

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 47 - NO. 7

NEWSLETTER OF THE HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JANUARY 2002

AUDUBON CENTERS

President Lois Robinson

What in the world is an Audubon Center? To quote from the workshop I attended at the Audubon Assembly "An Audubon Center is a combination of NATURAL RESOURCES with enough nature to feel like you are in nature, PEOPLE who aid in teaching visitors how to see, appreciate and protect the wonders of the natural world and BUILDINGS that create a sense of permanence and serve as a tool to support the outdoor experience." NATURE, PEOPLE, AND A BUILDING are what it takes. Audubon Centers provide many children and families with a real encounter with the natural world that is often missing in our urban existence.

Audubon Centers are educating a new generation of environmentalists regarding the interdependence of all living things. Some children growing up in their urban enclaves are fearful of every bug, every snake, every wild creature they see until they get acquainted with these creatures in a safe, non-threatening environment. Audubon Centers are also sanctuaries for birds and wildlife. Conservation teachings go on at Audubon Centers, children and adults learn about wetlands, bird friendly yards, forest management and many related subjects. Each Audubon Center is unique to the community where it is located and reflects the habitat and needs of that particular area. Audubon Centers reach out across ethnic, racial, and social barriers to build a new nation of conservationists.

There are six Audubon Centers in Florida and more are envisioned for the future (as well as 1000 around the country). Four of these are located in Central Florida, an easy day's drive from Daytona Beach. When you are out and about, look them up!

1. Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Rd., Winter Haven
2. Audubon Resource Center
Lettuce Lake Park, Tampa
3. Center for Birds of Prey
1101 Audubon Way, Maitland
4. Ridge Audubon Center
200 N. Crooked Lake Dr., Babson Park
5. Blair Audubon Center
375 Sanctuary Road W., Naples
6. Everglades Education Center
444 Brickell Ave, Miami

For more information on our Audubon Centers the web site is www.audubonofflorida.org.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, field trips will leave from the east parking lot of the Court House Annex at City Island
Sunday, January 6

HRA field trip. Dunlawton Bridge Hotspot. Meet at Port Orange Causeway Park, north side, 4:00 p.m.. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone: 788-2630.

Monday, January 7

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9

Timucuan Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hall, 7:00 p.m. Speaker **Linda Landrum**. "Florida Certified Yards and Gardens."

Friday, January 11

HRA field trip. Brevard County Hotspots. Meet at Publix parking lot, south end. Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., 7:00 a.m. **NOTE TIME CHANGE.** Led by **Ray Scory**. Phone: 763-4260. Bring lunch.

Tuesday, January 15

Florida Native Plant Society, Pawpaw Chapter, SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00 p.m. Program is video "New World Climbing Fern."

Wednesday, January 16

S.E. Volusia Audubon, Edgewater Public Library 7:30 p.m. Speaker **Henry Sansing**. "Lake Woodruff NWR."

Saturday, January 19

HRA hosts Audubon of Florida's St. Johns River District Conservation Meeting. Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Chaired by **Roger Van Ghent**.

Monday, January 21

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker **Dr. Ken Meyer** of Avian Research and Conservation Institute. "Swallow-tailed Kites."

Saturday, January 26

HRA field trip. Shiloh Marsh, Merritt Island NWR. Meet at City Island, 8:00a.m. Led by **Willie Burns**. Phone: 253-2150. Bring lunch.

Sunday, February 3

HRA field trip. Paynes Prairie. Meet at Publix parking lot, north end. Granada and Williamson Blvds., 7:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone: 788-2630. Bring lunch.

Monday, February 4

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. 1:30 p.m.

AUDUBON CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER/INDIAN RIVER LAGOON REGION

HRA enthusiastically welcomes **Roger Van Ghent** as our representative to our district conservation region of Audubon of Florida. He was elected by the 14 chapters in the region and has already met with our Board to find out what conservation issues we find most important. He will continue the work started by our outgoing district representatives, **Joe Carroll** and **Carole Adams**.

During the past two years Joe and Carole, along with Audubon of Florida's **Charles Lee** and **Katie Gill**, initiated our district conservation meetings and got the whole idea off to a superlative start. Members from our chapter (**Lois Robinson**, **David Hartgrove**, **Willie Burns**, **Kitty Albee**, and **Fran** and **John Carr**) represented us at these meetings at various times. Some of the things the chapters achieved are:

We were able to organize and have quarterly meetings. More than 80% of our district chapters were represented at each of the meetings. We had meetings at our Water Management District Headquarters, a National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Leu Gardens (courtesy of Orange Audubon), and at our favorite restaurant Dixie Crossroads (courtesy of **Laurilee Thompson**).

We developed a system for voting (one chapter, one vote).

They decided to divide our meetings into two parts: Conservation Committee and Chapter Development and Relations.

We had four speakers attend our meeting from the St. Johns Water River Management District who informed us of their activities including land acquisition, rulemaking, mosquito control, impoundment management planning, pesticide problems at the Lake Apopka Restoration project, and Restoration planning for water quality improvement.

We conceived and passed resolutions on Transportation, Indian River Lagoon Water Quality, Florida Scrub-jay Protection, Land Acquisition, Coastal Resources, and Econlockhatchee River Basin Protection. These were accepted by the Audubon of Florida Board and became part of the Conservation Priorities for the state organization.

We gave chapter leaders as much information as possible about the new dues split and what it would mean to chapters (thanks to **Bernie Yokel** and **Charles Lee**).

We tackled conservation issues within our region which included Julington Creek eagle nest and the Fish and Wildlife Service actions related to development near the nest, designation of Outstanding Florida Waters for Lake Hamilton and Hog Creek, Cocoa Beach Hospital expansion project, Lost Tree Village project, and Frontier

Rivers and Pinhook Swamp Land Acquisition project support.

We recommended chapter leader training and use of the Audubon Academy format for use with the Annual Assembly, and urged chapters to attend the Assembly.

We had attendance at our meeting from critical staff from the Eagle Watch Program, Birds of Prey Center, and Audubon of Florida Chapter Coordinator **Bill Lowrie**

We developed an E-mail list so that chapters can now respond to invitations to attend, and get minutes, agendas and other information by E-mail. Chapters were also made aware of all the ways Audubon of Florida communicates with chapters.

DRY TORTUGAS BECKON...

David Wright, TAS Tortugas 2002 Coordinator

Tropical Audubon Society is offering a trip to this tiny cluster of islands April 10 to 13, 2002. After a champagne ice-breaker aboard the *Yankee Freedom*, we will depart Key West the evening of the 10th for the Tortugas. The morning of the 11th we will awaken at Garden Key, surrounded by thousands of raucous Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies. Well-named Magnificent Frigatebirds by the dozen will criss-cross the sky, as if providing air cover for our expedition. And with a little luck, the island will be swarming with warblers and other migrants grateful to find a spot of land to light upon.

Our trusty boat will allow us to visit other islands in the Tortugas. Loggerhead Key, the largest, is a good place to find migrant land birds. Hospital Key is home to a small breeding colony of Masked Boobies. Buoys and channel markers among the isles attract Brown Boobies. We will make the rounds in search of these strange birds, with a hopeful eye out for their rare cousins, Red-footed Boobies. Our return to Key West is via the Florida current. This trajectory provides good pelagic birding. We expect to find Roseate Tern, Audubon's Shearwater, and other oceanic species on this leg of the trip.

Our guides are all Tortugas veterans and are comfortable helping birders from the level of utter novice to jaded 700-clubbers. We are offering this trip for \$635 which includes meals and lodging on the boat. We expect the trip to fill quickly. For more information, visit tropicalaudubon.org, email tortugas@tropicalaudubon.org or call 305.666.5111.

OIL AND GAS DRILLING RESOLUTION EXPLANATION

Lois Robinson

In answer to a question on the issue of Oil and Gas Drilling in Florida: Audubon of Florida remains opposed to any drilling off the coast of Florida or in such environmentally sensitive areas as the Big Cypress Swamp.

KEN MEYER WILL REPORT ON NORTH AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RAPTOR

Glade Koch

Halifax River Audubon's first program speaker of 2002 will be **Dr. Ken Meyer** who will present a program January 21 on Swallow-tailed Kites. Dr. Meyer is Director of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute at the University of Florida in Gainesville where his research on the Swallow-tailed Kite, a species of special concern, has disclosed remarkable information about these birds. Its beautiful appearance is emphasized by its flight which is surpassed by few other birds in skill and gracefulness.

Do you know the swallow-tails' unique feeding habits? Is it truly colonial? What does the Cuban government seem to think of the kites' future? You may remember that our newsletter touched on Swallow-tailed Kites' migration patterns which were discovered by Dr. Meyer – flights over the Atlantic Ocean, Cuba, to Brazilian wetlands where most of them winter. Now new information and stories of this unique and remarkable bird are in store for us. We know that Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge is a very important staging point for the kites' southward migration flight.

Kite tracking is expensive. Your HRA Board recently voted to support the Institute by a \$100 contribution with the idea that our members individually might want to follow suit and support swallow-tail research if they learned more about the vital information gathered by Dr. Meyer's group.

This unique bird is easy to identify wherever and whenever seen, even at a distance. Its long forked tail, white head and underparts, and black back, wings and tail will distinguish it at once as a Swallow-tailed Kite.

We hope YOU have seen a Swallow-tailed Kite in our area and would like to look for them this March through August. Your completed observation report forms (which will be available at the meeting) can help conserve the Swallow-tailed Kite, "North America's most beautiful raptor."

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

It would be nearly impossible to underestimate the impact **Senator James Jeffords** of Vermont had on the course of American politics when he changed his party affiliation and gave control of the Senate to the Democrats. Prior to that act, the environmental health of this country was about to be blasted back into the 1940's. Not that the Democrats are in a position to enact the kind of progressive legislation so desperately needed in this area. Some of them wouldn't do that even if they could. But at least there aren't any drill rigs headed into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ... yet. Stay tuned. We'll see what happens and how we can affect the out-come.

There have been reports on the Internet lately about the decline of Eastern Towhees. In the older editions of all the field guides, the birds are called Rufous-sided Towhees. Yet another example of the American Ornithological Union changing the name of a bird. Consistent data from Christmas Bird Counts, Migratory Counts and various local nesting surveys confirm that the species is in decline. As is often the case, habitat loss is the suspected culprit. We can't keep turning palmetto and scrub lands into residential developments and expect to maintain species diversity. A friend asked me the other day, "Are there any birds around locally besides Blue Jays?" Obviously, this guy's not a birder but he had a valid point.

As if there weren't enough trouble in the Indian River Lagoon already, there's a new and ravenous jellyfish trying to make the place its home. The IRL is the most diverse estuary in North America and the Australian spotted jellyfish (*Phyllorhiza punctata*) could wreak major damage to the native fish populations if it establishes itself in the lagoon. The species was first documented in the Caribbean around 30 years ago. It is believed to have been transported to this hemisphere in the ballast water of ships coming through the Panama Canal. The animals grow to the size of a basketball. Imagine how much fish eggs, larvae and other zoöplankton it requires to maintain that size. Now imagine the damage millions of these invaders could do. At this point, there's no conclusive proof that they have established a major population presence. Researchers are planning surveys of the lagoon next summer when populations are expected to peak.

Finally, a little bird information. The next time you're out listening for a particular call, be sure you aren't fooled by a mimic you may not have thought of: the White-eyed Vireo. They've been documented doing passable imitations of Gray Catbirds, Carolina Wrens, Summer Tanagers and many others.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Carr, Membership Secretary

Membership renewals must be made using National Audubon's renewal forms. If you send renewals to me, there is a delay in renewal because I must type an envelope, add a stamp, and mail it to National.

Please renew before your expiration date so that National Audubon (and then we) won't purge you from their list. This causes us extra work reentering your data into our files.

National Audubon has authorized a new membership category – Chapter Membership Only – for those who desire to be members of a chapter but not National or Audubon of Florida. The HRA Board will consider this new option at the January Board meeting.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE MEETS IN JANUARY

David Hartgrove Conservation Chair

We don't know what our legislators will come up with this session, but we want to be prepared. Please preserve this list so you can contact your legislators quickly to let them know whether you approve or disapprove of what they are doing.

Our Legislators in Washington.

Senator Bob Graham:

524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ph.202-224-3041 Fax: 202-224-2237
e-mail: bob_graham@graham.senate.gov
Agricultural/environmental staff person: **Kasey**

Gillette

Ph.202-224-3041
e-mail: kasey_gillette@graham.senate.gov

Senator Bill Nelson:

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0950
Ph.202-224-5274 Fax: 202-228-2183 or 407-872-7165
e-mail: bill_nelson@billnelson.senate.gov
Agricultural/environmental staff person: **Bridgette**

Walsh

Ph.202-224-5274
e-mail: bridgette_walsh@billnelson.senate.gov

Congresswoman Corrine Brown

2444 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Ph.202-225-0123 Fax:202-225-2256
Legislative staff asst. **Nick Martinelli**
e-mail: nick.martinelli@mail.house.gov

Congressman Ander Crenshaw

510 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Ph.202-225-2501 Fax: 202-225-2504
e-mail (via web site) www.house.gov/crenshaw

Congressman John Mica

2445 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-0907
Ph.202-225-4035 Fax: 202-226-0821 local: 386-756-9798
e-mail: john.mica@mail.house.gov

Our Legislators in Tallahassee

Governor Jeb Bush

PL 05, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0001
Ph.850-488-2272 Fax: 850-487-0801
e-mail: (via web site) http://www.flgov.com

Senator Jim King

Room 300, Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1100
Ph.850-487-5030 Fax: 904-861-9761 (Jacksonville Office)
e-mail: king.james.web@leg.state.fl.us

Senator Daniel Webster

Room 316 Senate Office Bldg.

404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1100
Ph.850-487-5047 Fax: 407-297-2064 (Winter Garden office)
e-mail: drawdy.ann.s12@leg.state.fl.us

Senator Locke Burt

Room 420 Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1100
Ph.850-487-5033 (local) 386-673-7299
e-mail: burt.locke.web@leg.state.fl.us

Representative Suzanne M. Kosmas

Room 316 C, The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1300
Ph.850-488-6653 (local) 386-427-4466 Fax: 386-424-2367
e-mail: kosmas.suzanne@leg.state.fl.us

Representative Evelyn Lynn

Room 221 C The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1300
Ph.850-488-9873 (local) 386-676-4000 Fax: 386-676-4002
e-mail: lynn.evelyn@leg.state.fl.us

Representative Doug Wiles

Room 316 C The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1300
Ph.850-488-2977 (local) 800-755-4197 Fax: 904-823-4662
e-mail: wiles.doug@leg.state.fl.us

A Note About Contacting These Folks

Don't waste your time with long, drawn out explanations in writing on why you feel the way you do about an issue. These folks get thousands of letters each day and they don't bother reading past the point where they can determine your position on a given issue. Keep your letter brief and to the point. The same goes for phone calls. Phone calls are logged and categorized as to the caller's position on a given issue. Keeping a busy staffer on the phone too long can have less than desired consequences.

With e-mail, be sure to include something in the subject line relative to your position on an issue. For example: "Please vote Yes (or No) on HB (???)", whatever the bill may be. Again, on a given issue, a Congressman's office may get eight to ten thousand e-mails a day. One with a brief, to the point message gets seen. Others, that aren't so easily categorized, may get "lost".

Be polite and courteous, even if you think the staffer you're talking to works for a weasel. Remember what Lincoln said, "A drop of honey is worth a gallon of gall."

It isn't always easy but we can make a difference. Just recently, a very damaging amendment to the current agriculture bill was defeated because the Senators' offices were flooded with calls, faxes and e-mails. This was on an issue that came up so suddenly that there wasn't time to consider writing a letter. Sometimes things move agonizingly slow. Some move far too fast. We just have to help where we can.

MERRITT ISLAND FIELD TRIPS REPORT

John Carr

We had low attendance for our two field trips, but the birds showed up. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge was closed to visitors except for the portion north of the checkpoint near Haulover Canal, so our original trip to Black Point Drive was deleted and other areas of birding interest substituted.

The Friday, December 7 trip to the Port Orange Causeway Park, Spruce Creek County Park, the South Jetty at Ponce Inlet, Riverbreeze Park, Haulover Canal, and then to the Titusville Blue Heron Waste Water Treatment Plant, yielded 67 species. We got very close to Purple Sandpipers at the jetty and very good looks at Piping Plovers on the beach.

On our Saturday, December 8 trip we went to the same places and saw 87 species. Try as we did on both trips, Florida Scrub-Jays were not to be found. We saw an American Bittern fly across the wetlands and then disappear completely into the vegetation! Roseate Spoonbills put on a great show. Individual birds were scant, but we were rewarded by the large number of species seen.

Birders were Meret Wilson, Lois Pauchey, Alma Moore, Kevin DeWall, John Roessler and me.

MERRITT ISLAND REPORT

Willie Burns

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Black Point Trail may be open the first two weeks in January, the last day of March and the first day of April, and several weeks in May. This is contingent on the launch schedule from NASA and may change. Call the Refuge (321-861-0667) to be sure before you head down for birding.

If you go to Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana) for birding, here are some helpful hints.

Many pelagic birds, along with migrants, are moving through now. The walkover at Parking Lot #2 is the highest, and being right on the edge of the beach presents the best way to see out over the waves. Many birds fly very low, often in the troughs between the crests. Higher allows one to see into these "hollows."

While Turtle Mound is higher it is farther from the surf. While one can see all around and out over the sedges, waterways, and marshes it is much harder if not impossible to see passing birds over the sea. Strong easterly winds will produce more pelagics than our usual westerly breezes.

On a recent trip we got Pomarine Jaegers, American Widgeon, Blue Winged and also Green Winged Teal, Pintails, and several flights of Scaup over and on the ocean. On the beach at the north end of the park near Parking Lot #1 were many Sandwich Terns, mixed with a few Royals and Forster's Terns and many Ringbilled and

Laughing Gulls. There is a cluster of birds at this spot every day.

There are a few Northern Gannets out over the ocean along with the normal population of Brown Pelicans. Migrants have increased the numbers of Osprey and Kingfishers. Common Loons are now here in sparse numbers that will increase in December.

Parking Lot #3 has a nice half mile long path through the hardwood hammock to the Lagoon. You may, if lucky, see the elusive Cuckoo near the west end, as several of us have. Bald Eagles are seen nearly every day, as are the hundreds of White Pelicans that winter here.

Come down and enjoy the bird life and barrier beach and hammock ecosystems. This is one of the few places where you can.

WHOOPIING CRANES CALL FLORIDA HOME

Laurie MacDonald - Defenders of Wildlife

It was a wonderful sight, I felt privileged to be there. The drive up from St. Petersburg to Crystal River had been quite foggy, and we wondered if this final leg of the journey would again be delayed; however, at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge headquarters "the coast was clear."

The morning was beautiful, the winds and water tranquil, with a golden hue over the bay and the marsh islands. We could hear the approach of the Cessna that led the flight, it buzzed over, then all of a sudden there they were -- three, rather fragile looking, white-winged ultralights leading the six young Whooping Cranes in formation. We all stood quietly transfixed. The whooping cranes and water scape with ultralights suspended above was a stunning and somewhat surrealistic image. It was over so quickly I regretted that I had spent much of the time looking at the whoopers from behind a camera lens rather than simply beholding the moment. The flight continued as the cranes were led on to a holding area in a more remote section of the refuge where about 2,400 acres had undergone a rejuvenating prescribed burn and a protective temporary enclosure had been erected. The Chassahowitzka refuge had been chosen in part because of the inaccessibility of this area.

The Cessna landed about 20 minutes after the whoopers touched down, followed by the three ultralights that alighted after taking a victory lap above the field.

I found it especially interesting to learn that the lead bird would occasionally challenge the ultralight for the dominant position, a dangerous place for the crane because it could get entangled in the wires of the plane. Over the 1,200 miles and 46 days, including 24 "no-fly" days, they encountered rain, hail, snow, fog, heavy winds, high temperatures and one bird that just wouldn't put up with it all and was thus transported each day in a box in the support van. (Actually, it seems he just didn't like planes, which is perfectly understandable.)

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

JANUARY 2002

Names & Numbers

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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	Gina Holt	253-3466
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey	
Membership Recruitment and Retention	Joan and James Anderson	761-2888

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
www.halifaxriveras.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Willie Burns	wwillie@juno.com
Fran Carr	franniep@juno.com
John Carr	jcarr14@juno.com
Kevin DeWall	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	birdman9@earthlink.net
Gina Holt	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Barbara Kieran	bkieran@ATT.net
Glade Koch	clecras@aol.com
Jean Lesh	FlyinSqr1@aol.com
Pat Mihalic	WldkingJM@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	blooheron@earthlink.net
Lois Robinson	msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	jwill39301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	Mileybug@aol.com

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
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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 January 21, 2002. Board meeting this month is Monday, January 7, 1:30 p.m. Dickerson Heritage Library on 411 S. Keech Street. **Note new location.** All are welcome.

THANK YOU - To our December program meeting hosts - all of us! It was a magnificent feast. In addition we enjoyed the Silent Auction that made a good bit of money for our chapter. Special thanks to member **Danny Ariola** who told about his job at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania.

MARY KELLER sends a special thanks to everybody who has supplied her with items this year to support the sick and injured birds that she rehabilitates.

TADUS BIRUTIS was at our December Holiday programs and showed slides of the Maritime Provinces of Canada where he will guide a select group of birders in June. The pictures were wonderful and we all wanted to sure to sign up to get one of the coveted 15 slots.

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VOL. 47 - NO. 8

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FEBRUARY 2002

BIRDS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

President Lois Robinson

One of the top organization-wide National Audubon priorities has been and still is to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from oil drilling. This has been a commitment for more than 25 years on Audubon's part. It is particularly urgent right now as the leaders in the Senate have promised to bring the bill up for a vote in early 2002.

The website www.protectthearctic.com has instant up-dates on what is happening and numerous linking sites. There are myths circulating by pro-drilling senators and their constituents that drilling in the ANWR will reduce our reliance on Middle Eastern oil. It will not. At best, drilling in the Arctic will give us about six months supply of oil. Less than twenty-five percent of the oil we use comes from the Middle East. The rest comes from Canada, Mexico, Venezuela and the U.S. Most of this you already know. I just want to remind you to be alert when this bill comes up again in the Senate.

Besides the beautiful issue in the Audubon magazine on the ANWR, Audubon has aired a television commercial, held advocacy workshops, communicated with chapters and activists across the country. Through the Audubon Washington Policy Office in Washington D.C. they are getting the word out to all of us. **John Flicker**, President of National Audubon, sent a letter to all chapter leaders as to his deep commitment to leading this fight.

How would birds be affected if oil development is allowed in the Arctic Refuge? Millions of birds nest, migrate through, or spend the winter there. There would be habitat loss and habitat fragmentation, human activities (including helicopter traffic) near nesting areas. Oil fields attract predators, especially foxes and ravens, who wreak havoc on nestlings. An oil spill is always a present danger no matter how careful the oil company might be.

I know I am preaching to the choir but be alert to any actions on this subject going on in congress and let our Florida Senators, **Graham** and **Nelson** know how you stand. Thank you!

CHANGES IN LAKE WOODRUFF NWR STAFF

Henry Sansing has left to become Refuge Manager at Sequoyah NWR in Oklahoma. He improved the Refuge a great deal during his four years here. We will miss him.

New staff members are **Martin White**, the Refuge's first time Refuge Law Enforcement Official, and **Ben Burnett**, as a Seasonal Forestry Technician. Welcome!

DAYTONA BEACH NOTED BIRDWATCHING CENTER

Chamber of Commerce – Take Note

The February 2002 issue of *Birders World* has an article by renowned photographer **Arthur Morris** titled "3 Little-known Florida Hotspots" telling about untapped, year-round birding that's almost too good to be true. He mentions a few already recognized great birding locations: Anhinga Trail in Everglades National Park; Ft. DeSoto Park near Tampa; Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge; and Sanibel Island.

Then he tells about three unrecognized hotspots: St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, and Wakodahatchee Wetlands. But the best part is that the first two of these, along with Merritt Island, are within a short drive from Daytona Beach, making Daytona Beach a central point for visiting birders. We locals know about additional spectacular hotspots in Volusia County that we visit all the time, such as the Volusia County Landfill for Bald Eagles and seabirds, Lyonia Preserve for Florida Scrub-Jays, and the easily accessible Port Orange Bridge for all kinds of birds.

Spread the word - Daytona Beach is a birders haven!

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Lois Robinson

Here's your chance to be a citizen scientist and help save our birds and other wildlife. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Between the dates of February 15-18 count all the birds you see (both species and numbers) in your yard, your neighborhood, driving to work, visiting a park, etc. Be careful not to count the same birds twice. Then log on to www.birdsource.org and follow the instructions. Be sure to enter your zip code so the location of birds will be more accurate. If you do not have a computer call your count in to **Lois Robinson**, **Glade Koch**, **John Carr** or any other Board member (their phone numbers are on the back of The Pelican).

It's fun, it's easy, and it takes little time.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Among other definitions, Webster's defines a carpetbagger as "any wandering or irresponsible politician, promoter, etc." Florida has had to deal with carpetbaggers and scalawags for a long time. Not all are politicians. Our state legislature some years ago enacted certain laws regarding property that have made the state a magnet for all kinds of scoundrels, felons and assorted unsavory characters. Our friends to the north, in Flagler County, have been dealing with just such a group in the person of a corporation bent on bulldozing and developing as much of northeast Florida as they can, even if they don't have the permits.

Our story is a classic tale of greed, intrigue, sloth, heroism and, for the time being, a happy ending. Imagine an enterprising little weasel from Boston who's done time in the federal prison at Allenwood for bank fraud committed during the savings and loan scandals. Immediately upon his release, he skips off to Florida, buys a 3.6 million dollar mansion in Boca Raton, and claims poverty when asked to repay the money defrauded in Boston.

Along with him came his girl friend, who suddenly switched careers from health club instructor and struggling ventriloquist to real estate mogul. The question is (and this becomes very important later in our tale), who's really running the show? While in prison, the self-anointed "Condo King" made or received 10,000 phone calls in a ten-month period. As prison phone calls are routinely taped, he was heard to refer to the place as "Allenwood University" and "better than Harvard." So much for the theory of rehabilitation. Meanwhile, back to the moll, or real estate mogul, or whatever she is. Her name has appeared on more title transfers of land than anyone in Flagler County can remember. This corporation controls any number of others. Lots and buildings are sold back and forth between one another in a dizzying assortment of transactions that create a paper trail designed to look good to potential investors.

Some of these transactions involve something called Surf Club II. In a classic case of "let's sell it to 'em before anything's there", this bunch acquired some of the older ITT holdings just north of the Hammock. This is prime scrub habitat with, you guessed it, Florida Scrub-Jays. Having already sold lots on which to build their customers' dream homes, the fact that they had no permits was only a minor annoyance to these clowns. They waited until 4th of July weekend, 2000 and then sent in the bulldozers. By the time anyone could find a state or county official to object to, the clearing would be done and construction could begin. They may be called on the carpet, even forced to eventually pay some minor fine, but by then the profits would be rolling in.

Enter our heroine. **Gerri Peevers** and the good folks

in Flagler Audubon knew nothing of the sleazy past of the would-be defilers of this lovely piece of Florida. It's conceivable that even the banker in Miami who just loaned this convicted bank fraud merchant 33 million dollars didn't know. The Audubon folks had been seeing the survey stakes going in and tried their best to interest U.S. Fish and Wildlife, FFW&CC, even Flagler County, in the plight of this endangered habitat and its federally listed "Threatened" species. They were all too busy apparently. So when the fateful 4th dawned and the dozers cranked up, the only thing to do to stop the madness was to stand between the blade of that big dozer and those lovely trees. And that's exactly what Ms. Peevers did.

Later, when the man from the state finally showed up and asked to see the permits, the foul plan was uncovered. Eventually, so was the sordid past of this corporation and its officers. Since there's so much confusion as to who actually controls the corporation, the pending mitigation plan that ITT had negotiated won't be issued. That's just as well. It did little or nothing to protect the Scrub Jays. The feds are still trying to get restitution from the supposedly insolvent "Condo King" for his crimes in Boston. Meanwhile he and his henchmen are down here living the high life as real estate hucksters. They just hadn't counted on the tenacity of the folks in Flagler Audubon.

JANUARY 7, 2002 BOARD MEETING

1. Two motions passed: a.) Halifax River Audubon will have a Chapter Only Member category and b.) We will charge \$20 for this membership (\$15 for Seniors and Students). This will be explained in the March *The Pelican*.
2. We are seeking an ECHO grant to build a bird viewing platform under the Dunlawton Bridge. This is still in the works.
3. *Audubon Adventure* packets have arrived and are being distributed.
4. The Board discussed provision for better care of injured birds found on the beach. **Pat Mihalic and Gina Holt** are looking into this.
5. We will host Saturday, February 2nd Regional Audubon Meeting at Seabreeze Church, 10 till 3.
6. Friends of Wild Birds Committee is meeting this month with three municipalities to set up bird friendly areas.
7. We are opening dialog with Rangers at Tomoka Geobasin Park to establish an Audubon Refuge Keeper (ARK) program (more later).
8. We will have a booth at the Manatee Festival at Valentine Park in Orange City, January 26 and 27.
9. **John Carr and Glade Koch** will judge at the Regional Tomoka Science and Engineering Fair January 26.

Halifax River Audubon Christmas Bird Count						
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Bird
2	2	0	2	1	1	Loon, Common
27	20	19	37	39	21	Grebe, Pied-billed
27	35	33	27	99	82	Gannet, Northern
0	15	0	0	3	1	Pelican, American White
70	111	133	92	100	73	Pelican, Brown
187	654	106	202	190	98	Cormorant, Double-crested
9	21	21	14	21	27	Anhinga
0	0	0	1	0	0	Bittern, American
22	16	7	23	26	28	Heron, Great Blue
31	13	32	82	44	32	Egret, Great
22	38	24	7	7	14	Egret, Snowy
6	12	12	12	12	9	Heron, Little Blue
4	3	1	1	1	3	Heron, Tricolored
1	0	0	0	0	0	Egret, Reddish
17	6	71	90	11	84	Egret, Cattle
2	3	2	5	1	1	Heron, Green
35	190	251	135	122	69	Ibis, White
0	1	0	0	0	0	Ibis, Glossy
0	0	0	0	1	0	Spoonbill, Roseate
30	12	10	12	68	38	Stork, Wood
2	0	0	0	0	1	Goose, Canada
1	0	5	0	6	2	Duck, Wood
0	0	0	0	8	0	Wigeon, American
25	11	59	20	18	38	Mallard
0	2	0	0	0	15	Teal, Blue-winged
0	0	0	0	5	0	Teal, Green-winged
4	79	3	2	5	0	Duck, Ring-necked
6	0	0	0	0	0	Scaup, Greater
0	25	0	0	0	17	Scaup, Lesser
0	0	1	7	0	0	Bufflehead
0	0	6	0	107	0	Merganser, Hooded
10	9	11	5	0	5	Merganser, Red-breasted
0	0	1	1	1	0	Duck, Ruddy
-	-	-	-	-	15	Duck, Muscovy
0	0	0	0	0	50	Duck species
21	30	16	36	69	92	Vulture, Black
128	127	77	90	254	265	Vulture, Turkey
19	7	36	8	12	26	Osprey
3	10	1	3	8	9	Eagle, Bald
0	1	1	0	1	0	Harrier, Northern
2	1	0	2	1	1	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
0	2	1	2	4	2	Hawk, Cooper's
12	25	17	28	17	21	Hawk, Red-shouldered
3	4	3	14	9	21	Hawk, Red-tailed
17	21	33	33	31	45	Kestrel, American
0	1	0	0	0	0	Merlin
0	1	0	0	1	1	Peregrine
0	0	0	1	0	0	Hawk species
15	23	11	20	73	50	Turkey, Wild
0	0	1	0	0	0	Bobwhite

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Bird
0	1	0	0	0	0	Rail, Clapper
0	0	0	1	0	0	Sora
0	0	0	0	0	1	Gallinule, Purple
45	9	16	10	12	14	Moorhen, Common
67	90	95	219	101	44	Coot, American
0	0	0	2	0	0	Crane, Sandhill
28	50	27	29	69	31	Plover, Black-bellied
28	102	35	72	153	104	Killdeer
1	1	0	1	0	0	Oystercatcher, American
0	0	0	0	0	2	Yellowlegs, Greater
0	1	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Solitary
11	6	6	12	0	46	Willet
1	1	0	2	0	2	Sandpiper, Spotted
97	60	168	81	89	187	Turnstone, Ruddy
170	7	11	11	0	316	Knot, Red
175	137	411	200	138	430	Sanderling
0	0	0	3	0	36	Dunlin
0	0	0	0	0	16	Sandpiper species
0	0	0	11	0	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed
0	0	0	5	0	74	Snipe, Common
0	0	0	0	0	0	Jaeger species
595	1912	2276	231	1363	1382	Gull, Laughing
1849	1507	2121	1303	3954	370	Gull, Ring-billed
26	0	5	14	7	20	Gull, Herring
0	0	0	0	1	0	Gull, Lesser Black-backed
1	1	6	3	3	3	Gull, Great Black-backed
0	0	0	0	0	75	Gull species
2	1	0	8	2	3	Term, Caspian
13	59	30	121	20	161	Term, Royal
0	0	2	24	0	24	Term, Sandwich
3	3	1	0	0	0	Term, Common
4	31	11	7	24	8	Term, Forster's
0	12	0	0	0	1	Term, species
0	0	0	0	202	0	Skimmer, Black
97	330	335	595	518	757	Dove, Rock
3	36	58	81	14	109	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
365	313	586	284	135	294	Dove, Mourning
4	3	2	3	17	0	Ground-Dove, Common
0	1	0	0	0	1	Owl, Barn
1	9	11	9	1	4	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	3	1	1	3	1	Owl, Great Horned
5	7	6	7	5	4	Owl, Barred
20	20	12	12	19	29	Kingfisher, Belted
2	0	1	0	0	4	Woodpecker, Red-headed
54	28	24	46	34	49	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
2	7	1	3	1	2	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
6	6	5	16	8	17	Woodpecker, Downy
0	0	0	1	0	2	Woodpecker, Hairy
2	1	6	1	1	6	Flicker, Northern
20	10	7	10	9	15	Woodpecker, Piliated
4	8	19	19	31	29	Phoebe, Eastern
2306	305	10	33	0	180	Swallow, Tree

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Bird
0	0	0	0	0	2	Swallow, Northern Rough-winged
42	23	7	40	15	28	Jay, Blue
44	35	32	73	62	56	Crow, American
74	143	29	312	36	184	Crow, Fish
0	0	19	127	45	67	Crow, species
0	2	0	1	2	2	Chickadee, Carolina
13	5	3	15	14	3	Titmouse, Tufted
5	0	20	15	22	6	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
26	20	12	35	15	20	Wren, Carolina
2	0	4	19	17	3	Wren, House
0	0	0	0	3	0	Wren, Winter
0	0	0	0	0	0	Wren, Sedge
0	0	0	0	0	0	Wren, Marsh
5	1	7	44	38	32	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
3	1	0	8	5	13	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
20	26	32	4	16	10	Bluebird, Eastern
0	1	3	4	2	0	Thrush, Hermit
1146	1643	266	258	7221	755	Robin, American
30	13	8	22	9	25	Catbird, Gray
99	57	85	63	62	79	Mockingbird, Northern
2	0	0	0	0	0	Thrasher, Brown
0	179	4	0	0	0	Pipit
441	17	2	6	204	0	Waxwing, Cedar
12	23	32	26	27	45	Shrike, Loggerhead
266	561	592	773	92	490	Starling, European
9	5	1	4	13	2	Vireo, White-eyed
1	0	0	8	1	1	Vireo, Blue-headed
0	0	0	0	2	0	Warbler, Orange-crowned
0	0	0	0	0	0	Parula, Northern
0	0	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Yellow
929	1314	385	1177	1406	728	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
0	1	0	1	1	3	Warbler, Yellow-throated
47	7	86	54	27	7	Warbler, Pine
0	0	0	0	0	2	Warbler, Prairie
10	7	67	39	45	73	Warbler, Palm
0	0	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Blackpoll
1	0	0	0	2	2	Warbler, Black-and-white
0	0	0	0	0	0	Ovenbird
1	0	11	11	18	5	Yellowthroat, Common
37	30	18	31	30	33	Cardinal, Northern
2	2	0	10	8	1	Towhee, Eastern
22	77	56	2	49	0	Sparrow, Chipping
0	2	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Field
0	0	0	0	6	0	Sparrow, Vesper
0	1	2	15	23	0	Sparrow, Savannah
0	0	0	2	0	2	Sparrow, Song
0	0	4	0	1	0	Sparrow, Swamp
42	57	258	128	177	147	Blackbird, Red-winged
0	6	1	0	0	6	Meadowlark, Eastern
77	152	297	347	127	230	Grackle, Boat-tailed

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Bird
119	88	244	51	209	84	Grackle, Common
0	0	64	100	250	35	Cowbird, Brown-headed
0	0	0	1	0	0	Blackbird species
1	1	21	6	3	1	Goldfinch, American
6	24	0	4	10	81	Sparrow, House

Summary of Christmas Counts

Date	1-4-97	1-3-98	1-2-99	12-30-99	12-30-00	12-29-01
Total Species	97	105	98	116	109	113
Total Individuals	10,300	10,977	8,984	8,358	18,629	9374
Observers	26	15	16	15	29	23
# Parties	5-8	5	4 +1 at feeder	4	---	---
Time	4:00am-5:30pm	2:15am-5:45pm	2:30am-5:45pm	3:00am-6:00pm	---	2:00am-5:30pm
Owling Hrs.	3.75	6.75	7.75	5.75	5.5	---
Owling Mi.	41	90	88	105	76	---
Foot Hrs.	19	6	12	---	17	---
Foot Mi.	23	4	2.5	3	2.75	10
Car Hrs.	22.5	42.25	27.5	40.5	22	---
Car Mi.	294	315	279.5	226	293	464
Temp	58-76°	52-74°	56-82°	37-65°	31-50°	---
Wind	SW 15	NW 12	SE 8-22	NW 5-10	NW 10-15	---
Water	Open	Open	Open	---	---	---
AM	Partly cloudy, foggy	Partly cloudy	Cloudy	---	---	---
PM	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	---	---	---

David Hartgrove Conservation Chair of Halifax Fiver Audubon reports:

Persons doing 2001 count: **Kitty Albee, Denny Ariola, Tadas Birutis, Barbara Bowden, Rob Bowden, Willie Burns, John Carr, Ben Cohen, Kevin DeWall, Kevin Doxstater, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Veronica Merenda, J.J. O'Malley, Lois Pauchey, Gerri Peevers, Jan Petito, Shirley Putnam, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, Lois Robinson, Ann Woodruff, and Jeri Wylie.**

On July 26, 2001, the Records Committee of the Florida Ornithological Society voted to list Muscovy Duck as an officially countable species in the state of Florida. Of course, this only recognizes what most of us believed already. Though the ducks were an introduced species that escaped many years ago from poultry breeders, they're here to stay and breeding everywhere. The latest escapee to be observed was a hybrid pheasant photographed in Miami earlier this month. There are at least 125 exotic species listed as having been seen in the wild in the Miami area. Who knows how far or how fast they'll spread? Most are parrots or other members of the Psittacidae family.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE PROGRAM

Glade Koch

Over 100 enthusiastic supporters of the kite and the Avian Research Conservation Institute attended **Dr. Ken Meyer's** talk for our January program, "A Year In the Life of a Swallow-tailed Kite."

