

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 48 - NO. 7**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**JANUARY 2003**

## THE WOOD THRUSH VS ACID RAIN

*President Lois Robinson*

Thanks to Cornell Lab of Ornithology and their careful science-based analyses there has been established a clear link between acid rain and a wide spread decline in Wood Thrush populations.

Wood Thrushes breed in eastern North America over most of the continent from Canada to northern Florida. Since 1966 there has been a decline in Wood Thrush populations of 1.7% per year across the whole breeding range, according to Cornell Lab. Once forest fragmentation was ruled out as a possible cause researchers zeroed in on acid rain as a possible culprit since it also occurs throughout the region, but not evenly, thus giving the scientists a way to set up a carefully controlled experiment to rule out other possible factors.

Two bits of information you need to know is (1) acid rain leaches calcium out of the soil and (2) a song bird female (including Wood Thrushes) needs 10-15 times more calcium than a female mammal of comparable size to produce young because of the need for calcium for egg shells. Wood Thrush females eat pill bugs, earthworms, and snail shells to produce viable eggs. These small creatures are in sharp decline where acid rain is the worst, namely in New England, the Adirondacks, the Allegheny Plateau, and the Smokies.

The Netherlands has studied this problem more extensively and found in their heavily polluted regions with high acid rain some birds have suffered complete reproductive failure.

If this is happening to Wood Thrushes what about all the other forest nesting birds in the same regions? Thanks to the work at Cornell Lab and many other such dedicated facilities across the country we can get a handle on why the decline. Now do we have the courage to do something about it?

## MESSAGE FROM MARY KELLER

I want to thank all of you for making me an member of National Audubon Society. I am looking forward to the magazine they send out to the members.

I will help in any way I can but while we do birds, meetings and trips are out. I hope you understand.

Thank you so much,  
Mary Keller

## CALENDAR

### 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.

### Wednesday, January 8

Sierra Club. Speaker **Susie Caplowe**, Sierra Club Tallahassee lobbyist, preview of Legislative Session. NOTE: Meet at Ormond Beach Woman's Club, 42 N. Beach St., just north of Granada Blvd. (Parking in rear - come around behind Ormond Union Church which is next door.) 7:00pm.

### Friday, January 10

**Brevard County Hotspots** field trip. Led by **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd. 7:00am. Bring lunch.

### Monday and Tuesday, January 13-14

St. Johns River Summit 2003. Strategic Planning Session. Topic: Extending River Recovery Operations to the Entire St. Johns River. Prime Osborn Convention Center, Jacksonville. Contact **David Hartgrove**.

### Wednesday, January 15

S.E. Volusia Audubon Society. Edgewater Public Library. 7:30pm

### Saturday, January 18

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Enchanted Forest, Titusville. Call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

### Monday, January 20

**Chapter Meeting**. "Neighborhood Environment," **Joyce King**

### Saturday, January 25

**Titusville-Orlando Wetlands** field trip. Led by **Glade Koch**, 253-8438. Guest leader: **Bob Wheeler**, Orange Audubon. Meet at east end parking lot of City Island Court House. 1:00pm.

### Monday, February 3

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

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

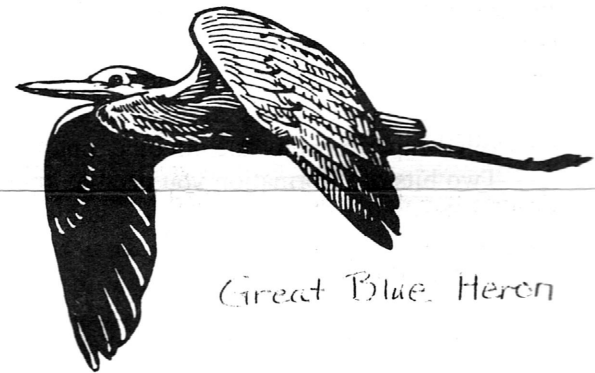
In last month's column I mentioned the efforts to improve bird habitat and protection at Lighthouse Point Park, in Ponce Inlet. On December 5, we got nine hundred feet of snow fence installed. The weather was perfect for the project: cloudy, cool and gentle winds. **John Roessler**, **Paul Rebmann** and I assisted **John Crisp** of the Marine Science Center, and **Wes Hewson** and other Park staff members. We amazed ourselves by completing the hard part of the project in one day. The Park staff will install the signs later. The fence is just a natural wood color and should weather well to blend even more into the landscape. The work was hard and we didn't have much time for birding, though we did get good looks at some Caspian Terns. My sincere thanks to John and Paul. I hope they were no more stiff and sore than I was the next day.

Many eloquent words have been written about "The Loop" and its almost certain destruction at the hands of devious developers and their fellow conspirators on the County Council. No, I don't believe there were actual discussions between Council members and the developer's minions. That wouldn't be necessary. The majority of the Council sees it as their duty to facilitate any and all development, regardless of the sentiments of those who elected them. County staff is threatened with lawsuits if developers aren't given their way. State laws (written by development interests) are crafted in such a way as to make objections to development a minor road block at best. As usual, the problem was not the law but the fact that the majority of the Council believes that change is inevitable and that it's their duty to help facilitate that change. While we need to begin the process of amending the laws governing development, what we need to do first is replace those members of the Council who see development as their first and foremost duty. In the mean time, let's hope the Ormond Beach City Commission's announcement to force a review of the development plan is successful. Commissioner **Jeff Boyle** and his fellow members are to be congratulated for having the courage to stand up and do the right thing.

The rationale for all this rampant building is the fallacious premise that an expanding tax base allows taxes to be kept low. And since low taxes are one reason people want to move here, a vicious cycle has been formed that swallows more and more land and reduces the quality of life for all who remain. Eventually, taxes have to be raised anyway since growth never really pays for itself, so we have higher taxes and our historical and environmental treasures are gone in the bargain. But we do get another water sucking, pesticide soaked golf course, so all is not lost.

Finally, there's good news from the federal courts. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco

restored the so called "roadless rule", adopted under the Clinton administration. It protects 58 million acres of national forests from further encroachment by logging companies. In addition to protecting our forest heritage from plunder by private interests, the rule will be of value to those trying to restore salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest. Silt runoff from these miles of roads pollutes mountain streams destroying gravel beds that serve as nurseries for salmon and other fish species. But this administration has shown utter contempt for the courts and any legislation it believes hinders the extraction of profits from our natural treasures. So don't be surprised if an Executive Order is issued some Friday night between now and the State of the Union speech declaring open season on our national forests. The President put timber, oil and mining interest lobbyists in charge of the enforcement agencies protecting our natural resources. Their once and future paymasters in the private sector expect to get something for all those campaign donations they made. So far, they've gotten their money's worth.



*Great Blue Heron*

## UNIQUE FLORIDA WETLANDS TRIP

*Glade Koch*

Saturday, January 25 we will go to the Titusville and Orlando Wetlands near Christmas, Florida. These unique man-made marshes are designed to polish highly treated effluent from these cities' water treatment facilities so that their outflow becomes fishable, swimmable waters. At the same time the marshes provide a very fine wildlife habitat.

First stop is Titusville wetlands where we will caravan around impoundments to view marsh birds. **Bob Wheeler** (Orange Audubon) will meet us at Orlando Wetland Park and will demonstrate bird-banding techniques using his net. We will then follow Bob's truck around Orlando's impoundments. As the sun goes down, flights of thousands of herons, ibis and egrets will come in over us to roost for the night, and if the skies cooperate the birds will be in pink and lavender light until dark and moonlight.

Meet us at City Island, east parking lot, at 1 p.m. Bring a snack or lunch. Home again about 8 p. m. Leader is Glade Koch, 253-8438.

## THE SPRUCE CREEK GATHERINGS

*Ray Scory*

For five Tuesday mornings in October a few members of our Chapter sat at the pier in Spruce Creek Park and watched for birds. We told bird stories and tales of personal experiences and we basked in soft autumn breezes under bright blue Florida skies. We listened and watched and leisurely walked the Park's comfortable trails, but mostly we sat at the pier in the serenity of special moments and waited for the birds to come.

Now this is a very magical Park. It does not readily flaunt its bird life. You can drive in, walk out onto the pier and take a quick walk on the half-mile trail and you wonder where the birds are. You might even say, "There aren't any birds in this Park." However, the Park will only yield its treasures when you practice diligence and patience. Only then will they become obvious, because they are there.

Five Bald Eagles soar overhead one morning with one flying low over our heads. Clapper Rails raucously call answering louder and louder. Sedge Wrens pop up and quickly disappear like ducks in a penny arcade and birds serenade to let us know that they are around. This is, indeed, a magical birding spot.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, an American Kestrel, a Peregrine Falcon, Wood Storks, Barn Swallows, Pine Warblers, an Eastern Kingbird and a few Pied-billed Grebes are part of the forty-seven species we counted on the five Tuesday mornings, and a Great Horned Owl whispered through the woods on three occasions.

Most of all, these five morning gatherings brought intent birders closer together as they shared a unique birding experience. On the last Tuesday morning I overheard one woman say, "I'm going to really miss these Tuesday morning get-togethers; it's been a lot of fun."

### COMING IN FEBRUARY 21 & 22

#### OVERNIGHT TRIP TO LAKE CITY AREA

*Ray Scory*

We will bird two separate locations during our two-day stay in the Lake City region. Both areas offer excellent opportunities to see wintering ducks and birds that are not common in our Daytona area. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Lincoln Sparrows, LeConte's Sparrows and Eared Grebes have been recorded there in previous years.

The first area we will visit Friday afternoon is a 1000 acre farmland of diversified habitat newly purchased by the county. In only the past two years over 200 species of birds have been recorded here. Our birding here can be done by car and with minimum easy walking, although lengthier walking on a trail is possible.

Saturday will find us in a vast landscape of privately owned property. We will caravan along extensive miles of

dikes overlooking huge lakes, marshes, forests and grasslands. This place is impressive and on this day we will have it to ourselves. I have scouted both locations and feel very privileged to have this birding opportunity.

I must have the names of the people going well in advance of the February 21 and 22 trip date because the owners of the private land require advance notice of all visitors entering their property. I will send brochures and travel information to all persons who call me and sign up. You must make your own motel reservations between January 14 and 20. I understand room reservations are scarce in this region after January 20th.

We will be caravanning in our private cars, so be sure to make your own traveling arrangements.

## MERRITT ISLAND FIELD TRIPS

*John Carr*

Five intrepid people traveled on to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge on December 13 even after the trip was canceled because of heavy rain, wind and tornado warnings. These determined birders were rewarded by their perseverance and spotted a total of 61 species including a Florida Scrub-Jay. There were times when they had to stop their cars because of the heavy rain, but they kept on.

