<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/fl/halifax>

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August 2001

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### MARY KELLER

Again, **Mary** asks our members who go to the beach to volunteer to be a person whom she can call when a bird needs to be picked up from one of the cages on the beach. Sick or injured birds are put in the cages by rangers or people on the beach and if no one is available to pick them up and take them to **Mary** or **Dee Ann Snyder**, then the birds remain in the cages and usually die. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call **Mary** at 252-2794.

**Mary** needs Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula (this is the only food that will keep babies alive), millet sprays (sick birds or fledglings will eat millet when they will not eat anything else), white paper towels, white vinegar, Pedigree canned dog food, canned cat food and birdseed.



# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 47 - NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2001**

## WHAT CHAPTER RECERTIFICATION TELLS US

*By President Lois Robinson*

Each summer, as most of you know, your Board of Directors struggles with our annual report to National Audubon Society. In order to be certified as a legitimate chapter of NAS we have to meet certain requirements, such as, a specified number of program meetings each year, a certain number of field trips each year and we need to have accomplished something in the fields of conservation and education. As we in the Board get ready to set goals for the year ahead we need to look at this annual report as it tells us where we have been so that we can look forward to where we are headed. This year's report as it is beginning to take shape tells me, among other things that:

1. We have done much more in the fields of conservation and education than is required of us, so much more that we don't have enough room to put it all in the "fill-in" blanks and we have to add additional pages to the report.
2. We need to reach out to our local community and make them more aware of what we are doing by more publicity and more community involvement in our programs.
3. We need to involve more youth in our activities (maybe sponsor a young person to go to Audubon Camp).
4. Our membership is not holding its own and we must do much more in the area of Chapter originated membership recruitment and retention. Getting a chairperson for this committee is a high priority for the Board.
5. We need to increase our income. Last year we spent almost exactly \$1000 more than we took in necessitating a \$1000 withdrawal from our limited reserve fund. (net income -- \$8,203.21, net expenditures -- \$9,206.06). Your generous contributions are always needed and appreciated and have kept us going but in addition to our fund raising activities this past year we need to do more. A Bird-athon is planned for the coming year. Some of us may want to remember Halifax River Audubon Society in our wills and legacies. HRAS will be here long after we are gone, fighting for the causes we believe in.

We have a great report to send to NAS. Thank you for all you did to make it happen.

## CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, September 4

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

Wednesday, September 5

Timucuan Sierra Club Meeting. **Susie Caplowe**, Florida Sierra-lobbyist. 7:00 p.m. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, September 15

Fall International Migratory Bird Census. 7:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone: 788-2630.

Monday, September 17

HRAS Program Meeting. "The Great Florida Birding Trail." **Julie Brashears**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Tuesday, September 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. 7:00 p.m. Riverbridge Gardens, 1 Beach St., Ormond Beach.

Saturday, September 22

Audubon of Florida's St. Johns River Regional Conservation Committee meeting. Dixie Crossroads Restaurant, Titusville. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Contact **Lois Robinson**. Phone 760-8480.

Sunday, September 30

HRAS field trip. Dunlawton Bridge Hotspot. 5:00 p.m. Port Orange Causeway Park north side. Led by **Ray Scory**. Phone 763-4260.

Monday, October 1

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

## FALL MIGRATION COUNT

*By David Hartgrove*

Yes, it's time once again to get out there and count those birds. We'll meet in our usual spot at City Island at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15th. As with all counts, this is an all day event. As usual, if you can't come out for the entire day, please join us for whatever portion you can. Bring along your lunch. We like to have picnics.

You do not have to be an "expert." Not that we have any of those anyway but you'll definitely learn from spending time in the field watching and counting birds with your fellow team members. Please call me to let me know you'll be taking part (I'll be changing my e-mail address soon). This way I can get the teams lined up ahead of time and we won't all be standing around on that Saturday morning. My number is 788-2630. Thanks.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hartgrove*

The Bush administration has shown its true colors by whole heartedly endorsing a plan to drill for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This is only the most glaring of many examples of the President's fealty to his former business partners as they greedily try to acquire a tighter strangle hold on our nation's economy and its people. It's also transparent proof that the giant energy corporation, Enron, has spent its money well. They've given more money to Bush and the Republican Party than any other single contributor. The other oil, gas and mining companies aren't far behind.

The administration and its operatives in the House were able to ram the President's energy package through Congress with a tight vote. Their path won't be so smooth in the Senate. Massachusetts Senator, **John Kerry**, has said that he'll prevent passage of any energy bill with an ANWR drilling clause, by filibuster if necessary. If you haven't written or called our Senators, **Bob Graham** and **Bill Nelson**, now's the time to do so.

There's a lot more at stake than ANWR and its millions of nesting birds, migrating caribou and irreplaceable wildlife. Once their foot's in the door, there's no telling where "Big Oil" will want to drill or blast next. A national wildlife refuge is supposed to be just that, a refuge. A place where wildlife and the folks like us who like to look at them can be left in peace. Yes, I know there's duck hunting at Merritt Island and other refuges. There are other uses at refuges around the country with which we might disagree. But opening up these otherwise pristine lands to the degradation of oil and gas exploration and mining activities is simply unthinkable.

The Democrats in the Senate will be under considerable pressure from one of their core constituencies, organized labor. The Bush people have had labor leaders in to the White House and convinced them that this is a "jobs vs. the environment" issue. As a union official myself, I have no doubt that the White House will stab the union guys in the back soon after they get their energy bill passed. We can help prevent that passage. I urge you to call and write both of our senators. They need to hear from us all on this vital issue.

The Honorable Bob Graham (D)  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20519  
Phone: 202-224-3041 Fax: 202-224-2237  
Email: bob\_graham@graham.senate.gov

The Honorable Bill Nelson (D)  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5274 Fax: 202-228-2183  
Email: senator@billnelson.senate.gov

On a lighter note, I was reading in the latest issue of "Birdscope" about the discovery that Blue Jays in New England states have developed a fondness for house paint. Now considering the fact that paint, oil based or latex, can't possibly be good for birds, the questions were: why they were eating it and why just Blue Jays? It turns out that paint has calcium carbonate as a pigment extender. The theory now is that while all birds need extra calcium in their diets during nesting season, Blue Jays may have some as yet unexplained need for calcium above the requirements we know of. The solution to stopping the Blue Jays from pecking away at the sides of the house relatively was easy: egg shells. Providing egg shells at your feeder, especially during nesting season, can be of real help to the birds in your yard. To do this safely you need to either boil the shells for 10 minutes or bake them at 250 degrees for 20 minutes in the oven. This will kill any salmonella bacteria making the shells safe for you and the birds.

## THE BIG SIT

*By Ray Scory*

"If you sit in one place long enough, eventually every species of bird will pass by." Set aside October 14, 2001 for the first annual Halifax River Audubon Society's THE BIG SIT.

What is THE BIG SIT? It is a bird count, like the Annual Christmas Bird Count or the Spring and Fall Counts. However, instead of roaming about a large territory and chasing birds, you let them come to you. The object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard from a limited 17-foot diameter circle, all within a 24-hour period. So pick a good spot, form a team, bring some chairs, have a barbecue, welcome passersby, count the birds from your 17-foot spot and have fun.

Just a little history on this event: since 1993, 27 states, 2 counties in England, and circles in the Netherlands and British Columbia have participated. 488 bird species have been listed by over 60 circles and over 200 people. These people have sat through searing heat, gale force winds, snow, pouring rain, oh, and some beautiful weather. But every one of those people could imagine a circle of like-minded lunatics doing the same in another part of the world.

This is a free event open to every individual and every chapter in every state in every country. Some special sightings have occurred on THE BIG SIT day. I will always remember an Osprey flying low at dusk down through a wooded path where it normally doesn't venture.

So find a birding hotspot or go to your favorite spot. Call me to reserve your choice and enjoy a day "when the birds come to you." Who knows, you might even spot a Yellow-headed Blackbird.

## NEW FALL BIRDING CLASS

*By Lois Robinson*

A new Beginning Birdwatchers Class will be held on October 10, 17, and 24 at The Casements in Ormond Beach at 9:30 a.m. with field trips scheduled for Oct. 12, 20 and 26 at 8 a.m. This cost this year is \$35.00 plus a \$3.50 facility tax making the total cost \$38.50. Please call **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480 to register or call the Casements at 676-3216 and ask for **Betsy Hooker**. If you are planning on purchasing a "Field Guide for Birds" for the class (this is not required) please consider a field guide by one of the following authors: **Peterson, National Geographic** or **Kaufman**. More about the course in the October *Pelican*.