We were treated to one and a half hours of fascinating slides and stories about the 10,000-mile trans-equatorial round trip that the kites make each year from the U.S. southeast to Brazil and Paraguay and back. Dr. Meyer had tracked the birds with transmitters and followed their flight path from Florida to Cuba to Belize, down Central America, then across the lowest, shortest gap in the Andes to their winter homes. There they mix with southern Swallow-tails that are just starting their breeding season.

CALENDAR

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

Saturday, February 2

HRA hosts Audubon of Florida's St. Johns River District Conservation Meeting. Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Chaired by **Roger Van Ghent**.

Sunday, February 3

HRA field trip. Paynes Prairie. Meet at Publix parking lot, north end. Granada and Williamson Blvds., 7:00 a.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone: 788-2630. Bring lunch.

Monday, February 4

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 6

Timucuan Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00 p.m. **Michael O'Neill, J.D., Ph.D.**, President of Volusia County Sister Cities. "Environmental Economics & The World Trade Organization."

Tuesday, February 12

Garden Club of Halifax Country. Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1040 Museum Blvd., Daytona Beach. 10:15 a.m. **Dr. Stuart Strahl**. "Restoration of the Everglades and the Future of Florida's Conservation"

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 15-18

Great Backyard Bird Count. See article in this issue.

Monday, February 18

HRA Program Meeting. **Louise Chapman**, "Rose Bay Restoration."

Tuesday, February 19

Florida Native Plant Society, Pawpaw Chapter, 7:00-9:00 p.m., SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. **Ed Halman**, Coontie/Cycad and fern expert. Bring samples for identification.

Saturday, February 23

HRA field trip. Titusville/Orlando Wetlands. Meet at City Island, 1:00 p.m. Led by **Glade Koch**. Phone: 253-8438. Guest leader is **Bob Wheeler** of Orange Audubon Society.

Saturday, February 23

Orlando Wetlands Park's Fourth Annual Festival. Natural history programs include bird walks led by event co-sponsor Orange County Audubon, native plant identification walks, and wilderness hikes. Wetlands tours by bus will travel on the wide berms in this 1650-acre oasis. Free. For more information, visit www.nbbd.com/festivals/OrlandoWetlands/index.html or call the Orlando Wetlands Park at (407) 568-1706 or (407) 246-2213.

Sunday, March 3

HRA field trip. Dunlawton Bridge Hotspot. Meet at Port Orange Causeway Park, north side, 4:00 p.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone 788-2630.

Monday, March 4

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6

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

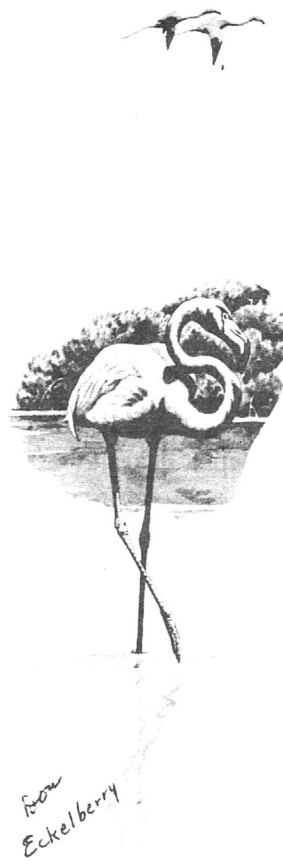
GREATER FLAMINGO

*From BirdWatcher,
Nov/Dec 2001*

The publication of the National Geographic Bird Watcher Society notes that DNA research indicates that the Greater Flamingo is related to the grebe family.

Until now, birds, and most other life-forms, were classified according to similar morphological, or physical, characteristics. But DNA is revealing closer relationships than similar physical characteristics would have indicated, says the publication.

So we can probably look forward to our field guides moving the writeup of the Flamingo away from the storks and closer to the grebe.



*from
Eckelberry*



"RARE" BIRD ALERT

Kitty Albee and Willie Burns

On Saturday December 23rd we saw a rare and wonderful species of duck in the small retention pond north of WalMart on Beville Road (just west of Nova).

As we were heading east, Kitty exclaimed, "There's a duck! No, two, no, four! They have small, grayish bodies with black heads, all close together."

Being the driver, and interested in birds, and also curious, Willie made a few loops amidst the busy Holiday traffic. Eventually we were able to pass slowly by the pond in a break between shoppers, heading east once again.

And there they were! All four, in a rectangular pattern, nearly motionless... "Never mind," said Kitty, in a bothered tone. "It is a shopping cart, upside down in the water..."

Then we laughed uproariously. All of us have seen the infamous "leaf birds," or pine cone Kestrels, even bottle Otters on the canals. Stick Whippoorwills. And the wonderful tire Gator, lurking among the reeds. The Squirrel's nest Owl. **John Carr** has told us about spotting a rare coconut Burrowing Owl. The list of annoying non-birds is endless. Let *The Pelican* editor know about your strange bird sightings and let's compose a chapter list of these wonders.

Well, to add another to your life list, drive past the retention pond and take a quick look. The little ducks are still there, spinning their wheels merrily. They are at their best at dusk, while driving past quickly so one cannot get a good look.

SUNSET AT PORT ORANGE CAUSEWAY PARK

David Hartgrove

On Sunday afternoon, January 6th, 14 people met at the Port Orange Causeway Park under the bridge to see what kind of birds we could find. These late afternoon bird walks are something new we're trying for the first time this year. American Oystercatchers were one of the first birds we saw, in addition to the expected Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls. One of the Laughing Gulls nearby had some sort of green plastic line tangled in his feathers. We tried to catch him to take him to **Dee Ann Snyder**, bird rehabilitator. Unfortunately, he was still able to fly, so he eluded our efforts.

We walked over to the westernmost boat ramp to see how many Yellow-crowned Night Herons were tucked into the mangroves near there. I believe the final tally was 7. Then came the real treat, a Peregrine Falcon soaring high above the island north of the bridge. He was soon joined by 2 adult Bald Eagles. We searched the large flock of birds on the sand bar south of the bridge and found Greater Black-backed Gulls mixed in with the Herring Gulls, Black Skimmers, Royal Terns and others. It was a

good way to spend a late afternoon. As we headed to our cars, the light faded to shades of pink and gray and the scores of White Ibis streamed in to roost on the colony island.

WETLANDS IN THE EVENING

Glade Koch

Saturday, February 23, we will again visit Titusville's Blue Heron Wetlands Treatment System and Orlando Wetlands Park near Christmas. Our goal is to see the flights of thousands of birds as they fly in to roost for the night in this beautiful artificial wetland.

We will meet at 1 p.m. at City Island, go first to Fort Christmas Park, break for lunch or a snack, and then caravan through Blue Heron. We will look for water fowl. At 4 o'clock we will meet **Bob Wheeler** of Orange Audubon who will caravan us through the Orlando Wetlands until dark. We will return to Daytona about 7:30.

For those interested in a longer day, you may wish to go earlier to Orlando Wetlands Annual Festival where there will be hikes, tours, children's events, and various community service demonstrations and family activities.

ROSE BAY - FEBRUARY 18 PROGRAM

Louise Chapman and some of her Mainland High School students will bring us up to date on the work they are doing at Rose Bay. This uninhabited area a bit south of Daytona Beach on US-1, has been the school's work in progress for a few years now as they find out all they can about its ecology. Some of our members have assisted them.

This wonderful project combines teaching students about the environment, about doing art, and about doing science all the while helping improve the land around Rose Bay. This leads to the day when it will become a passive park we can all enjoy. Students break trails, watch birds, draw birds, test water quality, assist in clearing out invasive exotic plants, helping our community, and learning as they go. It will be extremely interesting to find out what extraordinary things these young people have done this past year.

Please come out and give this great project your support.

Touch the earth, love the earth, honour the earth, her plains, her valleys, her hills, and her seas; rest your spirit in her solitary places. For the gifts of life are the earth's and they are given to all, and they are the songs of birds at daybreak, Orion and the Bear, and dawn seen over ocean from the beach.

The Outermost House, by Henry Beston

STUART STRAHL TO SPEAK IN DAYTONA

Anita Emery

The Garden Club of Halifax Country proudly announces that **Dr. Stuart Strahl** will speak at their meeting February 12 at 10:15 a.m. at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Strahl, CEO and President of Audubon of Florida, will present "Restoration of the Everglades and the Future of Florida's Conservation."

The Garden Club has invited our Chapter members to this lecture and hopes that a lot of us will be able to attend.

UPDATE ON THE FT. DESOTO TRIP

Lois Robinson

We will be traveling to Ft. DeSoto for an overnight birding trip Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23rd and 24th. This is a date change from what is in the brochure. We will be staying at the lovely accommodations of Eckerd, eat two meals there and picnic at one of the pavilions at the Park. We just wanted you to put these new dates on your Calendar. All the details and cost will be in the March and April *The Pelican*.

You will love this trip!

BIRDS AFIELD – WHAT'S IN A NAME?

From Roger Clark, The Duval Observer, January 2001, newsletter of the Duval Audubon Society

An important first step in becoming a better birder is paying close attention to the correct names of birds. When I hear a bird's name botched it tells me that there has not been enough time spent studying the field guides. Recently, I have noticed a plague of mispronunciations of one of the loveliest terns on our beaches, the Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).

Winter is a good time to head to the beach and study this rather small graceful bird, as there is nothing else around now that is similar. Winter birds are distinctive with their black mask outlined against a pale crown and nape. As spring approaches the breeding birds' primaries become silvery-white, the large black bill of winter gives way to an orange bill with a black tip, and the black mask turns into a black cap. Forster's Terns can usually be found loafing on the beach or actively hunting out over the surf frequently diving for fish.

Now for the mispronunciation – one of the commonest mistakes is calling Forster's Tern – forester's tern. As you can see that slightly changes the whole ballgame. Perhaps it would help to know how the Forster's Tern got its name.

Johann Reinold Forster (1729-1798) was a naturalist who lived in Europe. Although he never visited the United States several species of birds from the Hudson Bay region were sent to him for review. He suggested that there was an additional species aside from the very similar common tern. **Thomas Nuttall** agreed and in 1832 named

the species the Forster's Tern in his classic *Manual of Ornithology*. But who really was Forster, you ask?

Forster's sailed on the famous Cook voyage to the South Pacific. Forster apparently had a knack for rubbing people the wrong way, as this entry from Cook's *Second Voyage* reveals – "There is nothing that can make him other than one of the Admiralty's vast mistakes. From first to last on the voyage, and afterwards, he was an incubus. One hesitates, in fact, to lay out his characteristics, lest the portrait should seem simply caricature. Dogmatic, humorless, suspicious, pretentious, contentious, censorious, demanding, rheumatic, he was problem from any angle."

Forster began his career as a reluctant pastor and theologian. After twelve years he went to Russia and worked as a commissioner in the service of Catherine the Great. He led an expedition 2,500 miles to the Volga.

In 1766 he became the first person ever to publicly teach natural history in England. He was consulted by Oxford philologists and patronized by leading politicians, scientists and antiquaries. He reputedly mastered 17 languages, living and dead, and was learned in philology, ancient geography and Egyptology. In 1771 his translation of Bougainville's journal of his voyage around the world was published. Forster became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1772 and accompanied Banks on his three-year South Sea expedition. Upon returning in 1775 Forster had a great opportunity to repay his employers with a wealth of scholarship and science from three years of voyaging and hard work. Unfortunately he found that the Admiralty were not prepared to accept any of his contributions.

In 1778 he published his "Observations made during a Voyage round the world." It was not a description of the voyage but the sum of his findings on physical geography, natural history and ethnic philosophy. The two books did not sell well, so Forster went to Germany in triumph, to become professor of natural history, mineralogy and medicine at the University of Halle. At the time of his death he was called the "patriarch" of geography in Europe and was widely recognized as one of the most able naturalists. There was not one continent to which he did not devote some scholarly work.

The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first part of intelligent tinkering.

Round River, by Aldo Leopold

THE BIRDATHON IS COMING - MARCH 23, 2002!!!

To celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, we have organized an area **BIRDATHON**. We plan to have a lot of fun and count a lot of birds while raising money for our chapter's many local activities in environmental conservation, habitat restoration and educational programs.

What is a BIRDATHON? It is a 24-hour bird count in the spring with sponsors pledging gifts based on the number of species seen by the team.

What is our goal? Our goal is to raise \$3,000 to help fund our chapter's local activities in environmental conservation, habitat restoration and educational programs. We hope to establish a bird observation tower at the Port Orange Bridge, to increase support for Audubon Adventures for 5th graders, to improve our programs and expand our membership.

How do we do a BIRDATHON? We are organizing FIVE teams of at least FOUR people each. Each team will decide its own route for birding but the basic strategy is for team members to **HAVE FUN AND COUNT AS MANY BIRD SPECIES AS THEY CAN!!!**

We have provided a sample pledge form below and on the reverse for Halifax River Audubon members seeking sponsors. Start asking family friends, co-workers and neighbors to sponsor you in this event so that our chapter will continue its work in this community!!



LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE MARCH EDITION OF *THE PELICAN*.
Or contact Lois Robinson at 760-8480 or Gina Holt at 253-3466 to join a team.

Halifax River Audubon Pledge Form

- I am happy to pledge \$ _____ for each species seen on your Birdathon!
- I prefer to enclose my gift of \$ _____.
- Audubon membership and FREE gift for the special rate of \$20.60 (Senior rate of \$15.60). My check payable to National Audubon is enclosed. (Free membership for all donations to the Birdathon of \$100 or more!)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to Halifax River Audubon, except for membership applications. Pledges should be received no later than April 12, 2002.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON BIRDATHON PLEDGE SHEET

<i>NAME</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>PHONE</i>	<i>PLEDGE AMT.</i>
			\$

By signing my name, I am happy to pledge the amount stated in support of the Halifax River Audubon BIRDATHON. Halifax River Audubon is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible. Halifax River Audubon, P. O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, Fl 32115-0166.

THE PELICAN



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

Names & Numbers

FEBRUARY 2002

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Vice Pres.	Rachel Ramsey	673-1037
Vice Pres.	Madeline Shaddix	761-0301
Past President	John Williams	255-8631
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Corresponding Sec'y	Gina Holt	253-3466
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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	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity	Gina Holt	253-3466
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey	
Membership Recruitment and Retention	Joan and James Anderson	761-2888

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 www.halifaxriveras.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Joan & James Anderson	.....jnanderson3@juno.com
Willie Burns	.....wwillie@juno.com
Fran Carr	.....franniép@juno.com
John Carr	.....jcarr14@juno.com
Kevin DeWall	.....kdewall@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	.....birdman9@earthlink.net
Gina Holt	.....hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Barbara Kieran	.....bkieran@ATT.net
Glade Koch	.....clecras@aol.com
Jean Lesh	.....FlyinSqrri@aol.com
Pat Mihalic	.....WldkingJM@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	.....blooheron@earthlink.net
Lois Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix	.....meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	.....jwill39301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	.....Mileybug@aol.com

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 February 18, 2002. Board meeting this month is Monday, February 4, 1:30 p.m. Dickerson Heritage Library on 411 S. Keech Street, Daytona Beach. All are welcome.

THANK YOU - To our January program meeting hosts **Kitty Albee, Susan Baker, Dawn Sutter, and John Carr** for the delicious refreshments.

WELCOME - To new members **Joann and Robert Andres, Mrs. Ralph Bayfield, Perry O. Black, Brittany Burroughs, Jill Burton, Gordon C. Hart, Bob and Frieda Holt, Ray and Kathy Kent, Audrey M. Lindgren, Gabiella Longu, Kathy and Larry Marsh, Morris B. Richardson, Steven Shaddix, Mrs. Neal Waldron, and Donald J. White, Sr.**

THANK YOU, CLAY HENDERSON

Halifax River Audubon has received a generous donation from **Clay Henderson** to help publish *The Pelican*. Clay was President of Florida Audubon for many years and helped orchestrate the conversion into Audubon of Florida. Clay is presently an Attorney specializing in environmental concerns. He is a member of the South East Volusia Audubon Chapter.

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 47 - NO. 9

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

MARCH 2002

AUDUBON ACTIONS AND YOU

President Lois Robinson

"The Audubon Chapter Policy, 2001" is here, hot off the presses and ready for you!

This policy establishes our local chapter's relationship with National Audubon and sets Guidelines for us to follow. The last time this was done was in 1986 so you can imagine that changes were needed. To be an Audubon Chapter there are certain requirements and our end of the year report (Audubon's year ends July 31) must reflect this. For instance, the goals we set for the year must be compatible with National's goals. No problem for us. This policy also requires certain commitments from National to the local chapters including giving us financial, program and leadership support. Again, we welcome this and have found it helpful in the past. There are two major changes you need to know about.

1. There has been a major shift in our organizational structure away from nine Regional offices to fifty state offices. Florida has been leading in the establishment of a vital, aggressive state office. Other states are looking to us as they set up their own state offices.

2. National is willing to allow us "Chapter Only" members. The HRA Board has voted to do this and, at last count, we have 8 Chapter Only members. Chapter Only membership is \$20 a year (\$15 for seniors and youth) as voted by our board. Chapter Only members will not receive "The Audubon Magazine." They may receive invitations from National to join as a National member that they are free to accept or reject. We retain all dues received from Chapter Only members. This allows for greater flexibility and has been well received by most chapters. Let us know if you are interested in becoming a Chapter Only member.

Copies of "The Audubon Chapter Policy, 2001" are available from **Lois Robinson**.

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, March 3

HRA Field trip. Dunlawton Bridge Hotspot. Meet at Port Orange Causeway Park, north side, 4:00 p.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**. Phone 788-2630.

Monday, March 4

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6

Timucuan Sierra Club. **Don Feaster**, Executive Director of the Volusia County Water Alliance. "Water, Camels & Politics." SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 17

HRA field trip. Volusia County Landfill. Meet at City Island, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Kevin DeWall**. Phone: 767-3031. Bring lunch.

Monday, March 18

HRA Program Meeting. "Wild World of the Hoatzin: The Cooperatively Breeding Ruminant Bird of South America." **Dr. Stuart Strahl**, President and CEO of Audubon of Florida.

Tuesday, March 19

Florida Native Plant Society, Pawpaw Chapter. **Don Spence**, "Plant ID and Taxonomic Keys." 7:00-9:00 p.m. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, March 23

HRA Bird-a-thon. **Lois Robinson**. Phone: 760-8480.

Monday, April 1

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3

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

Friday, April 5

HRA field trip. Dora Canal Boat Trip. Meet at City Island, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Willie Burns**. Phone: 253-2150. Boat fee and reservation required. Bring lunch.

Monday, April 15

HRA Program Meeting. "Pesticide-free Gardening." **Linda Landrum**, Agricultural Dept. University of Florida.

CHAPTERS AND THE 2020 VISION

The new booklet "Chapters and the 2020 Vision" has just been received by **HRA**. This book is a companion to Audubon Chapter Policy 2001. It stresses Audubon's vision for the future to establish a "Culture of Conservation" by educating a whole new generation of bird lovers through state and local chapters. Also envisioned are Audubon Centers that are to be "gateways" into the world of nature. Once a person is hooked on birds and nature, a culture of conservation is not far behind. This book is available from **Lois Robinson**.

PROGRAM: February 18. Mainland High School teacher **Louise Chapman** and student **Audrey Padgett** gave us a update on Rose Bay. They gave out a bird check list that has been developed for Rose Bay and showed us the plans for the birding platform that will be up and running later this spring. We saw a video of Clapper Rails and a list of all species seen in the Rose Bay area. **Ray Scory, Kevin Doxstater** and **David Hartgrove** have assisted with the student birding group. Louise introduced one disturbing element; funding for environmental learning for students may be curtailed by the state government in Tallahassee, meaning funding for this great program may not be ongoing. Keep tuned for further developments.

FIELD TRIPS: January 26. Unable to visit Shiloh Marsh because the trail remained closed, **Willie Burns** led the group to Riverbreeze Park, Seminole Rest, and Magor Shiloh hammock. Also they visited the Haulover Canal Manatee overlook where they saw a bunch of perhaps nine manatees. Interesting bird species seen were Red-breasted Mergansers, a Caspian Tern, a Belted Kingfish, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Virginia Rail, Reddish Egrets, Glossy Ibis, and a Green Heron. They also saw many warblers and scaup.

February 3. Nineteen people logged 71 species on the trip **David Hartgrove** led to Paynes Prairie. Their most exciting sightings were a female Vermilion Flycatcher, Bonaparte's Gulls, and a Virginia Rail. They also spied Yellow-rumped Warblers, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee, a calling Summer Tanager, Eastern Bluebirds, and a flock of Eastern Meadowlarks. At the University of Florida Dairy Unit they saw several hundred Sandhill Cranes. After lunch they saw Blue-headed Vireos, Black and White Warblers, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. At Newnans Lake they got more Bald Eagles, Sedge Wren, and American Goldfinch

FIELD TRIP TO FT. DESOTO

Once again we are gearing up for the "Bird Lovers Express" trip to Ft. DeSoto Park. Here is what you need to know:

1. We will leave from Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Tuesday, April 23 at 8 a.m. and return Wednesday, April 24 between 9 and 10 p.m. We have had requests to stay longer than we did last time.
2. Cost of the trip is \$100 per person.
3. Reservations and money must be in by April 1st (as we have upfront bills to pay). Call **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480 or sign up at the March meeting.
4. We will be staying at Eckerd College in the Elderhostel Division and eat two meals there.
5. Bring a bag lunch for Tuesday noon and snacks for the trip. You will be responsible for your evening meal the 24th as we start home.
6. Bring a folding chair to sit on and it will make your bird watching more enjoyable.

Hurry and make your reservations! Seating is limited.

DORA CANAL TRIP

On Friday, April 5, **Willie Burns** will once again lead a boat trip on the beautiful Dora Canal in Eustis, Florida. There will be a \$20 charge for the boat ride. Deposits of that amount and reservations must be made prior to the event. Call him at 253-2150 to leave a message on his annoying machine or see Willie at meetings.

The trip leaves the dock on the Dead River, so named because there is usually no current discernable, and travels west to Lake Harris. We always see Purple

Gallinules here, often so close they could be touched. Nesting herons, Osprey, and Anhinga are everywhere. Many types of hawks may be seen as well as alligators and snakes (safely away from the boat, of course!).

Then the boat will travel to the beautiful Dora Canal, where ancient cypress trees tower hundreds of feet above, filled with nesting and roosting birds. Wood Ducks and Pileated Woodpeckers abound along with so many herons they become boring. The elusive Prothonotary Warbler is usually in evidence.

Next is a quick and smooth cruise across Lake Eustis to a Great Egret rookery. Last year they were not nesting due to low water, but were standing disconsolately around the edge of the shrunken lake. Bald Eagles are almost always seen here.

The trip will depart from the Court House east parking lot on City Island at 7:30a.m. on the fifth. Bring a picnic lunch. We will eat at a small park along the Dora Canal. Come along. It's a wonderful trip! You'll love it.

HOW TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN AUDUBON

John Carr, Membership Chair

- If you are renewing your membership in National Audubon Society, send your check to National Audubon. They're the only ones who can renew.
- If you want to give a new membership to National Audubon, do the same as above, but note on the application form our chapter code, **E41**. By doing this, we get money for the chapter from National.

If you renew as a Chapter Only member, send your check (made out to Halifax River Audubon) to Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

It used to be that one could say, "If it's March, the state legislature must be in session." This year, they decided to meet early. For the most part, that's because this is a reapportionment session. The whining and fighting over that issue will probably still be going on in June and the Tallahassee folks knew there was other business they had to take care of too.

Everglades restoration funding is one of many. Because of differences between the Governor's plan and everyone else's, some kind of compromise will have to be reached. The Governor wants to see funding done from general revenues and yearly appropriations from the ever-contentious legislature. The House and Senate bills currently moving through the legislative process (HB 813 and SB 684) would establish a bonding authority whereby funds would be dedicated over the next eight years and important land acquisition decisions could be implemented early, before speculators drive the prices higher. Audubon supports this latter position and our lobbying efforts will be directed toward the goal of dedicated funding.

In 1998, Florida voters passed the Florida Forever Act, a bond issue to finance the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. Now an amendment has been tacked onto SB 569, a bill to encourage reclaimed water usage in irrigation. The amendment seeks to use Florida Forever money to buy pumps and equipment for reclaimed water use. This turns the whole purpose of Florida Forever on its head. We would be using these funds to subsidize new development by providing money for pipelines, pumps, and similar utility facilities to supply water for projects that otherwise could not get consumptive use permits. SB 569 will probably be combined with HB 1299 (the House version of a reclaimed water bill) at some point and this bill creates a whole new set of problems. Rather than end up with a bad bill, let's hope that these bills get bogged down in committee and lost.

Citizen standing is another issue Audubon sees as under severe threat. SB 270/HB 819 would substantially weaken and complicate the ability of citizens to gain access to government decisions affecting the environment. Under the provisions of these bills, we would no longer have the ability to challenge permits issued by state agencies. Or if we do, we could be forced to pay the attorney fees for those who dispute our challenge. This is pay off time for all those campaign donations from development interests. Our ability to protect our quality of life here in Florida is at stake. These bills have been sailing through committees with little opposition. However, behind the scenes, legislators are getting edgy about what could be seen as an election year affront to

ordinary citizens simply wanting to access their government and the decisions that impact the quality of their lives. Contact your legislators! Urge opposition to SB 270 and HB 819!

These are just a few of the issues facing the state environmental lobby. Others include two House Bills, HB 35 and 1458, which would give a blank check to the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to do pretty much whatever it wants; HB 1075/SB 1770, for Rural and Family Lands Protection Act funding, to prevent the annual loss of 150,000 acres of environmentally sensitive ranch and timber lands to real estate development (this very popular bill was passed last year but no funding source was attached) and SB 588/HB 607, which will restore funding to the Preservation 2000 program that was lost last year in a legislative raid on these important funds.

To keep abreast of these and other important environmental issues, go to Audubon of Florida's web site: www.audubonofflorida.org. Another valuable resource is the League of Conservation Voters, www.lcv.org. Or you can also call HRA board member; they can help you find the information you want.

FRIENDS OF WILD BIRD AREAS COMMITTEE REPORT

Madeline Shaddix

David Hartgrove and I (co-chairmen) have had meetings with representatives of Holly Hill, Port Orange and Daytona Beach during the past few weeks. We feel that we have made real progress toward our goal of developing public areas into bird friendly sites.

At present, we are in the planning phase in these major locations: Centennial Park on 10th Street, and perhaps Sunrise Park, both in Holly Hill; a proposed park in Port Orange, whose entrance will be on Spruce Creek Road near Dunlawton; a riverfront location in Daytona Beach and a new park now under development in Daytona Beach on Bellevue Avenue. All of these have water retention ponds, from small to huge in size. The areas around these ponds have great potential for becoming very beneficial bird habitat.

I think that I can report that the whole committee shares our excitement in these projects. We will be working closely with the Pawpaw Chapter of the Native Plant Society, whose members will assist with the planning and planting of native vegetation beneficial to birds and butterflies. We will keep you posted on our progress, but in the meantime, if any of you have expertise in wildlife gardening or water features for birds, please call one of the committee members and offer your assistance. In addition to David and me, the committee members are **John Carr, Gina Holt, Barbara Kieran, Rachel Ramsey, John Roessler** and **Meret Wilson**.

PRECIOUS WATER IS OVERUSED, UNDervalUED AND ABUSED

From Tampa Tribune, December 1, 2001

West Central Florida is building a desalination plant and a massive reservoir to meet the water demands of its booming populations. More projects are in the works.

To many, the state's water shortages seem incomprehensible. The state possesses hundreds of lakes and wetlands, sits atop massive underground aquifers and receives an average of more than 50 inches of rainfall a year. It is a testament to waste and poor planning that Florida must now resort to expensive engineering projects to produce an adequate drinking-water supply.

But Florida is hardly alone in creating a water crisis through neglect and abuse.

Jeffrey Rothfeder, in his excellent new book "Every Drop For Sale: Our Desperate Battle Over Water In A World About to Run Out," details how governments throughout the world have shamefully ignored the importance of clean water.

Rothfeder, a former editor at BusinessWeek and Bloomberg News, destroys the misconception that fresh water is plentiful.

Only 2.5 percent of the water on Earth is not salt water, and since much of that is frozen in glaciers. "humans have access to less than 0.08 of 1 percent of the total water on the planet."

And that supply is rapidly diminishing. He points out that individual humans account for less than 10 percent of fresh water use. Much more – from 60 to 70 percent of water consumption – goes to irrigation, and the rest is taken by industry.

"With population growth and expanding economies, demands for water are skyrocketing, even taking into account conservation measures. In fact, the 6 billion people of Earth today – projected to grow to 8 billion by 2025 – share the same amount of water that was available to less than one-sixth of this population at the turn of the 19th century."

Experts predict that the water demands will "increase by as much as 45 percent in the next 20 years to meet the needs of agriculture, industry and human consumption."

Throughout the world, aquifers are being depleted faster than they can be replenished by rainfall. The damage caused by overpumping at drinking water wellfields is what caused Central Florida officials to turn to desalination and other alternatives.

Rothfeder describes how shortsighted environmental policies damage water sources. Preserving forests and maintaining free-flowing rivers, for instance, benefit more than wildlife.

He reports, "Under the best conditions, the vast ground cover of forest filters and seeps water slowly underground, where it can be stored for people to use. In

the continental United States, for instance, national forests, which account for only 8 percent of the nation's acreage, are responsible for nearly 15 percent of aquifer replenishment.

"But sprawl and commercial development have eaten up forestland – as much as 50 percent of it around the world since the beginning of history, according to the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank. And as the forests have dwindled, there's less soil and earth to stop rainfall from driving directly toward rivers without stocking the water table first.

"What's more, our rivers, streams, and lakes – essentially our main water supply – have been so mismanaged by decades of damming, diversion and industrial pollution that the amount of usable water they provide is falling rapidly."

These facts are relevant to Florida, which has badly damaged its water sources with haphazard development and agricultural and industrial pollution.

Yet the state, despite some progress, still hasn't successfully linked conservation to water supply protection.

The state is finding the cost of abusing nature's natural water supply systems is high. Federal and state officials have launched an \$8 billion effort to restore a more natural water flow to the Everglades, not only to save that magnificent wilderness, but to ensure South Florida has enough drinking water.

The rerouting of the Everglades water for agriculture and flood control now sends 1.7 billion gallons of water a day into the ocean, an unconscionable waste.

Rothfeder finds hope in such restoration efforts. He also sees desalination as a useful solution and believes privatizing at least some water supply systems and water sources could prove effective.

But most important of all, he points out, is to protect rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands from destruction.

HOATZIN

This strange thing is a bird that lives in South America. Besides having a strange name, it looks strange, has strange cooperative breeding habits and is a ruminant.

We will find out more about this oddity at our program meeting on March 18 when **Dr. Stuart Strahl** tells us all about it. This bird was the thesis study for Dr. Strahl's doctorate and he loves to tell and show slides about what he discovered. We hope he will show pictures of the immature birds with claws on their wings!

As you know, Dr. Strahl is President and CEO of Audubon of Florida and spoke to us last year about the nature and future of our state organization. We so enjoyed his witty presentation that we wanted him back. We're very fortunate to have him come tell us about one of ornithology's weird ones.

FLORIDA COULD BE HARD HIT BY GLOBAL WARMING

Lee Bidgood

Among the 50 states, Florida probably has the most to lose from global warming. Unchecked global warming could severely damage Florida's environment, human health and economy. Computer models of future climate have recently increased the probable severity of changes that would affect Florida. Unless global emissions of greenhouse gases are sharply curtailed, we can expect to see these specific climate changes this century in Florida:

- Average temperature 4 to 10 degrees F. higher.
- An 8 to 15 degree F. higher summer heat index, a comfort indicator combining heat and humidity.
- Sea level 8 to 24 inches higher. Where the land is sinking, the apparent change will be greater.
- An invasion by tropical diseases and pests migrating northward.
- Rainfall arriving more often as downpours, in between more severe droughts.
- More damaging coastal storm surges because of higher sea levels and possibly stronger storms powered by warmer seas.
- Poorer air quality caused by higher temperatures – even if total emissions don't rise.