The following day five of us were still aware that it was winter as the wind was cold and cutting. Birding was better, as we spotted a total of 72 species. A large number of gloriously colored Roseate Spoonbills were a beautiful sight. Ducks kept their distance and sandpipers stayed even farther away, but in the two days, 7 species of ducks were seen.

## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The Board passed a motion to write to the Volusia County Manager requesting voting membership in the Halifax/Indian River Task Force, as naming **David Hartgrove** as primary and **John Carr** as backup members.

## JANUARY PROGRAM

*Willie Burns*

Two members of St. Petersburg Audubon Chapter will provide our January program. They will give a presentation about their highly successful Neighborhood Outreach Program.

This program gives a quick and easy lesson on how to make our neighborhoods more environmentally friendly and the residents more aware of the wildlife around them. Some of these ideas are so easy it is a wonder we do not all do them already. They will present a slide show that illustrates what to do and how to do it.

It should be an enjoyable and informative program for us all.

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January 2003

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John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
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	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
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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 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	(407)-644-0190
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of its 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 at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates.

**Welcome new members** - Gordon Aycock, Ginny Jones, Mrs. Clayton Jordon, Gayle Morse, Ines Degan and Bonnie Davis.

**Thank you** to our hostesses at our December dinner meeting, Darlene LaFonde and Elaine Linebaugh. Also thank you to Glade Koch who decorated our tables.

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**VOL. 48 - NO. 8**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**FEBRUARY 2003**

## GLOBAL WARMING IS HERE

*President Lois Robinson*

Global Warming is such a big subject and such a scary one to most of us so that our tendency is to close our eyes and not think about it. The fact that rising sea levels will have a greater impact on Florida than any other state because of our long seacoast, also makes it hard for us to deal with the reality.

I just want to say three things regarding Global Warming so we might get our minds around it.

It is a scientific fact. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in 1995 reflected work of more than 2,500 scientists. It stated, "The balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernable human influence on global climate." "Measurements show the world global average surface temperature warmed between 0.7 and 1.5 degrees F. over the last century" and "about half this rise has taken place since 1976" (Trouble in Paradise Pamphlet by World Wildlife Fund).

What does this mean for Florida? "Florida has warmed up by a range of 1 to 2 degrees F. during the 20th century" (Overview, NAST, USGCRP 2000). The predictions for Florida's future include more extreme rainstorms, which changes our runoff patterns, alternating with frequency of summer droughts. There will be less rain in south Florida and an increase there in wild fires and more rain in central and north Florida along with flooding of some coastal areas.

What can we do? I realize I am preaching to the choir but here goes. We can write or email our Florida legislators and ask them to implement a Global Warming Action Plan for Florida. (Twenty-five other states are doing this.) We need to reverse the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, which means more fuel-efficient cars (no SUV's). We need to consider hybrid cars for our future. The United States produces a quarter of all the greenhouse gases worldwide. Other actions include transition from coal and oil power plants to natural gas plants, development of solar power, wind power and other alternative fuel sources. Write your state and national legislators. Let them know what you think.

**WE THANK** our hostesses for the January program meeting, **GINNY JONES, APRIL ANDERSON and ANNEMARIE SCHUTZ**, for the delicious refreshments they provided.

## MICHAEL M. BROTHERS TO SPEAK

*Executive Director, Museum of Arts and Sciences*

Mr. Brothers will present a program February 17 about Tuscawillia Park and the great changes taking place there. The beautiful Park will become more bird friendly as habitat that is attractive to birds is incorporated in the changes. Quite a few of our bird trips include visits to the Park to observe birds and note the species there.



Mike is especially qualified to tell us about these changes; he designed them. And also, though he's spent his professional life in the museum profession, his training is as a naturalist.

Before becoming Director of the Museum, he was the Curator of Science and administered the museum's Summer Science Institute as well as its marine sciences program. He has led natural history tours throughout the Southeastern states, Africa and South America.

Born in New Jersey, he came south to Stetson University, and earned his master's degree from Florida State University. Except for a museum directorship in Macon, Georgia, he and his family have been in Florida ever since.

## JANUARY 6, 2003 BOARD MEETING

1. Our May 19 Halifax River Audubon Banquet will be held at the Palmetto Club in Daytona Beach. The cost will be \$20 per person.
2. \$200 was authorized for a Chapter member to attend the St. Johns River Water Management District Summit in Jacksonville January 13-14. (*A decision subsequently was made not to attend.*)
3. The resignation of At-Large board member **Mary Ellen Black** was accepted. (*President Robinson appointed Reid Hughes to fill the position.*)

**WELCOME** to our new members Ruth E. Albertson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Anderson, Dorothy Berry, Edith Bogusz, Jessie Brown, Joseph V. Giuffre, Frances Gwaltney, Joseph and Jeanette Hachey, Walter Harner, Sara J. Hood, Shelley D. LaFond, Vincent Larson, Janet McLees, Mason, Fred Mudgett, Barbara D. Musslewhite, John P. Osborne, Albert and Anne Romano, and Ann Wurtz.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

This month's column may seem a bit contradictory in tone, both pessimistic and optimistic. But isn't that the nature of life? As I write this [January 22], I've just returned from attending a public workshop on the proposed widening of SR 415 from SR 44 to SR 46. The meeting was designed to address issues in three stages: the Osteen area and its development, the rural corridor (Ft. Smith Blvd. north to SR 44), and the intersection at SR 44 and 415. To begin with, Glatting-Jackson, the planning firm contracted by the Department of Transportation, seriously underestimated the level of interest in the community on this issue. They planned for, at most, 100 people to show up. Over 200 did. Their Power Point presentation seemed the stuff of nightmares for most of those in attendance. While I and many others in the room wanted to maintain a positive attitude, the whole meeting had the feeling of a "dog and pony show" trotted out to give us the illusion of actually having some sort of power to affect policy. When in truth, the outcome has already been decided.

As has been mentioned in this space all too often in the past, our elected representatives believe the myth that growth is good and the only way to avoid raising taxes. This theory has been totally discredited. Growth leads to more requests for more services from the burgeoning population and hence, higher taxes. It doesn't pay for itself, as the constant mantra sung so often by the boosters in our midst would have us believe. But this message doesn't get through to leaders who are constantly told by their largest campaign contributors that growth is the reason for our existence.

A popular movie several years ago added a phrase to the common language that does ring true: "If you build it, they will come." Widen a road and more traffic will soon be using it. Build a housing development and people will move in and make you rich. But for those of us already living here and hoping to have fresh water and a quality of life to pass on to our progeny, those things will be diminished or lost altogether.

One thing we can do, hopefully, to bring about a change in a really bad decision is to attend the "Save The Loop" Motorcade Parade and Picnic Festival on Saturday, February 8th, at the Casements Riverfront Park. Our County Council (displaying a monumental lack of concern for our wishes) voted to allow the destruction of this environmental and scenic treasure. The only reason for an entrance onto Old Dixie Highway from the proposed development is for marketing purposes. Entrances onto US 1 would serve the needs of future residents there and protect this scenic roadway from congestion and destruction. Please plan to participate in this event to show our Council just how wrong they were to ignore our desires for a future that includes this little piece of asphalt

heaven. The parade will assemble at Harvard Drive and A1A at 9:30 a.m. It will proceed the 23 miles through "The Loop" and end at the Casements Park for the picnic, music and entertainment. So plan to decorate your vehicle (be it bicycle, motorcycle, car or truck with whatever you feel voices your opinions on the subject), pack a picnic lunch, and plan on having a great time educating our elected officials in the error of their ways. We can change this decision. It's up to us!

## VOLUSIA COUNTY INFORMATION

### County Council Members

Joie Alexander	322-3939	jalexander@co.volusia.fl.us
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### County Manager

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<u>Director, Growth Resource Management</u>	
Montye Beamer	MBeamer@co.volusia.fl.us

## CALENDAR

### Monday, February 3

**HRA Board Meeting.** 1:30 p.m.

### Friday, February 7

**Three Lakes field trip.** Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd. 6:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

### Saturday, February 8

Pawpaw Native Plant Society trip to Lyonia Preserve. Meet at Deltona Library, 9:00 a.m.

### Saturday, February 8

"Save the Loop" Parade. See Conservation Notes.

### Monday, February 10

West Volusia field trip. Caravan at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. Contact Arnette Sherman, 734-5840.

### Friday through Monday, February 14-17

**Great Backyard Bird Count.** See article.

### Monday, February 17

**HRA Chapter Meeting.** "Tusawilla Park." **Mike Brothers**, Director, Museum of Arts and Sciences.

### Friday and Saturday, February 21-22

**Overnight trip** to White Springs and Suwannee River State Park. Led by **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. **City Island** 7:00 a.m.

### Friday, February 28

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip. Zellwood/Lake Apopka. Call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

### Monday, February 3

**HRA Board Meeting.** 1:30 P.M.

# HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Bird
2	2	0	2	1	3	3	Loon, Common
27	20	19	37	21	12	12	Grebe, Pied-billed
0	0	0	0	0	6	6	Grebe, Horned
27	35	33	27	99	82	423	Gannet, Northern
0	15	0	0	3	1	0	Pelican, American White
70	111	133	92	100	73	238	Pelican, Brown
187	654	106	202	190	98	205	Cormorant, Double-crested
9	21	21	14	21	27	20	Anhinga
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Bittern, American
22	16	7	23	26	21	21	Heron, Great Blue
31	13	32	82	44	32	29	Egret, Great
22	38	24	7	7	14	1	Egret, Snowy
6	12	12	12	12	9	20	Heron, Little Blue
4	3	1	1	1	3	5	Heron, Tricolored
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Egret, Reddish
17	6	71	90	11	84	110	Egret, Cattle
2	3	2	5	1	6	6	Heron, Green
35	190	251	135	122	69	200	Ibis, White
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Ibis, Glossy
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Spoonbill, Roseate
30	12	10	12	68	38	23	Stork, Wood
2	0	0	0	0	1	0	Goose, Canada
1	0	5	0	6	2	0	Duck, Wood
0	0	0	0	8	0	0	Wigeon, American
25	11	59	20	18	38	10	Mallard
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	MallardXMuscovy Hybrid
0	2	0	0	0	15	0	Teal, Blue-winged
0	0	0	0	5	0	0	Teal, Green-winged
4	79	3	2	5	0	0	Duck, Ring-necked
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	Scaup, Greater
0	25	0	0	0	17	2807	Scaup, Lesser
0	0	1	7	0	0	0	Bufflehead
0	0	6	0	107	0	12	Merganser, Hooded
10	9	11	5	0	5	8	Merganser, Red-breasted
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	Duck, Ruddy
-	-	-	-	-	15	0	Duck, Muscovy
0	0	0	0	0	50	0	Duck species
21	30	16	36	69	92	85	Vulture, Black
128	127	77	90	254	265	93	Vulture, Turkey
19	7	36	8	12	26	5	Osprey
3	10	1	3	8	9	2	Eagle, Bald
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	Harrier, Northern
2	1	0	2	1	1	2	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
0	2	1	2	4	2	2	Hawk, Cooper's
12	25	17	28	17	21	17	Hawk, Red-shouldered
3	4	3	14	9	21	7	Hawk, Red-tailed
17	21	33	33	31	45	26	Kestrel, American
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Merlin
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	Peregrine
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Hawk species
15	23	11	20	73	50	36	Turkey, Wild