## SUMMER IN THE MARITIMES WITH HRAS

*By David Hartgrove*

Halifax River Audubon Society is planning its first extended field trip. The preliminary schedule calls for us to depart in late June of next year for 11 days in the Canadian Maritimes. We will fly into Halifax, Nova Scotia and begin our summer adventure. We'll see nesting Atlantic Puffins, Razor Bills, Northern Gannets, shearwaters, etc. In addition, we'll go to Prince Edward Island and see nesting warblers in the brilliant breeding plumage we never get to see here. We'll also look for ~~whales~~, learn about the history of this beautiful landscape and meet some of the locals. Our guide for this trip will be **Tadas Birutis**, of Lifebird Nature Tours. Those of you who have met Tad on one of our Christmas Bird Counts or any of the field trips he's joined us on know how knowledgeable and enthusiastic he is. We're sure to have a memorable time.

At this point, it appears the cost for this trip will be approximately \$1,800.00 per person, not including our round trip air fare. We're negotiating for a package deal on this part of the trip. It's too early to ask for deposits yet. But be thinking about this. You won't want to miss this exciting trip.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON NAMES TAMPA GROUPS 'HABITAT HEROES'

*By John Bianchi, National Audubon Society*

Tampa, Florida, June 22nd, 2001 - Today the National Audubon Society presented the Florida Aquarium and the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program with "Habitat Hero" awards for their commitment to native plants and reduced-pesticide landscaping. The awards are part of a nationwide Audubon initiative called Healthy Habitats: Backyards, Schoolyards and Beyond aimed at reducing pesticide use and creating healthy habitats. Audubon

chose Tampa to be one of three campaign launch cities because of residents' level of commitment to and interest in innovative landscaping practices.

"Audubon is proud to recognize the extraordinary work of these Tampa-based organizations," said **Bernie Yokel**, National Audubon Society Board Member. "We believe their reduction of pesticide use and commitment to native plants serve as a model for the rest of the country."

Audubon launched its national campaign in response to startling new data on bird mortality. Last year, prompted by concern about the spread of West Nile Virus, New York State asked counties to report dead birds to its wildlife pathology laboratory. After receiving more than 80,000 birds, the lab discovered that while the virus was a factor in some deaths, the leading cause was pesticide poisoning, responsible for 48 percent of birds tested.

"The Aquarium made a conscious decision to have pesticide-free landscaping when we opened six years ago because we felt it was the right thing to do," said **Jeff Swanagan**, Florida Aquarium Executive Director and CEO. "With our landscaping, we are able to expose our guests to native Florida species both inside and outside the Aquarium. We believe the beauty in our functional and environmentally responsible landscaping speaks for itself."

In addition to calling on organizations and businesses to reduce pesticide use, Audubon is urging individuals to consider changing the way they care for their lawns. Through introducing native plants and using alternatives to pesticides, Americans can maintain an attractive, healthy yard that is safer for children and wildlife.

"We've seen that Floridians are eager to embrace a reduced-pesticide approach to their lawns," said **Marina Pryce**, Program Coordinator for Florida Yards and Neighborhoods. "Oftentimes the only stumbling block is how to get started and that's where we come in - we're here to help folks enhance their environment in an inexpensive, easy way."

Adding to the efforts of the Florida Aquarium and the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program, Tampa Audubon announced the launch of monthly seminars at its Lettuce Lake center to help residents learn how to reduce pesticide use and introduce more native plants.

"We're excited about this opportunity to help Tampa residents create healthy habitats in their own backyards," said **Ged Caddick**, President of the Tampa Audubon Society. "We think our work here can serve as both a challenge and an inspiration for the rest of the country."

Audubon's national initiative Healthy Habitats: Backyards, Schoolyards and Beyond is focused on quantifiably reducing pesticide use nationwide by working with neighborhoods and communities, engaging local retailers, and supporting local and state legislation that reduces backyard pesticide use.



## 2001-02 FIELD TRIPS

*By Ray Scory*

History, Beauty, Adventure, Discovery, Camaraderie, Ambitions, and everyday encounters. Quiet moments, too. Birding offers all this: It's something very special. A hobby, yes, more a passion. This coming year our field trips offer all this, plus the opportunity to begin, renew or continue your birding spirit. Join us!

We have designed a program that will tweak your birding fancies and fit your personal schedules. We have kept some of the old and added some new. We have added trips on Sundays (new) and kept Fridays and Saturdays. We have added a sit down birding adventure (THE BIG SIT) and scheduled half-day and full-day trips and an overnight excursion to the west coast of Florida. A boat trip to the Dora Canal, a Bird-a-thon, three bird counts and Conservation/Audubon seminars are special. All this topped off with the crowning pleasure of an annual picnic.

All in all, our Audubon Society will sponsor in the coming year a total of twenty-four outdoor events. You are all welcome to come out and bird with us. Whether you're an expert or a beginner, a field trip is always an adventure.

To round out your birding experience, attend our indoor meetings, also. Bring a friend or more. Come up and talk to me. To the people who did last year, I thank you. That is why changes were made this year.

Stay involved and have fun.

## A MESSAGE FROM DENNY ARIOLA

*By Lois Robinson*

This summer one of our young adult members who is committed to a full time vocation in conservation and the environmental sciences sent us emails about what he has been doing.

Denny was hired by the University of Tennessee to assist in a research project conducted at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. He has been doing a population survey of forest interior songbirds to see if opening forest floors to new growth by selective cutting of old growth trees is helpful or harmful to certain birds. He hopes to establish a database for a study that will establish what effect cutting and burning has on nesting songbirds. The focus species have been Ovenbirds, Acadian Flycatchers, and Wood Thrushes but also includes Louisiana Waterthrushes, Red-eyed Vireos and several others. The goal of the study is to see what type of forest management best promotes species diversity.

Denny is going on to another internship in Pennsylvania this fall. We will be glad when he is able to stay home and share his experiences with us. He sends his best regards to everyone.

## REPORT FROM CANAVERAL SEASHORE NATIONAL PARK

*By Willie Burns*

*Editor's note: HRAS member Willie Burns volunteers at the Park.*

One of the National Park Rangers, who shall remain nameless, has become The Deerslayer. While driving near Parking Lot #4 one night for a Turtle Program he hit a large buck with the left front fender of the Park's van.

The next night he hit another, this time with the right front fender. You can imagine his consternation, and the harassment he has received.

He managed to get through his next evening unscathed but the next week, you guessed it, he hit a third deer. This was a doe, and it impacted the CENTER of the front of the same poor battered van!

Three deer in twelve days is quite a record, but on the following Saturday night he nearly raised his total once again. A large doe ran across the road right behind him! He now refuses to drive in the Park at night.

At Canaveral Seashore National Park, as in all National Parks, when deer, or other animals, are hit by cars, they go back into the Circle of Life. Similarly dead whales and dolphins are left on the beach, usually after a necropsy to try to determine cause of death. It smells a bit for a few days (months in the case of a large whale!) but is the natural progression of life and reuse of energy, minerals, nutrients, etc.

Some tourists are offended by the sight and aroma, but that is life. Humans of course are the only creatures that remove materials from the world when we die with our burial practices. Even cremation returns material back to be reused.

\* \* \*

A flamingo is still being seen occasionally about a half mile east of Riverbreeze Park in Oak Hill, beyond the trees along the Intercoastal Waterway. It is usually with a large flock of ibises, Wood Storks, and egrets.

The observation decks atop Turtle Mound are a very good place to look for pelagic sea birds when the wind has been out of the east for several days. Jaegers, frigate birds, storm petrels, and many others are blown into the calm waters of Mosquito Lagoon.

\* \* \*

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge closes many of its trails prior to shuttle launches and, to a lesser extent, landings. The whole place closes one day prior to a launch. Canaveral Seashore National Park's south district closes three days prior.

The Merritt Island refuge closes most of its outer dike trails for migratory bird season from November to February. There is a permit-only duck hunting season for two to three weeks around the first of the year.

## CARLTON SMITH – Our Remembrances

*When Carlton Smith died this summer our Audubon Chapter lost a great friend who served the chapter for many years as Board member and Newsletter Editor. Some of our members remember him ...*

**Angelo Cerrito:** I will miss the friendship of Carlton Smith. He was a mild mannered man, and considerate of the feelings of others. He gave freely of his time and Audubon expertise.

**Morrell Robinson:** I found Carlton to be a "can do" type of man, in which the first question to be answered was: is this something that should be done. If so, a way could be found to do it. He believed in working to support other community groups whose goals were compatible with Audubon. I was amazed at how much travel he did during the last period when he was beginning to show signs of decline. He did not wait for the end so much as he met it head on. Thank God for such a man!

**Lois Robinson:** My first memory of Carlton Smith was the warm welcome he and Vivian extended to Morrell and me when we joined HRAS in 1991. I loved his stories of the wonderful camping trips he and Vivian shared with us all and the bird stories about what they had seen. Carlton was an avid birder and his knowledge of birds was extensive. He was willing to share this knowledge with the rest of us and we all benefited from his information. Carlton was also a Board member from the time we joined until his health no longer permitted it. As the hard working editor of *The Pelican* he made a very valuable contribution to our chapter. Carlton, we will miss you greatly.