These changes would damage Florida ecosystems, agriculture and tourism and hurt the health of retirees.

To avoid catastrophic damage, Florida needs to take leadership in:

- Raising average vehicle miles per gallon substantially. The technology is well established.
- Developing renewable energy, principally solar, in Florida. The technology is established but expensive. Government subsidies are necessary until mass production brings down costs.
- While renewable are being expanded, convert coal and oil power plants to natural gas that emits 40 to 75 percent less carbon dioxide greenhouse gas per calorie than coal or oil.

"The Skimmer," newsletter of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, February 2002

TOMOKA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

On January 26, experts in many fields of science judged science projects by students from Volusia County schools at the Tomoka Regional Science Fair. The Audubon Awards are special awards given to projects that best show work in the environmental sciences. The county's Audubon chapters joined together to judge projects in the senior (High School) and junior (Middle School) divisions. A hundred-dollar and a fifty-dollar U.S. Savings Bond were presented to the winning senior students, and a fifty-dollar and a twenty-five dollar U.S.

Savings Bond were presented to the winning junior students. Our chapter judges were **Glade Koch** and **John Carr** who judged the Junior Division

First Place in the Junior Division was awarded to **Angela Phillips**, from New Smyrna Middle School for her project: Have Toxin Levels in the River Bottom Increased Since 1994? If So, Is the Dredge Waste Beachworthy? Her results showed that some toxins and chemicals had decreased and some had increased. Her conclusion was that the dredged waste was not suitable for re-nourishment of the beach.

Second Place in this division went to **Zachary Zimmermann** from Ormond Middle School for his project: Which Mulch Conserves Water In The Soil Best? It turned out that the best mulch was pine needles, followed by pine bark. Third best was palmetto leaves.

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society and West Volusia Audubon Society judged the Senior Division. Senior Division Judges were **Don Picard** and **Randy Schleister**.

First Place in the Senior Division went to **Christina White** from Spruce Creek Senior High School for her project: Swallow Tails, Is There an Aerodynamic Benefit For Migratory Birds? She concluded that birds' tails did perform aerodynamically and concluded that birds that travel the longest distances over water (e.g. Swallow-tailed Kites, Arctic Terns, etc) have an advantage over non-forked tailed birds because of the shape of their tails.

Second Place in this division went to **Juliann Giese** from Spruce Creek Senior High School for her project: Fecal Coliform Concentration in Rock Spring. The fecal coliform was found in both areas of the spring and times when people were not swimming, and so the expected source is perhaps animal contamination. She would like to do DNA analysis next year to confirm her findings.

TEE-SHIRTS

Flagler Audubon Society is selling white or gray Florida Scrub-Jay tee-shirts in sizes from children's small to adult XXLARGE. Call Judie Dziak at 445-8490.

Nothing – not mountains nor sea nor shore nor rocks – is exactly the same on two successive days. The changes may be imperceptible to us but they are there. Lichens are working on granite. Death is replacing life. Leaves are expanding and leaves are wilting. The world is never finished. Everything is going up or going down around us. The things we see most often, the species that are endlessly repeated in individuals, are the successes, the end product of unceasing evolution.

Journey Into Summer, by Edwin Way Teale

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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Names & Numbers

2001-2002 H.R.A. 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
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Ways and Means	Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey	
Membership Recruitment and Retention	Joan and James Anderson	761-2888

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 www.halifaxriveras.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Joan & James Anderson	.....ijnjanderson3@juno.com
Willie Burns	.....wwillie@juno.com
Fran Carr	.....franniép@juno.com
John Carr	.....jcar14@juno.com
Kevin DeWall	.....kdewall@cf1.rr.com
David Hartgrove	.....birdman9@earthlink.net
Gina Holt	.....hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Barbara Kieran	.....bkieran@ATT.net
Glade Koch	.....clecras@aol.com
Jean Lesh	.....FlyinSqr1@aol.com
Pat Mihalic	.....WldkingJM@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	.....blooheron@earthlink.net
Lois Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix	.....meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	.....jwill39301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	.....Mileybug@aol.com

MARCH 2002

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 March 18, 2002. Board meeting this month is Monday, March 4, 1:30 p.m. Dickerson Heritage Library on 411 South Keech Street. All are welcome.

THANK YOU - To our February program meeting hosts **Linda Viola and Darlene LaFond**, for the delicious refreshments.

WELCOME - To new members **D. Edwina Clore, Carlton and Pat Diehl, Fern and Edward Dytko, Dick Geisen, William Hames, Alice Jaeger, Janet Kesel, J. Kotas, Diane Lapham, David Mills, David Ober, Robert E. Ostrum, Pattik Pennell, Shirley Peterson, Erma Rice, Edward Thompson, Katherine and Paul Tigno,**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 47 - NO. 10

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

APRIL 2002

CAN WE CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT?

President Lois Robinson

A sustainable entity is one that "carries the weight of or supports, endures, withstands, keeps up and maintains" according to Webster's Dictionary. A sustainable environment carries us all and bears us up. What do we have to do to have such an environment? We are not quite sure yet but we do know what we should not do: deplete our potable water supplies, cut our forests down, drain our rivers dry, destroy wetlands or continue to burn fossil fuels that pollute and sicken us, to name a few. What kind of world do we want to leave our grandchildren and their grandchildren?

The book entitled "State of the World 2001" written by THE WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE and its companion "Vital Signs 2001" are published yearly and have become standards in college environmental courses as well as in government. We may be rushing headlong into an environmental disaster the full consequences of which we do not completely understand.

How do we, the members of Halifax River Audubon, make a difference? "The State of the World, 2001" has some helpful information. It states "Some 26 percent of American adults have adopted a new worldview in the past 40 years that is consistent with the values of sustainability." That's a start. It also states that environmental psychologists have discovered that people respond to and change their thinking because of actions of their peers, direct appeals, effective communication and enticing incentives. Peer influence is "especially powerful."

We each have a peer group we can and do influence. I have a dear friend from Cuba who loves the land and all creatures great and small. He told me he always turns off the shower while he soaps up to save water. He wants our scarce water to be available for his grandchildren. He does many other small acts of conservation. A little thing, you say, but many little things done by many, many people add up. He influences all the people around him and they have changed their ways. My friend is terminally ill but in his own way his influence is great. We ought to do no less.

CALENDAR

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

Monday, April 1

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30.

Wednesday, April 3

Timucuan Sierra Club. **Charlie Barr.** "Marine Debris Monitoring Program." SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 5

HRA field trip. Dora Canal Boat Trip. Meet at City Island, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Willie Burns.** Phone: 253-2150. Boat fee and reservation required. Bring lunch.

Saturday, April 6

AUDCON Meeting. St. Augustine Alligator Farm. 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. See article.

Monday, April 15

HRA Program Meeting. "Environmentally Friendly Yard and Shrub Care." **Linda Landrum,** Agricultural Dept., University of Florida.

Tuesday, April 16

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

Saturday, April 20

HRA Field trip. Orlando Wetlands and Blue Heron Wastewater Treatment Plant. City Island. 1:30 p.m. Led by **Glade Koch.**

Saturday, April 20

Earth Day. Washington Oaks State Gardens. **David Hartgrove.** Phone: 788-2630.

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 23 & 24

HRA overnight trip to Fort DeSoto. Meet at Covenant Methodist Church on Clyde Morris Blvd, 8:00 a.m. Led by **Lois Robinson.** Phone: 760-8480. Reservation and fee required.

Saturday, May 4

HRA Annual Picnic at Angelo Cerrito's home at 6065 Hensel Road. 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Phone: 767-5397. Bring covered dish. Meat and drinks provided.

Monday, May 6

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30 p.m.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Contrary to the ravings of right-wing radio commentators and the hyper-verbose spin masters at the Fox News Channel, Oliver Wendell Holmes was right, "Taxes are the price we pay to live in a civilized society." Another mark of a civilized society is the willingness of its citizens to tax themselves to fund quality of life initiatives when their elected representatives consistently demonstrate the lack of intestinal fortitude to do so on their behalf. That's exactly what the citizens of this state voted overwhelmingly to do in the Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever bond issues. The funds in these programs are supposed to be devoted to land and water conservation programs for all of us. Last year the legislature stole 75 million dollars from Preservation 2000 for Everglades restoration. They claim it was necessary to do this because tax revenues were down. Of course they were. The governor had been obsessed with giving a billion dollar tax cut to his corporate backers and once he did that, and the economic down turn hit, there wasn't enough money to run the state.

This year it was hoped, as the legislative session began, that the senate would restore the 75 million dollars they'd heisted. But all those angry letters, phone calls and editorials over their conduct last year weren't enough. They felt emboldened and they never liked the idea of spending money on conservation issues anyway. So this year, they're planning on stealing 100 million dollars! Under the most recent plan, that sum will be transferred from both Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. In addition, they want to take another 20 million from CARL, the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund. This plan funds what little money goes to the state's parks and conservation lands. If these people would just have the courage to actually be the "leaders" they claim to be, they'd admit they need to repeal those ill-advised tax cuts and properly fund the state's budget. Instead, (ever fearful of the loss of corporate campaign contributions) these conservation funds are being raided because our elected representatives would rather see a state park closed for lack of money than to tax a corporation's multi-million dollar sky box at the speedway or Pro-Player Stadium. And these bozos have the gall to call themselves "leaders"!

A recent article in the News-Journal exposed the deception in Senator Jim King's argument that he was just responding to the "countless" pleas of his constituents when he backed out of a deal to repeal the tax cuts for one year. In logs released to the paper, it was revealed that almost no one had called or written e-mails to the senator on the subject. I think it's time we showed this senator and all the others what a real "outpouring" of anger is. We can't allow them to get away with stealing specifically bonded conservation funds simply because they lack the

backbone to do their job. The phone numbers for these legislators are listed on page 26 of the new phone book. Please, call them and let them know you expect leadership on this issue and not the toadying and groveling to special interests we've seen so far. It's about time they got a wake up call from the folks who put them in office.

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA ADVOCACY CENTER

Our state Audubon provides us with many services to let us know what the Florida government is doing in respect for conservation. To get this information you may request it from the following people and resources.

Audubon Advocate – A Newsletter for the Florida Conservation Network telling of legislative and statewide conservation issues.

Restore – Newsletter for the Everglades Conservation Network.

You can subscribe to these newsletters on website www.audubonofflorida.org or contact **Shannon Mayorga**, Conservation Hotline at 1-800-753-5499.

St. Johns River Regional Conservation Committee – Discussion of regional conservation and education issues. Halifax River Audubon is an active member of this committee. It is led by Audubon Board members and Audubon staff member **Eric Draper** [(850)224-7546 or edraper@audubon.org]. Present chairman is **Roger Van Ghent** [audcon@mac.com] of St. Johns County Audubon.

FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY PROGRAM

Meret Wilson

Volunteers are needed for a really interesting Florida Scrub-Jay monitoring project conducted by the USDA Forest Service in Ocala National Forest. The main tasks will be searching for nests and conducting a census.

Nest searching will be conducted April and May, possibly into June. The census will be conducted sometime in mid-summer, most likely in July but possibly in August.

The Service is looking for anyone who can devote at least two days. (One day will be devoted primarily to training.) Most work will be conducted independently, but volunteers will be provided with a two-way radio for safety. Volunteers must provide their own binoculars.

Contact **John Puschock** for more information. Work Phone: (352)669-3153. Afternoons are the best time to call. E-mail: jpuschock@fs.fed.us.

REPORT FROM MICHIGAN

HRA members **Joan Traves** and **Carol Branch** bring news of the Kirtland Warbler whose nesting range is limited to a small area in Michigan. Seems that nesting has soared this past year with 1085 males identified, up from only 167 a few years ago. The increase is believed due to development of thousands of acres of young jackpines.

FORT DESOTO HERE WE COME!

We still have a few seats on the bus for our over night trip to Fort DeSoto April 23 and 24. Cost is \$100 payable now to Halifax River Audubon. Bring a lunch and a snack. We will have bottled water available. Three meals are included in the price. You will need to pay for your evening meal on the way home Wednesday. Bring a folding chair. We leave at 8 a.m. sharp from Covenant United Methodist Church, on Clyde Morris Blvd. See last month's article for more details or call **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480 to make your reservation.

GUIDED TOUR OF EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA

David Hartgrove

Have you ever walked down the beach and found a Mermaid's Purse, or seen a patch of railroad vine or found a sea turtle nest? All these things are possible and the walk will be more informative if you take along a copy of **Deborah Green's** book, "Paradise Preserved...Natural History Explorations - Canaveral National Seashore & Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge."

This little book is filled with valuable information on the flora, fauna and general ecosystem of places in coastal, east central Florida. For instance, did you know there are 7 species of anchovies in Mosquito Lagoon? Would it surprise you to learn that the Haulover Canal, on Merritt Island, was dug in 1888? Would you like to be able to easily identify White, Black and Red Mangrove like a tour guide? You can learn all these things and much more from this book. While some of the line drawings are a bit primitive, some of the photos are by our own **Kevin Doxstater**. The text is easy to read and is written in such a way as to lead you step by step through a self-guided tour of these enthralling places.

There are also some musings on the consequences of man's tampering with the environment of the area. In relating the story of the now extinct Dusky Seaside Sparrow, the author writes, "Extinction is forever. As the great ecologist, **Aldo Leopold** has said, 'The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the pieces'. We need to do what we can to make sure no more species become extinct."

Look for this book at the visitor's centers at Canaveral National Seashore Park or Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. It can also be ordered from your local bookstore, on line and soon at our own Golden Dog Book Sales.

Dr. Green earned her Ph.D. in entomology in 1979. An environmental educator in the Orlando area since 1985, she has written 2 other books, both dealing with the Wekiva River Basin and its ecology.

BIRDING REPORT

Kevin Doxstater

While in the vicinity of Port Orange City Center, I decided to have a look around. Didn't find any warblers except the ever-present Yellow Rumps. What I did find were 5 Anhinga nests on the north side of the pond/lake, 4 were in a single tree, one by itself about 75 feet west of the others. One had at least 2 young; the others appeared to be incubating.

On the Tuesday night after the Audubon meeting, the Great Horned Owl and the Screech were again taking turns trilling and hooting - wish I could find a reliable daytime roosting spot for the Great Horned. Add to the mix a couple of Chuck-will's-widows trading calls.

For your information

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002

Frank T. Bruno Jr:

4330 Candlewood Lane, Ponce Inlet 32127
phone: 304-5533; Fax: 304-5534
email: fbruno@co.volusia.fl.us

Joseph C. Jaynes:

PO Box 730296, Ormond Beach 32173;
phone: 615-6044; Fax: 615-6045;
email: jjaynes@co.volusia.fl.us

Big John:

250 N. Beach St., Rm.#106, Daytona Beach 32114;
phone: 239-7745, 423-3861; Fax: 239-7746;
email: BIG@co.volusia.fl.us

Dwight D. Lewis:

860 Carter Rd., DeLand, FL 32724
phone: 740-3200; Fax: 740-3201;
email: ddlewis@co.volusia.fl.us

Ann McFall

1401 Clipper Terrace, Deltona 32725;
phone: (407) 574-4437; Fax: 574-9667;
email amcfall@co.volusia.fl.us

Patricia Northey:

123 W. Indiana Ave., Deland, 32720-4612;
phone: 423-3881; 248-8106; Fax: 789-7201;
email: pnorthey@co.volusia.fl.us

James E. Ward:

5910 Trailwood Dr., Port Orange 32127;
phone: 423-3855; Fax: 322-5172;
email: jeward@co.volusia.fl.us

BIRDATHON, A GREAT SUCCESS!

Lois Robinson

Seeing all the happy and excited faces Saturday night made me realize this is what a Birdathon is all about—having fun, friendly competition and raising a little money for a good cause. Five teams and approximately 25 birders spent the day combing the beaches, marshes, woods and wetlands of Volusia and found a total of 136 bird species. I think that is great for a first try. We found Purple Sandpipers, Marbled Godwits, rails, and Eastern Kingbirds as well as many more common species.

I want to thank our celebrity guests: **Andrew Spar, Reid Hughes, Larry Thompson and Clay Henderson** who enriched our day with jokes, stories and superb birdwatching. I want to thank **Gina Holt**, without whom we wouldn't have made it and all the Team Captains who worked tirelessly scouting for the best birding sites in the county. Last but not least, I want to thank the determined and hardy birders who risked life and limb to find just one more bird. If we hadn't had a time limit I think some of them would still be out there birding.

Next month I'll have a report on the money and where it will be going.

WETLANDS – NEW TRIP DATE

Glade Koch

As you perhaps surmised, the February 23 evening wetlands trip to Titusville's Blue Heron Wetlands and Orlando Wetlands Park was rained out.

It has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 20. We will meet at City Island at 1:30. If you like, bring a snack for a 4:30 break at the new kiosks, pavilion and restrooms at the Wetland Park before we start the auto caravan around the impoundments. **Bob Wheeler**, Orange Audubon Chapter, will lead us, as he did last year. As the evening light fades, thousands of birds, egrets, herons and ibis will fly over from all sides to their roosts for the night --- quite a sight to see!

For those of us who cannot go on the Ft. De Soto trip a few days later, this trip could be an unusual birding experience that may make up a bit for missing out on DeSoto.

The plan is to arrive home about eight o'clock.

FASCINATING PROGRAM – THE HOATZIN

Meret Wilson

Those attending the March 18, 2002 regular meeting got such a treat hearing **Stuart Strahl**, who set aside his hat as President and CEO of Audubon of Florida, to tell us what he went through to get a Ph.D. studying the Hoatzin.

This bird from South American not only looks odd (blue face, red eyes and stand up head ruff), behaves oddly (the chicks dive into water below the nest, then climb their way back to the nest with claws on their wings), but

smells real bad because it has a digestive tract just like a cow. In fact its crop is about a fourth of its weight and these birds spend most of their time perching and resting their craw on a branch while their leaf diet ferments.

Although all this amazed us as an audience, what he found in his studies, which was more remarkable, was that the Hoatzins from a family often stay and become nannies to the next generation. It was found this actually sustains and improves the species. The bonus for the "nanny" is prime real estate next to the original breeding area of the family for all its efforts.

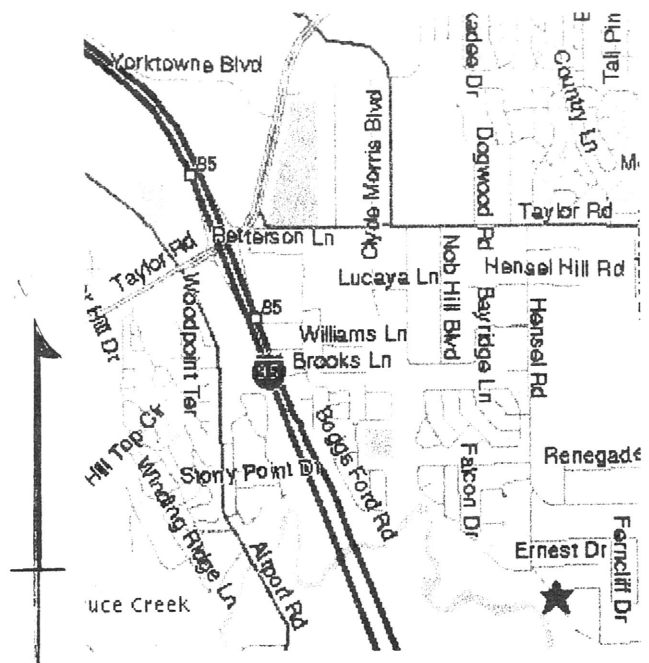
Stuart said over and over during his talk he had other talks he could give us if we would invite him back to tell us about this remote area and the rain forest. His talks are peppered with humor and wonderful slides, and it would be my hope we work him in for another program soon.

Thank you, Stuart, for delighting and educating us all.

HRA ANNUAL PICNIC

On Saturday, May 4, **HRA** will be holding our Annual Picnic at **Angelo Cerrito's** home, 6065 Hensel Road in 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. **HRA** will supply drinks 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.



APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

Barbara Kieran

Linda Landrum will be our speaker in April. She will be speaking about Environmentally Friendly Yard and Shrub Care. We often see Linda's column in the News-Journal, giving us advice about our gardens and shrubs. Her emphasis on Florida yards and neighborhood concepts help us to know when to fertilize, plant, and prune.

Linda is also a Master Gardener, and was one of the speakers at our recent Flower and Garden Show. Her job with the county is Extension Agent Horticulturist of the Volusia County Cooperative Extension Service.

Linda is a charming, informative and interesting speaker. Bring you questions and enjoy a great evening.

AUDCON

ST. JOHNS RIVER/INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AUDUBON REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Roger Van Ghent

The quarterly meeting of members or representatives of Audubon chapters in our region will meet April 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. The regional meeting is concerned with our common environmental, educational, and chapter issues. Special guest for this meeting will be **Mike Hollingsworth**, the St. Johns Riverkeeper who is very concerned about the health of the river and has a tremendous amount of information about it. Bring your questions.

The morning environmental discussion will be a report by **Charles Lee** of Audubon of Florida; local concerns about fertilizer, communication towers, eagle deaths, wildlife, etc.; Draft Guidelines for developing ordinances; and Mr. Hollingsworth.

After our noon lunch, the meeting will address education and chapter issues; and new environmental initiatives for local, county or regional concerns.

After adjournment, the group will tour the Alligator Farm. The awesome nesting shorebirds (herons, egrets, storks, and even spoonbills) can be viewed right at eye level. Be sure to bring your camera and get some spectacular pictures.

Lunch cost is \$5; there may be a Farm admission fee. Reservations are required. Contact **Lois Robinson** no later than Thursday, April 4 at phone 760-8480 or email msrobn512@juno.com.

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT IN MAY

David Hartgrove

Just a short reminder that Saturday, May 11th, will be the Spring Migration Count. We'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. This is an all day event but we can easily accommodate those wishing to do half a day. You can also

participate as a feeder watcher. If you plan to participate, PLEASE, call or e-mail me so I can begin setting teams, etc. We'll have a great time. Come out and join us.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY PUZZLE

BIRD PUZZLE

*Courtesy of UteCoot from the
Wasatch Audubon Society of Utah.*

Each definition below yields two words that rhyme, one of which is a bird name. For example, the definition *Waterfowl in a jam* yields *Stuck Duck*. Or, *Made of terrycloth and hoots* defines *Owl towel*.

1. Fishing gear for catching blackbirds
2. On safari seeking turquoise bird
3. Silent, duck-like swimmer
4. Raptor presentation
5. Last train car for a V-formation flyer
6. Flying insect-eaters who work on the job together
7. Sparrow-like bird that stole Christmas
8. White Cliffs wader
9. Keeps pants on underwater walker
10. Sandhill diver
11. Woodpecker made of interwoven willow
12. Ex Attorney-General's ocean divers
13. Lek-wear
14. Seabird made of red precious stone
15. Blanket for a long-necked wader
16. Not very wide city-bird
17. Small, black-necked goose is incapable
18. Mad, long-legged, long-necked bird
19. Plump warbler
20. Tree-climber pager
21. Ave! Scaly bird!
22. Runs firm of brilliant forest birds
23. Hawk-like bird with IQ of 300
24. Meditative bird with upward-cocked tail
25. Birdseed for a shorebird

Answers

1. Grackle tackle, Rook hook, Boot coot.
2. Bunting hunting.
3. Mute coot.
4. Hawk talk.
5. Goose caboose.
6. Swift shift.
7. Grinch finch.
8. Dover plover.
9. Dipper zipper.
10. Dune loon, Plane crane.
11. Wicker flicker.
12. Janet's gannets.
13. Grouse blouse, Ruff muff.
14. Ruby booby.
15. Stilt quilt. Crane counterpane.
16. Narrow sparrow.
17. Brant can't.
18. Insane crane.
19. Fat chat.
20. Creeper beeper.
21. Hail quail.
22. Tanager manager.
23. Bright kite, Mensa-chapter raptor.
24. Zen wren, Study ruddy.
25. Willet millet, Crane grain.

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Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338

WEB SITE

Halifax River Audubon www.halifaxriveras.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Joan & James Anderson	.....jnanderson3@juno.com
Willie Burns	.....wwillie@juno.com
Fran Carr	.....franniep@juno.com
John Carr	.....jcarr14@juno.com
Kevin DeWall	.....kdeWall@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	.....birdman9@earthlink.net
Gina Holt	.....hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Barbara Kieran	.....bkieran@ATT.net
Glade Koch	.....clecras@aol.com
Jean Lesh	.....FlyinSqrrl@aol.com
Pat Mihalic	.....WldkingJM@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	.....blooheron@earthlink.net
Lois Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	.....msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix	.....meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	.....jwill39301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	.....Mileybug@aol.com

APRIL 2002

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 April 15, 2002. Board meeting this month is Monday, April 1, 1:30 p.m. Dickerson Heritage Library on 411 South Keach Street. All are welcome.

THANK YOU - To our February program meeting hosts **Jeannie Riley** and **Vivian Smith**, for the delicious refreshments.

WELCOME - To new members **Beverly Ardin, Ray Bannon, Betty Cook, Harriet Damesek, Robert Gary, Kim S. Gray, Claire Gorcey, Joseph Kricek, Harold Maxwell, Paul and Margaret Momberger, Christopher J. Reynolds, Katherine and Paul Tignor Judy Valk, and Dylan S. Zyrowski.**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 47 - NO. 11

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

MAY 2002

BIRDATHON ROLLS ALONG

President Lois Robinson

At last counting we have received \$4711.20 in gifts and pledges and the money is still coming in thanks to the many generous folks of Halifax River Audubon and their friends. Please know of our deep appreciation for your generosity. We have a committee that is charged with bringing suggestions to the Board as to how we can best use some of these funds over and above our basic budget needs which include printing and publishing *The Pelican* and supporting Audubon Adventures in the school system for the next year. The Committee is made up of **David Hartgrove, Chair, Vivian Smith** and **John Roessler**. These persons will welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Some requests have already come in. These include up-dating our equipment so we can have "power point" presentations for example, contributing to Audubon's Coastal Islands Sanctuaries work in the Tampa Bay area (they are asking for help), buying copies of the Audubon Field Guide of Florida for **Louise Chapman's** class, sending a youth to Audubon Camp and giving more to **Mary Keller** (above our usual amount). Please get your ideas to one of the committee members so your suggestions will be heard.

We still have not presented awards to the team getting the most contributions and to the individual who received the most contributions. We have not forgotten them — we just don't know yet who they will be as the monies have not all come in. These awards will be presented at the May meeting so be sure and come. Our May meeting will include a great speaker, election of new members-at-large to the Board and the two award presentations. We hope each and every one of you will come.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Halifax River Audubon Board realized that there weren't enough people on the Board to do our expanded number of activities. **President Lois Robinson** appointed a committee to nominate chapter members to fill four positions, three new ones and that of **Meret Wilson**, who asked to be released from her duties on the Board.

The nominating committee has presented the following names: **Mary Ellen Black** (previous name; Mary Ellen Baker), **Vivian Smith**, **John Roessler**, and

Kevin Doxstater. If you wish to nominate a member for the Board, make sure you have that person's consent to serve, then notify a member of the Nominating Committee. That committee consists of **Barbara Kieran, Willie Burns, and Glade Koch**, and their phone numbers can be found in the Names and Numbers column.

Members present at the May meeting will vote.

CALENDAR

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

Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28

Earth Day at Washington Oaks. **HRA** will have booth. Contact **David Hartgrove** if you can help out. The date was reported incorrectly in the April Calendar.

Wednesday, May 1

Timucuan Sierra Club. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

HRA Annual Picnic at **Angelo Cerrito's** home at 6065 Hensel Road. 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Phone: 767-5397. Bring covered dish. Meat and drinks provided.

Monday, May 6

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 11

Spring Bird Count. City Island. 7 a.m. Contact **David Hartgrove**.

Sunday, May 19

HRA field trip. Dunlawton Bridge Hotspot. Meet at Port Orange Causeway Park, north side, 5:00 p.m. Led by **David Hartgrove**.

Monday, May 20

HRA Program Meeting. "Volusia Forever." **Dennis Bayer**, Vice Chair, Volusia Forever Commission.

Tuesday, May 21

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

Thursday, May 23

HRA field trip. Ocala National Forest. Meet at Publix parking lot, north end, Granada and Williamson Blvds., 8:00 a.m. Led by **Lois Pauchey**, Phone: 672-9345 and **John Carr**, Phone: 255-9360. Bring lunch.

Monday, June 3.

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30 p.m.

BIRDATHON NEWS

BIRDATHON TEAM SONG

*by Carol Branch to the tune of
"Lullaby my Baby with a Dixie Melody."*

Come and hear the story of the Dixie Chickadees.
We're here to say we spent the day in Volusia County.
We saw the birds and bees. We looked in ponds and trees.
We hunted at the landfill, Lake Woodruff and in northern
Oak Hill.

Willie drove and Carol sang and sometimes tabulated.
Lois lead, and Larry joked and Kitty navigated.
We saw a million birds and never saw a crowd.
We had a super day. We're starved, exhausted, proud.
That's our song report and you heard it from ...
THE DIXIE CHICKADEES.

BIRDATHON BIRD DATA

Our premier Birdathon identified 136 species. These are: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Gannet, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture.

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Mottled Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Muscovy Duck.

Osprey, Swallow-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel.

Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite.

Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe.

Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer.

Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied

Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike.

White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Florida Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing.

Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat.

Eastern Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow.

THANK YOU NOTES

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donation of services and door prizes for our birders. Please visit them and let them know you appreciate their support!

- Quickprint Center, Inc., New Smyrna Beach
- New Smyrna Trophies
- Bahama House, Daytona Beach
- David Hartgrove
- Bennett's Framing Gallery, Daytona Beach
- Kevin Doxstater
- Birdfeeders, South Daytona
- "The Manatee" - Coastal Cruises, Inc., New Smyrna Beach
- Calabria Ristorante, Daytona Beach
- Computers.Tom, New Smyrna Beach
- The Deck Down Under, Port Orange
- Shell's Restaurant, Daytona and New Smyrna
- Stonewood Tavern & Grill, Ormond Beach
- Art-Crete Products, Inc., Daytona Beach
- Judy's Copper Kettle Fudge, South Daytona
- Beach Bicycle and Kayak, New Smyrna Beach
- Southside Jet Ski Rentals, Port Orange
- Beach Photo 1Hour, Daytona Beach

We would also like to thank our committee members, **Lois Robinson, Gina Holt, Rachel Ramsey and Meret Wilson**, for all their hard work in putting together our **FIRST ANNUAL BIRDATHON!**

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Driving down Tomoka Farms Road can be a relaxing experience. You can watch for Eastern Bluebirds on the power lines, see a flock of Sandhill Cranes in a roadside pasture or catch a glimpse of a Red-tailed Hawk soaring over the woods. But there are other visions held for this area. The area that's supposed to be the heart of the long planned Volusia Conservation Corridor.

The Florida Department of Transportation has set its sights on Central Florida. They've been convinced that there isn't enough development here already and they see it as their mission to facilitate this development in whatever ways they can. And what they do is build and widen roads. They have commissioned a one million dollar feasibility study to explore the possibility of building a toll road adjacent to Tomoka Farms Road from the Greene Way (their newest toll road in Seminole County and named for a guy named "Greene", not because it's environmentally friendly) to I-95 and US 92. A handful of large landowners stand to make a killing at taxpayer expense while the quality of life for us all goes further down the tubes. Sound familiar?

One of the many things standing in the way of this plan is the amount of wetlands that would be impacted by both the road and the attendant sprawl it will attract. Sixty percent of the land in the study area is wetland habitat. Current zoning calls for 1 house per 20 acres in most of the area. But the concept of "cluster development" might provide a way around the zoning issue. So, what's cluster development you ask? Here's what **Jamie Seaman**, Director of Growth Resource Management for Volusia County says it is: "Presently, if a landowner has 3,000 acres zoned for 20 acre lots he can hope, at most, to build 150 homes. Through cluster development, an agreement would be reached whereby the landowner will agree to preserve a portion of his land in exchange for developing the rest at a much higher density. So instead of 150 homes, he can possibly build 2,000 and preserve 1,000 acres." If this plan is allowed to go ahead and development is approved, 37,000 new homes could be built in the area. That means as many as 74,000 more cars, increased needs for fire and police protection and tons of fertilizer and pesticides running off into the aquifer from all those new lawns. Bluebirds will disappear, the Sandhill Cranes might still be seen once in a while and the Red-tails will be more stressed; along with all of the humans who struggle to cope with the adverse effects of more urban sprawl.

Fortunately, there's still time to prevent this destruction. But it won't be easy. The FDOT must answer certain questions before the survey stakes go in and the bulldozers start to roll. They must determine if there is a "transportation need." That's easy, they control the study and the firm doing the study knows that if it wants future business, it better give the answer desired. The next two

questions they must answer aren't so easy: Can the road be built in an environmentally sensitive manner and does the local community support the project? If the answers to these two vital questions are negative, the project goes down in defeat. The FDOT spokesman at the workshop held in DeLand on April 2nd cautioned those in attendance that local support was crucial to the project's success. The final question to be answered is whether or not the toll road will be financially viable. The answer to that question can be finessed too if the powers behind a project are willing to cook the books a little. There's a toll bridge in the panhandle that will be supported by the taxpayers of this state for many years to come.

We have a chance to affect the outcome of this project and preserve the quality of life here for ourselves and our descendants. Write to the County Council, the address is in the phone book or contact them via the county web site: www.volusia.org. Each individual council member can be emailed from this site. Their names are: **Big John, Patricia Northey, Dwight Lewis, James E. Ward, Frank T. Bruno, Jr., Joseph C. Jaynes, and Ann McFall**. You can also call them at 386-257-6011. That's the local number for the office of the County Manager, **Cynthia Coto**. Tell them you'd like to see Tomoka Farms Road and the area along it stay just as it is.

MARY KELLER NEEDS OUR HELP!

Gina Holt

Baby bird season is upon us and Mary Keller, bird rehabilitator, has already started getting them in. Not only do they require hours of dedication to help them survive, they need certain foods and medicines to assure their survival. She needs KayTee Exact baby bird formula, which is very expensive, and she goes through it like water. Considering that Mary will have over 200 little ones at a time, you can imagine how much of this product she needs! A lot of local pet stores will give you a discount on it if you tell them it is for Mary Keller.

She also needs millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads, etc. Clean out your closet and donate these items. Pick up a few extra items for the birds when you go to the grocery store. Mary's address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. If you can't take them yourself, call me, **Gina Holt**, at 253-3466 for pickup

MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Meret Wilson

The Museum of Arts and Sciences presently has a terrific photography exhibit titled "Birds in Flight" by Russell Hansen, who took all the photos with a motorized Hassalblad camera. It is most extraordinary and shouldn't be missed. The exhibit continues through June 2.

TROUBLE AT ROSE BAY

David Hartgrove

In February, Mrs. Louise Chapman and Audrey Padgett presented our program at the chapter meeting. Louise is the Mainland High School teacher who's worked miracles in acquiring grants to fund the valuable work done by her classes and those of other teachers at Rose Bay. Audrey is a senior this year and has been a member of the "bird group" for three years. At no cost to the school board, Louise has been able to involve students from math, art, English and food service classes as well as her own biology students in the development of a beautiful, passive park on the south shore of Rose Bay. The work is within two years of completion. They've been at it for eight years now and Halifax River Audubon has been involved since the beginning.