0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	Bobwhite
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rail, Clapper
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sora
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Gallinule, Purple
45	9	16	10	12	14	14	26	0	0	Moorhen, Common
67	90	95	219	101	44	21	0	0	0	Coot, American
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Crane, Sandhill
28	50	27	29	69	31	2	0	0	0	Plover, Black-bellied
28	102	35	72	153	104	76	0	0	0	Killdeer
1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	Oystercatcher, American
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	Yellowlegs, Greater
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Solitary
11	6	6	12	0	46	0	0	0	0	Willet
1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Spotted
97	60	168	81	89	187	112	0	0	0	Turnstone, Ruddy
170	7	11	11	0	316	40	0	0	0	Knot, Red
175	137	411	200	138	430	221	0	0	0	Sanderling
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Western
0	0	0	3	0	36	0	0	0	0	Dunlin
0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper species
0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed
0	0	0	5	0	74	2	0	0	0	Snipe, Wilson's
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Jaeger species
595	1912	2276	231	1363	1382	1057	0	0	0	Gull, Laughing
1849	1507	2121	1303	3954	370	1753	0	0	0	Gull, Ring-billed
26	0	5	14	7	20	0	0	0	0	Gull, Herring
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Gull, Lesser Black-backed
1	1	6	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed
0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0	Gull species
2	1	0	8	2	3	0	0	0	0	Tern, Caspian
13	59	30	121	20	161	66	0	0	0	Tern, Royal
0	0	2	24	0	24	35	0	0	0	Tern, Sandwich
3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tern, Common
4	31	11	7	24	8	43	0	0	0	Tern, Forster's
0	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Tern, species
0	0	0	0	202	0	5	0	0	0	Skimmer, Black
97	330	335	595	518	757	752	0	0	0	Dove, Rock
3	36	58	81	14	109	76	0	0	0	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
365	313	586	284	135	294	271	0	0	0	Dove, Mourning
4	3	2	3	17	0	6	0	0	0	Ground-Dove, Common
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Owl, Barn
1	9	11	9	1	4	4	0	0	0	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	3	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	Owl, Great Horned
5	7	6	7	5	4	3	0	0	0	Owl, Barred
20	20	12	12	19	29	10	0	0	0	Kingfisher, Belted
2	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Red-headed
54	28	24	46	34	49	55	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
2	7	1	3	1	2	5	0	0	0	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
6	6	5	16	8	17	22	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Downy
0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Hairy
2	1	6	1	1	6	1	0	0	0	Flicker, Northern
20	10	7	10	9	15	14	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Piliated
4	8	19	19	31	29	36	0	0	0	Phoebe, Eastern
2306	305	10	33	0	180	857	0	0	0	Swallow, Tree





## THREE LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - 6:00 A.M.!

*David Hartgrove*

Yes pals and gals, you read it right. That was no misprint in the schedule. It's a long way down to our starting point on East Lake Tohopekaliga, in downtown St. Cloud. The old saying is, "The early bird gets the worm." In this case, it'll be the early birder gets the birds.

For those willing to arise at that hour and make the drive, the rewards promise to be bountiful: Bald Eagles, Crested Caracaras, Whooping Cranes, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Snail Kites and Florida Grasshopper Sparrows. That last one we may have to work for but let's think positive. In years past, this has been one of our most productive trips.

Be sure to bring your lunch. See you then, Friday, February 7, 6:00 a.m. in the south end of the Publix parking lot at Williamson and Taylor Road, Port Orange.

Dear Halifax River Audubon Members,

I was going thru my bird report for 2002. I saw so many beach birds come here injured from the beach. I always ask people why they have the bird in the first place. So many say a car or ATV or bicycle hit the bird. So many run right in to the little ones eating at the surf's edge. Most of them don't make it.

Migratory birds coming south for the winter are always weak and tired. They have been busy all spring and summer nesting and raising their young. Then they travel thousands of miles to the winter nesting area. This year, with the freeze and cold weather, food is scarce. The one thing the beach birds don't need is to be put under stress from traffic and people chasing them. Thank you, as the Audubon members, for any help you can give them to make the beaches safer for the birds.

Mary Keller.

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

New Members. Use the green ink form supplied by Halifax River Audubon. Give it or mail it to John Carr (359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, 32118) with a check to **National Audubon Society**. This way we get credit.

Chapter Only Members. Use green ink form. Write "Chapter Only" on it. Give to John Carr with check to **Halifax River Audubon**.

Renew Regular Membership. Send regular renewal to National Audubon Society on their form. We will get credit automatically.

Renew Chapter Only Membership. You will be notified when your membership should be renewed.

## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*Lois Robinson*

"Help Scientists track birds in your community" the brochure for this year states. This count is fun, it's easy, it's short and everyone can do it. Here's how: on the days of February 14-17 count the birds in your backyard, your neighborhood, wherever you walk, for at least 15 minutes each day. At the end of the four days log on to [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) and enter your count. Be sure not to count the same birds twice (if you see 10 mourning doves one day and 6 another just count 10). If you don't have a computer call **Lois Robinson** at 760-8480 and she will enter your count. Counts are entered by zip code numbers.

After the count is finished log onto "Maproom" on the same web site and view the distribution of your favorite bird. This count is one way scientists keep track of bird populations that may vary due to disease, changing weather and other habitat changes. Certain species will be designated as WatchList species because of special concerns about them.

## COLOR BANDED PAINTED BUNTINGS

If you spot a Painted Bunting, you are a very lucky person because they are getting harder and harder to find. But if you do see one, carefully look at the bird's legs through your binoculars because the bird might be banded. Each marked bunting will have four bands, two on each leg. Three of the bands are colored and one is silver (a USGS numbered aluminum band).



Each banded bunting has a unique combination of colored bands. A given combination may have up to three of the same color or all may be a different color. A coastal Georgia study uses just two bands: the silver band on one leg and a two-colored band on the other leg.

If you should be lucky enough to spot a banded bird, write down the following information :

- Color and location of each band on the bird's legs. Please make sure it is the BIRD's left and right legs (in viewing a bird one can mistakenly reverse the legs); also, the bottom band is the one nearest the bird's toes. Record the **left top, left bottom, right top, and right bottom** bands.
- Note the bird's plumage color: green or brightly colored male.
- Location and date observed
- Your name, complete address and telephone number.

Send your data to **Paul W. Sykes, Jr.**, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Warnell School or Forest Resources, The University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602-2152. For more info, check out <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/>

## JANUARY PROGRAM A HIT

*Willie Burns*

The St. Petersburg Audubon Chapter has developed an excellent program that they brought to us about how to have an environmentally friendly community. Good environment starts with our lawns and yards, where many of us dump a plethora of toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

**Barbara Zias** and **Bill Bilideau** gave a slide presentation showing how to slow down the flood of toxins into our precious waters. St. Pete is situated on a peninsula southwest of Tampa and their potable water is limited. Here in Daytona Beach we have a similar problem. As urban sprawl spreads west into the marshes and woods, less and less rainwater seeps down into and replenishes the water table. Pavement channels the rain runoff into drainage canals and pipes that dump all the nasty pollutants directly into the Halifax and Tomoka Rivers. Small wonder all those oyster beds in the Halifax River are polluted!

Some of the ways to limit pollution: use swales and ditches to contain rain water on our lawns and yards to better allow the water to seep into the water table; switch from an impermeable pavement driveway to gravel and from a gravel "lawn" to plantings; aim downspouts out onto the lawn; limit toxic lawn spray with a biodegradable or non-toxic spray; and increase the amount of yard planted with flowers rather than grass.

The large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the suggestions we were given to improve the outside of our homes. The greatest thought I was able to take home was how easy it is to make our yards and lawns more environmentally friendly.

## BREVARD COUNTY HOTSPOTS

*Ray Scory*

On January 11, our day started with Painted Buntings and ended with a Harris' Sparrow. Not a bad birding day. Early in the morning, thanks to the generosity of **Doug Stuckey**, we viewed close-up from his backyard sun porch Chipping Sparrows, American Goldfinches, Painted Buntings, Common Yellowthroats and even a few Boat-tailed Grackles.

And then there is the Harris' Sparrow - a bird that winters in a thin strip of territory in the central part of the United States between northern Texas and lower South Dakota and breeds way up in the frigid reaches of central northern Canada. This bird's visit here is the second recorded sighting in Florida; the last time was in 1982 and coincidentally, sighted by Doug Stuckey in his backyard. This was a life bird for seven of us and it gave us plenty of time to watch it up close. It put on a great show!

Now in between these two birds we sighted a total of sixty more species. Noteworthy were the huge numbers of American Robins and Tree Swallows. Also, six Wilson's Snipe along with an American Pipit were a treat.

The day ended with a pleasant lunch and a calming walk on the boardwalk overlooking Lake Ashby. I believe we all went home tired but happy, remembering the majestic display of White Pelicans soaring high against an azure blue sky.

## EVENING FIELD TRIP

*Glade Koch*

Nineteen birders saw 66 species at Titusville's Blue Heron Wetland Treatment System and Orlando's Wetland Park on Saturday, January 25 during our afternoon and evening trip.

Perhaps the best bird was a Peregrine Falcon seen from quite a distance. We also saw a Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and an American Kestrel. Each of the two Wetlands had courting Sandhill Cranes. Nine species of herons and ibises were seen and Purple Gallinule and Limpkin.

The Orlando Wetland Park polishes 30 million gallons of water a day because marsh plants remove nutrients. The Park managers plan to increase that figure to 45 m.g.d. by changing marsh plantings from emergent vegetation such as cattails to submergent, or underwater, plants. The disruption of work going on now draining impoundments and replanting may be the reason that many birds are not roosting there at this time. We saw some flights headed toward the St. Johns River.

The shining silver and gold, pink, orange, purple western sky was magnificent background for vistas of marsh waters, palm tree groups, islands and tree lines that kept on accepting the many thousands of little Yellow-rumped Warblers. They were with us all the time.