**Glade Koch:** "Field Trip Leader Supreme" – We were always happy to see him and greet him and could feel that he was glad to see us. His knowledge of our community and environmental issues was also very valuable to our chapter.

**David Hartgrove:** I remember standing next to Carlton on a cold, clear day on a field trip to Shiloh Marsh Road. A hawk was spotted in a pine tree a long way off. While I was thumbing through the field guide, Carlton calmly announced, "Red-tailed." Of course, he was right.

**Madeline Shaddix:** Carlton was ever gracious, friendly and up-beat; a joy to know. He was a great friend to birds and birders as well. His enthusiasm for birding will be sorely missed.

**John Carr:** Carlton was a main influence in my entering into the mainstream of Halifax River Audubon. I always sought and got his sound advice on how to handle situations. He was the continuity of Audubon from the past and to the future. Carlton had a keen sense of humor and used it to smooth out some of the wrinkles that appeared in our proceedings. I miss him very much.

## AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

In case you haven't heard, this year's Audubon Assembly will take place Thursday to Sunday, November 2-4, in Orlando at the Airport Marriott. For more information get in touch with **Erin Petra** at 305-371-6299 or [epetra@audubon.org](mailto:epetra@audubon.org) for details and registration form.

Last year's event was held in Fernandino Beach in the northeasternmost corner of Florida. More people went from the Halifax River Chapter than any other except the host Duval Chapter. We loved it. It was a great mix of field trips, honored guests, informational seminars, and finalizing of Audubon resolutions. This year's Assembly sounds even better with **Governor Jeb Bush, Senator Bob Graham, Disney, and Seaworld** on tap.

You probably have a list of the 13 field trips offered. Now we have a list of workshops that will be available.

1. Organizing a conservation campaign.
2. Influencing land use decisions.
3. Audubon's national campaigns.
4. Recruiting and motivating grassroots volunteers.
5. Minority outreach (Hispanic and African American).
6. Building chapter membership and fundraising.
7. Eight habits of effective chapter leadership.
8. How chapters can take advantage of the Internet.
9. Conservation at the local level (building through doing).
10. Establishing a migratory Whooping Crane population in Florida.
11. Lake Okeechobee for beginners.
12. Restoring Florida Bay.
13. Reviving the Indian River Lagoon.
14. Audubon Eaglewatch program.
15. Protecting breeding colonies.
16. Where are the birds? The Great Florida Birding Trail.
17. Counting birds for fun and science.
18. The art of conservation education/Audubon Adventures.
19. Teaching basic bird watching skills.
20. Tools for public land conservation: rural land protection and Florida Forever.
21. Land trusts and chapter sanctuaries.

## GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

This first program of the 2001-2002 HRAS Chapter year on September 17 will be a presentation by **Julie Brashears**, the Birding Trail Coordinator of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The Trail is a 2000-mile highway trail that unifies existing and new birding sites throughout Florida. Special highway signs will identify clusters of wonderful birding hotspots: many of the best birding sites now are known only to local birders.

The East Florida Section of the Trail is open now with sites recommended by birders. Other stretches of the Trail will open sequentially until all are open in 2006.

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

### Names & Numbers

#### 2001-2002 H.R.A.S. OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Vice Pres.	Rachel Ramsey	673-1037
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
Recording Sec'y	Jean Lesh	761-6893
Corresponding Sec'y	Gina Holt	253-3466
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	Ray Scory	763-4260
Finance	Angelo Cerrito	767-5397
Hospitality	Barbara Kieran	672-2927
Publication Comm.	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity	Barbara Bowden	672-4956
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means -	Open	
Membership Recruitment and Retention	-Open	

#### 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		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

Halifax River Audubon Society  
[www.halifaxriveras.org](http://www.halifaxriveras.org)

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SEPTEMBER 2001

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
appreciates the support of its 2001-2002 *The Pelican* Underwriters

REID HUGHES

ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 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 next General Meeting will be on September 17, 2001.

Board meeting this month is Tuesday, the September 4, 2:00 p.m. City Island Library. All are welcome

### WELCOME TO HRAS

Barbara Aubrey, Kevin Bagwell, I.G. Barragato, Bernadine Bosonetto, George J. Cochrane, Laura A. Datre, Louise Eason, Ms. Laurie A. El-Akkari, Godwin Essien, Mr. & Mrs. David W. Fosson, Robert Fuss, Carrie L. Giley, Guy S. Henry, Barbara R. Hughes, Henry Jahner, Sherrie Keating, Susan Kidd, Deborah King, Ms. Jane G. Mann, David Monaco, J. M. Montgomery, Nancy Moore, Shem Oesch, Kathleen Petucciani, Angelika Ponsol, L.R. Relletier, Joan Robinson, Alan F. Rose, Ralph Shelton, Laurie Vandusen, P. Walsh, and Barbara Wilmering. We are looking forward to seeing you at our September meeting.



# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 47 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY OCTOBER 2001**

## GOALS SET BY HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON BOARD

*By President Lois Robinson*

The Board of Halifax River Audubon met for an all day planning session August 24 to think seriously about the directions in which we as a Chapter want to be headed. We divided into four groups to brainstorm and set goals for the future: Conservation, Education, Membership, and Ways and Means.

The Education group zeroed in on ways to strengthen our commitment to Audubon Adventures. The group hopes to recruit Chapter members who are also teachers to work with **Glade Koch**, Chairman of the Education Committee, in this area. Another goal is to strengthen our relationship with **Louise Chapman**, teacher at Mainland High School, and her work with students revitalizing Rose Bay. A long-term goal is to establish a speaker's bureau to promote the work of our chapter at civic clubs and other community minded groups.

The Ways and Means group's short-term goal is to hold a Bird-a-thon this coming spring. They discussed ways to build up reserves by encouraging members to remember **HRAS** in wills and legacies and by special gifts. Long-term goal is to fully fund our programs each year (we were \$1000 short this year). They also planned ways to increase our funding from corporate sponsors. **Gina Holt** and **Rachel Ramsey** have been asked to serve as Co-Chairs of a Ways and Means Committee.

Conservation's goal is to work toward the nomination of the area of the Halifax River from the Tomoka Basin to the North Canaveral Seashore as "An Important Bird Area." This requires contact with all Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies that have jurisdiction over this part of the river, a lengthy, time-consuming project but well worth the effort. This group is also working toward the designation of the island south of the Port Orange Bridge, known as Island #3, as an Audubon Bird Sanctuary.

The Membership group has set goals to emphasize our need to welcome and challenge visitors and newcomers to join National Audubon through affiliating with our chapter. We need a vigorous and energetic campaign to recruit new members throughout the year. The group would also like to prepare a membership packet for visitors and give more emphasis to joining our chapter in *The Pelican*. We still do not have a chair or co-chairs

for a Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee and this is something that I am committed to working hard on this year.

These are just a few of the ideas and goals you Board discussed. We are excited about the possibilities and hope you all will be too. Jump on the bandwagon with us and just see what the future holds!

## CALENDAR

*Field trips that leave from City Island leave from the east parking lot of the Court House Annex.*

Monday, October 1

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

Wednesday, October 3

Timucuan Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill 7:00 p.m.

Thursday to Friday, October 4-7

Florida Birding Festival & Nature Expo, Clearwater.

Tuesday, October 9

Primary Election

Wednesdays, October 10, 17, and 24

**HRAS** Beginning Birdwatchers Class. Meet at *The Casements*, 9:30 a.m. Contact **Lois Robinson**. Phone: 760-8480.

Friday, October 12, Saturday, October 20 and Friday, October 26

**HRAS** Birdwatchers Class Field trips.

Saturday, October 13

**HRAS** field trip. Great Birding at Bluffton Ridge Recreation Site. Meet at Publix parking lot, north end at Granada and Williamson Blvds, 7:00 a.m. Led by **Meret Wilson**. Phone: 672-2625. Bring lunch.

Sunday, October 14

**HRAS - THE BIG SIT**. Twenty-four hours, midnight to midnight, set your own schedule. Contact **Ray Scory** for details. Phone: 763-4260.

Monday, October 15

**HRAS** Program Meeting. "Xeriscaping." **Ray Jarrett**, President, Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society.

Tuesday, October 16

Florida Native Plant Society, Pawpaw Chapter, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Contact **Kim Johnson**, 441-7591.

Saturday, October 27.

**HRAS** field trip. Washington Oaks State Gardens, led by **Kevin DeWall**. Phone: 767-3031. Then to Fort Matanzas, led by **Willie Burns**. Phone 253-2150. Meet at City Island, 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, Nat'l Park fee.