One of their major grant underwriters, the Florida Learn and Serve Program, has decided on a shift in priorities. Now, they will limit current grant holders to \$10,000. Last year's grant was nearly twice that. To suddenly discover that the program will only receive half of what was expected has been a serious blow. The reason for FL&S's change in policy is to allow funding of more new programs. No doubt, they'll be very deserving too. But they won't be ours. Ours is down at Rose Bay and the work being done down there is invaluable. For instance, last month was student teaching month. The members of the bird group went out with Ray Scory, Kevin Doxstater and me for an hour and a half looking for birds. Then the bird group students took elementary school students out and taught them; also taking them to the various information tables set up throughout Spruce Creek Park.

There are plans for a small footbridge connecting the trails at the Spruce Creek and Rose Bay Parks, an observation tower for viewing the marsh and other amenities. We hope the program can continue on to completion. The students and their teachers have put in too much time and energy to watch it all be lost now. We'll keep you posted.

AUDCON MEETING

Three Halifax River members attended the meeting of SJR/IRL Regional Committee, or AUDCON – our region's Audubon Conservation conference attended by representatives from chapters in the St. Johns River and Indian River Lagoon water districts. David Hartgrove, John Roessler and John Carr met with the group at the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine.

The first topics discussed were by Charles Lee, Vice President of Audubon of Florida. He urged chapter's opposition to HB261 (Turnpike Bill) and support of HB813 (Everglades Restoration Bill). Lee's second request caused a good deal of discussion by the group. The rest of Florida's environmental community wants the

bill vetoed and the offending language from Senator King's citizen standing amendment removed.

Resee Collins led an Eagle Watch discussion. Chapters were urged to make sure eagle nests in their areas are listed to prevent destroying burns; other eagle protection measures were discussed.

Support for utilizing existing rail system for commuting was urged.

Mike Hollingsworth presented the Riverkeepers program. It involves patrolling the St. Johns River to prevent pollution. Currently they are concerned with the proposed Georgia-Pacific pipeline to dump polluted waste into the river and the proposed Freedom Commerce Center that would destroy 150 acres of wetlands on the headwaters of Julington Creek.

The group strongly urged Audubon of Florida to get moving to get the Gull-billed Tern listed as a "Species of Special Concern".

Roger Van Ghent, Chair, in a letter to St. Johns River Water Management District head Kirby Green, has requested him to supply an assessment of loss of wetlands acreage in the river basin. He asked that this information be made available at the SJR/IRL Regional Committee's homepage <http://homepage.mac.com/audcon/menu2.html>.

GRAB YOUR BINOCULARS & LUNCH

David Hartgrove

Yes, here's yet another reminder of the Spring Migration Count. It'll be held on Saturday, May 11th. We'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. This is an all day event, unless you have other commitments. Then we'll get you back to your car whenever you wish.

PLEASE, call or email me if you're planning to participate. It makes putting the teams together a lot easier. Thanks and we'll see you then.

LINDA LANDRUM PRESENTS PROGRAM

Members and guests at our April 15 program meeting enjoyed a fascinating talk by Linda Landrum that also gave us new information on how we can have a "Florida Friendly Yard". We learned how to choose plants, care for them properly, and preserve our neighborhood habitat at the same time.

Linda emphasized minimum water use, appropriate fertilization, environmentally friendly pesticides, mulching, recycling, protecting the waterfront, reducing stormwater runoff, and attracting wildlife.

One of the more interesting garden additions she described is a Frog Tube. Stick a 1 ¼-inch by about 4 feet tall PVC pipe into the ground and little tree frogs will sleep in it during the day and climb out and eat bugs all night. Make sure there's a ½-inch hole drilled into it at ground level to make a lizard escape hatch.

DORA CANAL TRIP

Willie Burns

Friday April 5 was a lovely day in many ways. Wonderful weather, perhaps a little breezy, made for a lovely Spring day. Flowers were blooming, birds were singing and nesting, a perfect day for a Field Trip.

Thirty-five Halifax River Audubon members traversed the late Spring countryside to Taveres/Leesburg for what has become our annual Field Trip on the Dora Canal. Several members asked why we could not drive together. Moving that many vehicles at the same speed over almost sixty miles of highway is a severe safety hazard. By carpooling in smaller clumps of two or three cars we reduce our risk dramatically.

Heritage Lake Tours once again provided us with an excellent boat trip. Their large pontoon boat is a steady and comfortable platform to view the wildlife. It even has sanitary facilities if needed. We cruised south on the Dead River to Lake Harris, seeing many nesting Herons, Anhinga, and Osprey.

We returned along the east bank to catch what we missed going out. A small venture onto Lake Harris gave us flocks of Wood Duck with hatchlings. Purple Gallinules lent spots of beauty to the green plants. No Limpkin were seen this year, perhaps due to the young Bobcat that has been seen in the area.

We exited the Dead River (named because there is so little current) onto Lake Eustis. A short ride west allowed us to see the rookery of Great Egrets, but low water keep us from being as close as usual. Next was a trip along the lake's shore to the Dora Canal.

Actually the Dora Canal is a natural river, except for the northern most hundred feet or so that was dredged and straightened in the 1890s. It drains Lake Dora, but often runs either direction depending on rainfall. The Dora Canal is the high point of the trip.

The boat was very close to many colorful Prothonotary Warblers. Brilliantly yellow, the first to be heard and seen generated much excitement. By the end of the voyage another singing on a Cypress knee two feet away merely generated a yawn! They were everywhere.

So to were all the Egrets and Herons. It was a banner day for Little Green Herons. They seemed to be wherever we looked. The sounds of the nesting Herons and Anhinga filled the air as if trying to drown out the warbling of the Prothonotary Warblers.

About the only usual spots we missed this trip were the Limpkin, Barred Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker. Bald Eagles were seen very high, including two over us at lunch. Forster's Terns, one or two Royals, you name it, they was there in numbers. SO many Great Blue Herons...

Many Alligators were about, some quite large. Many Red Bellied Turtles, of course, were sunning and six or seven otters put in an appearance for us. After returning to the dock we drove to a Canal-side picnic area. Here Great

Crested Flycatchers, Tufted Titmice, Cardinals, and of course the ubiquitous Great Blues Herons all conspired to make our lunch even better.

If you missed this trip, try again next year. Water levels have been rising, which helps with where the boat can float. Or call Heritage Lake Tours, (352) 343-4332, in Taveres and go any time. They are often booked ahead so call for reservations. I do not believe one could ever get tired of this trip!

ADOPT A SEA TURTLE NEST Help Save a Threatened Species!

Sea turtles have been nesting on our beaches for over 100 million years. The population of these ancient mariners has been greatly depleted by loss of nesting habitat, incidental catch by fisheries and exploitation for sea turtle products. Without the help of people like you, they could face extinction in the near future.

By adopting a sea turtle nest, you will provide funding to the nonprofit Turtle Patrol and show your support for the protection of an endangered species.

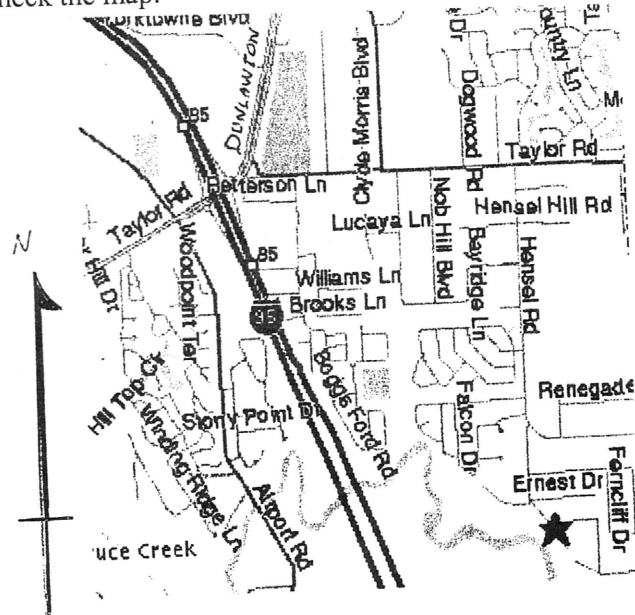
If you really want to get involved, you can do a "Hands On" adoption!

This actually involves baby-sitting a sea turtle nest. You will go to the beach in the evening to check "your" nest, and report back to the Turtle Patrol if there are any problems. You will provide valuable protection for the nest, and you may even be lucky enough to see the hatchlings emerge from their nest and crawl to the sea!

Contact:
Volusia/Flagler Turtle Patrol
4738 S. Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, Fl 32127

HRA ANNUAL PICNIC REMINDER

Don't forget. Our picnic at Angelo Cerrito's home is Saturday, May 4. If you've forgotten how to get there, check the map.



THE PELICAN



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THE PELICAN... OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Names & Numbers

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

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Willie Burns		253-2150
Meret Wilson		672-2625

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Publication	John Carr	255-9360
Publicity	Gina Holt	253-3466
Newsletter Editor	Fran Carr	255-9360
Ways and Means	Gina Holt and Rachel Ramsey	
Membership Recruitment and Retention	Joan and James Anderson	761-2888

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 www.halifaxriveras.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Joan & James Anderson	.....	jnjanderson3@juno.com
Willie Burns	.....	wwillie@juno.com
Fran Carr	.....	franniep@juno.com
John Carr	.....	jcarr14@juno.com
Kevin DeWall	.....	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	.....	birdman9@earthlink.net
Gina Holt	.....	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Barbara Kieran	.....	bkieran@ATT.net
Glade Koch	.....	clecras@aol.com
Jean Lesh	.....	FlyinSqrrl@aol.com
Pat Mihalic	.....	WldkingJM@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	.....	blooheron@earthlink.net
Lois Robinson	.....	msrobn512@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	.....	msrobn512@juno.com
Madeline Shaddix	.....	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	jwill39301@aol.com
Meret Wilson	Mileybug@aol.com

MAY 2002

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
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CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests Welcome! The next General Meeting will be on May 20, 2002. Board meeting this month is Monday, May 6, 1:30 p.m. Dickerson Heritage Library on 411 South Keech Street. All are welcome.

THANK YOU - To our April program meeting hosts **Darlene Wilson** and **Rebecca Carr** for the delicious refreshments.

WELCOME - To new members and transfers into the chapter, **Myra Boyd Alexander, Frances and William Bahmuell, Verna Bigham, Vera Brock, Jean Burke, Lewis Butler, Reidun Christensen, William Davis, Kathy Dunlop, Anita Emery, Terry Fawcett, Esther Gergely, Michael Guy, Mary Henderson, Orrin and Pierrette Magill, Mr. and Mrs. R. Miller, Timothy O'Keeffe, David Phillips, Horace Powers, Jean Rountree, John Turan, Peter and Lynne Vanderkas, Diane Westerling, Gerald and Anne Williams.**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 47 - NO. 12

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JUNE 2002

NATIONAL AUDUBON'S REPORT IS OUT

President Lois Robinson

National Audubon's Annual Report came recently. So what's new and exciting, you ask, about an organization's annual accounting of itself? (Audubon's fiscal year ends June 30th each year.) What I learned from this report that I didn't know before includes the following facts: Audubon of Florida has a total of more Audubon Sanctuaries and Centers than any other state in the nation (17, at last count). Yes, more than New York and Maine who come in second and third.

Auduboners all over the country are looking to us as we begin the huge Everglades Restoration Project, a joint public and private enterprise in which Audubon is heavily involved. Because of this, California is beginning its own San Francisco Bay Restoration. The Bay area is the largest estuary on the Pacific coast. California is looking for guidelines as to what we are doing in Florida that appears to be working.

Also, I didn't know that Audubon has a Living Oceans program working to develop an environmental sea ethic and to create a legacy for future generations by conserving and restoring fish populations as well as other marine creatures.

Another project new to me is the Heritage Forest campaign that works to protect roadless areas in the nation's forests. In this report Florida received recognition for helping pass the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act by the Florida legislature.

In the area of financial responsibility National Audubon spent 75% of its operating funds on conservation programs last year. The rest was divided: 10% for membership promotion, 6% for management and 9% for development, a pretty good accounting of itself, I think.

The Annual Audubon Report is available for your use. Just ask me for a copy. We need to be aware, I think, of what our parent organization is doing or not doing on our behalf and on behalf of the environment throughout the nation.

VOLUSIA FOREVER, AN OVERVIEW

David Hartgrove

For our final program before the summer hiatus, **Dennis Bayer**, Vice-Chair of the Volusia Forever Advisory Committee, gave us an interesting talk. Volusia County voters have lead the way for other counties around the state by having their own, locally based,

environmental lands acquisition program. Mr. Bayer explained that due to the innovative nature of the program, the Committee is having to spend time developing procedures for prioritizing and decision making. He outlined some of the problems and challenges the Committee has been dealing with since its inception. There was the county staff's reluctance to press the County Council for bonding authority to maximize the funds available for land acquisition. There are questions regarding jurisdiction between Volusia Forever and ECHO. For instance, since the "E" in ECHO stands for "Environmental", which group determines issues like land acquisition for off beach parking? These and other questions, along with a desire to make the right decisions the first time have meant that the Committee members have spent a lot of sunny afternoons in meetings when they'd rather be out there enjoying the fresh air. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

The prioritized list of areas where the Committee is concentrating its efforts is as follows: the Spruce Creek Corridor, the Volusia Corridor (running from Haw Creek Swamp through Tiger Bay State Forest and along Tomoka Farms Road), Lake George, the Tomoka River system and areas around state parks. One of the guiding principles is to provide continuous land corridors for the protection of species and fresh water recharge of the aquifer.

A major concern is the impact of road building. Under the guise of alleviating traffic congestion on existing roads, government (state and local) may decide to build a new road, therefore opening new areas to further development and causing more environmental degradation. Meanwhile, the process for acquiring land for preservation is agonizingly slow.

After a brief period of questions, Mr. Bayer introduced **Ann Moore** who was in attendance. Ann is currently on the board of directors for the St. Johns River Water Management District, a position she was appointed to after driving folks in Tallahassee crazy with her plan to have Lake Disston declared an Outstanding Florida Waterway. There is now an application in to have the Lake area declared an Important Bird Area by Audubon of Florida. This year, there are 36 Wood Stork nests at the lake, along with nearly 40 Osprey nests. It's one of the most pristine areas left in the state.

Our thanks to Dennis Bayer for an excellent end of the season program. We learned that Volusia Forever is in good hands.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Back in February, a story that should have been front-page news was relegated to the back pages of newspapers all over the country. The EPA's top enforcement official, **Eric Schaeffer**, resigned in protest over the administration's decision to include breaks for coal burning, polluting power companies in its major energy legislation. This came a week after an e-mail from a Southern Companies (a major energy holding company) executive to **Vice President Dick Cheney** asking for just such a break to be included in the administration's energy legislation. Perhaps it was in the sense of not wanting to raise a red flag regarding a president whose approval ratings belie the shortcomings of his decisions. For whatever reasons, this was a story that wasn't accorded the importance it deserved.

The EPA has filed lawsuits against eight major power companies over their continued violations of the Clean Air Act. Just as two of the suits were about to be settled and an annual 750,000 tons of pollution removed from the air in and around the Chesapeake Bay, along came this administration and its policy of favors for big contributors. This is all about keeping the money flowing and getting reelected. If sacrifices are to be made, it'll be the health and welfare of the country and its people. And don't think we're immune here in Florida. The coal-fired plant in Tampa is one of the plants on the EPA's list and contributes to Florida's acid rain problem as well as its air quality problems.

The effects of the air pollution from these plants aren't something that could be argued as being benign. We're talking about seven million tons of fine particulate matter and sulfur dioxide per year released into the air we all breathe. The fine particulate matter contributes to the asthma attacks suffered by 7.7 million of America's children and a host of premature deaths caused by chronic bronchitis and other pulmonary diseases. The sulfur dioxide is a direct cause of acid rain. The EPA had been trying to force the coal burning power plants to abide by the Clean Air Act. This turned into a battle between the EPA and the Department of Energy. **Spencer Abraham** (whom Bush plucked from obscurity after his "0" rating from the League of Conservation Voters helped cost him reelection to the Senate from Michigan) is the Secretary of Energy His decisions on things like Clean Air Act compliance, nuclear waste storage and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge prove that the reservations about his qualifications raised at his confirmation hearings were well justified.

The Clean Air Act was first authorized in 1963 under President Kennedy. It was strengthened in 1970 under President Nixon. It was reauthorized and amended under President Bush in 1990. Now his son and his cronies from the oil and coal industries seem bent on undermining what

2
progress has been made over the last 39 years. The health of America's families, its forests and soils is far too important to be sacrificed on the altar of quick profits for some big time campaign contributors. Let Senators Graham and Nelson know that we expect and deserve compliance with the Clean Air Act, even if it means paying a little more for energy.

To contact **Senator Bob Graham**, call: 202-224-3041 or e-mail: bob_graham@graham.senate.gov

To contact **Senator Bill Nelson**, call: 202-224-5274 or e-mail: bill_nelson@billnelson.senate.gov

DUNLAWTON BRIDGE FIELD TRIP

Ray Scory

Take a pot, mix into it high winds, a driving rain and high tide and you have the ingredients for an interesting mix of birding stew brewed at the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange on May 19.

That Sunday evening's field trip had that mix and five **HRA** members and two guests from Colorado enjoyed the meal. Twenty-two wind swept species were observed that evening. Adding spice to the stew was a sighting of a fledgling American Oystercatcher shadowing its mother as she probed the water's edge. Watching speedy Semipalmated Sandpipers majestically overcome churning winds determined to knock them from the sky presented this meal in elegant fashion. The evening was a birder's gourmet delight.

P.S. This was the last of four Sunday evening field trips held at the Dunlawton Bridge. It was an experiment offering a Sunday field trip to our yearly field trip list. For those who attended it was a huge success with Bald Eagles, Common Loons, Caspian Terns and Black-throated Blue Warblers leading the species list. A flight of about one thousand White Ibis moving to their roosting areas silhouetted against a golden setting sun exposed the charm of this special birding spot. We will schedule it again.

A note of thanks.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated field trip leaders. They give their time freely, willingly and enthusiastically. Their generosity is without question. So thank you all for the smoothly run trips and the fun you brought to them. Without your full commitment to our outdoor field trip program, we would not have a field trip program (period).

MARINE SCIENCE CENTER GRAND OPENING

John Crisp, of Volusia County Parks and Recreation Department, has sent our Audubon Chapter a personal invitation to attend the opening of the center at Ponce Inlet County Park. The event will take place June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PROTECTION FOR MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS

David Hartgrove

It's time for local municipalities to consider enacting ordinances designed to protect birds, especially migrants along our coasts. Local Audubon chapters can provide the impetus for seeing these efforts through. The March 2002 issue of "Audubon" contained a lengthy article about the plight of these long distance migrants. The presence of cars on the local beaches here in Volusia County present some unique problems. Here are some thoughts regarding the enactment of a Volusia County ordinance for the protection of birds.

First, I don't think we want to get into the actual wording of whatever ordinance may possibly be adopted. Ultimately, attorneys are going to write what the County Council considers. All we want to do is provide some guidance regarding what we'd like to see included in such an ordinance and why.

The beaches of Volusia County are some of the widest, at low tide, of any in the state of Florida. All during the year, but especially during the spring and fall migrations, our beaches provide resting and feeding opportunities for hundreds of thousands of birds. Many of these species travel thousands of miles annually in answer to the call of procreation and survival. They travel migration routes begun millions of years ago and we're lucky enough to share our beautiful beaches with them for a short time. Some of these species face the real possibility of extinction due to habitat loss along their migration routes.

All of these birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and some state laws. But these laws are only enforceable by state and federal officials. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are notoriously under funded and under staffed. So when some 15 year old on a rented, 4 wheel ATV or his older brother in a big wheeled pickup decides to race through a flock of Red Knots, (birds that are listed as a "Species of Special Concern" and migrate a round trip of 17,000+ miles annually) there's no one around to enforce the laws designed to protect these birds from this type of harassment. These small birds may have just flown 500 or more miles, non-stop. Instead of being allowed to rest and feed peacefully on our beaches, they're subjected to life threatening harassment for the momentary pleasure of those unaware of the damage they're doing.

The Volusia County Beach Patrol is in a unique position to be able to offer the birds the protection they're already entitled to under the aforementioned federal and state statutes. All they lack is a local statute giving them enforcement powers and some training in the implementation of the much-needed enforcement procedures. A fine of fifty or more dollars, depending on

the severity of the infraction, should be enough of a deterrent. Our prisons are overcrowded with non-violent offenders already, so we do not seek jail time for offenders, unless their offense violates other applicable state or federal ordinances. We don't expect 4 year-olds walking with their parents to be ticketed for chasing birds on the beach, though we would expect a Ranger to gently admonish the parents and advise them of the existence of the anti-harassment ordinance. If people are made aware of the serious damage possible to these fragile creatures, they'll begin to alter their behavior. For the most part, people are good and want to do the right thing. The Volusia County Beach Rangers can be an important voice in helping create this climate of change necessary to making our beaches a more bird friendly place. As a civilized society, we owe it to ourselves, our children, and the birds to do everything in our power to act as good stewards for the species with whom we share the earth.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - THE RESULTS ARE IN

Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have announced the results of the 5th Great Backyard Bird Count that occurred between February 15 through 18, 2002. "Close to 50,000 checklists were submitted for a total of almost 5 million individual birds counted from across the United States and Canada, with every state and province reporting in," said **Frank Gill**, Audubon's vice president of science and conservation. "The total number of bird species reported currently stands at 505, a figure that is sure to grow as rare sightings continue to be confirmed and added to the GBBC database."

Count participants included families, individuals, classrooms, and Scout troops. Participants took as little as 15 minutes a day to report on the feathered friends they saw in their backyards, schoolyards, local parks, or other locations, including right out the office window. Some of the rare and unusual birds included a Gyrfalcon in Massachusetts (a powerful falcon from the Arctic), a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Alaska (a visitor from Asia) and Broad-billed Hummingbird in Georgia (possibly a first for the state). However probably the greatest contribution participants make is by counting the common birds, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, and Mourning Doves. Maps showing the late winter distribution of all of these species can be seen in the "Results" section of the website and state-by-state results are also available. Visit www.birdsource.org to learn more.

AUDUBON BIRD CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER, Spring 2002
To subscribe to Audubon's Bird Conservation newsletter send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG with the following text in the body of your e-mail: *SUBSCRIBE Bird-Conservation-News*

HRA PICNIC

Barbara Kieran

Thanks to Angelo Cerrito's hospitality, we had a great time at the annual picnic Sunday, May 4. Angelo's son did wonders with the grilled chicken and shish-kabobs. Only a small number showed up, probably due to the dreadful temperature way up in the 90s. But those of us who braved the weather rated the picnic a big success.

Many birds showed up in Angelo's backyard: Crested Flycatcher, Chimney Swift, Black Vulture, Anhinga, American Redstart, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Mourning Dove, Parula Warbler, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue-headed Vireo, Fish Crow, and, of course, the Barred Owl that always comes to visit.

GOLDEN DOG BOOK SALES

Willie Burns, "proprietor" of the Golden Dog Books, reports that there are some new books that will be available for us to buy at our program meetings.

Audubon member **Dr. Deborah Green's** newest is "Paradise Preserved." It is an in depth trip through the ecosystems of Canaveral Seashore National Park and Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge

Halifax River Audubon member **Kevin Doxstater** contributed many of his excellent photographs to the book. It covers the seashore, lagoon, and all the different habitats of the area. The book is better than a field guide for any walk on the beach or the Seashore or through the woodlands of the Refuge.

All the animals, fish, and birds of the region are discussed in an easy to read and understand format. Not only are the best birding locations described but the best times to be there as well. The pictures (thanks, Kevin!) and drawings are located close to the text for quick and easy reference.

Two other new books are "Watching Wilderness at Wekiva Springs" and "Wekiva Springs: a self guided tour."

Willie has been selling books in the "Florida's Fabulous" book series and "Pelican Pete" books and products for quite a while now. Other **HRA** items for sale by **Rachel Ramsey** are our beautiful T-shirts and bags with a Pelican on the front and our fabulous cookbook.

Every bit of profit from our items helps your chapter to carry out its projects and publish our newsletter.

WANTED – BIRD HOTSPOT LOCATIONS

Visitors to the Daytona Beach area sometimes ask about good birding locations – something we locals know about, but out-of-towners need a little help in finding. The **HRA** Board asks that you let one of your Board members know about your favorite hotspot location (somewhere that won't disturb anyone's privacy). When we have a

good list, we will publish and distribute it to Boards of Commerce and birding companies in the area.

Some we know about already are the Museum of Arts and Science grounds, eagle's nest in New Smyrna Beach on US-1, under the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange, and the Volusia County Landfill. Some good places a day trip away are the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, Lake Woodruff, and the Titusville Blue Heron Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Please see what you can add and let us know. We can direct folks to see Swallow-tailed Kites and Florida Scrub-Jays, but where are the Painted Buntings?

THE RIVERKEEPER

The St. Johns River has a Riverkeeper, a fellow named **Mike Hollingsworth**. There are only 70 Riverkeepers, Baykeepers or Soundkeepers throughout North America in a program that began on New York's notoriously polluted Hudson River. This new organization prioritized 75 concerns and chose 4 issues to focus their first-year efforts upon: Bacteria in the Tributaries; Nutrients, Algae, and Total Maximum Daily Loading; Freedom Commerce Center proposed shopping center on the headwaters of Julington Creek; and Sedimentation throughout the Watershed. Over the past year, Mike has tested new types of bacteria test kits, met with government and industry officials, written commentary on proposals, spoken out at public meetings, and found new ways for agencies and the public to work together to solve these problems.

Mike asks that we become involved by forwarding any information that we may observe from our boat, car, or office relating to the health of the St. Johns River. Other ways volunteers can help is sampling water in the river and tributaries, and adopting a Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling station. You can get in touch through the website www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

The group that supports Mike is the Waterkeeper Alliance, which publishes a newsletter free to members of the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc. The inaugural issue has just been published and it gives great information about the project. To find out more, contact mhollin@ju.edu or call (904) 745-7591. The address is:

The Kingfisher
St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc.
Jacksonville University
2800 University Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32211

This first newsletter quotes **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings** of Cross Creek who wrote about the river in 1942. "If I could have, to hold forever, one brief place and time of beauty, I think I might choose the night on that high lonely bank above the St. Johns River."

Don't you wish we had a Halifax River Riverkeeper?

A LISTENER'S GUIDE TO THE BIRDS

(After a Binge with Roger Tory Peterson in His Famous
Guidebook)

Wouldst know the lark?

Then hark!

Each natural bird

Must be seen *and* heard.

The lark's "Tee-ee" is a tinkling entreaty,

But it's not always "Tee-ee"-

Sometimes it's "Tee-titi."

So watch yourself.

Birds have their love-and-mating song,

Their warning cry, their hating song;

Some have a night song, some a day song,

A lilt, a tilt, a come-what-may song;

Birds have their careless bough and teeter song

And, of course, their Roger Tory Peter song.

The studious ovenbird (pale pinkish legs)

Calls, "Teacher, teacher, teacher!"

The chestnut-sided warbler begs

To see Miss Beecher.

"I wish to see Miss Beecher."

(Sometimes interpreted as "Please please please ta
meetcha.")

The redwing (frequents swamps and marshes)

Gurgles, "Konk-la-reeee."

Eliciting from the wood duck

The exclamation "Jeeeee!"

(But that's the *male* wood duck, remember.

If it's his wife you seek.

Wait till you hear a distressed "Whoo-eek!")

Nothing is simpler than telling a barn owl from a veery:

One says, "Kschh!" in a voice that is eerie,

The other says, "Vee-ur," in a manner that is breezy.

(I told you it was easy.)

On the other hand, distinguishing between the veery

And the olive-backed thrush

Is another matter. It couldn't be worse.

The thrush's song is similar to the veery's,

Only it's in reverse.

Let us suppose you hear a bird say, "Fitz-bew,"

The things you can be sure of are two:

First, the bird is an alder flycatcher (*empidonax traillii*
traillii):

Second, you are standing in Ohio – or, as some people
call it,

O-hee-o –

Because, although it may come as a surprise to you,

The alder flycatcher in New York or New England,
does not say, "Fitz-bew,"

It says "Wee-bé-o."

"Chu-chu-chu" is the note of the harrier,

Copied, of course, from our common carrier.

The osprey, thanks to a lucky fluke,

Avoids "Chu-chu" and cries, "Chewk, Chewk!"

So there's no difficulty there.

The chickadee likes to pronounce his name;

It's extremely helpful and adds to his fame.

But in spring you can get the heebie-jeebies

Untangling chickadees from phoebes.

The chickadee, when he's all afire,

Whistles, "Fee-bee," to express desire.

He should be arrested and thrown in jail

For impersonating another male.

(There's a way you can tell which bird is which,

But just the same, it's a nasty switch.)

Our gay deceiver may fancy-free be

But he never does fool a female phoebe.

Oh, sweet the random sounds of birds!

The old-squaw, practicing his thirds;

The distant bittern, driving stakes,

The lonely loon on haunted lakes;

The white-throat's pure and tenuous thread –

They go to my heart, they go to my head.

How hard it is to find the words

With which to sing the praise of birds!

Yet birds, when they get singing praises,

Don't lack for words – they know some daisies:

"Fitz-bew,"

"Konk-la-reeee,"

"Onk-a-lik, ow-owdle-ow,"

"Cheedle, cheedle chew,"

And dozens of other inspired phrases.

By E. B. WHITE (Gray cheeks, inconspicuous eye-
ring; frequents bars and glades)

*Used by permission from Poems & Sketches of E. B.
White, HarperCollins, Publishers, New York, 1981.*

CALENDAR

Monday, June 3

HRA Planning Session for Programs 2002-2003. Dickerson Library, 1:30. All members of the Board are members of the Program Planning Committee.

Wednesday, June 19

HRA Field Trip Planning Committee for 2002-2003. **Ray Scory's** house, 953 Greenmont Court, Port Orange, 1:30. We need to car-pool as parking is limited.

August

HRA Planning Retreat for all Board Members during the last two weeks; time and place to be announced later.

Tuesday, September 3

HRA Board Meeting, Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30. Note change of day due to Labor Day Holiday.

Monday, September 16

Halifax River Audubon program meeting.

September, 4th week

Clearwater Birding Festival. Reserve accommodations at Eckerd College

October 23 and 30 and November 6

Birding Classes. The Casements, 7:00 p.m. **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr**.

October 24-27

Audubon of Florida Assembly. Orlando Airport Merriott.

2001 TURTLE SEASON

Use by permission from Jo Ellen Basile, from Turtle Tracker newsletter Winter 2001

Volusia and Flagler Counties account for about three percent of the sea turtle nests laid in Florida each year, with an average of 2,280 nests per year in the two counties since 1993. In Volusia County, 1,694 nests were laid, compared to 2,503 in 2000. In Flagler County, 286 nests were laid compared to 385 in 2000. Volusia County's higher numbers are due to its longer coastline and to higher nesting frequency in Canaveral National Seashore.

Although these numbers represent a 31.4% decline from the record high for the two counties in 2000, there has been a slight increase in nesting trend since 1993.

The highlight of the year was the number of leatherback nests, with a record 14 nests laid in Volusia and 8 in Flagler. The leatherback is the largest and one of the most endangered sea turtle species. Its nest numbers are increasing statewide.

Obviously, it is not time to celebrate just yet. There are many problems that should be addressed before we can say we have done all we can to protect sea turtles.

Lighting disorientations continue to be one of the major threats to sea turtles on our shores. Oceanfront lighting lures hatchlings away from their normal trek to

the ocean, leaving them weakened and vulnerable to predators, vehicles, and dehydration.

Monitoring groups reported a preliminary state total of 739 hatchling disorientations in 2012. Top sources were condominium lights (30.6%) and urban sky glow (23.8%). Experts agree that these disorientations are only a portion of what actually occurs. Volusia County had 39 disorientations, with 30 of them north of Ponce Inlet, where high-density development exists, particularly in Daytona Beach.

In previous issues, we had announced that Volusia County had improved enforcement of the countywide lighting ordinance with a ticketing system and by no longer allowing violators to wipe the slate clean at the end of each nesting season. Unfortunately, the county did not follow through on these measures, but uses the same cumbersome system that allows problem lights to disorient nests again and again. The countywide ordinance also allows looser standards in the core area of Daytona Beach.

Strandings increased in 2001, with a record of 1,234 strandings reported in the state. Volusia County had 93 strandings, and Flagler had 18. A stranding is a dead or injured adult turtle, and is a serious problem because it reduces the breeding population. Dredging, power plants, and boat hits account for about a quarter of strandings. Turtles also are caught in fishing gear.

Two diseases, fibropapillomatosis, causing tumor growths in green turtles, and a mystery illness, causing paralysis in loggerhead turtles, have resulted in a number of strandings. The causes of these diseases, found mostly in south Florida turtles, have not been determined.

Many turtles drown because some fishermen illegally disable Turtle Excluder Devices in shrimp trawl nets. Other turtles, especially the leatherback, which can weigh up to 2,000 pounds, are too big to escape through the TED opening.

A rash of leatherback strandings in November and December in northeast Florida coincided with increased shrimpers in the area. A similar situation occurred in 1999. After the National Marine Fisheries Service issued an emergency 30-day rule requiring shrimpers to expand the width of the excluder devices, strandings decreased.

To report violations of the TED rules, contact the Florida Marine Patrol at 1-888-404-3922.

Washbacks are post-emergence hatchlings that have been weakened by rough surf. Volusia County is the unofficial washback capital of the state, with unusually high numbers of washbacks. This is probably due to offshore currents. In 2001, we documented 59 washbacks, much lower than the record of 182 in 1999. Many washbacks survive after a few days of rehabilitation and are returned to sea by boat. Our leader, **Beth Libert**, has a very good record with treating washbacks. This year, only two of the 49 live washbacks died. Way to go, Beth.

MAY 20 PROGRAM MEETING VOTE RESULTS

Chapter members present at the program meeting approved changes to the Halifax River Audubon, Inc. By-Laws to enlarge the board by three additional At-Large members, and to approve Chapter Only memberships

Members present also voted to elect **Mary Ellen Black, Vivian Smith, John Roessler** and **Kevin Doxstater** to the Board of Directors. Welcome to you all and we'll put you to work very soon!

EVENING WETLANDS REVISITED

Glade Koch

April 20, nine of us had wonderful weather for half a day (1:30 to 8:30) in the wetland treatment systems of Titusville and Orlando Wetlands Park. The trip was a make-up trip for February 23, which was badly rained out.

Our thanks to Blue Heron's **Matt Hickson** and his staff who welcomed us to caravan their impoundments. We saw Sandhill Cranes with chicks and Moorhen families in the marsh as well as many Least Bitterns, Blue-winged Teal, Glossy Ibis and White Ibis, Egret and Herons. Yellow, white and blue blossoms were very lovely in the marsh as well as the dragonflies.

About 4:30 we met Orange Audubon's very knowledgeable **Bob Wheeler** where he was volunteering at the Wetlands Park. We got acquainted with the new picnic facilities, the kiosk and new interpretation pavilion and rest rooms. Thanks, also, to **Mark Sees**, Wetlands' Analyst, for his arrangements for us. Instead of the usual hike around the impoundments we followed Bob on a complete tour of the wetland by car. Bob showed us Purple Gallinule, Roseate Spoonbills, and made sure we saw the Purple Martins feeding young in their palm tree hole nests. We saw raccoons, bobcats and many "gators." The many fish (gar, rays, bass and smaller fish) were beautiful at the outfall of the system where water quality standards are all met for release to the St. Johns River, thanks to the engineered marsh plant nutrient uptake system. Bob, we appreciated your explaining the operation of the wetland.