**Bob Wheeler** of Orange Audubon showed us mistnet trapping and how to band a bird properly. A Gray Catbird was trapped and banded with an official USFWS bracelet, and our own **Lois Pauchey** was very pleased to release the scrappy young bird.

## PORT ORANGE CAUSEWAY PARK

*Ray Scory*

*January 5, 2003.* Just for the weather, the evening field trip to the Dunlawton Bridge was an overwhelming treat. A crystal clear sky touched by a slight nip in the air heralded in hundreds of birds streaming to their roosting areas for the night. We sighted hundreds of birds flying silhouetted against a red blazing sky.

Yet, the best experience found the eighteen birders treated to the seamanship of **Willie Burns** and **Kitty Albee** on Willie's boat, *The Passing Wind*. All of us were taken on a birding excursion between the islands around the bridge to get good close-up views of the birds in this magnificent birding area. We saw twenty-eight different species: Common Loon, Yellow-crowned Night-herons, American Oystercatchers, Hooded Mergansers, an Eastern Phoebe and many other water birds.

## NEWSLETTER SURFING

**The PawPaw Press.** On November 2 the local Native Plant Society planted the Sunrise Park in Holly Hill. A sign designates the park as a "butterfly, hummingbird native plant garden." There is a beautiful plaque set in a coquina rock in honor of **Gail Lincoln**. Halifax River Audubon is also working on a memorial tribute to Gail that should be completed this year. More about this later.

**New York Times, Andrew Pollack, Jan. 14, 2003.** The widespread use of Roundup, a common herbicide developed by Monsanto, has caused weeds that are resistant to the chemical to spring up on a half-million acres of agricultural land across the U.S. At fault, scientists say, is the popularity of bioengineered crops that are "Roundup Ready" -- that is, created by Monsanto to be genetically impervious to the herbicide. Together, Roundup and Roundup Ready crops make life simpler for conventional farmers, who can use just one herbicide and spray it directly on their crops. The ease of the practice has led to widespread use of Roundup, and that has led to evolution taking its inevitable course: Those weeds that can survive exposure to Roundup are flourishing. Further spread of resistant weeds could wreak havoc around the globe, because glyphosate -- the generic name for Roundup -- is the most popular weed-killer on the planet. So far, the U.S. government has not imposed any ~~limitations on the use of Roundup or Roundup Ready crops.~~

**Indian River Audubon.** The Brevard County Chapter is sponsoring a **Spaghetti Dinner**, at Mister BeauJeans Restaurant in Melbourne, Sunday, February 23; from 4 pm to 7 pm. Tickets are \$12. The Chapter has already laid out \$1300 to purchase bird books for all the elementary schools in Brevard County, and hopes to break even with this fundraiser. Directions: 1/2 block east of US 1 at 1218 E. New Haven Ave. next to the Strawberry Mansion. Phone 723-1900.

**Habi-Chat.** This newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) for Winter 2002, thanked its 32 Life Members. And we were one of them, "Halifax River Audubon Society", but we don't know when we became a **Life Member**. Anybody know? Our Chapter was also thanked for our contribution this year.

Meet at the Merritt Island Visitor Information Center Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 am through the winter for **birding tours**.

MIWA sponsors special Members Only Field Trips. Coming up in February 15 is a **Pelican Island Centennial Cruise** boat trip and dinner all for \$25. Then in March there is a driving tour of historical Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Two good reasons to join!

**USA Philatelic, Vol 8, No. 1** The Post Office will issue a 37-cent stamp titled, "**Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. 1903-2003.**" Pictured on the stamp is the head of a Brown Pelican. The Post Office's descriptive text reads, "Located in the Indian River Lagoon on the east coast of Central Florida, the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was founded to preserve the state's last breeding ground for the brown pelican."



Today the refuge encompasses 5,377 acres and shelters hundreds of plant and animal species." "This new issue celebrates the centennial of the nation's first official wildlife refuge, made possible by President Theodore Roosevelt's executive order in 1903. The National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses more than 93 million acres in every state and U.S. territory." The stamp's date of issue is March 14, 2003 at Vero Beach FL 32960.

The special options available from the Post Office for pre-purchasing this stamp are 1.) Pane of 20 w/plate number for \$7.40, 2.) First Day Cover (an envelope stamped and postmarked from Vero Beach on March 14) for \$.75, and 3.) Set of Pane of 20 and First Day Cover for \$8.15. The stamps also will be available in blocks of 10 and blocks of 4. To order stamps call 1-800-782-6724. There will be a \$1 charge to the Post Office for postage! You can pay with a credit card.

**Audubon Chapter Networker** listed the results of the National 2002 Birdathon. The names of some of the winning teams bear repeating: Mellow-bellied Snack Seekers, Pishing in the Wind, Gray-crested Flakcatchers, and Tenacious Towhees.

**Florida Defenders of the Environment.** This group is working toward the restoration of the **Ocklawaha River** with the support of the Alachua Audubon Society and all 43 Audubon chapters in Florida. The Rodman Dam and Reservoir have prevented the natural flow of the River. The FDE's clever t-shirt "It's about dam time!" with a picture of a riverboat bursting through the dam can be purchased online at [www.fladefenders.org](http://www.fladefenders.org).

**Southeast Volusia Audubon.** The Chapter is presenting the **Great Blue Heron Treasure Sale** Saturday, February 15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marine Discovery Center Lawn on the North Causeway in New Smyrna Beach. There will be great things to buy, good food, and raffles for donated entertainment, trips, meals, etc.

# THE PELICAN



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## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	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

FEBRUARY 2003

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of its 2002-2003

*The Pelican* Underwriter

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

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of our activities by

***THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL***

**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.

All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach 32118, or to [franniep@juno.com](mailto:franniep@juno.com) Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 48 - NO. 9**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**MARCH 2003**

## WHY COUNT BIRDS?

*President Lois Robinson*

Some of you will have just finished the Great Backyard Bird Count and sent in your numbers to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology when you read this. Why are this project and the nine other specific counts the Cornell Lab sponsors so important? We must have hard data to back up our claims of damage done to bird populations by pesticides, acid rain, forest fragmentation, and the spread of the West Nile virus, to name a few. Only when we have this information can we advocate for policy changes from legislative bodies.

According to *Birdscope* (Vol. 17, No. 1) published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "each year tens of thousands of citizen-science participants are making important contributions to bird studies." The Great Backyard Bird Count is focusing this year how snow cover affects annual bird distributions. Other studies going on include the impact on forest-breeding birds of forest fragmentation, acid rain, and recreation abuse (think All Terrain Vehicles). The Birdhouse network studies the impact of pesticides on the breeding success of cavity-nesting birds and the influence of global warming on egg-laying dates and nesting success. The CBC collects data on correlations between climate change and shifts in bird populations over the last forty years and the impact on Crows in the Northeast that have been hit hard by the West Nile virus. In an example of the international scope of bird studies, the British Trust for Ornithology conducts a Common Bird Census each year. They have found that the "increasingly intensive farming in the United Kingdom has caused declines in abundance of many birds over 19 years." (*Birdscope*, Vol. 17, No 1).

The Cornell Lab assures us who count birds that every count is important even if, in your estimation, you didn't see anything unusual or interesting. "Your ordinary counts are as valuable to researchers as a once-in-a-lifetime observation." (*Birdscope*, Vol. 17, No.1) Establishing a baseline is extremely important for documenting all changes in bird abundance, distribution and variations from normal. If you want to be more intentional about counting birds call me at 760-8480 and get information on Cornell Lab's ten different types of bird counts. One of them may just suit you!

## A DIFFERENT PROGRAM

*David Hartgrove*

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the originally scheduled program on the Florida Panther could not be presented. This situation arose at the last minute and we were briefly at a loss for what to do.

Then we thought of **George Sibley**. George started making films while still in junior high school and he's one of those lucky people who are able to turn what they love to do into what they do for a living. For some years now, he's been working on films with an environmental message. And each one he does ends up winning awards and accolades from a variety of sources.

On Monday, March 17th, George will present two of his films: "A Tale of Two Counties" and "Six Fairy Tales About Growth in Florida". Both of these short films are excellent and provide a launching point for a discussion of growth management issues. Please plan to join us for this, our regular monthly meeting, and this informative and enjoyable program.

## SURVEY OF TOMOKA STATE PARK

*John Carr*

In the 1950's, drainage ditches were dug along the Tomoka River within Tomoka State Park in an attempt to control mosquitoes. This procedure altered the natural environment of the marsh, and did little to change the problem of mosquitoes. In constructing the canals and ditches, excavated material was deposited in berms alongside the ditches. This man-made change in the natural topography of the marsh altered resident animal environment. Some restoration of the marsh has been done and further restoration is planned.

Park Naturalist **Charles DuToit** is designing a before-and-after survey to record animals and their behavior in the marsh now and after the removal of the berms and restoration of the marsh.

Six volunteers from Halifax River Audubon are needed to conduct this survey. Surveys will be done until the project has reached completion. Observers will utilize two canoes that are propelled by small electric motors. If you are interested in participation in this project, contact **John Carr** at 255-9360.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

The giant German insurance firm, Munich Reinsurance, estimates that by 2050 the annual costs of global warming will top 300 billion dollars. An even more dire prediction from Great Britain's largest insurer, Aviva, says that by 2065 the global economy will be bankrupt because of damage to property, infrastructure, crop failures and bank and insurance losses. And these gloomy forecasts aren't coming from a bunch of tree hugging "environmentalist whackos," a term conservative TV commentator Rush Limbaugh sneeringly uses when referring to those with whom he disagrees. These predictions are coming from the staid statisticians of the insurance industry. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (comprised of a thousand prominent climate scientists and the world's leading authority on the subject) predicts a one to three foot increase in sea levels within the next century. New Orleans, which has an average elevation of eight feet below sea level now, won't have to worry about its plague of Formosan termites. It, along with a number of other coastal communities, will most likely have to be abandoned.

The naysayers, like Rush and the President, argue that more study is needed. The scientific consensus is that if we don't act immediately to control green house gases and other elements contributing to climate change, the Earth's temperature will continue to rise slowly causing a host of unpleasant side effects. But suppose that scenario is wrong. There's a compelling body of evidence that weaves a far more worrisome story. As temperatures rise, the tundra inside the Arctic Circle begins to thaw, releasing its vast stores of carbon dioxide. This causes even further rises in temperature and the Antarctic ice sheets collapse. Now instead of a three-foot rise in sea level, we're talking fifteen to eighteen feet! This is disaster on a biblical level. Our great-great grand children will rightly ask, "What were those bozos thinking? How could they do nothing and doom us to this outcome?"