Thursday to Sunday, November 1-4

**AUDUBON ASSEMBLY**. See registration form in this issue.

## THE SAILBOAT AND THE BIRD NEST

*By David Hartgrove*

This spring, Mary Keller called me to say that she'd gotten a call from a boat owner in Ponce Inlet. He was getting ready to move his new boat down to Hollywood, Florida and there was one very big problem. A bird had built a nest on the boat and the owner was reluctant to sail off and leave the parent birds wondering what had happened to their nest. As Mary described the problem to me, I envisioned a Mourning Dove nest on a mast arm or something like that. That wasn't what I found when I arrived and looked over the situation.

The boat was a beautiful, 55' ketch. Scott, the boat's owner, showed me where the nest was and told me that for the last several days he'd been observing the parents flying in with dragonflies for the rather vocal young. No, these weren't Mourning Doves. They were a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers, cavity nesters. They'd built their nest in the main sail boom. For those of you whose nautical vocabulary is as limited as mine, that's the horizontal piece that supports the bottom of the largest, triangular sail. Clearly, this would be an interesting problem to solve.

The only real solution was to relocate the nest, babies and all. I arranged to meet Scott at the boat 2 days later. From work, I obtained a piece of scrap 4-inch PVC pipe about 18 inches long. I blocked one end and drilled 2 small holes to attach some wire with which to suspend the new "nest" from a tree. I went down to the dock and met Scott and several of the folks who'd be sailing south with him on the high tide that night. Using 2 long "S" hooks, I pulled as much of the nest material as I could from the boom. Along with this material there tumbled out 2 small, scrawny baby fly-catchers with their eyes still closed and the beginnings of primary feathers on their tiny wings. With everyone helping, we got these babies into the new nest. But their sibling, the remaining baby, decided he liked it where he was and managed to get further into the recesses of the boom. Too far for the reach of the hooks. The first mate had an idea. We'd swing the boom over the dock, lower the end and shake the remaining baby free. It worked perfectly and now we had all 3 babies transferred to the new nest.

I moved the new nest to a tree nearby and we waited. The parents were set on returning to the old site, though it was now closed off to prevent their going to the wrong place. In spite of the calls from the hungry babies, the parents didn't seem able to find the new nest. They kept flying back to the boat. So I moved the nest back to a spot near the boom. The female finally flew in with a big, juicy dragonfly and then flew back out. At least now she knew that the babies weren't still in the boom.

It was fast approaching time for me to get to work. I had decided on a different location for the nest. There was a branch in an old oak that was 25 yards from the boat. It was the same height as the boom and would allow the new nest opening to be facing the same southeast direction as the old one. I moved the nest and secured it to the branch. Again, we waited. The parents still hadn't returned to look for the new nest when I could wait no longer. I told Scott that I'd return the next day to check. If the parents still hadn't returned, I could then transport the babies to Mary's.

The next morning, I drove up to the now empty dock site. There was no sound from the nest and no sign of the parents. I had a tape player and I cued up the calls of a Great Crested Flycatcher. Within seconds, both parents flew into the tree over my head. Then, a minute or so later, the female flew into the new nest with another big dragonfly and promptly flew out with a fecal sack. That was all I needed to see. In spite of some rather rude disturbance, mom and the babies were doing fine and they'd had about all the help they could deal with. The sail boat is 250 miles away and its almost stowaway cargo is doing just fine. Perhaps now, in October, the babies are young adults and they'll pass nearby their old nest site on the boat on their way south to spend the winter in Venezuela.

### PESTICIDES USED TO KILL ADULT MOSQUITOES IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

Naled (Dibrom): Sprayed from helicopters to kill adult mosquitoes, the chemical is highly corrosive to metal and can only be used around stainless steel and plastic. It can cause irreversible eye damage

Fenthion pronounced fen-THI-on. (used only in Volusia County): Developed more than 40 years ago and commercialized by the company that makes Bayer aspirin, the chemical was once used in a product called Rid-A-Bird that was used to kill starlings and pigeons. Mosquito control officers use fenthion only in concentrated forms. Fogger trucks spray 9 ounces – less than a soda can's contents – over one linear mile.

Malathion (used only in Volusia County): Sprayed mainly on freshwater mosquitoes but also around saltwater marshes in Southeast Volusia, the chemical smells like rotten eggs but is highly effective in killing the insects. Twenty ounces is sprayed over one linear mile by fogger trucks.

Fenthion and malathion cause nerve damage to the young, older adults, and people with distressed livers who cannot excrete the compound easily.

Data from Daytona Beach *News-Journal*

### SIGN UP FOR AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

Many Halifax River Chapter members went to last year's Assembly at Fernadino Beach. It was enormous fun to meet birders from other chapters, find out what *Audubon of Florida* was doing, and go on field trips to new birding spots with expert leaders. We can do that again this year right in our own backyard in Orlando.

If you haven't signed up yet, use the registration form in this newsletter and enjoy the price break.

### RENEWAL OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN AUDUBON

Membership can only be renewed through National Audubon. Chapters cannot renew memberships. There is no benefit to our chapter if you send your renewal to the Membership Secretary as he must then send your check and information to National Audubon, resulting in a delay and the cost of the envelope and postage to Halifax River Audubon.

## AUDUBON ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: Halifax River Audubon Society \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION COSTS (per person)

Early-bird Registration \$85 \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes Fri. & Sat. lunch & dinner,  
workshops & field trips)

After October 11 125 \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast Friday 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast Saturday 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Airboat Tour (Field Trip) 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check.

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Special food needs \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Audubon of Florida, 444 Brickell Ave., Suite 850,  
Miami, Florida 33131 or Fax the form to (305) 371-6398 or  
Phone (305) 371-6399.

## MARY KELLER NEEDS HELP WITH BIRDS

*By Pat Mihali*

Mary Keller will need supplies during the fall migration period. She will have her share of Loons and Gannets, so she will need fingerlings. A great variety of migrating species seem to end up needing her expert and loving care. She will need millet, white paper towels, Pedigree canned dog food, canned cat food, and moneter donations are also welcome so she can buy the vitamin and medicines that are so vital to the survival of these creatures. If you can help her, please do so.

I went to her place on a Sunday in early September to pick up a Love Bird that some one had abandoned at her door and she had cages full of birds from Cardinals to Blue Jays to Mockingbirds. She also had a Green Heron, a Night Heron, a Blue Heron and an Egyptian Goose.

Her dedication to saving a small part of our world is something that we as bird lovers should look at as an example of what one person can do if they put their mind to it. She wages war on anyone who mistreats or abuse wild creatures.

Right now we are involved in finding a way to force the County to stop the practice of placing birds in the cages on the beach and leaving them there for days on end. **DeeAnn Snyder** is also fighting with the Count about the same thing. She went down to pick up a Brown Pelican and found several dead Seagulls in the cage with the Pelican and when she checked the other cage there were baby pigeons in a cage filled with water. They were cold and wet and only one survived.

Mary had two Pelicans at her place this summer that suffered in the same conditions. One had a wing that was so badly infected that even the Seabird Sanctuary on the West Coast could not save it and it had to be euthanized. She nursed the other one back to health, but it was touch and go for several weeks. Both of these birds had been left in cages full of water and feces for three days or more.

### FLORIDA BIRDING FESTIVAL & NATURE EXPO - CLEARWATER, OCTOBER 4-7

This 4th annual event includes 30-plus field trips, workshops, and keynote addresses. The speakers will be **John W. Fitzpatrick**, Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, **Kenn Kaufman**, **Don and Lillian Stokes**, authors of field guides, **Paul Konrad**, researcher on bird of prey, **Arthur Morris**, photographer, **Dr. Jerr Jackson** on John James Audubon, and **Glen Woolfenden** on Florida Scrub-Jay. Field trips will include Shell Key, Fort DeSoto Park, and Honeymoon Island. Workshop and seminars include sessions on the *Florida Scrub-Jay*, *Bird Photography*, *Landscaping For Wildlife*, *Owls*, and buying and using birding optics.

For additional information call 1-800-822-6461.

## HRAS AND ECHO

*By David Hartgrove*

The last election will be memorable for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the ECHO program. The voters overwhelmingly approved this bond issue. Now the ECHO Advisory Committee has asked for interested parties to send in their initial grant application requests. At the September HRAS Board meeting, a motion was made and approved that we apply for a grant to construct an observation platform at the Port Orange Causeway Park. This site is one of the premier birding spots in the county. The resolution passed by the County Council mandates that "Volusia ECHO program funds are to be used solely to finance acquisition, restoration, construction and improvement of environmental/ecological, cultural, historical/heritage and outdoor recreation facilities for public use." We feel that a new observation platform on the south side of the Port Orange Bridge fills several of those requirements.