It was surely demonstrated to us that if we wish to see the huge flights of birds that roost for the night at the park, we must stick to a winter date. We who have seen both winter and spring evenings in Orlando Wetlands were made aware this April of how alive and exciting bird ways are. This trip we saw 52 species, many young birds and a lot of botany and biology in full swing, and we also experienced a peaceful, beautiful spring evening in two man-made Florida wetlands.

REMINDER

The "Birds in Flight" photographs by **Russell Hansen** will be on exhibit at the Museum of Arts and Sciences only until June 2. This is one not to be missed!

MARY KELLER NEEDS

The Bird Rehabilitator needs millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads, etc. Mary's address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. If you can't take them yourself, call **Gina Holt** at 253-3466 for pickup

PORT ORANGE SUPPORTS GREEN BELT

Pat Mihalic

Residents of the Waterbridge Subdivision in Port Orange got support from their city officials in their quest to preserve the green belt between their homes and the New Palmer Chiropractic College. Also, the City Council has instructed its Planning Department to include citizen input on buffers in all future projects. We thank **Mayor John Jackson, Council members Mary Martin, Allen Green, Clifford "Buzzy" Windle** and **City Manager Ken Parker** for helping make their city an environmentally sound place to live.

OUR BIRDATHON IS OVER

The pledges are in, and the winners are

The Southside Skimmers who spotted 106 species won THE CAST OF THOUSANDS AWARD.

The Precocious Pelicans won THE CANNONBALL RUN AWARD by logging 188 miles.

The Precocious Pelicans earned them THE DODO BIRD AWARD for the Most Unusual Bird Sighted by finding a flock of Purple Sandpipers.

THE GOLDEN EGG AWARD went to **Rachel Ramsey** who received TWO pledges for \$200 each.

THE KING MIDAS AWARD was given to **The Dixie Chickadees**, the Team that raised the Most Money - a total of \$1900.40. (They also had a really neat song to sing for us at the banquet.)

And then there was **Carol Branch!** She worked so hard on this Birdathon that she won TWO awards: THE THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD for having the Most Sponsors - 45, and THE ENRON AWARD for the Person Raising the Most Money. Carol single handedly raised \$1,388.40 (P.S. She was on the team that raised the most money, imagine that...)

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our members and friends who donated their time, money and talents to make our First Birdathon a huge success.

THANK YOU

We thank our hosts **Ruth Hough, Mary Stevenson,** and **Alex Siodmak** for the delicious refreshments at our May program meeting.

THE PELICAN



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June 2002

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-9360	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	760-7640	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona_beach.fl.us
Vivian Smith	At-Large	253-3815	
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Glade Koch	Education	253-8438	clecras@aol.com
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Commun.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.fl.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitmt and Retention	761-2881	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(407) 644-0190
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407) 242-9338
Web Site	www.halifaxrivers.org	

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 Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. 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 Ave., Daytona Beach, at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

Welcome -to new members and transfers into the chapter, **William Akers, Johannes Monsees,** and **A.W. Pembeton.**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JULY 2002

THE BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH NEEDS OUR HELP

President Lois Robinson

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is a year-round resident in its range, which is the pine forests of southeastern U.S. This bird needs mature forests with open understory and ample snags as well as woods where fire suppression is not a problem. They are cavity-nesting birds. Research done by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and its citizen scientists finds the species is in decline throughout its range except for a few isolated areas that still have largely intact mature pine woods. Logging and forest fragmentation have had a very negative impact on this little bird weighing less than an ounce.

We in HRA delight in finding Brown-headed Nuthatches on our birding trips as they are found in a very few areas in small numbers in Volusia County. The Birdhouse Network of Cornell Lab is encouraging all interested birders to provide nest boxes where suitable habitat exists and to report nesting attempts. They recommend putting up several nest boxes in areas with mature live pine trees because Nuthatches sometimes build several nests before deciding on one. "If you provide nest boxes place them 4 to 6 feet above the ground and attach predator guards." BIRDSCOPE, Spring 2002. Snakes are frequent predators because the birds nest so low. Face the boxes away from prevailing winds to prevent rain getting in them.

If you are interested in helping this delightful bird contact web site: www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse to join the Birdhouse Network. The Birdhouse Network consists of volunteers who collect breeding data on their birdhouses every 2-3 weeks during nesting season.

MARY KELLER'S NEEDS

Mary Keller and her family receive damaged and sick birds, and abandoned nestlings at her home, where she rehabilitates and finally releases them. Enormous numbers arrive during breeding season, but she needs supplies all year.

Some of her needs are: millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads, etc. Mary's address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. If you can't take them yourself, call **Gina Holt** at 253-3466 for pickup.

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 11

Ribbon Cutting for new solar installation. Municipal Golf Course in New Smyrna Beach. 5:30 pm. Refreshments.

Monday, August 19

HRA Board Members Planning Retreat. Dickerson Heritage Library. 10am-3pm. Luncheon served.

Tuesday, September 3

HRA Board Meeting, Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30. Note change of day due to Labor Day Holiday.

Thursday-Sunday, September 26-29

Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo, Eckerd College Campus, St. Petersburg/Clearwater.

Wednesdays, October 23 and 30 and November 6

Birding Classes. The Casements, 7:00 p.m. **Lois Robinson and John Carr.**

Thursday-Sunday, October 24-27

Audubon of Florida Assembly. Orlando Airport Merriott.

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

David Hartgrove

The Spring Migration count was held on Saturday, May 11th, and it was a rousing success. A total of 48 people from the three Audubon chapters in Volusia County gave their time and energy to the effort, along with a group that works with senior regulatory scientist **Lorne Malo**, of the St. Johns River Management District. A total of 122 species were seen and 14,578 birds were counted. Highlights of the count were: 4 purple Sandpipers, 6 Least Bitterns, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, and 16 Purple Gallinules. Oddly, only 1 Willet was counted and no Common Yellow-throats. Sometimes, even when they're there, we don't see or hear them. My sincere thanks to all these folks who came out and spent time in the heat and humidity

Observers were: Cyndy Barrow, Charles Buchy, Marita Buchy, Carl Carlander, Helga Carlson, Joie Clifton, Roger Cutler, Don Davis, Kevin DeWall, Gail Domroski, Richard Domroski, Kevin Doxstater, Sara Efird, John Eggert, Bill Gibson, Pat Gibson, Janet Grmshaw, Roger Grimshaw, David Hartgrove, Mary Keim, Barbara Kieran, Glade Koch, Lorne Malo, Karl Marvin, Carol Mason, Donnadine Miller, Gil Miller, Sylvia Parillo, Lois Pauchey, Nancy Prine, Rachel Ramsey, Jan Rogers, Mary Jean Rogers, Dale Samler, Don Schaeffer, Ray Scory, Madeline Shaddix, Arnette Sherman, Dick Smith, Randy Snyder, Morris Sullivan, Sara Taylor, Gary White, Nancy White, Maria Wicks, Meret Wilson, Harry Wilton, and Jeri Wyly.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Regular readers of this column know that I've often taken **Governor Bush** and his party to task over decisions they've made with which I vehemently disagree. So fairness dictates that when he does something right, that too should be acknowledged. The governor's recent decision to line item veto 100 million dollars from the recently passed state budget took a lot of courage on his part. He did this in recognition of the will of 70+ percent of the voters in this state who thought that when they voted for Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever, they were committing the politicians to spending those funds on conservation projects. But, lacking the will to be the responsible stewards they should be, the legislature stole the money they needed from the conservation funds rather than roll back the governor's ill-conceived tax break for corporations. Governor Bush's good deed may still be undone by an unrepentant legislature next year. There's an election between now and then. Let's hope the incoming class will demonstrate that elusive quality called leadership.

In another development, closer to home, the Volusia County Council rejected a bid to extend Elkam Boulevard through a conservation area east of Deltona. Councilpersons **Pat Northey** and **Joe Jaynes** lead the way on this issue along with **Jim Ward**, **Frank Bruno** and **Dwight Lewis**. In expressing her displeasure with the outcome of the vote, Council Chair **Ann McFall** said that Deltona needed to grow. My question is, why?

In 1962, the Mackle Brothers Development Corporation (who provided the producers of "Sixty Minutes" with at least one juicy program segment about the perils of Florida land speculation) bought a little over 17,000 acres of southwest Volusia County, filed a development plan calling the place Deltona, with 35,000+ lots and began selling them as fast as possible. By the end of the year, 78 families called the place home. The 1980 census showed the population had grown to nearly 16,000. By 1991, growing at a rate of 130 new house holds per month, the population was up to 52,000. After two failed attempts in 1987 and 1990, the voters were finally cajoled into approving incorporation and the City of Deltona was born in September of 1995. It was immediately the largest municipality in Volusia County. So why do they "need" to grow? 26.8 square miles isn't big enough? 52,000 people aren't too many crammed together already? The problem is that our county leaders see it as their duty to facilitate an ever-expanding population base in this county. The fact that the quality of life for those of us already here is jeopardized, is apparently a price they're willing to pay. This mindless "boosterism" has to stop. Growth for its own sake is killing us and will ruin this place for those coming after us.

TALES FROM THE MUD FLATS:

Willie Burns

What's In A Name? Many things to many people, often different and especially in different venues. However, all of us in Audubon run across many of the following quite often. Why they were named and how they are pronounced becomes an almost daily source of amusement.

The Pileated Woodpecker, the Parula Warbler, all the Plovers, and several other fairly common birds are never heard pronounced the same way twice in any given day. I'll not try to bring order to these poor bird's names, as I'm sure even they are now confused. And if a Tufted Titmouse joins another, are they Titmouses, Titmice, or Titmeese?

One of our Florida birds is the Anhinga, a common water bird on our lakes and rivers. It is NOT pronounced an-ah-hing-ah, just an-hing-ah. Sorry, the letter A is only used twice.

Nor is the Great Blue Heron pronounced "herring." While the Great Blue will happily dine on Herring, a spring running fish in our more northern states, it is simply a her-un. No "gee."

Which brings us to one of the classic discussions: what is the difference between Herons and Egrets? One will hear learned dissertations that one flies with its neck extended, the other with its neck curved nicely back upon itself. A good theory, but field observation soon reveals that both often fly both ways. Perhaps they are not sure themselves.

The answer is quite simple. Some wading birds have long, wispy, lovely plumage they display in breeding season. One of the beautiful sights of our watery world, these plumes led to the near extinction of these birds for ladies hats. They were named "aigrettes," presumably by a French explorer. Simply put, Egrets have the aigrettes, Herons do not. Hence there is no Green Egret, nor a Black Crowned Night Egret. Most birders use only the first name anyway, as in Snowy, Great Blue, or Cattle.

Then there is the nice red head on the Red-bellied Woodpecker, whose tummy is not very remarkably red. The Red-headed Woodpecker has a VERY red head so got the name.

If all this has you bogged down in the mud, swell! A day without wallowing in mud or wading in water is a wasted day. Or, perhaps, a sign one is giving too much attention to watching the trail and not enough to watching birds.

Happy birding! Visit a swamp today.

CORRECTION

The Mayor of Port Orange is **Dorothy Hukill**, not as reported in the June issue of *The Pelican*.

Spring Count 1997-2002

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Name of Bird
0	12	0	0	0	0	Loon, Common
1	3	0	0	0	3	Grebe, Pied-billed
56	34	52	45	2	0	Gannet, Northern
0	1	0	0	0	0	Booby, Brown
0	0	0	0	1	328	Pelican, White
354	503	531	707	558	1011	Pelican, Brown
34	108	56	195	147	142	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
21	17	41	29	118	93	Anhinga
1	0	0	0	0	0	Bittern, American
10	0	12	0	8	6	Bittern, Least
65	67	64	67	78	96	Heron, Great Blue
145	196	297	239	412	498	Egret, Great
99	118	178	89	192	205	Egret, Snowy
37	61	53	25	77	78	Heron, Little Blue
39	76	43	18	60	82	Heron, Tricolored
0	4	1	14	1	0	Egret, Reddish
414	406	547	381	717	799	Egret, Cattle
28	12	41	15	13	20	Heron, Green
4	0	6	0	3	2	Night-Heron, Black-crowned
1	1	12	7	6	23	Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned
124	174	143	112	510	188	Ibis, White
2	64	54	0	14	26	Ibis, Glossy
0	0	3	0	1	0	Roseate Spoonbill
46	12	15	13	82	52	Stork, Wood
0	0	0	2	0	0	Whistling Duck, Blk-bellied
0	1	0	0	0	1	Goose, Canada
0	0	0	0	19	41	Duck, Muscovy
15	42	58	22	36	58	Duck, Wood
5	10	10	4	5	7	Duck, Mottled
25	84	68	99	85	72	Mallard
0	2	0	0	0	0	Teal, Blue-winged
0	2	0	0	0	0	Shoveler, Northern
0	0	2	0	1	0	Scaup, Lesser
3	6	3	22	0	0	Merganser, Red-breasted
225	307	795	314	507	313	Vulture, Black
214	108	112	128	155	200	Vulture, Turkey
78	63	71	68	113	155	Osprey
14	4	23	10	12	9	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed
11	12	20	10	26	24	Eagle, Bald
0	9	0	2	0	0	Harrier, Northern
2	1	1	0	0	2	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
0	3	0	0	2	1	Hawk, Cooper's
22	26	39	25	46	57	Hawk, Red-Shouldered
8	7	3	7	18	8	Hawk, Red-tailed
0	0	0	3	0	1	Buteo sp.
4	4	2	1	2	3	Kestrel, American
2	0	0	0	0	0	Merlin
0	15	0	0	0	0	Falcon, Peregrine
3	7	10	2	9	19	Turkey, Wild
30	10	14	17	23	39	Bobwhite, Northern
0	10	1	22	2	0	Rail, Clapper
0	0	1	0	0	0	Rail, Virginia

0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	Rail, Sora
12	0	29	1	4	16	Gallinule, Purple										
78	35	73	45	103	132	Moorhen, Common										
36	106	5	25	19	13	Coot, American										
17	1	1	3	12	13	Limpkin										
66	32	62	46	62	42	Crane, Sandhill										
0	0	0	2	3	0	Crane, Whooping										
0	0	0	0	52	84	Plover, Black-bellied										
0	1	0	2	0	0	Plover, Wilson's										
0	0	0	20	146	0	Plover, Semi-palmated										
0	0	0	39	36	75	Killdeer										
12	15	8	16	9	4	Oystercatcher, American										
3	96	61	0	13	34	Stilt, Black-necked										
0	18	2	0	0	0	Yellowlegs, Greater										
1	7	25	15	1	0	Yellowlegs, Lesser										
0	2	11	6	0	2	Sandpiper, Solitary										
47	35	1	20	13	0	Willet										
11	7	12	13	5	7	Sandpiper, Spotted										
3	0	0	0	0	0	Godwit, Marbled										
261	89	89	65	245	356	Turnstone, Ruddy										
4	4	20	5	5	17	Knot, Red										
722	293	218	148	156	536	Sanderling										
9	193	2	55	250	123	Sandpiper, Semipalmated										
8	10	16	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Western										
22	17	0	4	8	0	Sandpiper, Least										
2	1	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, White-rumped										
0	0	0	0	0	4	Sandpiper, Purple										
0	20	0	0	2	0	Dunlin										
0	20	4	0	0	0	peep, sp.										
1	0	1	0	0	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed										
1	0	2	0	0	2	Snipe, Common										
2632	1166	3553	865	859	977	Gull, Laughing										
364	98	208	363	224	230	Gull, Ring-billed										
7	3	10	12	4	4	Gull, Herring										
0	6	0	0	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed										
0	0	0	0	1	0	gull, sp.										
0	10	1	6	2	1	Tern, Caspian										
151	262	53	177	147	97	Tern, Royal										
0	2	0	0	0	1	Tern, Sandwich										
7	1	0	0	0	4	Tern, Common										
11	0	1	19	4	3	Tern, Forster's										
0	0	1	0	0	0	sterna, sp.										
177	301	142	153	87	46	Tern, Least										
14	4	6	6	0	0	Skimmer, Black										
159	225	359	128	234	350	Dove, Rock										
33	234	60	93	139	174	Dove, Eurasian Collared										
393	561	508	496	464	670	Dove, Mourning										
0	25	7	63	21	19	Ground Dove, Common										
0	8	2	1	0	1	Cuckoo, Yellowbilled										
0	1	0	0	0	1	Owl, Barn										
3	11	6	10	5	4	Screech-Owl, Eastern										
3	6	0	1	1	1	Owl, Great Horned										
11	8	8	14	3	12	Owl, Barred										
7	5	6	1	4	3	Nighthawk, Common										

49	51	31	46	51	32	Chuck-will's-widow
0	1	0	1	0	0	Whip-poor-will
208	321	499	335	241	311	Swift, Chimney
11	3	5	5	9	3	Hummingbird, Rubythroated
12	7	0	3	8	0	Kingfisher, Belted
40	20	23	13	6	17	Woodpecker, Red-headed
77	88	108	68	112	161	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
0	1	0	1	0	0	Woodpecker, Hairy
9	21	28	30	37	75	Woodpecker, Downy
12	12	9	8	5	10	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
26	21	27	14	35	43	Woodpecker, Pileated
0	1	0	0	0	0	Peewee, Eastern Wood
0	5	6	0	2	2	Phoebe, Eastern
56	34	52	71	97	105	Flycatcher, Great Crested
0	0	0	5	0	0	Kingbird, Eastern
1	0	0	0	0	0	Kingbird, Gray
88	85	85	87	96	96	Martin, Purple
24	90	25	0	9	4	Swallow, Tree
0	1	0	2	6	7	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
2	1	0	0	0	0	Swallow, Bank
0	13	0	0	0	0	Swallow, Cliff
319	481	53	193	28	51	Swallow, Barn
114	46	163	136	135	195	Jay, Blue
10	9	0	6	10	12	Jay, Scrub
61	64	55	84	40	98	Crow, American
258	115	177	176	292	316	Crow, Fish
128	146	147	90	67	74	crow, sp.
2	0	0	4	27	8	Chickadee, Carolina
109	93	180	76	137	218	Titmouse, Tufted
0	1	0	8	7	10	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
107	164	116	132	145	210	Wren, Carolina
0	0	0	16	0	0	Wren, Sedge
0	0	0	0	1	2	Wren, Marsh
0	1	0	0	0	0	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
14	35	15	29	17	38	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
0	0	7	7	6	6	Bluebird, Eastern
0	0	1	0	1	0	Thrush, Wood
0	6	8	5	3	5	Catbird, Gray
408	485	443	348	556	527	Mockingbird, Northern
38	48	24	46	49	57	Thrasher, Brown
36	0	43	1	15	0	Waxwing, Cedar
36	23	31	4	63	82	Shrike, Loggerhead
144	219	184	227	276	395	Starling, European
17	46	10	16	8	20	Vireo, White-eyed
0	1	0	2	0	0	Vireo, Blue-headed
2	2	0	0	0	1	Vireo, Yellow-throated
19	9	8	8	11	15	Vireo, Red-eyed
1	0	0	0	0	0	vireo, sp.
67	52	95	50	75	177	Parula, Northern
0	2	1	0	0	0	Warbler, Yellow
0	1	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
0	3	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Cape May
20	18	1	5	2	0	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
0	0	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Black-throated Green

3	11	28	20	12	30	Warbler, Pine
1	11	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Prairie
1	7	2	0	0	0	Warbler, Yellow Palm
34	45	6	5	1	0	Warbler, Blackpoll
1	13	4	0	0	0	Warbler, Black-and-white
65	65	23	24	0	0	Redstart, American
0	1	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Worm-eating
2	4	0	1	0	0	Waterthrush, Northern
1	0	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Prothonotary
13	3	1	0	0	0	Ovenbird
14	30	11	20	5	0	Yellowthroat, Common
3	1	1	3	1	10	Tanager, Summer
239	342	216	216	345	481	Cardinal, Northern
1	0	0	3	0	5	Grosbeak, Blue
0	0	1	2	2	1	Bunting, Indigo
1	1	0	4	0	0	Bunting, Painted
1	0	0	0	0	0	Dickcissel
21	86	24	74	7	42	Towhee, Eastern
0	2	1	0	0	0	Sparrow, Bachman's
0	12	0	0	1	0	Sparrow, Chipping
3	0	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Field
0	12	1	0	0	0	Sparrow, Savannah
0	0	1	0	0	0	Sparrow, Grasshopper
251	157	2576	0	2	0	Bobolink
319	343	217	192	604	700	Blackbird, Red-winged
13	45	41	5	18	62	Meadowlark, Eastern
533	382	662	526	1015	874	Grackle, Boat-tailed
112	87	130	116	172	135	Grackle, Common
8	17	0	22	12	1	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1	0	0	0	0	0	Cowbird, Shiny
0	3	12	0	10	4	blackbird, sp.
1	0	0	0	0	0	Oriole, Baltimore
0	0	0	0	1	0	House Finch
0	15	0	1	0	0	Goldfinch, American
56	33	99	66	56	128	Sparrow, House
0	0	0	6	0	0	Peacock, feral
0	0	0	0	1	0	Wilson's Storm Petrel

Date	5-10-97	5-9-98	5-13-00	5-12-01	5-11-02
# Species	135	156	128	130	122
Individuals	11,837	11,113	9,378	12,355	14,578
Observers	32	38	36	33	49
Time	3:15-7:00	3:00-7:00	2:30-7:15	2:30-7:30	3:30-7:00
Owling hrs	6	7.25	6.25	6	2.5
Foot hrs	50	59	31.5	25.5	59.75
Car hrs	46	30.25	88.5	73.25	92
Boat hrs	2	0	2.5	4	0
Canoe/kayak	0	0	0	0	6.5
Clouds %	10-100	30-95	20-100	10-25	0-30
Temp.	55-85	70-87	63-85	59-83	69-91
Wind	W to NE 5-20	SW to W 15	NE to SW 3-25	Variable 5-18	WNW to SE 6-16
Weather	No precip	No precip	No precip	No precip	No precip

FT. DESOTO PARK -- A REAL TREAT

Lois Robinson

Thirty-one birders from Halifax River and SE Volusia Audubon chapters (this includes the two who met us there) traveled to Ft. DeSoto County Park near St. Petersburg, on April 23 and 24th. We had a good time in spite of heat and drought in the area this spring.

Highlights of the trip for me included the great hospitality and meals at Eckerd College, and seeing: Bobolinks in an open area in the Park, five species of Plovers, including Snowy and Piping, a Crested Caracara spotted at a rest stop on I-4, ten species of warblers in and around the Park, Black-hooded Parakeets and Magnificent Frigatebirds soaring overhead.

A total of 116 species were tallied, not bad for a two-day trip. We always are rewarded with new and unusual species when we go out of town. One of our birders reported he had added five new species to his life list. Most of us saw one or two new birds at least. Plan on going with us on our next out of town trip. You'll love it!

THE CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY REOPENED

Gina Hunt

As many of you may know, Audubon of Florida's Center for Birds of Prey, located in Maitland, has completed its renovations and is now open to the public. It is a beautiful property located on Lake Sybelia and offers a relaxing day visiting with the birds. Staff and volunteers lead wonderfully interesting narrated tours so you can learn much in just one afternoon! For instance, did you know that a pair of Barn Owls will capture 750 pounds of mice every year? You can see the resident Barn Owls, Fred and Wilma, and their four chicks while you are there.

I have been very fortunate to spend some time there recently, learning all I can about rehabilitation and treatment of these beautiful birds. I work on Saturdays, cleaning aviaries and feeding birds, and I am training to work in the clinic one day a week. You cannot imagine the beauty and fragility of these animals, and how encouraging it is to see people who care so much for their welfare.

Right now, there are over 60 birds in the clinic, and at least that many are being rehabbed so they can be released. For instance, there are 38 young Red-shouldered Hawks that are learning to hunt live prey and honing their flight skills so they can go back home.

Many of these birds were plucked up prematurely by well meaning individuals who thought they were hurt and needed help. It is very common for young birds of any species to spend some time on the ground learning to hunt and feed. Be assured that the parents are nearby keeping watch. If you do encounter a young bird on the ground,

observe it for a while to determine whether it really is hurt, or is just learning how to be a big bird.

Also, this time of year, people are busy getting their yards in shape and that always includes trimming trees. BEFORE YOU TRIM, check for nests! And check those dead limbs for cavity nesters such as our little Eastern Screech-Owls! One Saturday alone, the clinic received 8 young screech owls that had been displaced from their nests.

We are hoping to include a visit to the Center in our field trip schedule next year. And you can always support the Center by adopting a bird. All the monies received from the Adopt-a-Bird program go directly to feeding and caring for the birds, and let me tell you, it is a big, expensive job. Fred and Wilma need 15 mice and 6 rats every day just to keep their babies fed. You can visit their website, www.adoptabird.com for more information.

FAINT HOPE FOR SURVIVAL OF A WOODPECKER FADES

One more faint hope for the survival of the ivory-billed woodpecker has faded, according to a report by **James Gorman** of *The New York Times*. A team searching swampy Louisiana bottomland in January for the regal, perhaps extinct bird heard what they thought was a distinctive double-rap on a dead tree. But researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who did a computer analysis of digital recordings of the sounds, said yesterday that the listeners actually heard distant gunshots.

The ivory-bill was, or still may be, the largest North American woodpecker, 20 inches tall, with a 30-inch wingspan. It once thrived in hardwood forests of the South, but with logging of the old trees and development, the birds disappeared. But for years, sightings of the bird have been reported, some credible.

This winter, Zeiss Sports Optics paid for six people to search the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area near Slidell, Louisiana and the Cornell Lab set out 12 computerized recording units there. Four members of the Zeiss team and some on the Cornell team heard the same series of loud double raps on January 27 at 3:30 p.m. All thought it was a woodpecker but no one saw the bird. The puzzle was left to a computer analysis of more than 4,000 hours of sound from the recording units.

John Fitzpatrick, head of the Cornell Lab said that the sounds were clearly gunshots. "The case is closed," Dr. Fitzpatrick said, "and nobody wanted it to be an ivory-bill more than I did." But he is not giving up. He plans further searches in Louisiana and other areas, as does **David Luneau** of the Zeiss team. "I will definitely be searching, somehow, somewhere," Mr. Luneau said.

TOMOKA GEOBASIN STATE PARKS ADVISORY GROUP MEETS

John Carr

The Advisory Group, made up of local people representing groups with an interest in the Tomoka Geobasin, is called together every 5 years to discuss plans developed by Park personnel. Halifax River Audubon was included in the evening and half-day conference. I substituted for **David Hartgrove** representing our chapter.

The State Parks considered were: Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic, Bulow Creek, Addison Block House Historic, Tomoka, and Haw Creek Preserve.

The presentation was made by **Michael Kennison**, Park Planner of Florida State Parks, **Benny Woodham**, Tomoka Geobasin State Park Manager, **Charles DuToit**, Park Biologist, and others. The management plans were very carefully thought out and express the need to provide the public with the best parks. They showed concerns for problems that exist now and may become problems in the future.

The Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park will have new playground equipment added for the younger visitors. Also, structural strengthening will be made to the coquina blockage of the sugarmill..

One interesting plan is the development of horse trails, hiking trails, and bicycle trails on the Pump House Road in Bulow Creek State Park. In addition, a primitive campsite will be located near the end of the Pump House Road. That road has been closed for car traffic for a while because of user abuse, and it is good to see it become available for limited public use again. Other primitive campsites will be built in the park bordering the Walter Boardman Road and on the newly purchased Johns Island on US-1.

The Addison Block House Historic State Park is an inaccessible piece of land that contains the ruins of a sugar plantation, Indian middens, and the remains of a 20th century Prohibition still. No development is planned at this time but plans are in place for preserving what is already there and developing educational materials describing the site.

Tomoka State Park will have 10 new cabins built along the drainage canal between the Timucuan Indian statue site and the Charles Dana Museum. Each cabin will have a short pier for docking, running water and sewage. Only **Larry Marsh** of the Sierra Club and I registered our disapproval of the use of motor craft in the waters surrounding the parks. They pollute the water with oil and gas spill. Also, unmodified motor craft are a threat to manatees. Tomoka State Park is designated a Manatee Sanctuary.

There are no plans to develop the Haw Creek Preserve State Park as it is not accessible by land and is composed mostly of wetlands with only a small stand of

hardwoods. The waters surrounding the park are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.

RETURN OF AN ORIGINAL CONDOR

On May 1st a second original wild California Condor was released back into the wild after 15 years in captivity as part of the captive breeding program. The bird, known as AC-9, is a male, and was a chick in the first nest discovered when intensive research by Audubon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began under a revised recovery program in 1980. AC-9 was also the last bird trapped from the wild in 1987 when all remaining wild condors were then in captivity.

AC-9 was released in southern California at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge with three juvenile condors hatched last year in the San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos. Hooper Mountain is now home to 19 other condors, including an original wild female (AC-8) and three breeding pairs. AC-9 was mated to AC-8 in the wild prior to their capture for the breeding program.

Based on the behavior of AC-8 following her release, condors held in captivity are known to quickly readjust to the wild and resume movements throughout their historical range. It could be expected that these two wild birds will help reestablish the traditions and "culture" of the original population of California Condors, bringing the successful recovery program full circle. Audubon, an active partner in the recovery program from 1980 through 1987, had long been an advocate for release of some of these original wild birds. It could be safely said that the original population of wild condors now exists again in the wild and the captive reared birds are supplementing a wild population.

Continuing success of the program was realized the second week in April of this year when a pair of captive raised condors, released as juveniles in to the wild in 1995, successfully incubated and hatched an egg. Two additional pairs are incubating eggs in the same general area.

The total population of California Condors in the world today stands at 185, up from 27 birds in 1987. A population of condors now resides in the Grand Canyon in Arizona, where it is suspected two pairs are incubating eggs, and 17 condors are residing in the mountains near Big Sur south of Carmel, California. The two California populations have been known to interact despite the distance of several hundred miles between them. To learn more about California Condors visit <http://endangered.fws.gov/>

AUDUBON BIRD CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER, Spring 2002
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WHOOPIING CRANE PROJECT REACHES MILESTONE

*Franchesta L. Wilson, Office of Informational Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

A young whooping crane survived dogs, eagles, cold temperatures and drought to become the first of its kind to fledge in the wild in the United States in 63 years. The fledgling, dubbed "Lucky" by volunteers, made history June 7 when it spread its mighty wings and flew effortlessly across the Leesburg marsh in which it hatched and was reared by first-time parents.

"There are fewer than 400 whooping cranes left in the world, and this bird's history-making flight is a significant milestone in our efforts to restore the whooping crane to its former range in the Southeastern United States," said **Steve Nesbitt**, non-migratory whooping crane project leader for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Biologists and volunteers have monitored the Leesburg whoopers closely since the pair arrived at the small wetland area last December and began showing an interest in nesting there. By mid-February the female was sitting on eggs and on March 12, Lucky, the first of two chicks, hatched. Two days later the second chick hatched but survived only a few hours before it was taken by a bald eagle.

"While it's sad that the second chick was taken so quickly, it is normal for whooping cranes to hatch two chicks but raise only one," said **Marty Folk**, FWC biological field coordinator for the non-migratory whooping crane project.

The fact that Lucky has fledged, meaning it can fly on its own, and now has essentially the same chance for survival as its parents, is a giant step for this project. The Non-Migratory Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project began nearly 22 years ago, with 13 years of preliminary study of sandhill cranes before the first captive-reared whooping crane was released in Florida in 1993. Since then four chicks have hatched in the wild - the two in Leesburg this year, and two in Osceola County in 2000. The only survivor is Lucky.

For the past 11 years, **Gene and Tina Tindell** have lived on the edge of the Leesburg wetland the whooping cranes decided to call home. One day in December they saw a couple of large white birds in the marsh they had never seen before. At first they thought they were sandhill cranes but then realized there was something just a little different about them.

"I didn't know what whooping cranes looked like, but we knew those birds were something special when we saw the radio transmitters attached to their legs. I figured we'd be hearing from the Fish and Wildlife Commission before long," said Gene Tindell.

And sure enough they did when biologist **Jeanette Parker** arrived one day during her daily monitoring of the birds.

"I asked her if she had lost something," Tindell said, smiling. "She told me, 'No, I know right where they are.'"

That began the Tindells' role as volunteer crane observers, a job they took on willingly and now can claim to have been a part of something few if any other people ever have.

"The Tindells, because of where they live and the countless hours they've spent watching these birds, have now witnessed more in the life of a whooper family than anyone else on earth," Folk said.

They've seen bald eagles attack the chicks; they've seen dogs chasing the birds and the birds chasing cats; they've seen the intimate communication between parents and young; and they saw Lucky take to the sky for the first time.

"It was like seeing a baby take its first steps," Tindell said. "It's a relief really, because now he has a better chance for survival, but in a way we hated to see it, because we know now he's going to leave."

But Lucky probably won't leave too soon. The chick will likely remain with its parents until a few weeks before they begin to nest again - probably in January or February. In the meantime, they will teach the youngster everything it needs to learn to survive without them.

The Non-Migratory Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project is a cooperative effort among the FWC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the International Crane Foundation, the Calgary Zoo and the San Antonio Zoo.

BOARD ACTION IN MAY

Susan M. Gaze, Environmental Specialist at the Volusia County Public Works Department, was voted unanimously to receive a lifetime Chapter Membership in Halifax River Audubon.

Many of our members have met Susan during our bird trips to the county landfill where she has helped us explore the habitat and find birds.

Meret Wilson, in proposing the honor said, "When the Northern Rough-winged Swallows built their nest in an active water leveling pipe, Susan was willing to have her crew put in 2 dummy pipes and cover the active pipe with mesh in order to protect the birds. The Swallows consequently rebuilt their nest inside an adjacent pipe and were actively feeding the young as of June 2, 2002. It was because of her willingness to aid these unexpected nesters and because she has been so proactive for the birds in general at the landfill that I felt she should be honored for this endeavor."

THE PELICAN

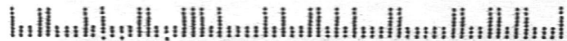


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JULY 2002

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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 Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. 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 Ave., Daytona Beach, at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

Welcome -to new members and transfers into the chapter, **Lucy Christman, Patricia Drifka, Donald Jeffers, Solange M. Lake, L. Jean Matthews, Anita May, Frances McCullar, Ann Norwood, James Price, Vincent Sirchia, and Natalie Tenney.**

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	760-7640	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona_beach.fl.us
Vivian Smith	At-Large	253-3815	
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Glade Koch	Education	253-8438	clecras@aol.com
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Commun.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(941) 242-9338
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

AUGUST 2002

ANOTHER PLUS FOR IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

President Lois Robinson

Those of you who were at the May meeting heard **Ann Moore** (Board Member of St. Johns River Water Management District) say that work was underway to have Lake Disston nominated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because of the Swallow-tailed Kites and Ospreys nesting there. This is an excellent way to preserve such wonderful habitat from further development—receiving designation as an IBA helps keep developers out!

Florida is one of 25 states that have a state program with staff working on IBAs. National Audubon's goal is to have 50 states with IBA programs by the end of 2003. NAS is part of a coalition of 100 country organizations using IBA programs as a framework for bird conservation on a global scale according to **John Flicker**, President of National Audubon. These organizations include Birdlife International, U.S. Shorebird Planning Council, North American Waterbird Plan, Partners In Flight and other groups that are taking part in an international effort to establish IBAs around the world. This is such an exciting project that I wanted all of you to be aware of it. This work may save more bird species and habitat than anything else we are doing right now.

What can we do?

1. nominate a site (our conservation committee is working on this)
2. organize a bird survey at a potential IBA site
3. adopt an IBA and help develop a conservation plan for it.
4. carry out a habitat restoration project
5. advocate for land acquisition funds for an IBA
6. other useful projects include advocating for changes in laws, field trips to IBA spots, seeking to educate children about IBAs and writing letters and articles regarding IBAs in our area.