Our feckless leader, George W., has given the matter some thought. His plan calls for at least five more years of study and oh, while we're at it, a tax break for the largest of the gas guzzling, green house gas belching, Sport Utility Vehicles. I wish I could say that this last bit was just some sick joke I came across, but it's actually included in the economic incentive package he recently sent to Congress. Hidden behind the "Orange Alerts" and all the saber rattling going on, he and his henchmen have been busy as little beavers wrecking a decade's worth of environmental accomplishments. For instance, they've introduced new rules to speed up the clear cutting of our national forests, eased pollution controls on power plants, rejected higher fuel efficiency standards for cars, removed

limits on strip miners dumping waste fill in mountain streams, begun planning for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, trashed the careers of any government scientist who dared challenge their agenda and of course, rejected the Kyoto Global Warming Treaty. This last move is one of the major reasons our European friends see us as a bigger threat to the world than Saddam.

Henry Jacoby, co-director of MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Climate Change, put it this way, "Global warming is going to cost us, but we're more adaptive than trout. We'll survive." I hope he's right, but a world without fly-fishing for trout will be a diminished place indeed.

## MIKE BROTHERS PRESENTED FEBRUARY PROGRAM

*Lois Robinson*

Mike Brothers, Director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences, presented a very interesting and educational program to HRA on Monday night, February 17th. He began by sharing with us the upcoming plans for improving the part of Tuscawilla Park between Orange Avenue and the Museum. In the near future the Museum will expand and improve their observation area called "Window on the Forest" and provide boardwalks and better trails so visitors might enjoy the natural beauty of the area to a greater degree.

The main part of the program centered on the paintings and the writings of John James Audubon especially while he visited the Volusia County region. Mr. Audubon was enchanted with the birds of the area and witnessed the huge flocks the area was home to. He did not however like the climate or the poverty of the region and did not mind talking about it in his writings. He describes in vivid detail running aground in the Halifax River area and having to get out and pull the boat through the mud while the wind rose and the temperature dropped. They were all in great danger of hypothermia until they managed to get a fire going. The slide show presented many of the Florida birds Audubon painted. The audience was delighted with the evening.

**WE THANK** our hostesses and host at the February Chapter program meeting **Mary Stevenson, Vivian Smith, Jeannie Riley, Glade Koch and John Williams.**

## FEBRUARY 3, 2003 BOARD MEETING

Motion was passed to support the Volusia/Flagler Environmental Action Committee in its suit to protect the Loop by acting as an Intervener when needed.

## CALENDAR

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

West Volusia Audubon field trip. Ravine Gardens, Palatka. Contact Annette Sherman, 734-5840.

Saturday, March 8

Pawpaw Native Plant Society trip to Lake Ashby, meet at lake parking lot. 9:00am.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 13-16

Pelican Island WR Centennial. See article.

Saturday, March 15

**Shiloh Marshes** field trip. Led by **Willie Burns**, 253-2150. City Island. **8:00am. NOTE TIME CHANGE.** Bring lunch.

Monday, March 17

**Chapter Meeting.** Florida Growth Management Films; Discussion. **George Sibley.**

Tuesday, March 18

Pawpaw Native Plant Society. "Slide Show on Native Plants." Scott Burdick and Don Spence. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00pm.

Wednesday, March 19

Southeast Volusia Audubon Program Meeting. "Bird Banding." Meret Wilson. 7:30 pm. Edgewater Library.

Saturday, March 22

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip. Burrowing Owls/ Emerald Marsh. 7:30am. For more info, call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

Sunday, March 23

**Dunlawton Bridge** field trip. Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Port Orange Causeway Park, under bridge, north side 4:00pm.

Saturday, March 29

**Volusia County Landfill** field trip. Led by **Kevin DeWall**, 767-3031. Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd. 8:00am. Bring lunch.

Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Spruce Creek Park, One-Hour Walk Series.** Led by **Kevin Doxstater**, 760-7647 and **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. Spruce Creek Road parking lot. 8:00am. See article about change in location

Friday, April 4

**Dora Canal Boat Trip.** Led by **Willie Burns**, 253-2150. Meet at east end of City Island Court House parking lot. 7:30am. Bring lunch.

**W**ELCOME to our new members **Patty Bruda, Henry M. Gilliam, Della S. Graham, Heidi J. Holmquist, Pirard Leonard, Pat Lombardo, Dr. James Mason, Martha Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Parisi, Kenneth C. Sanders, Roberta Sappington, Frances P. Smith, and Darlene Wilson.**

## APRIL WEEKLY GATHERINGS

*Ray Scory*

Spruce Creek Park in April will replace the location for the gatherings previously planned for Buschman Park. We will meet at Spruce Creek Park as we did last October - every Tuesday of the month beginning at 8:00 am.

This is a casual birding experience. Come a little earlier, come a little later and enjoy the company of your Audubon friends. Walk the park or just sit on the pier. Sip on your coffee, enjoy your bottled water or just bathe in the wash of Florida's unmatched early spring weather.

I guarantee the birds will be there. Last October we counted a total of 47 different species. Now with spring migration flying wild in April our total count should be more outstanding.

Come enjoy the show.

## DORA CANAL FIELD TRIP

*Willie Burns*

Friday, April 4th, is the date for our 2003 Dora Canal boat trip. The Canal water level is very high. This means we may once again be able to see the rookery of Great Egrets as we did in the past. Last year's low water precluded them from nesting.

We can expect to see the rare and wonderful Prothonotary Warbler. It nests in abundance in and around the Canal. Alligators will be seen, as will the elusive Purple Gallinule. On the Canal they are so prevalent they almost walk into the boat!

The "bird condos" of hundreds of high-nesting Osprey, Anhinga, Herons, Egrets, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Wood Ducks near the water level must be seen to be believed!

Otters are often swimming and playing, and several kinds of snakes are in residence. Last year we saw a very large Yellow Rat Snake high in a pine tree, apparently feeding on a nest of Pileated Woodpeckers. We may even see a Bobcat.

The Canal was apparently saved by a logger with foresight. He avoided cutting the tress along the canal (actually a small river, but the northernmost hundred feet were straightened, hence Canal) and deeded it to the county with the proviso that there be no development. We get to enjoy his legacy. Too bad other developers are not as farsighted and conscientious!

Tickets are twenty dollars per person. Please call Willie Burns, at 253-2150, for a reservation. Simply mail him your check at 810 Mason Ave. #31, Daytona Beach FL 32117, or bring it to Halifax River Audubon's March Chapter meeting. Come along on this wonderful trip through the heavily forested Canal. Such places are few and far between and diminishing every year.

## AN AFTERNOON AT THE PORT ORANGE BRIDGE

*David Hartgrove*

Yes, Sunday, March 23rd, will be another in our series of afternoon walks at the Port Orange Causeway Park. We'll meet at 4:00 p.m. and see how many species we can find. We'll have scopes set up to view the birds on the islands. Also, Captain Burns assures me that our navy, the "Passing Wind", will be on hand for those of you wishing a closer look. The sight of all the wading birds flocking in at sundown is a sight to behold. Please plan to join us.

### PECKING ORDER AT THE FEEDER

*Ken Morrison in Mountain Lake Almanac:  
Around the Year with a Naturalist*

Anyone who feeds wild birds doubtless has noticed that there is an order of dominance among the birds that accept this hospitality. This is known as "peck-order" or "peck-right." At our feeding station the peck-order works out about as follows:

Boat-tailed Grackle  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Common Grackle  
Brown Thrasher



*Boat-tailed Grackle*

Red-winged Blackbird  
Blue Jay  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
Cardinal  
Tufted Titmouse

To keep track of the "peck-order" at a feeding station, one must start with a list of all the birds that come to feed. As one species chases another away, it is moved up on the list until they are in the proper sequence of dominance.

*Published by Pineapple Press, 1984.  
Used by permission.*

## FIELD TRIP TO THREE LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

*David Hartgrove*

In the cool, damp morning of Friday, February 7th, ten of us gathered for the trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and other points along the way. Our first stop was in downtown St. Cloud on the south shore of East Lake Tohopekaliga. This place provided one of the real highlights of the trip: an American Bittern that flew back and forth in front of us while selecting a spot in the weeds in which to disappear. We got 25 species at this location within an hour. A purplish black wall of approaching rain made for a hasty retreat to the south.

We managed to outrun the rain until it ran out of steam. We did get a slight drizzle at one point but it didn't deter our efforts. Two "no-shows" that had been seen on the previous day's scouting trip were Northern Bobwhite and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Three of us ended that day with 72 species. But on trip day the Northern Caracara, Bald Eagle, Caspian Tern, even the Bonaparte's Gull, were right where they should have been. We ended the day with 82 species. It pays to have those extra eyes. Although it was a long 180-mile trip one-way, we had a blast!

### SHILOH MARSH TRIP

*Willie Burns*

The Shiloh Marsh field trip on Saturday, March 15th will depart the parking lot at the east end of the City Island Court House at eight am (**note that the depart date will be later than previously reported**). We will venture south along our waterways, stopping at several pleasant locations including Riverbreeze Park and Seminole Rest. The latter is a portion of Canaveral Seashore National Park, located on the west bank of the Mosquito Lagoon.

We will also explore several trails at Merritt Island NWR. All are passable to cars, but may have potholes to avoid. Bring your lunch. We will break at the Visitor Center prior to accessing the Black Point Wildlife Drive. Feel free to break off at noon and return if you have not the time for the full day.

Other locations may be visited as well. Spoonbills, many ducks and shore birds, and perhaps an Eagle or two should all be seen. Join us for a fine day, rain or shine. Rainy days actually provide better birding.

**MARY KELLER**, bird rehabber, needs supplies for her injured and sick birds. Weary migrants are coming through our area now. Don't forget her and the birds. Her address is 1216 Deneece Terrace in Holly Hill. You can call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 for pickup.



# AUDUBON SPECIAL AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

*John Roessler*

Audubon Chapters in Volusia County were recently asked to participate in the Tomoka Regional Science Fair held at Atlantic Technical School in Daytona Beach on January 25. **Randy Sleister** from West Volusia Audubon Society and **Don Picard** from Southeast Audubon Society joined me from Halifax River Audubon as representatives and judges. The judges met at the Advanced Technology Center in and split the judging in two sections because of the number of exhibitors. There were many good projects, some not related to the environment, but still very interesting. Don Picard and I judged the senior section and Randy Sleister judged the junior section. All three judges made their own recommendations and then the recommendations were shared to determine the top winners. The winners and their projects are:

- 1st Place Senior Division Environmental Science (\$100 Savings Bond) - **Cristina White** of Spruce Creek High School for her project: *Effects of Traffic on the Volusia County Beaches.*
- 2nd Place Senior Division Environmental Science (\$50 Savings Bond) - **Danielle Lowenstein** of Deland High School for her project: *Effects of Various Site Preparation Techniques on Vegetation Density and Diversity in Flatwood Communities.*
- 1st Place Junior Division Environmental Science (\$50 Savings Bond) - **Brittany Atkinson** of Ormond Beach Middle School for her project: *What Is In The Central Florida Waterways And What Are Their Effects On The Ecosystem?*
- 2nd Place Junior Division Environmental Science (\$25 Savings Bond) - **Leah Schecter** of Ormond Beach Middle School and her project: *Do Mineral Fertilizers Occur in Greater Amounts in Urban or Rural Surface Water?*

Judging the projects was a great opportunity to network with Audubon members and represent ourselves to the community. It was also great fun. I would recommend it to anyone!