This will be a long process and our application may not be included in this first year's group of approved projects. Nevertheless, this will be a valuable and relatively inexpensive addition to one of the best birding sites around our area. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

## WHY BE A MEMBER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON?

*By Gina Holt, Co-Chair Ways and Means*

Being a member of an Audubon chapter is a big deal! Lots of you became members by joining the National Audubon and now you receive their beautiful bi-monthly magazine *Audubon*. I hope you are taking the time to read through it and learn what our national organization is up to. Besides, the pictures are breathtaking!

Being a member of National Audubon automatically makes you a member of Halifax River Audubon. But I hope you are most excited to be a member of our local chapter. I know I am. Our membership can be a very powerful tool of change, and we have some very active and eager members out there. But we need more active members. Are you one of them?

Being a member of Halifax River Audubon carries with it an unspoken duty – to create awareness in others of the importance of preserving our natural world and saving what we have left for future generations. We are not just birdwatchers anymore! We are conservationists, we are educators, we are lobbyists, and we are active participants in creating and preserving the wild spaces and quality of life we still have here in Volusia County.

Being a member of Halifax River Audubon entitles you to participate in one of our 24 sponsored bird events, including 15 field trips and 3 bird counts (although we certainly welcome non-members). It is an invitation to our

monthly meetings full of great conversation, interesting speakers and delicious refreshments, and it is an opportunity for you to help make our little corner of the world a better place.

We need your help. Grab your kids, your neighbors, and your boss and come to a meeting. Grab your checkbook and give Audubon memberships as birthday and Christmas gifts or support Audubon Adventures with your check. Lend your help to one of our committees. Help us with the fundraising we must do every year to underwrite the cost of bringing *The Pelican* to you every month. Help us with a 1 to 1 membership increase - bring in a new member. New members receive gifts. Our success depends on your warm bodies and cold cash

Why be a member of Halifax River Audubon? Because you don't want Volusia County to end up looking like Orlando. Because you care about our future and our community. Because you believe the world will be a better place because of our efforts. Or maybe just because we need you.

## THANK YOU

Halifax River Audubon offers special thanks to **Carol Branch, Joan Treves, George Briton, Raleigh Galloway, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gardner**. We also want to acknowledge an anonymous gift of \$100.00 in memory of **Carlton Smith**.

## PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP TO RODMAN DAM

*By Lois Robinson*

Fourteen birders braved the August heat for the visit to Rodman Dam and other birding sites. It was well worth the effort for we saw, among others, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Towhees, Northern Parula Warblers, four species of woodpeckers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and many herons and egrets, making a grand total of 53 species.

Several of the first time visitors to the dam were amazed at the isolation of the dam and how few people were actually using the facility. We saw four or five fishermen on the banks and one or two boats on Rodman Lake.

In addition to the dam site we birded at Salt Springs Marina and a boat launch area on Rodman Lake which has a nice birding trail and an observation dock overlooking the lake.

After cooling down in a café in Palatka for lunch we visited the Ravine Gardens and the artesian springs there. This stop produced Downy Woodpeckers, a Northern Flicker, several Red-eyed Vireos as well as some repeats from previous stops. Tufted Titmice were the most abundant species we found at three of the four sites.

Thanks to all of you who went for a memorable trip.



## NEW FALL BIRDING CLASS OFFERED

You are invited to participate in the new fall Beginning Birdwatchers Class on Wednesdays, October 10, 17, and 24 at 9:30 a.m. at The Casements in Ormond Beach. Field trips for the class will be Friday, October 12, Saturday, October 20 and Friday, October 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr** will lead the class with assistance from other birders of Halifax River Audubon.

Classes will cover:

- Introduction to Birding.
- How to Identify Birds.
- Bird Habitats.
- How to Find Birds.
- How to use Binoculars and Field Guides.
- Do's and Don'ts of Being a Successful Birder.

To join the class please call *The Casements*, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach at 676-3216, or **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*By David Hartgrove*

A recent article in the Daytona Beach *News-Journal* covered the front page of the Local Section with a multi-colored map of Volusia County. The various colors on the map represented areas along the St. Johns River and the Intra Coastal Waterway where marinas and other boat related facilities will be regulated for the protection of manatees. This was the first publication of the draft outline of Phase II of Volusia County's Manatee Protection Plan (MPP). Phase I dealt with the easy issues of educating the public about manatees, a boating activity study and intergovernmental cooperation. Phase II, because it proposes to restrict where and how marinas can be constructed, is a bit more contentious. Phase III is supposed to deal with boat speeds. Having served on the county's MPP review committee, I can tell you that Phase III will be the most contentious of all.

As environmentalists, we see the development of these plans as long overdue. Some of our friends and neighbors view things a bit differently. First, it was sea turtles. Now, it's manatees. To some in our community, it seems as if the world and the natural order of things have been turned upside down. Why must humans be inconvenienced in order to protect these slow moving, ancient animals whose evolutionary progress hasn't kept up with the world they now inhabit? Some boaters are apoplectic at the prospect of taking an extra 20 minutes to get to their favorite fishing hole. In fact, a "Safe Haven" designation in Phase II of the MPP could exclude boats from an area so designated altogether. Meanwhile, hotel and condo owners are concerned about their personal safety and that of their guests due to lighting restrictions from May through October, sea turtle nesting season.

A civilization is judged, in part, by how it treats animals. Ours has developed laws to protect the most endangered of the species we share this country with. Compliance with those laws can, at times, mean sacrificing what some of us consider to be the rights and privileges of being at the top of the evolutionary food chain. Nietzsche wrote, "The magnitude of progress is gauged by the greatness of the sacrifice it requires." If you end up in a conversation with a neighbor about why we're all being asked to give up lighted walk ways and speedy boat trips, just remember that in helping the animals around us to survive we're making progress toward becoming better human beings.

## JULIE BRASHEARS PRESENTS PROGRAM

*By Meret Wilson*

**Julie Brashears**, Coordinator of the Florida Great Birding Trail, started off our year with a bang. Julie used Powerpoint to project images on a screen from a computer. She gave a wonderfully enthusiastic talk on the trail, the locations, how sites differ to meet different levels of birding needs, and how we can promote the trails.

Our part of the state has a number of options for different types of birding. Some trails are for driving only, while other parts are for the more athletic to hike. Some trails are bird specific such as Lyonia Park in Deltona where you can find Florida Scrub-Jays in abundance. Other trails provide a rich plethora of birds if numbers are your thing. No matter your level there is something for you.

Our many thanks to Julie for starting us off in a big way and we wish her the best of luck in the future developing the rest of the trail.

## BIRD COUNT CANCELLED

**David Hartgrove** cancelled our Fall Bird Count scheduled for September 15. Tropical Storm Gabrielle churned her way across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico missing us but dumping about 11 inches of rain in a couple of days.

A couple of stalwarts, **Meret Wilson** and **Kevin Doxstatter**, waded on out there anyway and sighted some unusual birds including a Brown Booby and a Parasitic Jaeger.

Yea, I am one with all I see,  
 With wind and wave, with pine and palm;  
 Their very elements in me  
 Are fused to make me what I am.  
 Through me their common life-stream flows,  
 And when I yield this human breath,  
 In leaf and blossom, bud and rose,  
 Live on I will ... There is no Death.

*The Best of Robert Service*, by Robert Service

# THE PELICAN



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

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<b>Willie Burns</b>	253-2150
<b>Meret Wilson</b>	672-2625

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Publication Comm.	<b>John Carr</b>	255-9360
Publicity	<b>Gina Holt</b>	253-3466
Newsletter Editor	<b>Fran Carr</b>	255-9360
Ways and Means	<b>Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey</b>	

Membership Recruitment and Retention -Open

#### BIRD INFORMATION

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	<b>Maitland FL</b>	(407) 644-0190
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338

#### WEB SITE

Halifax River Audubon Society  
[www.halifaxriveras.org](http://www.halifaxriveras.org)

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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OCTOBER 2001

### HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

appreciates the support of its 2001-2002 *The Pelican* Underwriters

**REID HUGHES**

**ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to **Fran Carr**, 359 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 next General Meeting will be on October 16, 2001.

Board meeting this month is Monday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. City Island Library. All are welcome

### XERISCAPING -- OCTOBER 15 PROGRAM

*By Barbara Kieran*

**Ray Jarrett** is President of the local Paw Paw Chapter of the Native Plant Society. An expert gardener, he will show us how to use low maintenance native plants in our gardens and yards.

He works as an Environmental Specialist in the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services in East Volusia and Flagler Counties to protect Florida's native and commercially grown plants from harmful pests and diseases. He works with nurseries and does inspections at discount stores such as WalMart and Lowes to make sure their plant material is free from diseases and other pests. He runs trap lines that monitor the state for exotic fruit flies. Ray also helps facilitate the shipment of plant material, such as ferns used for floral arrangements, for export to foreign countries.

# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 47 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2001**

## IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY

*President Lois Robinson*

I have been thinking about all of you while the tragedy of the events of September 11th has been unfolding around us and I have been hoping that none of you have lost loved ones or friends in the attack that occurred. Please know that Halifax River Audubon considers itself a community of people who love and care for each other and who want to be of help in time of need.

**John Flicker**, President of National Audubon, sent a letter to each chapter leader expressing his concern for each person and each chapter in National Audubon. The New York headquarters of National Audubon is in lower Manhattan so they witnessed first hand the devastation around them.

What can we do as members and friends of Halifax River Audubon? We can do as our country's leaders have already encouraged us to do and go about our business as usual, and it seems like good advice to me. What is business as usual for Halifax River Audubon? To care for and protect the environment in every way we possibly can so as to leave a lasting legacy for those who come after us; to enjoy to the fullest the flash of color in the woods that signals the return of a migrating warbler; to be stunned by the length of the bill of the Long-billed Curlew as it strolls on the mudflats; and to love and guard the natural beauty we in Florida have been given so abundantly. God bless you all and may the days ahead be better than the ones through which we have just lived.

## THE LOSS OF A FRIEND, JOHN HOUGH

*Lois Robinson*

Long time member of Halifax River Audubon and a devoted friend of the environment, **John Hough**, passed away on October 6th. He will be missed by his many friends and his devoted wife, **Ruth**.

John, you will want to know, came from Williamsport, Pennsylvania where he was a leader in establishing an Audubon Chapter in that city. He was an Associate Professor at Williamsport Community College. We will remember him as an indefatigable birder who kept going even after back surgery which limited his walking ability. His even-tempered good nature was a blessing to all of us.

Ruth tells us that donations to Halifax River Audubon can be made in his name.

## BY-LAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED

*President Lois Robinson*

At the November Program Meeting we will be voting on two changes to the By-Laws approved by the Board. We need you there to have your input:

1. Proposal that the name of our chapter be changed to "Halifax River Audubon" (dropping "Society"). The rationale is

that "Society" is an out-dated term and is being dropped by National Audubon and state organizations.

2. Proposal to add three new Members at Large to the Board. The rationale is that we need an enlarged Board to carry out our increasing involvement in environmental issues, bird rehab concerns, publicity and public relations issues.

## FALL FUNDRAISING

*Gina Holt*

Fall fundraising letters were mailed out in September and we have received one response! But it was a good one. **Mr. Robert Coleman**, of Florida Power & Light has generously underwritten *The Pelican* for ONE YEAR. We received a check from Mr. Coleman on behalf of FPL in the amount of \$5,760.00!

Thank you, Mr. Coleman and FPL, for your ongoing and generous support.

## CALENDAR

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

### Thursday to Sunday, November 1-4

Audubon Assembly. For Orlando Airport Merriott Hotel reservations call (407) 851-9000. For Assembly registration information call (305) 371-6399 or email [epetra@audubon.org](mailto:epetra@audubon.org).

### Monday, November 5

HRA Board Meeting. City Island Library. 2:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, November 6

Election Day.

### Wednesday, November 7

Timucuan Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday through Sunday, November 8-11

Space Coast Bird Festival. Titusville.

### Saturday, November 17

HRA field trip. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at City Island, 7:00 a.m. Led by **Glade Koch**. Phone: 253-8438. Bring lunch.

### Monday, November 19

HRA Program Meeting. Bird slides of Ft. DeSoto, Belize, and others. **Steven Shaddix**.

### Tuesday, November 20

Florida Native Plant Society, Paw Paw Chapter, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Contact **Kim Johnson**, 441-7591.

### Monday, December 3

HRA Board Meeting. City Island Library. 2:00 p.m.

## GREAT BLUFFTON RIDGE RECREATION PARK FIELD TRIP

*Meret Wilson*

On October 12th, Halifax River Audubon birded a new site on the Great Birding Trail. Bluffton Ridge Recreation Park is part of the Lake George Forest area off Highway 40 just east of Astor. We were amazed at the beauty of the area and just as amazed at the wonderful birding.

We had 51 species between the gate and the fishing pier 2.5 miles down the road. The road was in excellent condition and is such that a person not able to walk very much could fully enjoy the birding from the car. There are a variety of habitats from forest, to open fields, to the St. John's River.

The marathon birding crew was **Ray Scory, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, Lois Pauchey, Kevin Doxstater, and Meret Wilson**. We think a return trip in early November would be a great idea to see what else will turn up.

We had 3 surprise birds: A Golden-winged Warbler, a Magnolia Warbler and an Orchard Oriole. Our total trip list was 56 species: Double-crested Cormorants, Anhinga, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (and nest just south of 40 in forest), American Kestrels, Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes, Belted Kingfisher, Mourning Doves, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpeckers (many), Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Piliated Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue Jays, Common Grackles, Carolina Chickadee, American Crows, Eastern Titmice, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wrens, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Great Catbirds (many, many!), Northern Mockingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireos, Northern Parula, Pine Warblers, Palm Warblers, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstarts, Ovenbirds (many), Common Yellowthroats, Northern Cardinals, Eastern Towhees, Eastern Meadowlark (heard, not seen), and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Species seen before and after the Bluffton Ridge area: Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Eastern Bluebird, Starling, Boat-tailed Grackles, and House Sparrows.

## LAKE WOODRUFF FIELD TRIP

*Glade Koch*

The annual HRA trip to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge will depart from City Island Saturday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m. Yes, 7:00! Our committee believes we will see more birds if we start an hour earlier than we have before on this trip--an experiment. It will be over before noon. You may want, however, to bring a lunch or a snack. Nineteen thousand acres of fresh water marshes, streams and lakes comprise Woodruff with 1000 acres of pine flatwoods and scrub-oak.

How many of the 21 Woodruff duck species will we see? How many rails? Some people have seen the black rail at Woodruff. We will walk quite a bit. Benches on the path are for resting and watching for what comes our way. Limpkins, ospreys and bald eagles are probable. Even though the Refuge is short of staff just now, **Henry Sansing**, Refuge Manager, may be able to plan for us to see a part of the Refuge most of us have not seen before. Meet you at 7:00 a.m.

## HALIFAX HARRIERS TRY THEIR WINGS

*David Hartgrove*

So, what are the "Halifax Harriers"? That's the name of the team our chapter is fielding in the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival birding competition. Team members **David Hartgrove, Rachel Ramsey, Ray Scory** and **Meret Wilson** will be competing in this 29-hour event beginning at 5:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 10th. There are over \$15,000.00 in prizes including optical equipment, birding trips, clothing, etc. Last year's winning team got a grand total of 171 species. So our work's cut out for us.

There are various categories of competition for this event and the level of experience our team members have requires that we compete in the Advanced category. The geographical area of the competition has been expanded this year. In addition to Brevard County, Indian River, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia counties are also in the boundaries. We'll be driving a lot of miles and trying to get as many species as we can. So wish us luck. We'll give a full report in next month's *The Pelican*.

## A GEM OF A PARK - OCTOBER 9, 2001

*Ray Scory*

Birding is like panning for gold. You're outdoors and, at times, your efforts are difficult and unrewarding. However, every once in a while, you find something that just sparkles.

A simple household chore and a workout at the gym were all that beckoned my energies that morning. So at 9:00 a.m. I pointed my pickup in the direction of Spruce Creek Park, a small forested space between busy Route 1 and a tranquil tidal bay. Maybe a few birds are moving through, I thought. I certainly could squeeze a few hours from this day to check.

I didn't expect to find much even though a northeast wind had passed through. As the hour ticked by, my suspicions seemed correct. Then a splash of red high in a slash pine tree flashed in the sun. A male Summer Tanager. Wow! Another movement, duller, behind the branches. Maybe the female. Wait it out, stay calm. They are feeding on southern fox grapes up there. What's that? Spots on the breast; female Summer Tanagers don't have spots on their breasts. Then a better view - a yellowish eye ring, a yellow tan wash on the face and breast with olive brown upper parts. This Swanson's Thrush is feeding with the male Summer Tanager. And then they were gone.

I waited a while, circled around the park again, hoping to find these two a second time. Instead I was greeted by a Great Horned Owl watching me from high in a tree.

From a count of ten species discovered that morning were a male and female Summer Tanager, a Swainson's Thrush, a Great Horned Owl and an American Redstart filling in the top four spots. A swarm of red-eyed Vireos, a handful of Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Black-throated Blue Warblers, the resident Northern Cardinals, a Common Yellowthroat and a Mourning Dove rounded out the count.

I went back the next morning to meet with newly arrived Indigo Buntings and Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Not too bad of a count for a neat little park tucked in between Route 1 and Rose Bay.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

Two months ago, I wrote about the Bush Administration's plan to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. Tragically, the House passed an energy bill with just such a provision. Now, it appears that Senate Majority Leader **Tom Daschle** has stepped in just as the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee was about to pass a bill with its own drilling package. The senator has used his power to stop further debate and action on the bill for the rest of this year. This will give Audubon and other environmental movement lobbyists time to work with members of the Senate who are on the fence about the issue. It also gives some of the pro-drilling senators a chance to show just how desperate they are to do the bidding of those that bank rolled their campaigns.