Let's do what we can to make Important Bird Areas a global reality!

HRA BOARD PLANNING SESSION

Lois Robinson

The HRA Board will meet August 19th for an all-day goal setting and planning session at Dickerson Heritage Library starting at 10 a.m. The session will last till approximately 3 p.m. The Chapter will supply

sandwiches, fruit and drinks. If you want to contribute anything else, please feel free to do so.

Chapter planning is mandated by National Audubon Society. Each chapter needs to set long and short term goals for their future activities. Goal setting is important to see where we want to put our time and effort when there are so many calls on us from many groups and organizations, all worthwhile. We cannot do all we would like to do so we have to pick and choose what we can do best and where we have some chance of success.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 7

Sierra Club meeting. "Sierra Club: Built Ford Tough!" by **Darden Rice**. Subject: Ford Co. SUV gas economy. SICA Hall in Holly Hill. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14

Dr. Walter Kinsley author, Agricultural Center, DeLand. 7 p.m. Sponsored by Pawpaw Native Plant Society. See article.

Monday, August 19

HRA Board Members Planning Retreat. Dickerson Heritage Library. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Luncheon served. See article.

Tuesday, September 3

HRA Board Meeting, Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 p.m.. NOTE CHANGE OF DAY due to Labor Day Holiday.

Friday, September 6.

President's Choice field trip, led by **President Lois Robinson**. Guana River State Park, north of St. Augustine. Meet at Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Boulevards. 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch. PLEASE NOTE TIME AND STARTING PLACE.

Monday, September 16

HRA Program Meeting. "Florida Scrub-Jays." **Steve Kintner**, Director of Environmental Management of Volusia County.

Thursday-Sunday, September 26-29

Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo, Eckerd College Campus, St. Petersburg/Clearwater.

Wednesdays, October 23 and 30 and November 6

Birding Classes. The Casements, 7:00 p.m. **Lois Robinson** and **John Carr**. Cost \$38.50 includes tax. Dates of field trips will be announced later as well as the course contents.

BIRD BANDING PHOTO ESSAY

The newly-opened Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet has Chapter member **Meret Wilson's** photo essay displayed. We cannot show the photographs explaining the text in our newsletter: they would look like gray blobs. But the text alone is pretty terrific. Meret said to remember that the text is designed to be readable by both children and adults. One of Metret's pictures accompanies each paragraph below at the Inlet display.

IN ORDER TO LEARN HOW LONG BIRDS LIVE AND WHERE THEY GO IN THE WINTERS AND THE SUMMERS.

"Propelled by an ancient faith deep within their genes, billions of birds hurdle the globe each season. They are not residents of any single place but of the whole, and their continued survival rests almost entirely in our hands." Scott Weidensaul

Meret Wilson is a local, semi-retired Medical Technologist whose true passion is birds. She has combined her passion for birds with her love of photography to present an insight into the banding of birds. Meret has been banding birds for the past 3 years at Rock Springs River State Reserve. She also monitors Ponce Inlet's Lighthouse Park for nesting species, does shorebird surveys for International Shorebird Survey Program and migration counts with Audubon Society. Meret has been rescuing raptors in Volusia County for the past 9 years.

Early, even before the sun rises, banders are in the fields setting up their mist nets and equipment to get ready for the day. Early morning or late afternoon is when birds are most active and the easiest to catch. The small birds flit among the trees hunting for bugs, paying little attention to the human activity occurring around them.

Each net is unfolded and strung between two poles. Sometimes several nets are connected in a continuous line. The placement of the nets varies among the different habitats available in the hopes of catching a large variety of species. Because the nets are dark, the birds cannot see them. As they fly from tree to tree, often the net is in their path and they become snared.

As the bird hits the net it drops into a soft pocket of netting becoming entangled in the mesh. With proper training and experience required, the bander carefully removes the bird from the net. Great care is taken not to injure the bird in any way. The feet are untangled first, then the wings and body and lastly the head is freed.

Once the bird is removed from the net, it is carefully placed into a soft cotton bag. It is dark inside and blots out the bird's vision. When a bird cannot see its environment it calms down and rests which in turn decreases its level of stress.

Once the bird is in the bag, a clothespin indicating the mist net number is attached to the bag so it

can be recorded exactly where the bird was captured. It is very important to know which net the bird came from, as well as what time it was captured, to establish what types of habitat different birds like to be around and when. Over time a bird may be caught in the same net suggesting it has a favorite area, known as site fidelity, where it will stay during its visit to the area.

Once the bird has been brought to the banding table, it is weighed inside the bag. The bag is weighed again without the bird and the difference between the two gives the weight of the bird. A small, light metal band is placed on the bird. Data such as species, age, sex, length of wing and beak, weight, any unusual findings and the net location and time of day the bird was captured are all recorded. Everything is entered into a computer and sent to Bird Banding Laboratory in Maryland where scientists compile the data for future use all over the world. The bird is finally released and once again free.

The same process goes on over and over for 5 hours until no more birds are flying into nets or it becomes too hot for bird safety. At the end of the day, the single most important step of the day is to count all the nets and be sure that no nets were left up for birds to become tangled in when no one is around. Throughout the entire banding process the bird is utmost in the mind of the bander so that no harm should ever come to it.

NATIVE PLANTS

Barbara Kieran

Dr. Walter Taylor from the University of Central Florida, will be a special speaker at a joint meeting of the Lyonia and Pawpaw Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society. Dr. Taylor will speak about the travels of Andre Michaux, an 18th century naturalist, botanist and explorer. Dr. Taylor is the author of *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, and *Andre Michaux in Florida: An Eighteenth Century Botanical Journey*. All are welcome.

When and where: Wednesday, August 14th at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the IRAS Agricultural Extension Center in DeLand. The Center is located on SR 44 at I-4 (Volusia County Fairgrounds).

Refreshments will be served. Dr. Taylor will be available to sign his books. Call **Ray Jarrett**, 386-258-6435 or 386-304-7642 for more information.

NEEDS OF BIRD REHABILITATOR

Mary Keller needs millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads, etc. Mary's address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. If you can't take them yourself, call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 for pickup.

CONSERVATION NOTE

David Hartgrove

A couple of months ago, I wrote in these pages of the need for some move toward protection of birds along our area beaches. Large numbers of migratory shore birds move through our area twice yearly and it's incumbent on us to do all we can to protect them and the habitat they depend on. Today, July 17th, I attended a meeting at Lighthouse Point Park at Ponce Inlet that is the first step in a journey to increase protection of both nesting and migrating birds along our coastline.

Recent news reports have trumpeted the reopening of Lighthouse Point Park to dogs and their owners after two and a half years of closure while the Army Corps of Engineers had the north

jetty rebuilt along the Inlet. During this time, our own Chapter's **Meret Wilson** was the monitor of bird life as part of the Corps' permit for the project. Her documentation of the increasing numbers of birds utilizing the area for nesting and wintering habitat helped convince Volusia County that there was a need for protection. **John Crisp** (of the new Marine Science Center) and park manager **Wes Hewson** will develop a plan calling for signs to educate the public at large about the need to leave areas utilized by birds undisturbed. In addition, there are plans to enhance the nesting habitat at the Inlet by introducing shell and possibly doing some form of vegetation control. A study will also be done to see if a portion of Smyrna Dunes Park could be enhanced. Our chapter may be asked to help provide some "sweat equity" in the form of volunteer hours. We'll see how this develops.



OLD BIRD CLOCKS 5 MILLION MILES

From "Eagle's View," May-August 2002

newsletter of Lake Region Audubon Society

LONDON, England – One of the world's oldest living wild birds is marking its golden jubilee by preparing to breed again.

The Manx Shearwater – a far-flying gull-like seabird – was probably born in 1952 and is thought to have clocked up about five million miles in the air.

First ringed by ornithologists in 1957, the bird's journeys were made while migrating between Britain and South America.

It was re-discovered on April 4 of this year in a colony of several thousand others on Bardsey, an island

off the Llyn peninsula in north Wales. The shearwater had just returned from its South American wintering grounds and was preparing to breed when it was netted, as part of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) national bird-ringing scheme.

Graham Appleton, the BTO's fund-raising manager, told CNN it was the fourth time the bird had been netted and released. "Not only is this bird considerably older than you would expect, it is still breeding. As long as they are still going, they produce young. Birds don't really have old age!"

He said the estimated huge mileage it has covered is because it lives much of its life on the wing – shearwaters are extremely economical fliers, gliding on wind currents rather than flapping continuously.

"It comes to land only during the breeding season, when it seeks out an island where it can dig a burrow," he said. "It will stay at the colony until the end of the summer and will then head out back to sea where it travels around the southern Atlantic, until next spring."

He said that given its known age and its winter migration cycle that takes in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, it is estimated that the bird has traveled 500,000 miles, or the equivalent of a return trip to the Moon. Taking feeding flights into account, it has probably covered a total of five million miles.

British bird expert **Chris Mead** told Reuters: "The only way you can tell a bird's age is by ringing it, and we know about all the other birds, so we can say it is the oldest. It would not be uncommon to find birds aged between 15 or 20 years in a colony of shearwaters, but 50 years is absolutely remarkable," he said.

Manx Shearwaters, whose scientific name is *Puffinus puffinus*, are shy of the mainland where danger lurks in the form of predators like rats and birds of prey. It is slightly larger than a pigeon.

The oldest wild bird ever found was a royal albatross that nested in New Zealand and was named Grandma, The Times said. The bird was at least 53 years old when it went missing. The previous oldest known wild bird in Britain was also a Manx Shearwater, recorded in 1996, aged 41.

According to the Guinness Book of Animal Records, the highest ever reported age of a bird is an unconfirmed 82 years for a male Siberian White Crane called Wolf which died at the International Crane Centre in Wisconsin, U.S., in 1988.

Experts are convinced that there are more venerable individuals still to be identified. Some, particularly in the parrot family, are thought to have hatched at the end of the 19th century.

Editor's Note: Sibley's Guide to Birds indicates that the Manx Shearwater prefers Atlantic cold water, but that there have been offshore sightings on both Florida coasts.

Birding the Canadian Maritimes

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON TAKES ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIP

David Hartgrove

Imagine going on a trip where you can get five life birds in fifteen minutes. And that at the end of each day's birding, all ten very good people sit down to a delicious gourmet dinner and then collapse into a comfortable bed in a Bed and Breakfast. Now, add to this the fact that you won't be staying in just one B&B but in four over the course of ten days. You'll be met at each of four stops by expert local guides who know every blade of grass, flower, butterfly and bird in the area. You'll also get to see porcupines (who knew they were that big!), beavers, Snowshoe Hares, Red Squirrels, chipmunks, Harbor and Grey Seal and other types of non-avian fauna. You awaken each day and ask yourself, "Can it get any better than this!?"

Here's how it all came about. **Tadas Birutis** (whose Chicago based company "Lifebird Nature Tours" specializes in small-group, quality tours) has been on our Christmas Bird Counts, he's helped us with field trips and is an enthusiastic and experienced birder. He set up our tour with a real eye for detail. It was by his design that we landed in "Halifax" Nova Scotia and ended our trip ten days later on the banks of the "St. John River" in New Brunswick

There were nine of us on the trip. Five of us were from **HRA - Rachel Ramsey, Lois Pauchey, Meret Wilson** and the **Hartgroves, Dennise** and me; **Lee and Catherine Bidgood** from Southeast Volusia Audubon Society; and **Phyllis Kegley** and **Frank Brandt** from Northern Arizona Audubon.

At the Halifax, N.S. airport we met the other half of our tour leader team, **Nancy Sears**. She was our van driver most of the time and there weren't too many questions she couldn't answer

Our first night was spent in the lovely town of Truro, about thirty miles north of Halifax. Dutch Elm disease has claimed most of the stately trees that were planted along the roads years ago. The folks of Truro decided to turn the stumps into sculpted caricatures of local community members. They are quite unique and the ultimate example of turning lemons into lemonade. We were up at 5:00 a.m. for a hike in Victoria Park and I got three life birds in about 30 minutes: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-capped Chickadee and Boreal Chickadee.

After breakfast, we headed off to the ferry to Prince Edward Island. Nancy stopped along the way at a spot where we could see the "tidal bore". So, what's this tidal bore thing, you ask? It's where the tide comes in so strong that it pushes the flow of the river backward. Where this occurs, there's a small tidal wave created. It was our first

experience with the incredible power of Bay of Fundy tides.

On the ferry ride to P.E.I. we spent the entire time on deck looking for whatever there was to see: Greater Shearwater, a Northern Fulmar and Harbor Porpoise. We were met at the ferry by **Dan McAskill**, P.E.I.'s resident Forest Service biologist and our local guide for the next few days. Our lodging for the next two nights was in downtown Charlottetown.



Five a.m. the next morning found us shivering in the woods waiting for the sunrise and the morning chorus. What a day! Words can hardly do justice to the vision of your first male Blackburnian Warbler, singing from the top of a spruce in early morning sun. Another lifer for me was the Red-breasted Nuthatch, singing on territory. The real shocker that day was an Eastern Screech Owl. Unaware that the bird had only been seen four times on P.E.I., Tad tried his whistled imitation of their call to attract any other warblers that might be in the area. To our surprise, his call was answered by a real owl. No doubt those woods were full of birders the next day after Dan posted the notice on the Rare Bird Alert.

We went to another part of the island after breakfast. Our destination was a Canadian Seashore Park where Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Piping Plovers and Common Terns nested. We saw all of those plus nesting Bank Swallows in the dune along the beach. Our next stop was the East Point Lighthouse. I had five life birds within ten minutes of arriving at this location: Surf and White-winged Scoters, Greater Cormorant, Common Eider and Razorbill. Could it get any better? Yes, on the way back, I spotted a Gray Partridge in a clover field. This was a lifer for all but Dan and we all got good looks.

The next day we headed off to New Brunswick and the Sackville Waterfowl Park. This was where we met our next guide, retired director for the Canadian Wildlife Service, **Al Smith**. The waterfowl park was Al's creation and he has a cadre of students from the local high school who volunteer to run the place. Here we got the Alder Flycatcher, Virginia Rail, Sora and all kinds of ducks, and after dinner Al took us out to look for Short-eared Owls.

Next day, we toured historic Ft. Bonsejour, and had our best lunch: wine, cheese, fruit and some excellent fresh bread. Then we walked off down to the marsh for our best views yet of the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

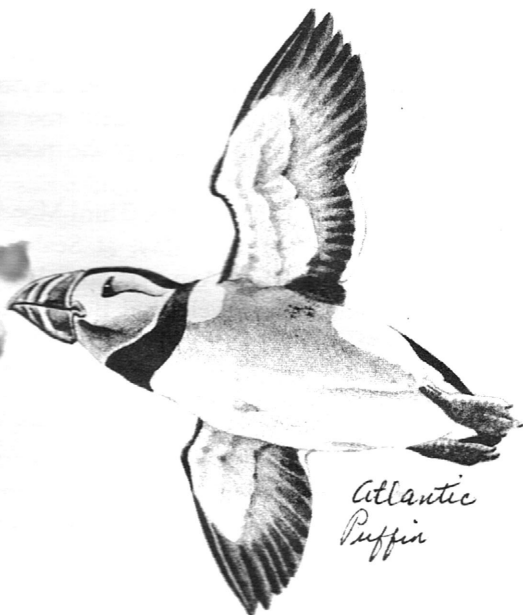
Some of us spent the afternoon on the three-mile hike around the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary. Here we saw Black Tern and a Bald Eagle nest with young. Dinner that night was interesting. The vegetable, steamed Fiddlehead Fern, is a local delicacy and this was the first time we'd eaten fern. It was quite tasty.



The next morning, we took off for our ferry ride to Grand Manan, an island off the coast of New Brunswick. On the ferry, we got good looks at Sooty Shearwaters, Black Guillemots and Wilson's Storm Petrels. There we met our next local guide, **Hank Deichman**, who had retired from Parks Canada several years ago. After dinner, when it was good and dark, we headed out in search of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. We thought we heard one for a minute but the sudden approach of a huge female Barred Owl took away any chance of seeing the little Saw-whet.

The next day dawned with rain, wind and fog, thick fog. When rain stopped, we had lunch while spotting more of the ubiquitous Greater Black-backed Gulls, Song Sparrows and White Throated Sparrows. But during the night, the wind calmed down.

We were up at 5:00 for the trip to Machias Seal Island. **Captain Peter Wilcox** advised us that we had a narrow window of opportunity to land on the island. The ride out in his converted forty-two foot lobster boat was: cool, chilly, cold, frozen, take your pick. It also provided our first glimpse of Atlantic Puffins, Manx Shearwaters and another Northern Fulmar, along with more of the other pelagic birds we'd already seen.



When we arrived at the island, Lee Bidgood, whose arthritis had decided to flare up, was told by the captain that he wouldn't be allowed to go ashore. There is no dock and landing means a tricky walk over seaweed-covered rocks. Lee was instead treated to a ride around the island with Captain Peter, whose ability to call puffins into the side of the boat is the stuff of local legend. We who landed picked up our sticks (you carry them vertically over your head so that birds will attack them instead of you) and walked to the lighthouse, all the while being attacked by angry Arctic and Common Terns. The terns were in the middle of nesting and their babies were just starting to hatch. They're especially vigilant and there are thirty-five hundred pairs of them. Their presence allows the Atlantic Puffins, Roseate Terns, Razorbills and others to nest successfully since the terns are so protective against predators. We spent an hour in the little wooden blinds with the puffins five to ten feet away. The puffins crash-landed (they're not very good flyers) on the roof of our blind and their voices reminded us of a slowly revving, quiet chain saw. We made it off the island just in time before the approaching tide could block our exit. This was, without a doubt, the high point of the entire trip. Very few people are lucky enough to gain access to this special place over the course of a year. We were among them.

The next morning, we had a quick bird walk and got a Blackpoll Warbler singing a territory and Black-throated green Warbler. Then, back at the inn, I got good views of a singing Nashville Warbler.

Then, as we were waiting for the ferry, Meret had the ultimate "Kodak moment." While she was taping an adult Bald Eagle soaring over the harbor, the bird decided to snatch an immature Herring Gull for lunch. Meret got the whole event on video! We spent the ferry ride looking for new pelagic species and scored with Black-legged Kittiwake.

At our B&B we had an early dinner and then drove off in search of beaver. We found them hard at work creating a new wetland. By the time we got back to the inn, Ted, Nancy's husband and a birder of local renown, had a bonfire going on the beach. He and Tad serenaded us with some tunes on Ted's guitar. Nancy told us the intriguing story of lobster courtship and then we made one last try for the Northern Saw-whet Owl. He was still a no-show.

Finally it was time to say our goodbyes and fly home. It was as good as a vacation can be. I saw one hundred thirty-seven species (the total for the group was higher) and got twenty-five life birds. We met some very interesting people, stayed in four-star inns and ate excellent food. We're looking forward to going back to Canada when we can spend even more time. It was a great trip!

THE PELICAN



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August 2002

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrl@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	760-7647	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona-beach.fl.us
Vivian Smith	At-Large	253-3815	
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Glade Koch	Education	253-8438	clecras@aol.com
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Commun.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franni@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(941) 242-9338
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
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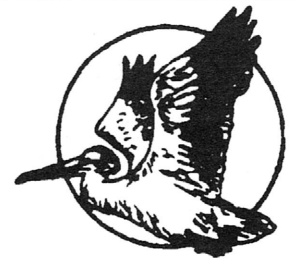
For Your Information - All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month. September Through May, at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave., Daytona Beach, at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! **Board meets** at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

How well suited the lining of a bird's nest, not only for the comfort of the young, but to keep the eggs from breaking! Fine elastic grass stems or root fibers, pine needles, or hair, or the like. These tender and brittle things which you can hardly carry in cotton lie there without harm."

Henry David Thoreau, June 6, 1856

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

SEPTEMBER 2002

BOARD MEETS FOR PLANNING SESSION

President Lois Robinson

The Halifax River Audubon met Monday August 19 to set goals and dream dreams for the 2002-2003 year. Ten Board members attended the session.

Goal setting is required each year for every Audubon Chapter and it gives us a chance to think BIG regarding our future. Some of our future dreams are having the Tomoka River Basin named as an Important Bird Area (IBA), protecting and developing nesting sites for shore birds at Lighthouse Point Park and Smyrna Dunes Park, and participating in conservation initiatives with other Audubon Chapters in central Florida as well as throughout the state. Other dreams include filling local parks with native plants, misters and birdbaths to attract and care for our feathered friends, sending youths, as well as adults to **Audubon Camp**, and reaching out to local civic groups with programs about birds and conservation.

These are just a few of our dreams. To carry them out and make our dreams a reality takes all of us working together or these ideas will remain dreams only. Let us dream big and work hard to see these dreams come true.

If you are interested in a particular area, call one of your board members. We need your dreams and your input!

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PICK UP AND TRANSPORT BIRDS.

Gina Holt

Of urgent need now are people who can help transport injured birds of prey to the Audubon Center in Maitland. The birds will already be crated and you DO NOT have to handle them, only transport them to the center, a round trip of 120 miles. No experience necessary, but a reliable vehicle is a MUST!!

During this time of year, many birds have trauma injuries needing immediate medical attention. More people are needed who are willing to help them.

Also, during the fall migration, there are many seabirds that end up on our beaches and need our help. These birds will also already be crated and just need to be picked up from the beach and taken to our local rehabbers.

Could you help? If so, please call **Gina Holt** at 253-3466, and remember, life is for the birds...they need our help.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 3

Board Meeting, Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30. NOTE CHANGE OF DAY due to Labor Day Holiday.

Friday, September 6

President's Choice field trip, led by **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480. Guana River State Park, north of St. Augustine. Meet at Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Blvds. 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

Monday, September 16

Chapter Meeting. "Florida Scrub-Jays." **Stephen Kintner**, Director of Environmental Management of Volusia County.

Saturday, September 21

International Migratory Bird Count field trip, led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. City Island. 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Thursday-Sunday, September 26-29

Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo, Eckerd College Campus, St. Petersburg/Clearwater.

Saturday, September 28

Scrub-Jay Festival, Titusville. See article.

Sunday, September 29

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

BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS

Lois Robinson

Classes for Beginning Birdwatching will be held Wednesday nights, October 23, 30 and November 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Casements, 25 Riverside Dr., Ormond Beach.

Cost for the course is \$38.50 (includes tax). Field trips will be Fridays, November 1 and 8, and will leave from the Casements at 8 a.m. The course will include: how to identify birds, use of binoculars and Field Guides, birding etiquette, habitat and range, migration facts and much more.

Call the Casements at 676-3216 to register or contact **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480. **John Carr**, **Willie Burns** and **Lois Pauchey** will participate in the class. Let your interested friends know of these dates.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

On August 15th, as one hundred plus members of our community looked on, our County Council voted 4 to 3 to reject transmitting an amendment to our Comprehensive Growth Management Plan to the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Amendments to the plan must be approved by the state. The amendment would have allowed the extension of Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Blvd. to State Road 40 and was requested by several property owners. This would of course open the areas west of I-95 to intense development. Moreover, it would eventually lead to the road being widened and turned into a major thoroughfare from State Road 46 in Sanford, all the way to State Road 40 in Ormond Beach. The fields and pastures where horses and meadowlarks are now would be turned into Burger King parking lots and apartment complexes.

The reason so many people showed up for the Council meeting was to voice their opposition to the amendment and this plan to pave over lands long devoted to farms and hunting. The opponents of the road project left the meeting thinking that the amendment had been defeated. Toward the end of this long meeting, the Council members suddenly decided to revisit the issue in light of the fact that road impact fee credits are given to developers who build roads like the proposed extension. This is another example of how our entire governmental structure, from the state to the city level, works hand in glove with real estate developers to pave over environmentally sensitive lands. Once the issue was brought up again, it gave two Councilmen, **Big John** and **James Ward**, an opportunity to change their votes. Now, the land owners will almost certainly get what they want and our quality of life here in Volusia County will be further degraded in the quest for quick profits.

The real question here is why this move was voted down the first time. I believe that it was because the Council members saw the number of people in the chambers in opposition to the plan. They know that many of these folks took off time from work and family obligations to attend. They also know that these people can't attend every council meeting. So, in a move that's as cynical as it is underhanded, they voted first to deny the request. Then, after all the folks had gone home feeling common sense had for once ruled the decision making process, they did what they had planned all along: they changed their votes and put the issue back on their agenda for September 19 thereby signaling a green light for this ruinous project. The people be damned! We're under water restrictions now and yet we're told that we have to bulldoze another wetland to make room for more housing developments.

It's obvious that we can't continue to allow people whose actions are controlled by development interests to

represent us in all levels of government. If all of the housing projects permitted by the state in all of Florida's counties were built out to completion, our state's population would be 101 million within 20 years! This madness has got to stop. The state's Growth Management Act could be an effective tool for putting the brakes on out of control development. Instead it's carved up and amended whenever it suits the whims of development interests. We need to take the approach that's been so successful in Oregon. There, local people, who'll be most affected by development decisions, vote on whether or not to allow development. There's simply too much influence-buying going on in our system as it is now.



WHAT'S IN A NAME, PART TWO

Willie Burns

Now that we have gotten past pronouncing names of our marvelous feathered friends, how about what we call them when they bunch up? Sure, we have flocks of Robins, or Finches, or even Swallows. We also have Rafts of Coots, Murders of Crows, Gaggles of Geese (but maybe only on the ground). We even have TV Towers every evening, and Kettles of Hawks.

So why don't we have Herds of Cattle Egrets? Or a Blizzard of Snowy Egrets? Or a Magnificence of Great Egrets? A Sadness of Blue Herons? We cannot have an Envy of Green Herons; they always seem to be solitary. Maybe that's what makes them so green with envy...

And "lettuce" not "turnip" our noses at a Bunch of "Radish" Egrets, although those veggie puns go back to my salad days... But it wasn't me who named the Sandwich Tern for the mayonnaise on its bill. Would THEY come in a Delightful Deli of Terns? Let's turn to another...

An Embarrassment of Spoonbills, a Clatter of Turnstones, a Tumble of Whimbrel, a Strain of Skimmers. Would we consider a Gleam of Goldfinches to be "shining one on?" Not in summer at least. No one who has heard the ruffling sound of Sandpiper's wings on the water as a large flight lands could call them anything else except a Storm of Pipers.

This all leaves me wondering if Cominterns are Russian spies, not simply diving birds feeding along our shores. Railroad fans would probably prefer the Gleam of Rails to a Clatter of Rails. A Mess of Fish Crows may take a little angling to connect, but don't forget to set the hook...

Until next time, Happy Birding to Ewe. I'm feeling a little sheepish after all of this, so I'll pull the wool over my eyes and take a well-earned nap.

NEWS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Lee Bidgood

Where are the young environmental activists? The need was never greater as politicians dismantle 30 years of environmental gains.

Cheer up! On September 26, six young environmental leaders will receive the 2002 Brower Youth Awards, honoring activists age 13 to 22. David Brower was the executive director of Sierra from 1952 to 1969 and founded Earth Island Institute, Friends of the Earth, the League of Conservation Voters and other groups.

Here are the honorees and their accomplishments:

- **Jessian Choy**, 21, of Santa Cruz, California, founded the U. of California Santa Cruz Student Environmental Center. The coalition of student environmental planners advanced 15 greening projects and petitioned the University to comply with the Kyoto Protocol target. Jessian said, "My project was prompted by the unwillingness of the US to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. I also wanted to bring diversity to an area in which students of color are under-represented."

- **Max Harper**, 20, of Hotchkiss, Colorado, developed a sustainable living theme house that Colorado College adopted as a model to engage students and administrators in environmental sustainability and build an epicenter of campus activism. Max said, "It is my goal to create an environment that not only enriches its members **educationally, but also ethically, preparing them to become healthy, environmentally conscious members of tomorrow's society.**"

- **Stefanie Lacy**, 17, of Bandera, Texas, established a paper-recycling program in the "Cowboy Capital of the World." It has diverted 20 tons of paper from a landfill, saving about 4,600 trees. Stefanie said, "If it was not for the community, this project could not exist. It has instilled community pride for the conservation and preservation of the environment."

- **Amir Nadav**, 17, of Eagan, Minnesota, reduced his fellow students' exposure to unhealthy diesel exhaust. His work led to a Minnesota law banning excessive idling of school buses, and requires schools to relocate air intake vents away from parking areas. Amir said, "The presence of student activists revitalizes ... dull baby-boomer monopolization of political decisions that impact the environment. The days of lazy teens are over."

- **Ethan Schaffer**, 21, of Sagle, Idaho, created "Organic Volunteers" which has over 2,000 members in 41 states with over 300 educational outreach programs for those wishing to live, eat and grow food more sustainably. Ethan survived lymphoma cancer at age 15, leading him to explore healthy, sustainable living by working on an organic farm in New Zealand.

- **Nathan Wyeth**, 17, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, is the co-founder and chairman of "Student Action on the

Global Economy" (SAGE). SAGE has used public protest, Congressional lobbying and public education to halt the continued weakening of US environmental laws and exploitation of people in poor countries by international trade and development policy.

Honorees will each receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Julia Butterfly Hill will host the September 26 ceremony in Berkeley, California, David Brower's birthplace. It's free and the public is invited.

GREAT NEWS! Thanks to your participation in the public comment period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has changed its course, and denied the use of 4,500 pounds of granular carbofuran on rice fields in Louisiana!

Granular carbofuran is one of the world's most potent bird-killing pesticides. One tiny granule can kill a songbird. Had the pesticide been applied to rice fields in Louisiana, hundreds of bird species would have been threatened, with wading birds and neotropical migrant shorebirds like the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher at the highest risk. Rice farmers in Louisiana had requested authorization to apply more than two tons of this bird-killing pesticide to 10,000 acres of rice fields in southwest Louisiana.

EPA initially intended to grant an "emergency use" application of the pesticide, but was forced by Audubon and our partners in conservation to open a five-day public comment period. During this very brief comment period, EPA received more than 5,000 public comments – including over 3,800 letters from Audubon supporters -- urging them to deny any further use of carbofuran. On Thursday, July 25, EPA responded by stopping use of the bird-killing pesticide! **Many thanks to you for your participation in this effort – it made a difference!**

From National Audubon Society

GUANA RIVER STATE PARK

First Field Trip Of The Year

President's Choice

Come join us Friday, September 6. We will leave the Publix lot at Williamson and Granada at 6:30 a.m. Remember to bring a lunch.

This Park will be a new experience for us. Like Washington Oaks, it has many different bird habitats with a long shoreline attracting many of the migrating shorebirds who are coming through at this time of the year. The Park also fronts on the Intracoastal Waterway, which means lots of wading birds for us to enjoy.

Call **Lois Robinson**, 760-8480, for more information.

CONFERENCE THEME IS WATER

Participate in two full days of work sessions and activities focused on setting this year's Audubon conservation goals in Florida. *Enjoy* a variety of interactive workshops, plenary sessions and renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of Florida's water. *Get connected* with nature on our myriad field trips.

When: October 24-26, 2002
Where: Orlando Airport Marriott
What:

Audubon Assembly 2002

Florida's Water: Connecting Communities and Nature

Early registration for the conference is \$95 through September 9. After that it is \$125, still a bargain since it includes all meals, receptions, a Friday evening visit and dinner at Disney's Animal Kingdom, and Saturday night banquet dinner. There is a registration package inserted in the August Florida Naturalist. In addition, there is complete up-to-date information about field trips, workshops, volunteer opportunities and other activities on website audubonofflorida.org.

The Orlando Airport Marriott special room rate for this conference is \$99/night. Call them at (407) 851-9000 or (800) 766-5752 and ask for this special rate.

2002-2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Ray Scory

24-9-11-4, look at these numbers. Burn them into the happy recesses of your memory. They belong to a combination that will unlock a garden of exciting birding adventures, all in Central Florida.

Even Willie Wonka, the candyman from the movie, "The Chocolate Factory," couldn't lead you on such a delicious trail of birding pleasures as the Halifax River Audubon volunteers will lead you this coming year.

Imagine twenty-four total outdoor field trips scheduled on nine Fridays, eleven Saturdays, and four Sundays. Included in that number will be a trip to the Birds of Prey Center, two International Migratory Bird Counts and THE BIG SIT. We have also scheduled some new places to bird and have kept some of our more favorite places.

Our overnight trip will take us to White Springs in north central Florida where we will bird some newly opened (on a limited basis) property owned by the PCS Phosphate Company. Included in this trip will be a visit to either the Suwannee River State Park or the Stephen Foster State Park.

So don't forget our combination: **24-9-11-4** please. It promises to open a treasure of great birding.

THE FALL MIGRATION COUNT

David Hartgrove

The Internet has already been filled with reports of early migrants passing through Florida. On Saturday, September 21st, we'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. to venture forth and try to count as many of the birds as possible. As always, this is an all day event. But we can easily work with you to get you back to your car if you need to leave before that final tally at the Port Orange Bridge. So, bring your lunch, your binoculars and your keen eyes and ears and we'll have a great time. And please, if you're going, call me (386) 788-2630 so I can begin team assignments. Thanks!

VICTORY FOR MANATEES

Judge orders safe havens for popular sea cows

A federal judge ruled that Interior Secretary Gail Norton has been violating a court-approved agreement to provide more safe havens from careless boaters for the endangered sea cows. The judge ordered the administration to start abiding by the agreement.

2003 CALENDAR SALE!

Willie Burns

Our Golden Dog Book Sales will be offering an assortment of 2003 Audubon calendars for sale at a reduced rate. All of this year's marvelous calendars will be sold at a price of one dollar off list price! All profits go directly to Halifax River Audubon.

The assortment includes:

- Audubon 365 Song Bird & Other Backyard Birds Calendar (one featured every month and dozens more besides)
- Audubon Backroads & Byways Calendar
- Audubon Nature Calendar
- Audubon Wildflowers Calendar
- Audubon Water's Edge Calendar
- Audubon Engagement Calendar
- Audubon 365 Birds Page-A-Day Calendar
- Incredible Pop-Out Butterfly Activity Kit and Calendar (Games and puzzles for the whole family)
- Sibley's Bird Calendar

Prices run from ten to twelve dollars each, depending on the title of course. The Activity Kit is great for children, especially with Christmas just around the corner. We will be taking orders at the September meeting with delivery at the October meeting. You may even pay in advance.

Please see **Willie Burns** at the September meeting, or call him at (386) 253-2150 for more information.

THE BIG SIT

Ray Scory

Challenge yourself. Come do THE BIG SIT on October 13 and you will sit again next year. It's that infectious. Pick a hot birding spot, your favorite, or just one you want to investigate, draw an imaginary 18-foot circle, get inside and identify birds you see or hear from that circle. Spend midnight to midnight or a few hours, bring a friend or many, have a picnic, a party, take pictures, send some to **John Triana**, THE BIG SIT coordinator, and see yourself and your spot on the internet. Join an international group of birders who will be sitting with you some place on this earth on that same day. Last year 116 circles were registered with over 460 sitters participating, all located in 31 states and countries with over 609 total species observed.

Have fun. Last year, I sat the Dunlawton Avenue Bridge. I discovered two Great Horned Owls displaying between the trusses of the bridge at five thirty in the morning. A first for the bridge, I'm told.

You'll never know what passes through your spot unless you sit there to find out. For one day in the year, stop chasing the birds and let them come to you. They will. Just pick a spot, wait and watch. Join an international selection of birders on this day to experience a different way to bird.

For more information and to reserve your spot, contact: John Triana, THE BIG SIT Coordinator, Coer Road, Prospect, CT 06712 or call (203) 758-7203 or email jtriana@connix.com.