# 100 Years of Wildlife Conservation in America March 13-16, 2003



TIME CAPSULE DEDICATION:  
THURSDAY, MARCH 13;  
1:00 PM. INDIAN RIVER MALL, VERO BEACH

*Kick-off a weekend of events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National wildlife Refuge System.*

- \*Unveiling of the time capsule display, with artifacts from some of America's 540 national wildlife refuges
- \*Entertainment by The Peabody Orlando Ducks, Challenger the bald eagle, and President Theodore Roosevelt.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CEREMONY:  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 10:00 AM. RIVERVIEW PARK, SEBASTIAN

*Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System at America's first – Pelican Island.*

- \*U.S. Postal Service First Day of Issue Ceremony for the Pelican Island postage stamp
- \*Entertainment by Voices of Liberty from the Walt Disney World® Resort
- \*Performance of President Theodore Roosevelt
- \*Live wildlife demonstration by Jack Hanna of Wild Animal Adventures

ARLO GUTHRIE CONCERT AND FIREWORKS: 7:00 PM  
RIVERVIEW PARK, SEBASTIAN

Live music by Pete Harris and Sebastian's own Arlo Guthrie. Sponsored by the City of Sebastian and Sebastian River Medical Center. *Fireworks at 9:00*

11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PELICAN ISLAND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL:  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 15 & 16, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM.  
RIVERVIEW PARK, SEBASTIAN

- \*First day opening of Centennial Trail and Observation Tower at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
- \*Exhibitors \*Arts and crafts \*Kid's activities \*Food
- \*Live music \*Seminars \*Live wildlife shows by Jack Hanna of Wild Animal Adventures and Jim Fowler of Wild Planet

# THE PELICAN

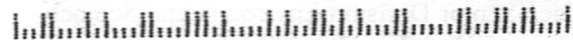


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MARCH 2003

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**THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL**

**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.

### Names & Numbers

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Rachel Ramsey	Vice President Ways & Means	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
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John Williams	Past President	255-8631	jwill39301@aol.com
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Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary Publicity Chair Ways & Means	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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Kevin DeWall	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@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

# THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 48 - NO. 10

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

APRIL 2003

## A SENSE OF PLACE

*President Lois Robinson*

When I take my daily walk around my neighborhood I am overwhelmed by the sights and sounds and activities I note going on around me. I check out each tree regarding the state of its health. Is it turning brown and losing needles when it shouldn't be? Are the visiting winter migrants, the Yellow-rumps, the Palm Warblers, the Kinglets, the Phoebes in their usual hangouts? Are the weeds healthy and hardy, meaning the pesticides and herbicides haven't defeated them yet? I see things no one else notices—the pair of Brown Thrashers bathing in my bird bath (if the water's clean), the Armadillo digging under the side of my house who thinks no one has spotted him, the Black Racer who comes in unbidden on my back porch looking for lizards and then can't remember how to get out again, the serious battle between two male Cardinals over an invisible boundary line between their two territories, the absence of green tree frogs who used to be around in abundance.

The health of the whole neighborhood is important to me because I know it's health and well-being is responsible for my own health and well being. I am tied to this space and this space is tied to me. I feel kinship with every creature I encounter; after all, I am only a two-legged mammal with a little bigger braincase than most.

I grew up in Florida and Florida is in my blood and my bones. Florida sights and sounds thrill me—the soft sighing of the wind in the pines, the torrential downpours, the super abundance of water at times and the dry, crackling sounds of the underbrush in the very dry times.

No wonder we love the land so much. No wonder we are willing to fight to save it. We may be just a step away from being endangered ourselves if we don't.

**M**ARY KELLER Spring migration has begun and nesting season is beginning. Please help Mary Keller, bird rehabilitator, care for the influx of baby birds as well as injured adult birds. 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. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. You can call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup.

## KEVIN DOXSTATER – PHOTOGRAPHER

Kevin Doxstater is a very active member of our Halifax River Audubon Chapter, on our Board, and involved in our many hands-on projects. He also is a master photographer, with brilliant photos of birds and other nature subject. We are very proud that he will show his bird slides at our April 21 program meeting.

His website, [www.dox-photo-com](http://www.dox-photo-com), includes the following biographical information

"Throughout my life, it seems, no matter the pastime or interest, there has always been one constant – at some point a camera was involved. It was following a move from my native California to southwestern Colorado that I began to become a more serious 'hobbyist', complete with a home darkroom. For the most part, the subject matter was the scenic beauty of the area.

"The late 80's found me on the move again, this time to Florida. I continued with my photography, though the subject matter changed to an old interest – auto racing. Initially just for fun, I eventually began doing some freelance work, mostly sports car racing, with some 'Indy' cars and stock cars too.

"With the advent of computers, I became involved in digital imaging, leading to a career change. A client in my new job happened to be a bird photographer, and her beautiful work inspired me to try a little for myself, turning out to be a nice form of relaxation from the many weeks I was spending on the road at various racetracks. I was okay with that until I saw my first Bald Eagles. Starting out slowly at first, my passion for birds, and nature in general, has grown, my auto racing now limited to just a couple of events each year.

"Birds are a challenging and rewarding subject. They can be beautiful, graceful, amazing, and even amusing. The feeding 'ballet' of a Reddish Egret, the (unusual?) courtship ritual of Least Terns, the flowing lines of a Great Egret, to see a young eagle fly for the very first time and so much more. For these reasons I'll keep going out, whenever and wherever I can. I hope you do too."

**W**ELCOME to our new members **Lila A. Albino, Ms Kaye D Andrea, Elizabeth Hermansen, John Marshall, Randy M. Sekula, Myra Whitridge and George Watkins.**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

The Florida legislative session officially begins on the first Tuesday of March, this year on the 4th. But the exercise in perfidy that the legislative process has become begins sometime before that. On February 25th, Rep. Joe Pickens (R-Palatka) filed a bill in the House to make Rodman Reservoir a state reserve (HB697). This bill creates an additional hurdle to restoration by requiring legislative approval for "any action that would substantially alter the reserve..." It also directs the Recreation & Parks Div. of DEP to develop multipurpose recreational opportunities and provide supervision of the area.

The following day, Sen. Rod Smith (D-Gainesville) filed a "memorial" in the Senate to recommend that Congress authorize transfer of the Ocala National Forest lands negatively affected by Rodman Reservoir to the state (SB1656). (A memorial is a non-binding resolution that does not go before the Governor for veto or signature.) Governor Jeb Bush strongly supports restoration and would undoubtedly veto such a memorial. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is pressuring the state to remove the Rodman Dam and restore the Ocklawaha River since the land under the reservoir's waters is in national forest property. So, even though a wide majority of Floridians has repeatedly asked that the Ocklawaha be restored, their will is quietly being subverted by those who wish to continue fishing in this expensive, stump filled pond. So much for listening to the will of the people.

Of course, our good old boys here in the Sunshine State don't have a monopoly on sleazy politics. Speaking of which, we come to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This pristine spot on the north slope of Alaska holds some oil, though not enough to make its removal worth the price. In fact, if we would just adopt some conservation measures, we could begin importing less oil now. But the greedheads in the oil drilling business can't stand the idea that there are places off limits to their quest for big bucks. If they can get their foot in the door with ANWR, there's no limit to where they'll campaign to drill next. Using a backdoor approach so as to give themselves and their cronies political cover, both the House and Senate Budget Committees approved provisions that pave the way for oil and gas drilling in this beautiful wilderness. As local gas prices nudge the \$2.00 per gallon mark, this may seem a reasoned alternative...to the uninformed and those too busy to care. We know better.

Those of you who attended our March general meeting saw ample proof in the two films by **George Sibley** of the fallacy that growth and road building are good things. I attended the Dept. of Transportation workshop on the plans for widening SR 415/Tomoka Farms Road that was held in Deltona on March 11th. The road will be widened to four lanes from Howland Blvd. south to SR 46 in Sanford as soon as the money is

appropriated. From Howland Blvd. north to SR 44, it will remain two-laned, with improvements to the shoulders. Dare we hope that it stays that way?

In a related matter, an amendment to the Volusia County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan was transmitted to the state Dept. of Community Affairs detailing plans to extend Tomoka Farms Road north from LPGA Blvd. to SR 40. Why is it that we can see a film like "Six Fairy Tales About Growth in Florida" and learn a lesson from it and those in positions of authority ignore the obvious and continue making the same mistakes?

## BIRDING IN CUBA

*Pat Bennett*

In February, I spent two fantastic weeks on a Cuban Birding Tour with the San Diego Natural History Museum. Twelve of us flew from Miami to Havana. Only "scholars" and journalists are allowed to do this, but we received credit from Manchester Community College for a course in "Understanding Cuba."

Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, is undoubtedly the best place for bird watching. It is home to the largest number of species and it has truly exceptional birding spots. Our Cuban guide was Arturo Kirkconnell, co-author of A Field Guide to Birds of Cuba.

Cuba has the largest number and diversity of endemics. The first thing I learned is the difference between *endemic* and *indigenous*. Endemic is only in one place; indigenous is native to a place but may be found elsewhere.

We spent four days in the Zapata Peninsula, the Mecca of all bird watchers; 83% of the endemics are here, including the Zapata Rail, Zapata Wren, and Zapata Sparrow. This is a low, bog-like area with the beach where the famous Bay of Pigs landing took place.

Beautiful Cayo Coco Island beach, reached by a bridge and bordered by palm trees, was also favored by many birds: Tricolored Heron, Thick-billed Vireo, Bee Hummingbird (smallest of all birds), Cuban Tody, Cuban Gnatcatcher, Pink Flamingo, and many others.

We stayed at Camaguey for two nights where we saw Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Woodpecker, Giant Kingbird, Cuban Parakeets, etc. Then to Trinidad, the colonial jewel, situated on a hilltop – romantic atmosphere mixed with the ghosts of past slavery. Here was also a market with the worst cobblestone walkway I've ever navigated.

Some unusual birds were the Jacana (in Costa Rica called the "Jesus Christ bird" because it walks on water), Red-shouldered Black Bird, Louisiana Water Thrush (Lady of the River), and Trogon, Cuba's national bird.