In an attempt to cash in on the country's national angst about the events of September 11th, Texas Senator **Phil Gramm** tried to attach what's called a secondary amendment to one put forward by Missouri Senator **Jean Carnahan**. Carnahan's amendment was to the airline safety bill and would have provided aid for workers who lost their jobs due to the airline industry layoffs. Gramm's amendment would have opened ANWR to oil drilling. The fact that this had nothing whatever to do with airline safety wasn't lost on other members of the Senate. Due to the Senate's archaic rules, the only way to prevent a vote on the drilling amendment was to withdraw the good one. Ironically, the Teamsters, who are drilling's most vocal union supporters, would have gained a great deal of help for their laid off members had Senator Gramm not tried an end run around the will of the American people. Fortunately, for the country, the senator has announced he will not seek reelection.

Locally, the Volusia County Council is set to vote on a plan to steal a large sum of Volusia Forever funds and use the money for a pilot ASR program. Some of you may be asking, "Honey, what's ASR?" That's Aquifer Storage and Recovery. The plan is to pump storm water runoff deep under the Floridan Aquifer (about our only source of drinking water) and then pump it back up in times of drought, treat it and send it out to you and me to drink. Imagine what runs off the average large parking lot. The vast majority of the biological contaminants can be removed or made harmless in the treatment process. Getting rid of the heavy metals and toxic chemical compounds is a different story. Worse, the ASR advocates say that there won't be any contamination of the pure aquifer water because they're going to pump the runoff stuff deeper and the water won't migrate. That's why they want a pilot project, to prove the viability of the plan. There are those in this state who see this as the answer to water shortages. If this scheme can just be pulled off, then development can continue at its breakneck pace. There is evidence that this technology does work in other parts of the country. But Florida's unique limestone substrate and its uncertain geological underpinning make this a dangerous experiment. There are ways to test the viability of this technology here in the state. But they're expensive and the quick and easy way appeals to ASR's advocates.

ASR technology is an unproven and perhaps catastrophic solution to a big problem facing the state. It is extremely controversial and it will be a subject of much discussion at the

upcoming Audubon Assembly. It is absolutely unconscionable that the Volusia County Council would even consider spending Volusia Forever funds on this project. Those funds were meant to be used for acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, including areas for fresh water recharge. They were not voted into being to fund hare-brained schemes that could ultimately contaminate our drinking water.

## REPORT FROM CANAVERAL

*Willie Burns*

Much of the south end of the Park and Mosquito Lagoon has been closed since the September 11 bombing. Portions are now once again open with changes appearing almost every day, so call before you make a trip down.

On Tuesday October 8 a small Loggerhead turtle was blown ashore. By the size it was about three months old, not a new hatchling. A week of strong easterly winds had pushed him, and his protective mat of Sargasso weeds, to the coast.

He was kept in a small container with a base of wet sand to rest. This allows a young turtle to rest more than being kept in water. After several phone calls I carried him to Titusville, where a turtleist from the Marine Resources Council (I think) met me.

She took him back to their research center for recuperation. At last report he was doing well and should be released back into the sea in a month or so.

This might seem like a lot of effort for one small turtle, but the reality is that this may be the turtle whose genes carry on the race. Every one is important, not just the big ones. Besides, it was a great day for a drive.

## GOLDEN DOG BOOKS

**Willie Burns** is selling books, Rainforest Crunch, and pelicans at our meetings. The books, the *Florida's Fabulous* series of nature books and the *Peter Pelican* children's series, are educational and factual with wonderful pictures. They make excellent gifts, as do the marvelous pelicans.

No, we are not selling real birds, but plush *Peter Pelican* toys and caps. The caps are sized for very small children up to four years of age. The *Peter Pelican* books are for children to seven years. They have become favorites of Willie's five-year-old granddaughter.

Rainforest Crunch is a delicious butter crunch candy made of products from the vanishing rain forests. A portion of the producers profits go to helping protect the remaining forests by creating a market for nuts and such that are found there.

All profits from Golden Dog, the name Willie uses for this sales operation in honor of a wonderful Golden Retriever named **Chris**, go to Halifax River Audubon. In the two years of operations Golden Dog has raised over \$500.00 for our chapter.

In beauty may I walk ...  
 On the trail of pollen may I walk,  
 With dew about my feet may I walk,  
 In old age wandering on a trail of beauty,  
 Livingly, may I walk ...  
 In beauty be it finished.

Navaho prayer

## DUNLAWTON BRIDGE FIELD TRIP

*Ray Scory*

Thirty-eight species of birds waited for us at the Dunlawton Bridge on the evening of September 30 and fourteen of us took advantage of their hospitality. We even recruited a young lady of grammar school age who for the first time really observed birds. Nature was her classroom this evening. Through the generous encouragement of our members, she enjoyed a special moment.

Sunday evening was a rare treat of birding under the Dunlawton Bridge. Two Bald Eagles feasted together on one large river fish within fifty feet of our group. Black-throated Blue Warblers and Common Yellowthroats filled their exquisitely tiny bellies right at our feet. Clapper Rails slinked about as American Oystercatchers, Willets and Royal Terns and a Caspian Tern lined up side by side to give us a great comparison identification, and birds by the hundreds flew in to roost for the night.

A howling wind blew during our three-hour visit at the bridge and rain threatened, but the birds were there. As the evening closed, a Nighthawk flashed through a fiery sunset and **Kitty Albee, Kevin Doxstater** and I toasted a final salute to a great evening's party set under a rising silvery moon.

Besides the resident birds of the Dunlawton Bridge, we saw the uncommon Roseate Spoonbills, Bald Eagles, a Peregrine Falcon, Black Skimmers, Common Yellowthroats, Black-and-White Warblers and the Common Nighthawk.

## DISASTER AFFECTS AUDUBON ADVENTURES

By this time of the year our local schools should already have the *Audubon Adventure* kits we supply to them. But that's not true this year.

National Audubon has its headquarters in New York City close to where the Twin Towers were destroyed. Audubon headquarters has been badly disrupted and is attempting to get business back in order. **Glade Koch, HRA** Education Chair, said she has been told the kits may be mailed out by the end of October.

These kits contain a video and newspapers and other fun materials about birds and interesting living creatures used by Fifth Grade classes in Volusia County. Many **HRA** members have donated funds to purchase the kits.

## ANOTHER NEW BIRD IS COMING

*David Hartgrove*

By now, you all know about the "invasion" of this country by Eurasian Collared Doves. First released in the Bahamas in 1972, they were breeding in Homestead, Florida the next year and have been reported as far west as Idaho this past year. They're all over the beach side here in Daytona Beach and the rest of the county too.

Now comes the Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), a bird from the Old World and islands in the Pacific Ocean. When Hurricane Andrew devastated the south end of the state in 1992, a number of these birds escaped from the Miami Metro Zoo. In addition, several aviculturists in the Broward County area began breeding the birds in the early nineties. It appears some of them decided to fly or walk away. The birds resemble their smaller cousins, Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules. They are much larger and have blackish areas at their heel and toe joints.

The new Sibley Guide shows them with stunning blue heads, but many in the Broward County area are a sub-species native to Turkey and southern Asia and have gray heads.

They were first noted in the "wild" (if a retention pond in Pembroke Pines, a city of 137,000 can be called wild) in December, 1996. In May of this year, 3 of the birds were seen in Belle Glade, in western Palm Beach County. The birds appear to be year round breeders and a nest with 5 eggs was photographed in 1999. The birds do not appear to be a threat to native species. Purple Gallinule numbers, in areas where they co-exist with Purple Swamphens, have remained steady so far.

Sometime in the next 5 to 10 years, you may be at Memorial Park in Port Orange or walking around the pond at Ormond Central Park and see one of these birds. Don't be alarmed. It's just nature's way of taking advantage of a good climate and a niche in the web of life here in Florida.

*Information for this piece came from an article by Bill Pranty in "Winging It", the newsletter of the American Birding Association.*

## THE BIG SIT – OCTOBER 14, 2001

*Ray Scory*

THE BIG SIT is like your own personal Bird Festival: a lot of birds, good food, interesting people and, best of all, surprises.

Under the Dunlawton Bridge was my selection for THE BIG SIT. At 5:15 a.m., I drove into the parking lot under the bridge to the hooting of a Great Horned Owl. As my pickup truck rolled to a stop I catapulted from the cab and spent the next hour watching two Great Horned Owls displaying, hooting and flying between the trestles of the bridge. When they finally disappeared at the first sight of light, I took a deep breath and thought, "This is my day. It can't get any better."