STEVE KINTNER - FIRST PROGRAM OF YEAR

Stephen Kintner will be our speaker for our first program meeting of the year 2002-2003 on September 16, at 7 p.m. at Seabreeze United Church, 501 N. Wild Olive Ave. in Daytona Beach.

Steve has expertise in the area of protecting Florida Scrub-Jays and will let us know what Volusia County is doing in that regard. It is very appropriate that our first program be on Scrub-Jays, a bird many of us would like to see named as the State Bird of Florida.

According to bird writers Donald and Lillian Stokes, Florida Scrub-Jays are found in pairs or family groups that live in a fixed territory (they do not migrate). The Scrub-Jay young from the previous year help with nest defense and the feeding of nestlings. Their population is down 50% or more from 1900 due to loss of habitat.

Steve Kintner is the Director of the Volusia County Environmental Management Department. He is a professional geologist. He has a master's degree in Resource Planning from Southwest Missouri State University and undergraduate degrees in Geology and Economics.

Scrub Jay Festival

Saturday, September 28
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
"RAIN OR SHINE"

Featuring

- FREE KAYAK RIDES
- LIVE MUSIC
- SCRUB HABITAT TOURS
- ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



Adults: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door (Fried catfish, boiled shrimp, crab bites, baked beans, coleslaw, lemonade)*
Children (under 12): \$3 in advance, \$4 at door (Fried catfish or hot dog, crab bites, chocolate pudding, lemonade)*

* Vegetarian meal may be substituted

DIRECTIONS: I-95 to SR 50 east, left on SR 405, left on Fox Lake Rd to park

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Amy at abmosher@earthlink.net or Johna at 242-7498



SCRUB JAY FESTIVAL TICKETS BY MAIL – All proceeds benefit the Florida Scrub-Jay

Name _____ Adult tickets, \$10 each
 Mailing address _____ Child tickets, \$3 each
 _____ Amount of check enclosed

Checks only. Make payable to Turtle Coast Sierra Club
Send to Turtle Coast Sierra Club, Attention : Scrub Jay Festival,
P.O. Box 061887, Palm Bay, Florida, 32906

If **Vegetarian** meal preferred, how many? _____



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OF BREVARD COUNTY



THE PELICAN



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September 2002

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyingsqr1@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	760-7640	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona-beach.fl.us
Vivian Smith	At-Large	253-3815	
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Glade Koch	Education	253-8438	clecras@aol.com
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Commun.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitmnt and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

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HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of its 2001-2002
The Pelican Underwriter

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Welcome to new members Elsie Brown, Barbara Charbonneau, George Cochrane, Catherine Dalonzo, Christine Fritch, Henry Jahner, Elise Leroux, and Claire P. McCarthy.

Mary Keller needs: millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

OCTOBER 2002

EARTH SUMMIT CONVENES

President Lois Robinson

The 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development concluded last week in Johannesburg. (I am writing this on Sept 7th). One hundred countries that participated agreed on a plan to protect the environment and fight poverty. The New York Times editorial reprinted in the News-Journal stated that, "the simple recognition that economic development and environmental protection can work in tandem may be the summit's greatest contribution."

Although we would like to see more happening (like target dates for the conversion to wind and solar power that the European Union was pushing), it was still a beginning, a start, on the long road to environmental sustainability. We need an environment we can live in for our future.

Delegates wrestled with such complex issues as trying to bring electricity to rural millions now without it. We know whole forests are being demolished by people seeking wood for cooking and heat. Do we urge power plants that burn fossil fuels (dirty but cheaper and quicker) to do the job rather than using wind and solar power (slower, expensive but clean, not available in many parts of the globe)? In other words, do we do it fast and dirty and thus save many woodlands?

The debate on clean energy goes on. Compromises in areas of climate change, trade and sanitation were reached. One goal was to reduce the number of people living without sanitation from two billion to one billion. That doesn't mean indoor plumbing but sanitary privies and safe drinking water for a start. Another big reform was to change the way we harvest the ocean for seafood. Many fish species are becoming depleted, as you know. Another positive step was that China and Russia appear ready to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Maybe the U.S. will be shamed into doing what we ought to have done already since we are the only major country not ratifying this Kyoto agreement. What will it take to get the U.S. involved in caring about the environment?

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Many thanks to **Rosemary Cole** for agreeing to chair Audubon Adventures for the coming year!

CALENDAR

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Spruce Creek Park – One Hour Walk Series. Led by **Kevin Doxstater**, 760-7647 and **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. Meet at Spruce Creek Park parking lot. 8:00 a.m. Spruce Creek Park is on US-1 south of the Rose Bay Bridge.

Monday, October 7

Board Meeting, Dickerson Heritage Library 1:30pm.

Saturday, October 12

SJR/IRL Audubon Regional Conservation Meeting in Seminole County.

Sunday, October 13

THE BIG SIT. 24 hours, midnight to midnight birdwatching marathon. To register your circle, contact **John Triana**: (203) 758-7203, email jtriana@connix.com, US mail: John Triana, 2 Coer Road, Prospect CT 06712. Florida contact: **Ray Scory**, 763-4260.

Friday, October 18

Bluffton Ridge field trip. Led by **Rachel Ramsey**, 673-1037. Meet at Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Blvds. 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Monday, October 21

Chapter Meeting "Florida Flowers." **Steven Shirah**.

Wednesdays, October 23 and 30 and November 6

Birding Classes. The Casements, 7:00 p.m. **Lois Robinson, Lois Pauchey, Willie Burns and John Carr.** Cost \$38.50 includes tax.

Thursday-Sunday, October 24-27

Audubon of Florida Assembly. Orlando Airport Merriott Hotel. Hotel phone number is (800) 766-5752.

Saturday, November 1

Washington Oaks State Gardens field trip. Led by **Kevin DeWall**, 767-3031. Meet at City Island Court House east end parking lot. 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Friday, November 18

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge field trip. Led by **Glade Koch**, 253-8438. Meet at City Island Court House east end parking lot. 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Monday, November 18

Chapter Meeting. Dr. Jim Davis, editor of "Interpretive Birding Bulletin", will speak.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Last month I wrote about the decision by the County Council on whether or not to transmit an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. The amendment would place an extension to CR 415, Tomoka Farms Road, from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40 into the county's Growth Management Plan. This would entitle the road construction to be qualified for "road impact fee credits." The road would run right along the side of the Tomoka River. This is one of two Outstanding Florida Waterways in the county. In addition, the road would cut through a designated environmental easement set aside for the endangered Gopher Tortoise back when the LPGA development was permitted.

On August 15th, the Council voted it down by a majority of 4 to 3. Then, Councilman **Jim Ward** decided to ask that the issue be brought back to their agenda for the meeting on September 19th. Like most of the environmental community, I felt we'd been tricked and dealt with in a less than open way. I am writing this on the evening of September 19th. To me, and to a number of other folks who were in the Council Chambers today, the unanimous vote to follow the staff recommendation against transmitting this amendment came as a real shock. There's an old saying, "When I'm right, no one remembers. When I'm wrong, no one forgets." I think we have a duty to try to disprove that adage as often as possible.

The County Council did the right thing today. What their motivations were for changing their votes from 4 to 3 to unanimously against, I don't know. The county's Growth Management Department staff made another presentation of their reasons for recommending against the project. It was a litany of damning evidence as to why this was most definitely the wrong road in the wrong place. Perhaps the Council was swayed by these arguments when they were repeated. I do know that both **Reid Hughes** and **Lee Bidgood**, among others, spent time on the phone with all 7 council members educating them on just why this was such a bad idea. And even after the attorneys for the petitioners suggested that the Council table the petition until after the November elections when some positions on the Council might change, they still voted it down. It was the right thing to do, for whatever reason. The Council is to be commended.

And now (as they say on Monty Python) for something completely different. By the time you read this, **John Sayles'** film "Sunshine State" will have closed in what limited, local release it saw. Look for it on video when it comes out in that format. It is a funny and scathing indictment of the way things are done here in our beloved state.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2002

October 24, 25, 26, and 27
Marriott Hotel At Orlando Airport

Field trips

- Titusville Pontoon Boat Trip
- Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Exotic Birdwatching at Disney's Animal Kingdom
- Chapter Birding Contest
- Disney's Bay Cove Morning Rookery Tour
- Audubon of Florida's Center for Birds of Prey
- Florida Forever Tour

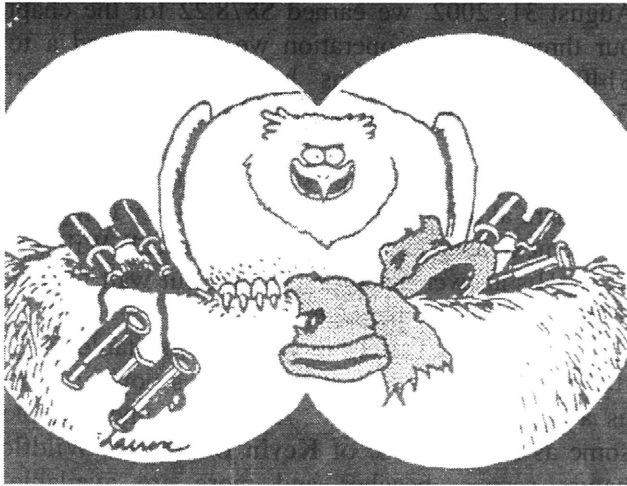
Workshops

- Nature Photography
- Water Management Districts and Why They Matter
- Birdathons and Other Fun Ways to Fill Your Chapter's Purse
- Challenging Permits and Agency Decisions
- The Environment is the Economy: Engaging The Business Community to Support Conservation
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Art of Conservation Education
- Eight Habits of Effective Chapter Leadership
- Manatees & Power Plants – An Intimate Relationship
- Audubon's 2020 Plan
- Water – The Struggle For an Over-allocated Resource
- Lake Okeechobee: Missing Link in Everglades Restoration Success
- Rrrrrreeeeggggg! The Frog Listening Network
- Sportsmen and Birders Working Together
- Chapter Conservation Projects
- Chapter Education Programs
- Florida Communities Trust Grants and Florida Forever Priorities
- Environmental Justice – A Mainstream Issue
- Teaching Basic Birdwatching Skills
- Audubon Center for Birds of Prey
- Regional Conservation Issues
- The Everglades – The Science and Politics of the Restoration Projects
- Influencing State Agency Permit Decisions
- From Recruiting to Activism
- Getting the Job Virtually Done
- Wetland Identification
- Saving Land: Tools for Public Land Conservation
- Butterfly Gardening
- Maximizing Your Chapter's Use of the Internet for Conservation
- Award-winning Chapters – How-to from the Winners
- Improving your Birding Skills
- Youth: The Future of Conservation
- Conservation Success Stories from Other States

Other Attractions

- All Breakfast and Lunches
- Cocktail Reception
- Dancing
- Dinner Banquets:
 - Bird Show at Disney's Animal Kingdom
 - Bill McBride, Democratic Governor Nominee
 - Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida

SIGN UP NOW FOR BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS



Bird Watcher Being Watched

Want to have fun and learn more about birding? Want to learn how to identify the birds in your backyard? Want to learn about bird feeders, backyard habitats? Want to learn about how and why birds migrate and where birds are most likely to be found? Sign up now for Beginning Birdwatching with **Lois Robinson, John Carr, Willie Burns and Lois Pauchey**. Time: 7:00 pm. Place: The Casements, 25 Riverside Dr., Ormond Beach. **Lois Robinson's** phone number is 760-8480.

SOLAR POWER: NEW SMYRNA BEACH RESIDENTS OFFERED A GREEN POWER CHOICE

A new public power program allows New Smyrna Beach residents to support the development of solar power. For a small monthly investment, residents can buy electricity from solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays. The solar PV arrays are installed on public buildings by the New Smyrna Beach Utilities Commission – a city-owned non-profit electric utility – as part of its Green Power Program. Solar PV systems like these convert sunlight into electricity – and feed that electricity in the “grid” or wire system that delivers power to all utility customers.

“By buying portions of the electricity produced by these solar PV arrays, homes and businesses can prevent pollution while helping develop Florida’s cleanest native energy supply – the sun,” said **Ron Vaden**, General Manager and CEO, New Smyrna Beach Utilities Commission. “Supporting the development of Florida’s solar industry is important,” Vaden added. “Florida now imports almost all of the fuel used to make electricity – and power plant pollution causes significant adverse health, environmental, and climate impacts. By using the

sun, a native fuel naturally delivered to our ‘Sunshine State’ every day, we reduce pollution and keep dollars and jobs in state,” said **Deb Swim**, LEAF Senior Attorney, spearheading LEAF’s green power initiative.

The arrays are located on an elementary school and a municipal golf course. Additional arrays will be added as green power program participation increases.

Every kilowatt produced by these solar arrays displaces one that would have been produced by fossil or nuclear power. Every year, solar arrays avoid 28,661 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions; 156 pounds of sulfur dioxide emissions; and 77 pounds of nitrogen oxide emissions.

Residential customers may choose a monthly investment in solar of either \$2/10 kwh; \$5/25 kwh; or \$10/50 kwh. Commercial customers may choose a monthly investment of \$10/50 kwh; \$15/75 kwh; or \$20/100 kwh. Customers may also choose to buy larger portions.

Buying one 10 kwh block of solar power each month for a year avoids 220 pounds of air pollution and has the same environmental benefit as not driving a car for 275 miles. For about the price of a video rental, New Smyrnians can reduce the environmental impact of electricity and help buy down the costs of solar power.

Published by LEAF – Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation. Vol. 2, No. 1, 2002.

SCRUB JAYS AT LYONIA PARK

Our September program featured a talk by **Stephen S. Kintner**, Director: Volusia County Environmental Management Department. He spoke about how Lyonia Preserve in DeLand was made into suitable Florida Scrub-Jay habitat. Ten years ago there were no jays in the Park; now there are more than 100. This was mostly due to planned burn-offs of unsuitable trees. New growth sprang up and birds, tortoises and other animals came there to live. Steve talked of the need to create other large jay habitats plus the need to have smaller jumping-off areas so jays could reach those places.

The jays are extremely tolerant of humans and visitors are advised to wear a head covering because the birds WILL land on their heads.

Mr. Kintner is a professional geologist. He has overseen the consolidation and expansion of a number of programs including groundwater, wetlands, trees, and habitat protection. Also he has responsibility for endangered species, hazardous waste management, air pollution, waste management, environmental education, underground storage tank program, and the EnviroNet volunteer Program. But above all, he has an abiding love for the Florida Scrub-Jay.

After the program, **Kevin Doxstater** showed slides of his extraordinary photos of jays.

NEW BIRD REHABILITATION CENTER

Pat Mihalic

The bird rehab/education center at the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet is finally going to become a reality. The Volusia County Council voted to include the construction costs for the center in this year's budget. As construction progresses they will discuss an operating budget for bird rehabilitation and education.

The center is likely to become a Volusia County birding destination point. Birders across the nation spend billions of dollars on this pastime. According to Fortune Magazine, more Americans say they would rather unwind on vacation by birding than by playing golf. Other studies indicate birders are usually upper-income college graduates of all nationalities with interests in the arts and science. Our area is the perfect headquarter location for birders to see our local bird hotspots and make day trips to the Alligator Farm to the north, Lake Woodruff to the west, Merritt Island to the south and others such as Lyonia Preserve (see article in this issue).

The rehab center will provide protection of critical habitat for resting and nesting seabirds. More importantly, this is a desperately needed facility. Our local rehabbers do a wonderful job caring for all the birds that are brought to them, but they need help. **Mary Keller's** records indicate that she has cared for over 800 seabirds, 1,500 songbirds (about half as babies) and over 200 raptors in the past 18 months. The superb support of our County Council assures that when Mary retires there will be a place where these birds will receive the same quality of care that she has provided for over 44 years.

WANTED

Two good men or women needed to fill vacancies on the Halifax River Audubon Board; a Board Member-At-Large and an Education Chair are needed. For more information call **President Lois Robinson** at 780-8480.

NOTICE: Halifax River Audubon now will require a signed liability release from participants in all Chapter sponsored bird trips. The form will indicate that the signer understands that the chapter is not responsible for any mishaps that might occur. This new policy is necessary to satisfy the requirements of our liability insurance carrier.

GOLDEN DOG BOOK SALES

Golden Dog's fiscal year runs from September through August. For the past year, September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2002, we earned \$878.22 for the chapter. In our three years of operation we have earned a total of \$1405.23. **Willie Burns** has the annual report and financial statement at meetings if you would like to see the details.

This year we are selling Audubon and Sibley calendars at a discount to members. They can be ordered at the next few meetings, or you can call Willie at 253-2150. His answer machine is awful but wait for the bleep to end and leave a message.

There are a variety of calendars, suitable for gifts to the children or grand babies. One has pop out butterflies as a project every month. All have wonderful pictures, some as fine as those of **Kevin Doxstater**. Wildflowers, nature scenes, beaches and more are available. The formats include appointment and daily tear offs in addition to the traditional style.

Of course all the beautiful and informative Florida's Fabulous nature books are still on sale, along with the Pelican Pete series. These too all make terrific gifts... Chapter cookbooks, plush pelicans, clocks, and other assorted interesting things are also on hand.

BIRDING ON THE WEB

Orange Audubon Society

Want to receive email notification about interesting birds in Florida? The Florida Rare Bird Alert is a weekly list of rare and unusual bird sightings for the entire state.

To subscribe, send a blank email to FLRBA-subscribe@yahogroups.com. For chattier reports of birds in central Florida, subscribe to Bird Brains at the website <http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/listserv/wa.exe?SUBED1=brdbrain&A=1>. The volume of mail can get large, so set the digest option, and you will receive only one email a day with a compilation of all the messages.

TRUE VALUE OF NATURE: In dollars and cents, loss of habitat is costing billions

The current rate of habitat loss is costing the world the equivalent of \$250 billion every year. That's because the loss of benefits provided by nature -- flood control, climate regulation, nutrient recycling and the like -- far outweighs the benefits of converting the land to farms, housing or other human uses, according to a study published in the journal Science. The study, by a team of U.S. and British researchers, found that an undeveloped ecosystem is worth an average of 82 percent more than the same land paved, clear-cut, drained or developed in some other way.

From Denlines 9/4/02

SPECIAL REPORT

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HUNDREDS OF BIRDS KILLED BY WEST NILE Midwest Hardest Hit as Virus Spreads

Kari Lydersen, *Special to The Washington Post*,
Saturday, September 14, 2002

CHICAGO -- Owls with glazed eyes, truckloads of dead crows, eagles struggling for their lives while being intravenously fed in bird sanctuaries.

Those scenes are being repeated throughout the Midwest as the West Nile virus has struck with a vengeance, killing hundreds of birds. As the human toll -- now at 46 -- mounts, scientists are also concerned that dozens of bird species are facing long-term or even permanent effects from the virus.

"This is a bird disease, not a human disease," said **John Bianchi** of the National Audubon Society. The virus, which is carried by mosquitoes, surfaced on a significant scale only about six weeks ago, and already the effect on bird populations has been devastating: At least 111 species have been identified as affected, and that number is expected to rise.

Scientists are still scrambling to understand the disease and its spread, so the true number of infected birds and what can be expected in the coming weeks remains uncertain. **Ward Stone**, head of wildlife pathology for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and one of the scientists who first identified the disease when it surfaced in New York City in 1999, said he isn't surprised by the outbreak.

"I predicted it would be about four years," he said, noting that the disease never really went away after the 1999 outbreak but has been slowly spreading and incubating every summer. "This is so much bigger and more serious than 1999."

New York has the second-highest number of cases, and the disease has also been found in New Jersey and Maryland this summer.

But West Nile has hit the Midwest hardest. Ohio leads the country in reported incidences, and high numbers of cases have been reported in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Nebraska. A recent Audubon census in an area outside Chicago that was known to have a population of about 100 crows found only three.

"What we found was very dramatic," said **Judy Pollock**, bird conservation projects manager with the Audubon of the Chicago region. "We have no idea why it hit the Midwest so hard."

Bianchi noted that the recipe was there for a West Nile outbreak. This year featured a dry spring and early summer, an inhospitable climate for mosquitoes that meant their natural predators -- birds -- were also fewer.

Then rains in late summer led to a flourishing of mosquito populations, and the birds weren't there to eat them. Birds typically live only a few days after contracting West Nile. The virus causes encephalitis, meaning their brain becomes inflamed and they suffer heart lesions and enlargement of the other vital organs.

So far no species has been found to be immune to the virus, though some birds seem to suffer more acutely than others. Common crows and blue jays appear to be the first and most frequent victims, though bird experts note that this might

only be because they are highly visible and numerous. The whole Corvidae family -- which includes jays, crows, ravens and magpies -- is highly susceptible.

Bird lovers are especially worried by the fact that raptors, including owls, eagles and hawks, are being devastated by the disease. **Paul Tebbel**, president of Raptor Recovery Nebraska, has been overwhelmed with sick hawks, owls and even two eagles in the past six weeks.

"We usually get only a few a week, and now we're getting three to six a day," Tebbel said. "We were completely baffled and caught unaware."

Tebbel noted that about half the birds his group has seen, including the two eagles, are able to survive with care that includes hand or intravenous feeding. But he is afraid almost any sick bird in the wild will die.

The bulk of public concern is focused on the risk of West Nile to people, but Tebbel said the potential harm to the ecological balance could have lasting ramifications as more birds die.

"Taking care of raptors is not a high priority for the state," he said. "But raptors are one of our most important predators. They eat rabbits, mice, rats. In an agricultural area like this, they are a very important part of the ecosystem."

National Audubon Society scientist **Frank Gill** noted that few bird epidemics of this type have occurred in our country, and that there is little precedent for studying them. A devastating epidemic of avian pox in Hawaii was also caused by mosquitoes, brought to the island on ships.

"As a rule, birds can bounce back quickly," said Gill. "But there are some instances where they don't, like in Hawaii."

While a vaccine has been developed for horses, who are also affected by the disease, scientists have little idea how to curb the disease in birds. A vaccine could be used to treat rare or caged birds, but, as Stone said, "it would be impossible to vaccinate the millions of birds in the world."

The only real relief may come from the onset of winter, when frosts kill most mosquitoes, at least in the colder regions, and slow the spread of West Nile.

Meanwhile, concern about the disease's effect on people is contributing to even more bird deaths. Terror at the possibility of contracting West Nile has led people to dump pesticide in rivers, to demand mass chemical spraying and even to poison bird feeders, according to Bianchi.

Rather than mass pesticide use, the Audubon Society is urging "integrated pest control," including the elimination of any standing water that can serve as a mosquito breeding ground, and the use of bacterial larvicides, which kill mosquitoes, midges and some other insects but leave most bugs unharmed.

"If you kill all the insects birds eat, it will be just as bad as them getting West Nile," Pollock said. When it comes down to it, most scientists predict that nature will ultimately take its course, as it has for centuries. The birds that survive the epidemic will pass on their West Nile-resistant traits to future generations and, over time, breeds will become resilient in the face of the disease.

"Something like this will run its course in three or four years," predicted Gill. "Those birds not sensitive to it will prevail. It will be an example of natural selection in action."

THE PELICAN



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Names & Numbers

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October 2002

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appreciates the support of its 2001-2002
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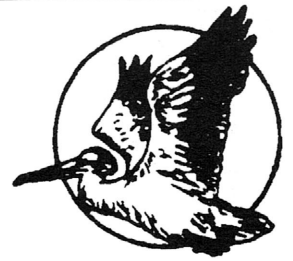
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Mary Keller needs: millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 for pickup

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 5

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

NOVEMBER 2002

"EYE OF THE ALBATROSS"

President Lois Robinson

I have been fascinated with Albatrosses ever since I read "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" many years ago. Thus, I was happy to learn of a new book entitled "Eye of the Albatross" by Carl Safina. Mr. Safina is the founder and director of the Living Oceans Program of National Audubon. He has traveled all over the world to gain knowledge of the lives of Albatrosses. In the poem by Coleridge the mariner kills the bird "that made the breeze to blow". In the book by Safina he switches cause and effect and describes "the breeze that made the bird fly". Albatrosses are the ultimate flying machine with their long wings, light bones and patient, glider's temperament. Their wings are structured differently from the wings of other birds: sections of bone are elongated; muscles are connected for gliding, not flapping; wings lock at elbow and shoulder.

Albatrosses travel thousands of miles to feed themselves and their chicks. The young Albatross, when it is able to leave the nest, takes to the air and does not return to land for several years when it is mature and ready to mate. While out on the ocean the bird's main diet is squid but it also includes fish, roe, krill, crabs and other invertebrates. Albatrosses are monogamous for life and both parents incubate and raise the one chick together. The oldest Albatross in record, according to Sibley, lived 66 years and he believes there have been older ones. The Wandering Albatross has the largest wingspan of any living species of birds.

Safina is optimistic about the future of Albatrosses as more nesting islands in the Pacific are being protected. Let's hope he is right about one of the world's loveliest birds.

HRA is still in need of an Education Chair.

Responsibilities include attending Board meetings, supervising and giving leadership in areas related to education such as a Speaker's Forum, being available for school programs, Scouts etc, working with the Audubon Adventures Chair.

CALENDAR

Saturday, November 1

Washington Oaks State Gardens field trip. Led by **Kevin DeWall**, 767-3031. Meet at east end parking lot of City Island Court House. 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Monday, November 4

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, November 15

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge field trip. Led by **Glade Koch**, 253-8438. Meet at east end parking lot of City Island Court House. 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Thursday through Sunday, November 13-17

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival.
Titusville. 321/268-5224. www.nbbd.com/fly

Saturday, November 16

Tibet-Butler Preserve Birding and Wildlife Celebration. Orlando. 407/876-6696
www.parks.orangecountyfl.net

Monday, November 18

HRA Chapter Meeting. **Dr. Jim Davis**, editor of "Interpretive Birding Bulletin", will speak.

Tuesday, November 19

Pawpaw Native Plant Society. SICA Hall, Holly Hill. 7:00pm. Ray Jarrett and Stacey Simmons demonstrate propagation techniques.

Monday, December 2

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 p.m.

October 7 Halifax River Audubon Board Meeting Motions passed

1. Funding to print 1500 Birding Guide brochures about this area for an estimated \$300.
2. Awards Banquet to take place on the Monday, May 19 Program Meeting at the Palmetto Club in Daytona Beach with the scheduled program "Butterflies in Bloom Serendipity" by Buck and Linda Cooper.
3. Chapter will continue to support the Tomoka Region Science Fair to the extent of the past year.
4. Declined to assume ownership of a donated Time Share unit in Ormond Beach.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

There are times when you just have to wonder at the severe lack of brainpower in the upper echelons of the Army Corps of Engineers. ACE (dare we use that acronym when referring to this group?) has a long history of ruining almost everything they touch. Their flood control plans for the Everglades fifty years ago have now resulted in the need for the largest environmental restoration project on the planet. One would think that they'd want to help protect the billions of dollars about to be invested in this national treasure. No, once again their capacity to do the wrong thing amazes even this hardened cynic. With 95% of the nesting wading birds gone from the Everglades, among them Wood Storks, the folks at ACE have just issued permits for the destruction of 5,400 acres of Everglades wetlands to allow lime stone mining to continue. The permits are for land adjacent to one of the largest Wood Stork rookeries in the area. And this is just the beginning. The long-range plans call for the destruction of 21,000 acres over the next fifty years! A court challenge has already been mounted but you can help too. Write a letter to Senators Bob Graham and Bill Nelson (their addresses are on page 26 of the phone book) asking that they intervene and stop this before it goes any further. Mining interests make lots of large campaign contributions, so it's going to take a big outcry from the public to turn the tide. You can make a difference on this issue.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is in the process of drafting a fifteen year Comprehensive Conservation Plan. They are now in the initial stages of seeking public input. In 1997, they adopted a set of goals to help guide the staff in making decisions about how to manage their 140,000 acres. The second goal states, "Migratory Birds: Effectively manage impoundments to provide optimal breeding, nesting, resting, and feeding habitat for all species of migratory birds that use refuge lands including waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds; provide habitat for neotropical migrants that use refuge lands during spring and fall migrations." We hope to help in whatever ways we can to further this particular goal. Since this environmental treasure is so close and we visit there annually, we will be actively monitoring the plan and participating in its development and implementation. You can visit their web site, <http://merrittisland.fws.gov> and see what they have in mind. The site is a wealth of information and as the plan is developed, you'll be able to monitor its development.

President Lois Robinson reports that we will continue to meet at our present Chapter meeting place, the Seabreeze United Church, for the remainder of the year. There had been some question that the Church would allow us to continue to meet there.

The Great Florida Birding Trail Update

Fall 2002



Coordinator's Note

Mark your calendars: the West Florida Birding Trail will open Nov. 2 at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Micanopy.

Paynes Prairie and Ft. DeSoto County Park in St. Petersburg will be gateway sites for this section. Kiosks will be located onsite, distributing Trail publications; optics will be available for loan beginning in November.

This section showcases the diversity of West Florida birding: mangrove cuckoos in suburban parks, red-cockaded woodpeckers calling from longleaf pines, and remote coastal wetlands just asking to be explored!

As always, none of this would be possible without the hard work of biologists who manage this land, citizen conservationists who lobby for and nominate it, and the birders who use the Trail. Please join us at the celebration November 2—I'd like the opportunity to congratulate and thank each of you in person!

Julie

Julie Brashears, Birding Trail Coordinator
 FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
julie.brashears@fwc.state.fl.us (850) 922-0664

SA
Audubon National Audubon Society was honored September 25 with the Natural Resources Council of America's inaugural Leadership Award for work done over the past year in blocking the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. The Natural Resources Council annually hosts the Conservation Community Awards Banquet, where conservationists gather together to honor organizations and individuals and individuals who are the driving force for conservation successes.

STEVE SHIRAH

October Program a Winner

Steve Shirah, a local Ormond Beach resident and amateur nature photographer, fascinated us all with his slide show program of "Florida Flowers".

Steve has been an avid photographer for many years. His interest in photography has led him to preserve on film the beauty of the native wildflowers that grow in our state. His latest endeavor has been to photograph as many of the "Threatened" and "Endangered" plants in Florida that he can, an increasingly difficult task since the list continues to grow at an alarming rate each year. With the constant impact that development is having on our environment, plants are becoming more and more threatened.

Steve has shown his slide show to clubs and interested groups through Volusia County and as far away as Tampa, Ocala, and Tallahassee. His photos have appeared in publications by the Nature Conservancy, The Florida Native Plant Society and used by the National Wildlife Federation for work they have done in Florida regarding endangered plants.

In 1994, a slide of Steve's was selected to be one of the best ten "Superb Close-up Shots" in the NIKON International Photo Contest. The slide was of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse in a raindrop. There were over 8,000 professional and amateur photographers worldwide who entered with over 40,000 photos submitted. It took a panel of judges in Tokyo over 6 months to complete the judging. Only 3 Americans won in this division.

WELCOME to new members Clarice Adams, James Beck, Mary J. Bilodeau, Mrs. Beverly Blanchard, Ms Carmel Boger, Charlotte Bogue, Christopher Bradshaw, Tammy A. Burke, Kirk Cavander, Ellen M. Chen, Wanda Clish, John Dalhberg, Mrs. Norma Eaglin, Carleen Eberhardt, Helen Fakfa, Glenice Firorito, Carol Grigas, Joanne M. Gunter, Kathy Haller, Arthur Hamilton, Helen Hryniewicz, Phyllis Katrinecz, Shirley Kauppinen, Elvira Kellaher, Wayne Leithner, Catherine R. Lewis, Marianne Lowell, Cynthia A. McAdow, Mr. Duane C. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nelson, Mary S. Redmond, Jeanette A. Rounds, Edna J. Schumann, Hilda Soltz, Mr. and Mrs. John Tennant, Rick Tribou, Lewis E. Unnewehr, Betty A. Vogel, Irma Weissner, Shirley Wilkie, Ms. Marian Wilson.

THANKS TO JOHN WILLIAMS

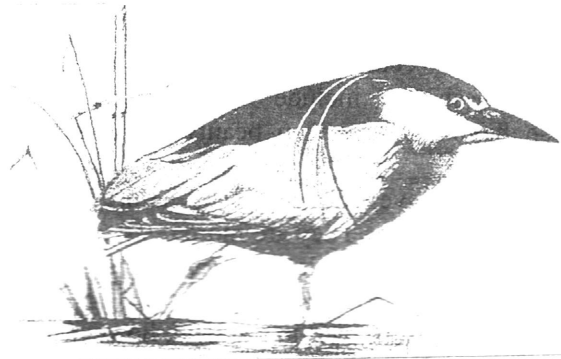
for being our representative at the meetings of the Volusia Area State Forest Citizen Liaison panel. The Panel meets once a quarter at the Forestry Station in DeLeon Springs.

WASHINGTON OAKS FIELD TRIP

Kevin DeWall

On November 2nd we will be taking our annual field trip to Washington Oaks Gardens State Park north of Palm Coast. As far as the birding goes this is always a productive trip. In the past we have seen many species ranging from Black-throated Green Warblers to Black-crowned Night-herons. The area consists of over 400 acres of garden, coastal hammock and coastal scrub. More information about the park is available at the web site <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/district3/washingtonoaks/index.asp>.

This is an all day trip in a semi-isolated area so make sure you bring your lunch. We will be leaving from the parking lot of the County Court House Annex on City Island at 8:00 am, and making a couple of quick stops on the way there. There is no need for a reservation; just show up at the meeting place with your binoculars, your lunch and your field guide.



Black-Crowned Night-heron

THE BIG SIT – YEAR 2002

Ray Scory

I sat THE BIG SIT in October at a small causeway park on the Halifax River under the Port Orange Bridge for the second year. I watched and listened from my selected seventeen-foot circle and counted 36 different species with 4 noisy Black-necked Stilts, 33 fly-over White Pelicans and 3 sleuth-like Black-crowned Night-herons making early appearances. The emerging oyster bars, uncovered as the tide receded, hosted a nice variety of water birds: American Oystercatchers, Willets, Laughing Gulls and a large flock of migrating Red Knots, and it is always nice to see Caspian Terns and Royal Terns standing side by side.

What a great spot to watch a day go by. That is what I like about this day; the observations, the bird-watching, the impressions, the surprises and once in a while I just sit there and I am in awe.

NATIVE PLANTS FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA LANDSCAPES

Julie Gilbert, Florida Native Plant Society

One of the best suggestions that can be made for landscaping central Florida homes and commercial properties is: "Use native plants when ever possible." Florida has an abundance of delightful native plans from which to choose for landscaping. These include nearly half of all tree species found in North America north of Mexico.

Palms are one of the first choices. Florida gardeners wanting to add true Florida trademarks to their landscapes may select from a wide variety of palms. Our state tree, the cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), is one of he most popular for commercial property. Others include the Florida royal palm, Florida silver palm, needle palm, and saw palmetto.

Popular native trees that adapt well to urban landscape environment include the American cherry laurel, chickasaw plum, flowering dogwood, fringe tree, laurel oak, live oak, southern wax myrtle, dahoon holly, redbud, southern red cedar, and yaupon holly. Well-known native shrubs include coontie, golden dewdrop, Spanish bayonet, American beauty bush, and several small hollies.

These native plants have been tested by nature and proven to grow well in Florida. They are more resistant to pest problems and better suited to local weather and soil conditions.

Just because a plant grows well in the wild, however, does not guarantee that it will readily adapt to your landscape. Some have very specific growth requirements, other thrive under a variety of climatic and soil conditions. So before you relocate a native plant, make certain you can provide it with an environment similar to its natural one.

Also, don't expect instant adaptation. It takes a reasonable amount of time and care for any plant to adjust to a new home.

Though you can legally take plants from the wild, you should know that Florida's native plants are protected under the Plant Protection Law. This law encourages preservation and propagation, but destroying, injuring, harvesting, collecting, or removing any plants covered by the law is prohibited without prior written permission from the owner of the land.