For one night we went back to Havana, then to our last birding spot, San Diego de los Baños. My roommate and I discovered that "de los Baños" referred to baths that were famous as a health spa, so we cut out of the early morning bird walk, bathed in sulfur pools, and had the most thorough massage I've ever experienced.

## CALENDAR

Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Spruce Creek Park, One Hour Walk Series.** Led by **Kevin Doxstater**, 760-7647 and **Ray Scory**, 763-4260. Spruce Creek Road parking lot. 8:00am. Note: location changed from that listed in Brochure.

Friday, April 4

**Dora Canal Boat Trip.** Led by **Willie Burns**, 253-2150. Meet at east end of City Island Court House parking lot. 7:30am. Bring lunch. Reservation required.

Monday, April 7

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

Saturday April 12

**Birds of Prey Center** field trip. Led by **Gina Holt**, 253-3466. Meet at east end of City Island Court House parking lot, 9:00am. Bring lunch.

Tuesday, April 15

Pawpaw Native Plant Society meeting. "Plants and Weed that are Good to Eat." Debby Boots. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 7pm.

Sunday, April 20

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Frogs and Frog Sounds". Terry Farrell, Stetson University. 2-4 pm. Meet at Refuge office at 2pm to go afield on a frog hunt.

Monday, April 21

**Chapter Meeting.** "Bird Slides," **Kevin Doxstater.**

Friday and Saturday, April 26-27

Earth Day Celebration.

Monday, May 5

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

### MARCH 3, 2003 BOD MEETING

1. Introduction of **Reid Hughes** as new Member-At-Large.
2. We have 504 members at present
3. Lengthy discussion and recommendations, all of which need our attention, from **David Hartgrove** and **Reid Hughes**: environmental efforts at LPGA; pros and cons of Aquifer Storage and Recovery in Central Florida; how we can impact the upcoming Florida Legislative Session; and Save the Loop Drive.
4. Report from **Madeline Shaddix** and **John Roessler** on our involvement with Daytona Beach Golf and Country Club in regards to their desire to improve their environmental handling of the course. We will be working with them.
5. Plans for the end of year banquet are well underway.

**WE THANK Darlene LaFond and Jeri and Tom Arbogast** for the wonderful refreshments at our March program meeting..

*The Pelican* Vol. 48, No. 10, April 2003

## DAVID HARTGROVE ARTICLE

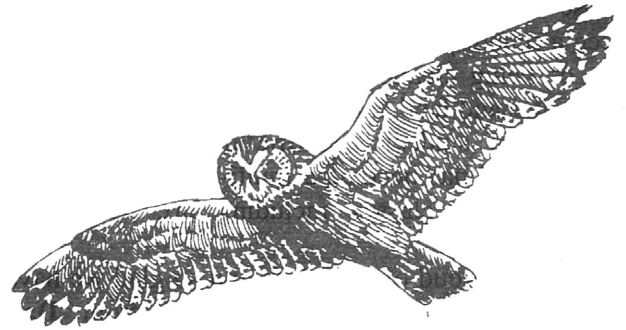
### PUBLISHED

*Lois Robinson*

Turn to page 43 of the March/April issue of Bird Watchers Digest and read the article entitled "The Sailboat and the Bird's Nest." It is a delightful story of the rescue of a Great Crested Flycatcher's family.

The story was first published here in *The Pelican* in our October, 2001 issue.

Congratulations, David!



### TRIP TO AUDUBON CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY - SATURDAY, APRIL 12

*Gina Holt*

I am looking forward to treating you to a "behind the scenes" look at this state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility. There are 20 species of raptors on display, and we will get up close and personal with many of the education birds. Bring your cameras!

We will meet at the City Island Courthouse Annex parking lot and leave at 8:30 a.m. - Bring your lunch. We will take the back roads to Maitland, traveling down 415 looking for Sandhill Cranes, with a stop at the St. John's River to see what's there.

Then we will do some birding at Big Tree Park off 17-92. This Park is home of *The Senator*, a very large and old cypress tree. Our route will take us around scenic Lake Sybelia where we will be on the lookout for Canadian Geese, and then to the Center for lunch overlooking the lake.

After lunch we will tour the facility, and make one last stop (for those who are interested) at Gemini Springs for a look. For more information call me at 253-3466.

### FILMING BACKYARD BIRDS

*David Hartgrove*

If you attended the March general meeting, you saw two films by local film maker, **George Sibley**. George is looking for opportunities to film backyard birds. Just think, a bird filmed in your backyard could one day grace a future film and you would have played an important part in the film's creation. If you have a feeder or feeders that attract birds and would like to help out in this project, call George at 386-760-6170. He'd love to hear from you.

## LOUISE CHAPMAN HONORED

*Lois Robinson*

Louise Chapman, teacher at Mainland High School, has won national acclaim and award for her environmental education work in reclaiming Rose Bay. She will receive \$5000 from the Anheuser Busch Adventure parks for her efforts to protect this bay. Her Rose Bay Legacy Project was also among eight nationwide programs selected to win an additional \$10,000, according to the Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Rose Bay, south of Port Orange and west of US-1, has been a school project under Louise's direction. It is in process of being cleaned and rehabilitated as a healthy body of water and land surroundings. The project sustains a multitude of student scientific data collections and experiments and has become a multi-disciplinary activity for other school classes including art, video, food preparation, etc.

We are so proud of this work and so glad we have a part in working with her with help from **David Hartgrove, Ray Scory, and Kevin Doxstater**. The restoration of Rose Bay by Louise and her students is becoming one of the outstanding environmental programs in our country.

## COME TO THE BANQUET!

*Ray Scory*

Celebrate the success of our past birding year and the coming of another in September. Come to the Banquet.

Celebrate in the spirit of a common love for our natural environment and the wildlife that inhabit it, and enjoy an evening of good food, good people and good conversation. Marvel at the beauty of some of our more exquisite yet very fragile wild creatures in the butterfly presentation by **Linda and Buck Cooper**, our evening's popular guest speakers and help us acknowledge a few special people.

Yes, the banquet, also, is an awards banquet and we have this wonderful opportunity to say thanks to a few deserving people who were there when we needed them. Their dedication, support and generosity over the years is impressive and we want to salute them.

This is our first annual banquet and you alone can make it a rousing success.

So please, send in your reservations early. The deadline for reservations in May 10<sup>th</sup> and we only have seating for 200 people.

## EARTH DAY – APRIL 26 AND 27

Halifax River Audubon will help celebrate Earth Day at Washington Oaks State Gardens on this April weekend. Volunteers from our Chapter erect our canopy, display our banners, give away birding literature, set up our scope, and most importantly, tell people about birds and the joys

of birding. Come visit the Gardens and volunteer a little time at our booth so our folks can take a breather.

Washington Oaks State Gardens is on a beautiful wooded site on the Intercoastal Waterway that can be reached by taking a lovely drive along the ocean up A1A.

## SHILOH MARSH FIELD TRIP

*Willie Burns*

The first stop of our March 15 trip to the Shiloh Marsh Trail was Riverbreeze Park in Oak Hill. A few White Pelicans in the distance and a Lesser Scaup were seen but a large manatee provided most of the excitement. It was heading from the deep waters of the Intra-Coastal Waterway (ICW) to avoid an oncoming motorboat. While the boat was no close threat, the manatee apparently ran upon the shoal near the boardwalk. He panicked and did an immediate 180 degree turn and dove for deeper water. Most of us got to see a bit of him, or at least the huge thrash in the water. The boat was exceeding the minimum wake speed zone, not a surprise as there is little or no enforcement.

We stopped at Seminole Rest in Oak Hill and got some more White Pellys, but again not much else.

The Shiloh Marsh Trail was wonderful. We saw many rafts of Coots, drifting like smoke upon the still waters. Herons and egrets were there, along with some Blue Winged Teal and a Mottled Duck. Green Herons flew from the reeds along the canals, and a few Kingfishers rattled their displeasure at us and a Reddish Egret stalked the mud flats.

We parked our cars at the barrier and walked the dirt road into the Marsh. Several Spoonbills flew over, one at a time, as did large flocks of both Glossy and White Ibis.

A large flock of White Pellys was feeding in the shallow upper Indian River Lagoon. **Kitty Albee** watched a duck in her scope, only to have an Eastern Meadowlark pop its head up right in her field of vision!

On our way back to Route 1 we got a real treat: A young bobcat crossed the dirt road several times, and even walked along it. We staggered our vehicles and everyone got to see him prancing and trotting.

After lunch we stopped at the Haulover Canal overlook and watched at least seven manatees burbling around.

Most of the group then returned home, but **Lois Pauchey** and I kept on, birding the Cemetery Trail. There were several huge flocks of small wading birds. One contained many, many Western Sandpipers, with some Red Knots, Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and Willets. There was even a Caspian Tern feeding a mostly grown young of the year a huge fish.

All in all, you should have been there! See you next time.

## SPECIAL REPORT – Part 1

### ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF WEST NILE VIRUS

*Rick Weiss, Washington Post 28 Dec. 2002 [edited]*

First there was the silence of the crows. Then the horses fell ill – more than 14 000 this past summer [2002] alone -- along with squirrels, chipmunks, and mountain goats. Even mighty raptors -- eagles, hawks, and great horned owls -- dropped from the sky. Now scientists are beginning to take stock of West Nile virus's North American invasion, and they are taken aback by the scale and sweep of its ecological impact. While the human toll dominated the nation's attention this year [2002] -- the virus killed at least 241 people and infected thousands more -- the effects on wildlife were far worse. The virus swept westward with alarming rapidity, appearing in almost every state in the nation -- an astonishing expansion for a [virus] that had never been seen in the Western Hemisphere until 3 years ago.

Equally unexpected, nearly 200 species of birds, reptiles and mammals fell ill as a result of West Nile virus infection this year [2002], including rabbits and reindeer, pelicans and bats, even a few dogs and cats. The virus also slammed dozens of exotic species in about 100 U.S. zoos, killing cockatiels, emus, seals, flamingos, and penguins. Florida alligator farms lost more than 200 of the reptiles.

The epidemic has so resembled a bioterrorism attack that the nation's zoos -- which spearheaded an effort to track [the spread of West Nile virus] and mount emergency vaccinations -- could end up with potentially important roles in the emerging arena of homeland security. Just last month, in a hastily organized effort reminiscent of President Bush's smallpox plan, officials at 2 California zoos inoculated their endangered California condors with an experimental vaccine that may be the animals' only hope for survival.