The owl show was the big surprise, but the day had additional pleasant surprises to offer, such as: the Northern Harrier speeding south over the Halifax River, friendly people telling me wild bird stories like the Turkey Buzzard they saw at the bridge or the biggest crane they ever saw right here at the bridge. People told me other stories, not of birds, but stories equally as fascinating, about Bike Week motorcycles and wild weather on the river. People of all shapes, looks and sizes came to my little circle wanting to know what THE BIG SIT was, or could they look through my scope?

I helped a heavily tattooed young lady locate nine species for her life list in about fifteen minutes. She was thrilled. Upon departing she said, "I know I don't look like a birder, but I just love looking at them." I replied, "Everyone looks like a birder."

Thirty-four different species of birds were counted that day. For me THE BIG SIT was more than just a survey of birds. It was a personal bird festival celebrating birds, the environment, and interesting people all rolled up in a cloak of interesting Florida weather. To top off the fourteen hours I spent at the circle, **David Hartgrove** and **Kevin Doxstater** shared the ending hours of the experience with me. Now that is the rest of the story.

P.S. This year, for the first time, over 100 circles participated in THE BIG SIT. These included: 6 countries, 27 states in the United States, and 6 Florida circles including Port Orange, St. Augustine and Key West. And now Daytona Beach!

## SPACE COAST BIRDING AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 7-11, 2001

This annual event, Florida's first major birding festival, offers five days of exceptional seminars, workshops, and high quality field trips, providing a unique opportunity for attendees to interact with field biologists. Birders of all levels, wildlife enthusiasts, ornithologists, and naturalists travel from all over North America to support this benchmark tradition. A world class birding competition, which attracts a variety of birders, takes place behind the scenes.

Centered at Brevard Community College in Titusville, the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival reaches into surrounding areas for entertaining educational experiences. Field trips will venture to well known destinations like Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the Canaveral National Seashore. Opportunities exist to explore less known places like Tossahatchee State Reserve, Orlando Wetlands Park, Forever Florida Nature Preserve, Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, and more. Mistnetting and bird banding will take place at one site. Noted Florida wildflower expert, **Dr. Walter Taylor**, will lead a wildflowers field trip and butterfly experts, **Buck and Linda Cooper**, will host the butterfly trips. Two field trips will focus on cultural/historical sites, visiting Timucuan Indian mounds located within Canaveral National Seashore and a Florida pioneer family home, which was built by **Louis Thursby** on top of a large Indian mound in Blue Spring State Park. Access to the Indian River Lagoon, Mosquito Lagoon, St. Johns River, and Econlockhatchee River will be provided via kayaks, airboats, and pontoon boats.

Long time birders know that a pelagic birding trip can be as exciting as birding can get, and Atlantic Ocean pelagic trips in Florida are a new frontier. Pelagic birds are species that are usually not seen close to land, so a boat trip off shore is needed. California's **Debra Shearwater**, founder of Shearwater Journeys and veteran of more than 1400 pelagic trips, will lead trips to the edge of the Gulfstream on Wednesday, November 7 and Saturday, November 10 on board the 65 foot *OCEAN OBSESSION* out of Port Canaveral. Seabirds seen on last year's trips include Northern Gannet, Magnificent Frigatebird, Corey's Shearwater, Pomerine and Parasitic Jaeger, Brown Booby, and Sabine's Gull (nearly unheard of for Florida).

Providing attendees an opportunity to spend time with biologists (who spend most of their time conducting research and little time interacting with the general public) is one of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festivals most attractive features. More than 30 seminars and workshops will be offered, featuring prominent researchers from all over the United States. Some of the subjects include Roseate Spoonbills - **Dr. Jerry Lorenz**, Whooping Cranes - **Steve Nesbitt**, Burrowing Owls - **Pamela Bowen**, Snail Kites and Wood Storks - **Dr. James Rodgers**, Painted Buntings - **Dr. Joe Meyers**, and raptor migration - **Casey Lott**. A very special seminar on Florida's only endemic bird, the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay, will be led by **Dr. Glen Woolfenden**, 30 year veteran of the fight to stave off extinction of this beautiful, intelligent bird; the only jay species in the world to display the human-like characteristic of establishing a family social structure. Fellow researchers **Reed Bowman** and **Dr. Jack Hailman** will join the presentation.

Some of the festival workshop subjects offered include sparrow identification - **Bruce Anderson**, seabird identification - **Debra Shearwater**, raptors of Florida - **Jeff Bouton**, shorebirds - **Lee Snyder** and close-up photography with renowned wildlife photographer - **Milton Heiberg**. Presentations and field trips centering on butterflies, wildflowers, manatees and sea turtles are alternatives for everyone to enjoy. Environmental exhibits entwine with local artists' and nature providers' displays, offering great deals on fine art, binoculars, books, clothing, and other items of interest. Cash prizes will be offered to winners in a wildlife art competition.

Evening activities include sunset hayrides and night spotlighting at the Orlando Wetlands Park, Black Rail (a secretive marsh bird) walks in the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge, and a Saturday Night Social with hayrides, shrimp and bar-b-q, bonfires and live entertainment at the Ace of Hearts Ranch. **Bill, Elsa, and Andy Thompson**, founders of the popular birding magazine *Bird Watchers Digest*, will take you on a musical journey through the world of birds and the slightly unusual minds of the Thompson family. Famed seabird expert **Debra Shearwater** will give an evening keynote presentation entitled "Seabirds and Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay" on Thursday, November 8. Friday's evening presentation, given by celebrated wildlife photographer **Kevin Karlson**, will cover "Florida's Dry Tortugas: a Deceptive Island Paradise". A wildlife photographer for more than 20 years, Kevin has traveled from the wilds of the Alaskan Arctic to the rainforests of Central and South America to photograph birds. His photo collection from the fragile Alaskan Arctic region is one of the best in the world.

**SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE FESTIVAL: WE'RE SORRY.** Due to increased security measures at Kennedy Space Center, the Wild Side of the KSC field trip is cancelled.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** No confirmations will be sent. If a requested Field Trip or workshop is filled, you will be contacted to allow you to make a 2nd choice. Please use only ONE form for registration of each person. The blank Registration Form may be duplicated if necessary. For duplicate forms or additional information go to the web site at [www.nbbd.com/fly](http://www.nbbd.com/fly). NO telephone registrations will be accepted. All registrations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please select a first and second choice for your Field Trips and Workshops. Second choice price should be the same as the first, if possible. Every effort will be exerted to place you in your first choice selection. PLEASE NOTE: Some Field Trips will include a meal. If you are vegetarian, please let us know. PLEASE NOTE: All Field trips will have limited participation and the Festival Steering Committee will adhere to those published numbers. Seminars, Workshops and Field Trip originations will be held at two locations (either at the College or at the Refuge). Location will be given in the Festival Program. IDENTIFICATION/EVENT LIST CARDS will be given to all participants registered for the Festival. Your IDENTIFICATION must be picked up at the Registration Desk at Brevard Community College - Titusville Campus which will be open: November 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; November 8, 9, and 10, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; November 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



# THE PELICAN



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

NOVEMBER 2001

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Ways and Means	Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey	

#### Membership Recruitment and Retention -Open

#### 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		(941) 242-9338

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### HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of its 2001-2002 *The Pelican* Underwriter

**ROBERT COLEMAN, FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 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 next General Meeting will be on November 19, 2001. Board meeting this month is Monday, November 5, 2:00 p.m. City Island Library. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU** - To our October program meeting hostesses Florence Waltman, Barbara Bowden and Julie Knose for the delicious refreshments..

### RAY JARRETT - OCTOBER PROGRAM SPEAKER *Barbara Kieran*

Ray Jarrett, President of the Native Plant Society, started the meeting with a plant auction of a red cedar and a fire bush and gave the proceeds back to the club. The auction put everyone in a nice relaxed mood. He shared with us some good news from the Florida Department of Agriculture. They have released a fly that lays eggs in the queen fire ant that will destroy her. Also he told us about the release of some beetles that destroy the invasive melaleuca tree. Ray explained the value of landscaping with native plants and gave suggestions for enticing wildlife and birds. The slides were beautiful and he was very open to questions.

**WELCOME** - To new members Ms Marguerite V. Ainswort, Tamara Beyazyurek, Joy Dawson, Julie Dziak, Mr. Edward Eisler, Peter Erdman, Charlotte Fenwick, Wynn Hamilton, Eve Hannahs, Robert J. Hanson, Alan Hovey, Stacey Howell, Hoobert Huhta, Joy R. Kluess, Louise E. Lavallee, Shirley Lieberman, Richard F. Lohmann, J. Morency, Carmine Pascale, Olga Pocil, Lisa Rapisardi, E. B. Rundell, Regine Schutt, Joseph C. Sekera, Mr. Bruce Spiller, M. Vaccati, Lois C. White, Byron Whitney, and Robert Winters.