Many nurseries stock a good selection of native plants, so you probably can purchase your choice from an authorized dealer. A copy of the Plant Protection Law and the plant list are available on request from the Florida Department of Agriculture, Div. of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 1269, Gainesville, FL 32601. How do we determine what is native and what is not? Florida has over 2,400 native plant species, many found only in Florida. The

determination of which plants are native to Florida and which ones are not is a sometimes difficult to determine. The Florida Native Plant Society uses the arrival of Europeans in 1513 as the date on which nativity is determined. Plants thought to be established before this date are native. Plants thought to have arrived after are considered naturalized if they do not pose a threat to Florida's ecosystems or invasive exotic if they do.

Biologist and botanists continue to trace the establishment of plant species in question through research of historical journals, commercial documents, and word of mouth in attempt to track the movement plants in Florida.

BLUFFTON RIDGE RECREATION PARK

Rachel Ramsey

A small group of our members braved the 7:00am departure time to take in a trip to Bluffton Ridge on October 18. What we lost in sleep was more than made up for with a beautiful autumn day.

The newly reopened 2-½ mile road was in excellent condition and allowed us to enjoy birding from our vehicles. We took three hours leisurely driving and stopping in the various habitats, which yielded 44 species. Great Catbirds are in abundance throughout the forest and Eastern Towhees call often. **Ray Scory's** first "Florida" Hairy Woodpecker was a treat and **John Roessler's** male Bluebird couldn't have been more gorgeous in the sunlight with the Virginia Creeper leaf colors of autumn surrounding him. Although we anticipated finding more warblers, we were delighted with an American Restart and several Common Yellowthroats. The floating fishing pier on the St. John's River enabled us a quick look at a Common Moorhen but few waterbirds were present.

We completed our count with two more species on the way home. A Red-tailed Hawk sitting in the grass with prey gave us all great looks and a flock of Wild Turkeys obliged us just long enough while we turned around to make sure that is what we saw. **Lois Pauchey** is great at doing that!



If you'd like to get away for a morning and go somewhere beautiful, try Bluffton Ridge. You won't be disappointed

Where is he now? **Denny Ariola** writes that he is working this fall with the Cape May Bird Observatory of the New Jersey Audubon. Some of this work includes Conducting Hawk Identification Workshops and spending time on the Hawkwatch platform. Denny is a member of **HRA** and employed full-time in conservation and related areas. He will visit us in December.

DR. JIM DAVIS

INTERPRETING BIRD BEHAVIOR

Halifax River Audubon will present a program on November 18 to thrill all of us who enjoy watching and trying to understand the quirks and antics of birds.

During his slide presentation, **Dr Jim Davis** will explore different ways to integrate behavior watching into your normal birding activities. He will also discuss how identifying and interpreting behavior can enhance your birding experience regardless of your level of expertise. Be prepared to share your observations and to discuss what they mean.

Dr Jim Davis has studied bird behavior for twenty years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and went on to do a post-doc at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. His scientific contributions have focused on various aspects of kingfisher behavior including territoriality, vocal communication, and mating systems. Over the past 15 years, Jim has traveled to different parts of the world to observe and write about bird behavior. In 1997, he started the Australian edition of *Interpretive Birding Bulletin* and, in 2000, the North American edition. A limited supply of the *Interpretive Birding Bulletins* will be available for purchase at the meeting. You are invited to check out the IBB website at: www.ibirding.com.

LAST CALL FOR CALENDARS!

Golden Dog Sales will still be taking orders for the wonderful Audubon calendars at the November and December meetings. However, the supplier warns they may be sold out of stock for the year by December, so order early. Once they are gone, there will be no calendars anywhere. Well, not quite, but none of these.

The calendars make excellent gifts and sell for almost a dollar off the regular retail price. They are available in several styles. **Willie Burns** will have some at the next meetings as samples, unless they sell first.

We also have some plush pelicans and other small animals available as gifts for the Holidays. In addition to our Florida's Nature Series, we have books on Florida's natural world and local environment. All profits go to Halifax River Audubon.

"RARE" BIRD ALERT IN KITTY'S YARD

Willie Burns & Kitty Albee

Last Sunday, September 29, we were overjoyed to see a Blue Jay and a Mockingbird using Kitty's birdbath. Now before you start saying this is another of Willie's alleged jokes, it is not. It is serious, perhaps deadly serious.

In the three years Kitty has lived in her home here she has installed feeders and a birdbath to attract and nurture birds. The birdbath received a drip water supply

and an overflow drain into a small pond. The pond is the home of a reedy plant that Kitty has been battling for years. The reed (remember the old saw from botany: reeds are round, sedges have edges) seems happy. Even better, hordes of tadpoles are happily growing in its water, feasting on mosquito larvae. They arrived on their own, after an attempt with mosquito fish (*Gambusia minnows*) failed, and come in all sizes. Most are growing legs.

Fleets of Grackles would fly in to bathe, along with several Mockingbirds. The territorial Mockers even set up an uneasy truce, sitting on the fences and waiting their turns. A small family of Mourning Doves had slowly increased to seven, there was a flock of six Blue Jays, and a pair of Northern Cardinals had provided us with new fledglings every summer. A pair of Brown Thrashers would stop by from their home in the bushes to the rear of the yard, usually the male.

Then a new family purchased the home to the rear of the yard. The house had been vacant for several years and had rats. Swell. They used poison and two times we saw rats near our water. One was barely able to move and Willie killed it with a shovel. That was the good part.

Apparently the poison also got to the birds. We realized it had been several weeks without any activity at all. No Jays, Mockers, Doves, Cardinals, Grackles. Even the annoying Starlings and Pigeons were gone. A barren silent yard with only the plash of dripping water to break the emptiness.

The two birds this weekend were truly a treat. They would have been expanding from territories nearby into the vacant territory. We can only hope the poison has run its course. Most people would cover poison to prevent bird deaths, but these days with West Nile many people wish to eliminate the birds that carry it.

The Blue Jay decided that a planter in the shape of a goose was his own personal bath. He plunked into it several times, splashing happily and then hopping onto the goose's head to preen and call. Then back into the planter, barely big enough for him to fit. He did discover the real birdbath, returning many times over the afternoon.

Birds are a fragile life form living on the fringe of the modern world. We should realize that many people wish to destroy them for the perceived safety from West Nile virus, or simply are unconcerned as they use rat poison. Enjoy our bird life while we can.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD

President Lois Robinson reports that **Kay Moore** has consented to fill the vacancy of Board Member At Large. Welcome aboard, Kay, and thanks so much.

THE PELICAN

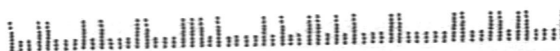


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November 2002

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 Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. 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 Ave., Daytona Beach, at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

Mary Keller needs: millet, birdseed, white paper towels, white vinegar, fish flavor canned cat food, canned Pedigree dog food and money for vitamins and medicine. She always needs extra birdcages, towels, heating pads. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill or call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 for pickup.

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrl@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldktngjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona-beach.fl.us
Kay Moore	At-Large	672-5422	kaymoore@mindspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Glade Koch	Education	253-8438	clecras@aol.com
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.r.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	frannicp@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407)-644-0190
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 6

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

DECEMBER 2002

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY, 2002

President Lois Robinson

Approximately four hundred Audubon members from around the state gathered at the Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel, October 24 to 27, to share, to learn, to appreciate conservation efforts being made by all of the Chapters present.

We were a visible presence, the seven of us from Halifax River Audubon. **Gina Holt** was a participant in the workshop on Chapter Fund Raising, especially Birdathons. **Kevin Doxstater's** beautiful Halifax River display poster won second place among all the Florida Chapters. Workshops ranged from the "Frog Listening Network" to "The Environment is the Economy". Both candidates for Governor of Florida addressed the assembly on Saturday sharing with us their future plans for the environment.

Another highlight included a most interesting and unique wild bird show at Disney's Animal Planet followed by an outdoor grilled meal with plenty of meats and salad.

The Assembly passed 27 new conservation resolutions including 3 from our St. Johns River region. The local resolutions included one on Gull-billed Terns (less than one hundred nesting pairs are left in Florida), one on the Indian River Lagoon Water Quality and one on the Ocklawaha River Restoration.

I was impressed with two ongoing initiatives from our state leadership. One is the emphasis on working in partnerships with all kinds of groups to achieve an environmental objective such as the restoration of the Everglades. The other is work aimed at drawing young people into a climate of caring about the environment. We had a large number of teenagers from the Miami area who are being schooled by Audubon leaders as future conservationists. They were an inspiration to all of us.

Two chapter awards were presented at the Assembly. One went to the St. Petersburg chapter for the best conservation project on Least Terns. The other went to Citrus County Audubon for the best education project on Whooping Cranes.

In closing let me share two quotes from **Congresswoman Carrie Meek** who addressed the Assembly Saturday: "It is important to build relationships" and "service is the price you pay for the space God lets you occupy." It was worth the time and energy to be with Audubon friends. I hope you will plan to go next year!

CALENDAR

Monday, December 2

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 pm.

Friday and Saturday, December 13-14

HRA Field Trip. Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island NWR. Led by **John Carr**, 255-9360 and **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd. 8:00am. Bring lunch.

Saturday, December 14

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Center for Birds of Prey. Maitland. Call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

Monday, December 16

HRA Chapter Meeting. Holiday Potluck Dinner. Program is "Maritime Provinces" by people who went on Chapter-sponsored trip.

Tuesday, December 17

Pawpaw Native Plant Society. SICA Hall, Holly Hill. 7:00pm. Native Plant Auction and refreshments. Contact is **Harriet Damesek** at 673-5932.

Saturday, December 28

Christmas Bird Count. Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds. 7:00am.

Saturday, January 4

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

Sunday, January 5

Dunlawton Bridge field trip. Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Port Orange Causeway Park, under bridge, north side. 4:00pm.

Monday, January 6

HRA Board Meeting. Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 pm.



Bank Swallow

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

There are many times when writing this column seems an exercise in pessimism. This time however, the news is good, in fact it's very good. In June of this year, the dredging project was coming to an end at Ponce Inlet and Lighthouse Point Park. During the entire project bird monitoring at the site was done by **Meret Wilson, Kitty Albee** and **Willie Burns**. Their work (and there was a lot of it) documented the wide variety of birds using the area for nesting, feeding and resting during migration. This park is one of the few places in the county where dog owners can take their dogs to the beach. Most of the people who bring their dogs there abide by the rules and keep them on a leash. A few don't. Dogs running through the area can have a devastating effect on the birds. E-mails, phone calls and conversations began circulating. How best to afford protection to the birds and still allow dog owners and other beach goers access to this newly developed habitat?

A meeting was held on July 17th at the park. Representatives from various state, federal and county entities as well as members of Audubon, Sierra, the Turtle Patrol and local citizens were present. A concept of what was needed was formalized and **John Crisp** (of the new Marine Science Center) and **Wes Hewson** (of Lighthouse Point Park) set to work to devise a plan for implementation. The plan they devised will include 1,000 feet of snow fencing, new signs and increased emphasis on education and leash enforcement. Funding for all this comes from the Ponce Inlet Port Authority. In addition, major habitat restoration efforts are planned for Smyrna Dunes Park to enhance nesting sites for Least Terns, plovers, skimmers and other shore birds as well as an endangered subspecies of beach mouse native to the area.

Now, all this good news comes with a small price. The funding obtained so far covers acquisition of the materials. It doesn't cover installation. Sometime soon we'll be looking for a few healthy, hardy souls to come out and invest a little "sweat equity" in the erection of the fencing and signs. My phone number and e-mail address are listed on the back page. Please contact me to volunteer to come out and give us a hand. And bring your binoculars. It's a great place to look at birds.

BOARD ACTIONS - NOVEMBER 13, 2002

Lighthouse Point Park: The Board approved three motions to provide protection for birds at the Point.

Science Fair. The Board approved a motion to continue to participate with two other area Audubon Chapters in the School Science Fair.

Speaker Jim Davis The Board voted to provide the December program speaker honorarium of \$100.

Volusia County Cultural Alliance: Board voted to join the Alliance.

GUYS, YOU MISSED IT

Glade Koch

Friday, November 15, nine gals from the Halifax River Audubon met **Mary Jean Rogers** of Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge at the Visitors

Center. Mary Jean showed us the Friends' store where we were able to buy wonderful things.

We walked around the Lake with Mary Jean. A beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk let the ten of us study him, and we listened to him call and scream to another distant Red-shoulder. Later we watched an Osprey struggle with a very large fish at the top of a dead snag. After we turned away the Osprey flew right over us. He called loudly and dropped his fish. Then an immature Bald Eagle rocketed overhead, and we knew why the Osprey had given up his big fish.

At lunch at Chuck Lennon Park we tallied our list - 45 species. Thank you, Mary Jean, for making a partly cloudy day a delightful and rewarding experience. It ended in bright sunshine. We learned a lot.

BAY OF FUNDY CHECKLIST

David Hartgrove

The Pelican Editor asked me for a list of birds we saw on the Maritimes trip. I gave her my list of 135 birds, but other trippers saw birds that I didn't see, so the final list will be longer. The list below is just of the birds that I added to my life list and that aren't usually seen here.

- Northern Fulmar
- Greater Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Great Cormorant
- American Black Duck
- Common Eider
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Gray Partridge
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Common Murre
- Razorbill
- Black Guillemot
- Atlantic Puffin
- Alder Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Bank Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Boreal Chickadee
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Nashville Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow



PLANNED GIVING

Tired of getting one or two percent return on your Certificates of Deposit? Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity. They offer 5% or more income for life on your investment. Upon your death the remaining monies will be divided equally between National Audubon and Halifax River Audubon. Also please consider putting Halifax River Audubon in your will. Your legacy will continue to strengthen the work of Halifax River Audubon. If you are interested in a gift Annuity to Audubon contact **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480.

Fall Bird Counts for 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 & 2002 in Volusia County

1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	Bird Name
19	7	12	40	11	Grebe, Pied-billed
0	30	0	0	0	Pelican, White
0	0	0	0	1	Gannet, Northern
661	529	123	914	602	Pelican, Brown
38	71	25	73	47	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
17	52	50	41	61	Anhinga
0	0	0	0	1	Bittern, American
0	0	0	0	2	Bittern, Lease
42	51	45	117	52	Heron, Great Blue
131	123	185	203	260	Egret, Great
298	107	196	263	414	Egret, Snowy
239	32	38	87	100	Heron, Little Blue
163	11	21	41	60	Heron, Tricolored
2	1	4	5	7	Egret, Reddish
860	1905	2493	1430	1760	Egret, Cattle
8	19	16	32	24	Heron, Green
1	2	0	0	3	Night-heron, Blk-crownd
2	7	2	8	2	Night-heron, Yellw-crownd
1643	1287	2459	679	1052	Ibis, White
1	48	11	29	162	Ibis, Glossy
0	4	7	0	0	Roseate Spoonbill
2	51	90	17	83	Stork, Wood
6	0	0	0	0	Goose, Canada
x	x	x	x	54	Duck, Muscovy
40	26	24	21	12	Duck, Wood
0	6	2	22	1	Duck, Mottled
99	67	19	9	85	Mallard
11	54	0	69	84	Teal, Blue-winged
0	0	1	0	0	Duck, Ring-necked
0	0	0	1	0	Scaup, Lesser
277	150	1847	233	449	Vulture, Black
240	566	401	422	149	Vulture, Turkey
78	27	48	105	61	Osprey
8	14	32	15	18	Eagle, Bald
1	1	1	1	0	Harrier, Northern
1	0	1	3	0	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
0	0	0	1	3	Hawk, Cooper's
13	20	47	31	54	Hawk, Red-shouldered
0	0	0	0	2	Hawk, Broad-winged
14	4	11	14	7	Hawk, Red-tailed
14	4	26	7	5	Kestrel, American
0	1	0	0	0	Merlin
0	0	0	1	0	Falcon, Peregrine
18	19	97	4	41	Turkey, Wild
15	23	10	7	24	Bobwhite, Northern
17	1	0	16	2	Rail, Clapper
0	0	0	0	1	Rail, King
0	1	0	0	0	Sora
0	1	3	0	2	Gallinule, Purple
32	74	48	69	95	Moorhen, Common
10	18	2	12	5	Coot, American
1	1	3	2	0	Limpkin
10	81	59	72	107	Crane, Sandhill
0	0	0	2	0	Crane, Whooping
38	8	5	30	32	Plover, Black-bellied
124	0	0	0	4	Plover, Wilson's
202	47	2	302	61	Plover, Semipalmated
1	0	0	0	4	Plover, Piping
4	45	26	28	37	Killdeer
5	8	3	1	0	Oystercatcher, American
0	0	12	0	0	Avocet, American
0	0	1	0	0	Yellow-legs, Greater
0	3	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Solitary
49	19	19	50	151	Willet, Eastern
3	3	4	1	0	Sandpiper, Spotted
170	69	35	151	345	Turnstone, Ruddy
2	0	0	1	10	Knot, Red
449	194	67	556	580	Sanderling
0	1	20	65	34	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
70	2	0	0	253	Sandpiper, Western
0	0	0	0	31	Sandpiper, Least
0	0	40	15	0	peep sp.
0	0	0	2	0	Dunlin
0	0	0	0	4	Dowitcher, Short-billed
0	0	0	0	2	Dowitcher, Long-billed
0	5	0	1	0	Snipe, Common
2294	1659	2605	3905	8297	Gull, Laughing
70	26	0	86	21	Gull, Ring-billed
16	0	3	2	12	Gull, Herring
0	1	0	0	0	Gull, Lesser Black-backed
3	0	0	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed
1	0	0	0	0	Tern, Gull-billed
3	3	8	32	23	Tern, Caspian
1805	14	27	662	265	Tern, Royal
22	5	2	37	109	Tern, Sandwich
69	4	0	0	1	Tern, Common
0	0	0	4	0	Tern, Arctic
26	2	0	104	43	Tern, Forster's
0	25	3	2	0	sterna sp.
4	0	4	0	0	Tern, Least
43	1	32	2	74	Skimmer, Black
186	785	248	345	576	Dove, Rock
63	121	50	100	180	Dove, Eurasian Collared
761	743	584	723	723	Dove, Mourning
8	0	26	19	13	Dove, Common Ground
0	3	1	0	0	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
5	9	1	2	2	Owl, Eastern Screech
5	1	0	0	2	Owl, Great Horned
6	6	7	4	4	Owl, Barred
0	0	10	0	1	Nighthawk, Common
1	0	1	0	1	Chuck-will's-widow
88	252	37	130	291	Swift, Chimney
1	2	4	6	1	Hummingbird, Ruby-throat
11	18	30	37	54	Kingfisher, Belted
48	48	13	17	21	Woodpecker, Red-headed
86	113	83	101	139	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
23	29	22	54	75	Woodpecker, Downy
2	0	0	2	1	Woodpecker, Hairy
30	11	11	14	9	Flicker, Northern
20	28	38	47	58	Woodpecker, Pileated
0	0	0	2	0	Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied
0	0	0	0	1	Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
0	0	0	1	0	Flycatcher, Acadian
1	3	2	1	2	Phoebe, Eastern
2	1	4	0	1	Flycatcher, Great Crested
13	5	17	4	26	Kingbird, Eastern
0	0	0	0	1	Kingbird, Gray
0	0	11	42	11	Martin, Purple
2	35	40	537	60	Swallow, Tree
0	0	0	20	9	Swallow, Northern Rgh-wingd

0	0	17	0	0	Swallow, Cliff
0	70	30	52	3	Swallow, Barn
188	179	193	222	208	Jay, Blue
9	14	9	13	18	Scrub-Jay, Florida
353	81	41	34	96	Crow, American
258	619	159	98	114	Crow, Fish
573	587	10758	59	39	crow sp.
0	0	4	3	0	Chickadee, Carolina
68	56	83	140	146	Titmouse, Tufted
0	0	0	1	1	Nuthatch, White-breasted
0	0	0	0	10	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
72	61	49	111	157	Wren, Carolina
0	0	1	0	1	Wren, House
0	0	2	1	5	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
30	30	19	31	93	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
0	2	0	2	12	Bluebird, Eastern
7	3	1	0	1	Veery
1	0	0	0	1	Thrush, Swainson's
0	0	0	0	105	Robin, American
0	3	3	3	3	Catbird, Gray
308	316	268	283	364	Mockingbird, Northern
8	12	20	16	18	Thrasher, Brown
28	34	17	32	43	Shrike, Loggerhead
261	1082	13462	928	1178	Starling, European
24	11	6	31	49	Vireo, White-eyed
0	0	1	1	1	Vireo, Blue-headed
1	0	5	0	1	Vireo, Yellow-throated
29	20	4	9	25	Vireo, Red-eyed
2	2	1	0	0	vireo sp.
0	0	1	0	1	Warbler, Tennessee
0	0	0	0	4	Warbler, Nashville
4	4	5	15	19	Parula, Northern
3	0	0	2	7	Warbler, Yellow
0	0	0	0	2	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
0	5	0	1	0	Warbler, Magnolia
1	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Cape May
1	3	8	2	1	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
0	0	0	1	0	Warbler, Black-throated Grn
0	0	1	0	0	Warbler, Yellow-rumped*
2	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Blackburnian
7	6	6	3	4	Warbler, Yellow-throated
3	6	7	26	27	Warbler, Pine
3	1	1	17	25	Warbler, Prairie
1	3	3	5	8	Warbler, Palm
1	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Bay-breasted
3	3	8	16	3	Warbler, Black-and-white
2	11	28	29	17	Redstart, American
0	1	2	4	0	Warbler, Worm-eating
0	2	2	1	10	Ovenbird
1	0	0	0	5	Waterthrush, Northern
0	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Kentucky
9	1	13	52	40	Yellowthroat, Common
1	1	2	0	3	Tanager, Summer
142	127	165	200	308	Cardinal, Northern
1	0	1	0	0	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
0	0	0	0	1	Grosbeak, Blue
0	0	0	0	1	Bunting, Indigo
2	9	1	34	21	Towhee, Eastern
18	18	0	0	0	Sparrow, Chipping
120	301	258	58	167	Blackbird, Red-winged
6	16	10	1	12	Meadowlark, Eastern

96	895	3896	799	354	Grackle, Boat-tailed
338	285	268	62	209	Grackle, Common
4	26	0	0	35	Cowbird, Brown-headed
0	3	0	0	0	blackbird sp.
8	0	2	1	0	Oriole, Baltimore
0	0	1	8	0	Goldfinch, American
17	48	63	60	34	Sparrow, House

* Documented

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

September 19, 1998 Count: Total species: 124. Total individuals: 14,221. 37 persons in 12 parties. Time: 2:30a.m. – 6:30p.m. Owling: 7.75 hrs. and 94 mi. All other: 37.5 hrs. and 15.5 mi. on foot, 47.5 hrs. and 647 mi. by car. Temp 74-87°. Wind: SW 5-20. Clouds: 50-100%. Precip.: Rain in p.m.

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

September 16, 2000 Count: Total species: 129. Total individuals: 16,774. 35 observers in 12 parties. Time 3:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Owling: 3.75 hrs., and 57 mi. and observers 1. All other: 19.75 hrs. and 14.5 mi. by foot, 58.25 hrs. and 525 mi. by car, 3.5 hrs. and 8 mi. by boat, 18 hrs. and 4 watchers and 3 stations by feeder watch. Temp: 75-91°. Wind: SW5-SW10. Clouds: 95-100%. Precip: lt. Rain in p.m. to rain at night.

2001 Fall count was rained out

September 15, 2002 Count: Total species: 146 Total individuals: 22,637, 55 Observers in 24 parties. Time 3:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Owling: 4.5 hrs. and 62 mi. and 3 observers in 2 parties. All other: 55.75 hrs and 36 mi. by foot, 240.5 hrs. and 837 mi. by car, 2 hrs. and 3 mi. by canoe/kayak, 18 hrs. and 4 observers in 4 feeder stations. Temp: predawn and dawn 74- 89°. Wind:SE5-E15. Clouds: 30-60%. Precip: None.

Observers - 2002: Cyndy Barrow, Catherine Bidgood, Lee Bidgood, Debbie Boots, Howard Bowie, Mary Bowie, Lori Brakeman, Lou Brakeman, Charles Buchy, Maritta Buchy, Carl Carlander, John Carr, Joie Clifton, Beth Cushing, Don Davis, Kevin DeWall, Jeanne Dimicola, Gail Domroski, Richard Domroski, Kevin Doxstater, Mike Dunn, Regina Dunn, Sarah Efrid, John Eggert, Kathryn Garner, Christian Gowan, Phil Gottschall, Pat Halliday, David Hartgrove, T.V. Hayes, Mary Keim, Holly Kromp, Lorne Malo, Karl Marvin, Donnadine Miller, Gil Miller, Sylvia, Parrillo, Lois Pauchey, Nancy Prine, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, Lois Robinson, John Roessler, Carolyn Ross, Don Schaeffer, Winnie Schlacter, Ray Scory, Arnette Sherman, Bob Sicolo, Eleanor Slyker, Randy Snyder, David Stock, Ruth Stuble, Sarah Taylor, Maria Wicks.

BIRD-WATCHING IN THE MARITIMES

Lee Bidgood, Jr.

It was a dream vacation. Catherine and I toured around the Bay of Fundy, famous for the highest tidal flux on earth. The trip was much more than that. We saw familiar and completely unfamiliar birds in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and on and around some of the most interesting smaller islands of the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

Halifax River Audubon had arranged the tour conducted by Lifebird Nature Tours of Chicago. There were nine of us on the tour, seven from this area and two from Arizona.

Catherine and I were in kindergarten when it comes to identifying birds – the others had the equivalent of college degrees and our tour guides all had the equivalent of post-graduate degrees in hearing, spotting and identifying fast and slow-moving birds over water and in the wetlands, fields and forests. Everyone helped us novices.

Flying to Halifax, Nova Scotia to join our group, I was surprised to notice from the plane that Bay of Fundy tributaries were reddish brown, very muddy-looking. Much of the bay looked muddy. Later I learned that reddish-brown runoff is normal and provides essential nutrients to the bay. Tributaries erode ancient red clay containing iron and other minerals that are flushed into the Bay of Fundy. Microscopic creatures and tiny shrimp species flourish in the rich salty soup of the bay and form the base of a rich food web that nourishes very high productivity.

We watched a tidal boil come rolling into the bay. Flocks of sea gulls resting and sleeping on mud flats exposed at low tide did not seem nearly as excited as we were about the visible "bulge" of water where outgoing current met incoming tide. The gulls hardly interrupted their nap to move slowly to higher ground as the tide rose quite visibly. A few birds fed in the edge of rising waters that had evidently stirred up food. The flora and fauna of the bay are well adapted to its tides, but I would not want to be in a boat when that tide rolls in.

One of the best things about the tour was that all nine of us got along well. Our six guides were superb. All were highly knowledgeable about the land, its wildlife and history and were articulate in describing it for us tourists. Most had worked for the Canadian Parks, Forest or Wildlife Service. Each led our group in a particular area. Our tour director, **Tadas Birutis**, was a dynamo. He has led tours on five continents, including Antarctica. Tad knows what works.

My favorite was **Nancy Sears** who has 25 years experience as a nature guide, and for eight years has been Director of Fundy Hiking and Nature Tours. Her company's van provided our land transportation. Nancy was like an attentive and concerned daughter to me when

my arthritic 80-year old knees began to weaken after too many up and downhill walks between negotiating stairs in the beautiful old inns where we stayed.

I visited the small hospital on Grand Manan Island one evening at Catherine's and others' insistence to check on old knees. I went there with some trepidation, having heard mixed stories about Canada's health care system. After a brief wait and no paperwork, a nurse and a doctor examined my knees carefully and quickly and gave me the same advice I have since gotten in the states, and charged me nothing. Everywhere we went, people were friendly and helpful, reminding me of good southerners here. By the way, my knees have fully recovered now.

Late June is the height of the Maritime's brief spring and summer. Wildflowers and flowering shrubs and trees had burst forth in an overpowering beauty that cannot be described, only witnessed. Especially appealing to me was a northern species of dogwood. Its flowers and leaves seem identical in size and shape to those of our southeastern white dogwood. The great difference was that the Maritime species grows only four to eight inches tall. Their showy white blossoms often carpeted large areas of forest. I tried to avoid stepping on any.

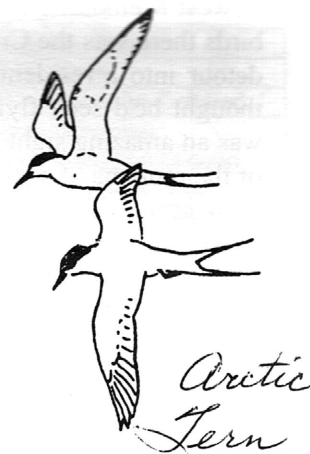
Our group identified around 150 species of birds. **Dave Hartgrove**, Conservation Chair of Halifax Audubon, who had arranged the tour, will publish a complete tally and note the rare ones. For me, memorable ones were Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Arctic Tern, Wilson's Storm-petrel, Common Eider, Gray Partridge, Short-eared Owl, Razorbill, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Saw-whet Owl (heard only) and the Alder Flycatcher. We saw many sparrows and warblers often seen in Florida, but most were in decorative breeding plumage, quite different from their generally rather drab winter feathers.

I may have learned to distinguish a Common Raven from an American Crow.

The Maritimes are quite different from Florida yet there are similarities. Up to 50 percent of coastal wetlands have been lost in both places. Environmentalists are trying to preserve what's left and reclaim some marshes. There is tension between conservationists and developers.

On a sunny June day in the Maritimes with the mercury reaching 60 degrees F, Canadians are in shorts and halters or T-shirts while Floridians are bundled up. The same costume differences prevail on a 60-degree sunny but breezy January day in Florida.

Printed in the New Smyrna Beach Observer, July 23, 2002



THE HALIFAX HARRIERS FLY AGAIN

David Hartgrove

In last year's birding competition at the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, the Halifax Harriers (our chapter's team) finished third in the Advanced Adults Division. We got 108 species (our 109th species, the Whooping Cranes, couldn't be counted) and learned that we were in way over our heads.

This year we registered as an Adult Intermediate team. We came in first. While the fact that there was only one team in our category helped, finding 120 species in 15½ hours, much of that in rain, wind, dark and cold is no small feat. We got some very nice prizes for our dedication and discomfort: binocular straps, canoe and kayak trips, dinner at Dixie Crossroads (a Festival Organizer), a beautiful, hand made plaque, our names on the winner's trophy and best of all, new binoculars. It may be evidence of obsessive behavior but it was a lot of fun, even in the rain and wind.

This year's team consisted of myself, **Rachel Ramsey**, **Meret Wilson** and **Michael Meisenburg**. Mike used to live here in town and came down from Gainesville to give us a hand. We started at 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning trying to call up owls. In the next 30 minutes, we got 3: Barred, Eastern Screech and Great Horned. We had our first 3 species and it was still dark. We headed down to west Melbourne and Viera Wetlands. One of our target birds there was the Crested Caracara. But we took a quick detour into a residential area looking for cowbirds Mike thought he'd seen flying. We rounded a corner and there was an amazing sight. An adult Bald Eagle had possession of the remains of a road kill armadillo. He was surrounded by a group of Black Vultures, skulking like some weird Greek Chorus and trying to snatch scraps now and then. There too were 2 adults and an immature Crested Caracara. This bizarre scene was being played out about 300 feet from the Viera Fire Station on the side of a main road. Had we not made that split second decision to look for the cowbirds, we'd have missed the caracara. They were the only ones we saw.

The contest ended at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. In all of our time in the field, we didn't see birds you'd think for sure we would see: Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker and Blue Jay! Next year, we'll try to improve our score. Does anyone know the location of some Barn Owls?

COMING IN FEBRUARY - OVERNIGHT TRIP

Ray Scory

The Suwannee Valley and the Osceola National Forest are vast areas of open land in the north-central part of Florida just below the Georgia border. These facts make it an excellent birding area, not only for resident birds that we don't get a chance to see here in the Daytona area, but for migrant birds who stay over the winter.

LeConte's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrows, Pipit, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Common Snipe and American Avocets have been recorded here. Last year large flocks of Eared Grebes and Ruddy Ducks spent the winter here. There is just no telling what might be found here in the winter months. The one thing you can count on is seeing large quantities of ducks, large numbers of wading birds, and a variety of hunting raptors.

On this trip we will search two areas. Friday afternoon we will bird Lake Alligator Recreation Area, a 1000-acre tract of land with wetlands, open fields and open water. In early November, when Jane and I scouted the area we saw over 70 Common Snipe feeding in one spot, and our Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission guide pointed out a grassy wetland and said, "If you just walk through there you will stir up hundreds of Virginia and Sora Rails."

Saturday we will visit the PCS Phosphate Company's private land. It is a working phosphate mining area that the company is just opening on a limited basis to birding groups. It is an area of various habitats from deep to shallow lakes, many wetlands, forests and grassy fields.

The trip is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22. Deadline for making reservations is January 20, 2003. There will be more information in the next newsletter on room, travel and cost of the trip.

Due to the already high rate of birds being hit by cars on the beach this fall, **Mary Keller** would appreciate your help in protecting them. If you are at the beach and notice speeding cars, inappropriate behavior towards birds, or misuse of the beach such that migrating and resting birds are threatened, please report such findings to the nearest beach patrol staff member or toll booth operator. Your help in reducing the number of deaths and injuries will be greatly appreciated.

WASHINGTON OAKS TRIP

Kevin DeWall

On Saturday, November 2, 2002, we made our annual field trip to Washington Oaks State Garden. The weather was beautiful and the birding was good. The total number of participant was 12. We started at City Island and made a quick and interesting stop at Boardman Pond on the way up. The Bird of the Day, hands down, was an immature White-eyed Vireo. Identification of this bird was the result of tracking it through the shrubs, furious page turning in the field guides and animated debate.

After lunch we went across Route A1A and set up multiple scopes on the beach walkover and observed several more species. Later we went up the road to Fort Mananzas National Monument and added to our total. The final count for the day was 57 species.

Halifax River Audubon
Annual Holiday Dinner
Featuring Birds Of The Maritimes And Silent Auction



HOLIDAY DINNER

Come to the Seabreeze United Church at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 16, for our holiday dinner. Bring a covered dish to share. Halifax River Audubon will supply the meat and the drink

SILENT AUCTION

Remember to bring your donations to our Christmas Program for our Silent Auction. This raises money for the chapter and is a lot of fun! You also might acquire a very special bargain!

TRIP TO THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Those very lucky people who traveled with Tadas Birutis to the Maritime Provinces and did some spectacular birdwatching, will be showing their pictures and telling us about their adventures. This is an event you mustn't miss!

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

We have invited our Audubon Adventure teachers to come to our feast with a guest. We always have plenty of food, but don't forget to bring a little extra for these our special people.

THE PELICAN



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December 2002

Names & Numbers

Lois Robinson	President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President Ways & Means	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary Publicity Chair Ways & Means	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
John Carr	Membership Secretary Historian Publication Chair	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
Morrell Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	widkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@mindspring.com
Mary Ellen Black	At-Large	767-3916	bkrblack@bellsouth.net
John Roessler	At-Large	255-9826	owensingrid@ci.daytona-beach.fl.us
Kay Moore	At-Large	672-5422	kaymoore@mindspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Barbara Kieran	Hospitality	672-2927	bkieran@ATT.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	frannicp@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407)-644-0190
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of its 2002-2003

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 Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. 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 Ave., Daytona Beach, at 7:00 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library 1:30 PM at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

THANK YOU to our hostesses at our October program meeting, **Darlene Wilson** and **Elaine Linebaugh**. And thanks also to our hostesses for our November program meeting **Shirley Lane** and **Alexa Ross**.