West Nile virus infection is not fatal in all animals, and over time some species are expected to adapt. But even partial [declines] in key populations could have serious consequences. Rodent populations could blossom in areas where raptors are dying, and pest birds such as house sparrows may be increasing where crows are absent. The worst is still ahead, scientists say. Come spring, West Nile virus is expected to complete its push to the West Coast, home to endangered whooping cranes and economically important flocks of domestic geese.

The virus is also poised to leap to the subtropics, where rare birds and other vulnerable creatures already face formidable threats to their survival. "Once it gets to the tropics, where you've got species already stressed by habitat destruction and you have the potential for year-round mosquito transmission, some of those populations are not going to make it," said Peter Marra, an animal ecologist and West Nile specialist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

"I'm concerned about parrots and hummingbird populations. There's not that many of them left."

West Nile made its North American debut in the fall of 1999, discovered in a dead New York crow. Scientists don't know how the virus reached U.S. shores -- perhaps it hid inside a single infected bird imported from the Middle East. But one thing is certain, said Stephen Ostroff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta: "There's no way that West Nile virus is going to go away."



*Culix pipiens*

The virus does not appear to be any more virulent in Americans than in other people around the world, and scientists suspect that the US population will gradually gain immunity through low-level exposures. That is the situation today in countries where the virus has been active for many years. Most people in those countries have antibodies to the virus from early childhood, and serious complications or death from West Nile virus infection are rare.

But in North American wildlife, the virus has proven to be unusually aggressive and capable of infecting a surprisingly diverse array of animals. "Most viruses tend to be rather host-specific, but that's not the case with what we were seeing," said Tracey McNamara, chief of pathology for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which has its headquarters at the Bronx Zoo [NY], where the first infected crow was found. It is still unclear how many of the 200 or so species struck by West Nile virus infection have suffered significant population declines. But a consensus is emerging that among birds, in particular, far more species are being hurt than scientists had predicted -- not just the crows, ravens, and jays that were known to be especially vulnerable.

"There's been a huge die-off of raptors," said Robert G. McLean of the Agriculture Department's National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. The experience of the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center, which rehabilitates sick and injured raptors, was typical. "In mid-August [2002], we had our first case: a great horned owl," said spokeswoman Sue Kirchoff. "In September and October, we were just inundated." The center took in 70 ailing birds of prey, including great horned owls, eagles, and red-tailed hawks. Officials there presume that if that many were found and brought to the center, countless others died in the wild, with potentially far-ranging repercussions. "From a biological standpoint, raptors take longer to mature and have fewer offspring" than smaller birds, said Patti Bright of the American Bird Conservancy. "Whether they'll be able to rebound, well, we just don't know."

# THE PELICAN



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## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	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

APRIL 2003

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of its 2003-2003

*The Pelican* Underwriter

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

## HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of our activities by

**THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL**

**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.



# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 48 - NO. 11**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**MAY 2003**

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**Have you forgotten to buy your tickets?**

**May 10, 2003**

**is the**

**Absolute Deadline**

**for**

**Our First Annual Banquet**

**at**

**The Palmetto Club**

**May 19, 2003**

This Banquet replaces the last regular meeting of the year  
So don't go to the Seabreeze United Church May 19<sup>th</sup>, we won't be there  
We will be at the Banquet at the Palmetto Club  
enjoying a fine meal and the expertise of two wonderful speakers  
**Buck and Linda Cooper**

Also, we will be recognizing the heroic environmental efforts of two dedicated women,  
**Louise Chapman and Lois Robinson**  
**Please send in your reservations now**  
**so you can join us for this special evening**

---

## **DORA CANAL TRIP**

**Willie Burns**

The Dora Canal field trip went off in lovely weather, neither too hot nor cold, nor too windy. A few small pluffy clouds provided intermittent shade, although the bimini top on the tour boat gave us all we needed.

The trip could have been called the New Baby Cruise because the rookery of Great Egrets was packed with babies. They were in several sizes, along with some Anhinga families. Many herds of Wood Ducks were skittering across the water like dust in the wind. The higher nests, of Great Blue Herons and Osprey, were all very active also.

The Prothonotary Warblers were heard at one point, but not seen. They had only been heard that morning, apparently returning a little late this year. A Purple

Gallinule climbed some reeds to give us a full view of his wonderful coloring.

Alligators? We saw many, from hatchlings to huge giants. Two Green Water Snakes sunning along the Canal added to the interest. All in all, it as a wonderful trip, greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

**W**ELCOME to new Halifax River Audubon members  
**Michele Bartholomew, Robert Brisell, Robin Clouse, Helen Demes, Debbie Elmquist, Betty Fouts, Jeff Kerman, Jacqueline H. Miller, Marion Parker, Ginny Quinn, Lynn Richmond, Kelly Stevenson, Lydia Yaklin and Liza Zegel.**

**T**HANK YOU to Erma Rice and Beverly Blanchard for the wonderful refreshments at our April meeting.

## THANKS TO YOU ALL

*President Lois Robinson*

As I finish up my four years as President of Halifax River Audubon I want to say to you how much I have enjoyed these past four years. Of course, there have been obstacles to overcome and occasionally lots of work involved but the achievements of the Board and all of us working together have certainly been worth the effort.

This present Board has been a delight for me. The dedication and real self-sacrifice at times has made every meeting a humbling experience. Board members have given time and their own money often to make it all "work". We have struggled with environmental issues, field trip difficulties, programs gone awry, meeting newsletter deadlines, setting up for meetings, all a part of a vital and growing organization.

You, the membership at large, have been faithful in coming to meetings and participating in field trips and giving your support to many increasingly complex environmental concerns. The whole Board and I deeply appreciate your support.

We set some goals at the beginning of the year in the areas of advocacy, education and science, which, I feel, we have achieved, at least, to some degree. In advocacy, we have called, written, emailed on behalf of our planet and its threatened environment. In the area of education, we have supported Audubon Adventures, spoken to local groups and offered educational opportunities through our bird watching classes. In the area of science, we have participated in bird counts, supported Volusia County Science Fair and worked with students at Rose Bay, to name a few. We have new projects in progress: involvement with Tomoka State Park, more contact with minority groups, further cooperation with Buschman Park and other local parks to create a more bird friendly environment.

I know you will support our new President and Board to the same degree you have supported me. Ours is a dedicated and ever expanding chapter of National Audubon. One of which we can all feel proud.

## CALENDAR

Monday, May 5

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

Saturday, May 10

**International Migratory Bird Count.** Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Meet at east end of City Island Court House parking lot. 7:00am. Bring lunch.

Friday, May 16

**Alligator Farm** field trip. Led by **David Hartgrove**, 767-3916. Meet at east end of City Island Court House parking lot 7:00am or Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds. 8:00am.

Saturday, May 17

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Wild Plant Walk". Traditional medical and household uses. Georgia Zern, Naturalist, Volusia Co. Environmental Management Dept., Meet at parking lot at end of Mud Lake Road.

Saturday, May 17

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. **Ocala National Forest.** Call Gail Domrosky at 428-0447.

Monday, May 19

**Halifax River Audubon Banquet.** Palmetto Club. "Butterflies in Bloom - Serendipity." Reservations required. \$20. Contact Ray Scory - Field Trip Chair.

Sunday, May 25

**Dunlawton Bridge** field trip. Led by **David Hartgrove**, 788-2630. Port Orange Causeway Park, under bridge, north side. 5:00pm.

Monday, June 2

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

## VOTE FOR OFFICERS

Members will vote for Officers and Members At Large for Halifax River Audubon for years 2003-2004 at the Chapter meeting May 19 at the Annual Banquet. Members who will not be present at that meeting may telephone their vote to **President Lois Robinson** prior to the meeting. Thanks to **John Carr, Chair, Kitty Albee, Rachel Ramsey** and **Willie Burns** for preparing this slate.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate for your vote:

President	<b>John Roessler</b>
Vice President	<b>Madeline Shaddix</b>
Vice President	<b>Rachel Ramsey</b>
Treasurer	<b>Lois Robinson</b>
Corresponding Secretary	<b>Gina Holt</b>
Recording Secretary	<b>Jean Lesh</b>
Membership Secretary	<b>John Carr</b>
Historian	<b>John Carr</b>
Members at Large: 2005	<b>Barbara Kieran</b>
2006	<b>Pat Mihalic</b>
2006	<b>Reid Hughes</b>

## MARY KELLER'S SPRING NEEDS LIST

White paper towels	Baby cereal	Towels
Fish flavor canned cat food	Millet	White vinegar
Pedigree canned dog food	Birdseed	
Money for vitamins/medicine		

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

Regular readers will remember that in last month's issue, I wrote of some sleight of hand trickery going on in Washington regarding the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Just before *The Pelican* went to press, the Senate voted to end any prospect of drilling there, at least for the time being. Our editor, Fran Carr, asked me if I wanted to change anything in the article. I didn't get her message until the last minute but I knew that this vote by the Senate would only serve as a minor annoyance to those bent on violating this national treasure for the goal of short term profits. Sure enough, the House has already brought forth another bill designed to open the area to drilling. They're trying to force the more reasonable members of the Senate to have to compromise on some form of this or another bill that will accomplish the goal so long sought after by those in the oil industry.

And as the Florida Legislature stumbles toward its final days for 2003, we learn that there's been more than a bit of chicanery going on there. Imagine that? I've lost track of all the environmental initiatives that have been overwhelmingly voted in by the people of this state. Paramount among them has been the restoration of the Everglades and Florida Bay. In 1996 we voted for a Constitutional Amendment mandating that those who pollute our state pay for the cost of its clean up. Needless to say, this was not a very popular idea with the folks who write the big campaign donation checks and make a portion of that money polluting our air and waters. Now their champions in the Legislature are riding to the rescue with a bill that not only shifts the burden of paying for environmental clean up from the polluters to you and me

but guts the Everglades Forever Act in the process. Proposed Committee Bill [PCB] NR 03-01a has all the earmarks of a bill written by the attorneys for "Big Sugar" and passed along to their lackeys in the Legislature to foist off as their own handiwork. Though why anyone would want to be associated with this denial of the will of the voters is beyond me. I know they have no respect for the folks who vote for them and that they feel certain that when election time rolls around, we'll have forgotten who our friends were and who sold us down the river. I know that those same clowns believe they can use their proverbial "thirty pieces of silver" to buy slick ads that will make a lot of us forget that they voted to help the people whose interests are the exact opposite of ours. We will not forget.

PCB NR 03-01a will, among other things, increase by 50% the allowable levels of phosphates going into the Everglades, prohibit pollution discharge limits until 2026 and delay restoration until that date, and prohibit expansion of areas designed to treat agricultural runoff. If this bill passes, we can almost certainly say goodbye to the billions of dollars in federal matching funds allocated for Everglades clean up. This is apparently just fine with those in the Legislature pushing this bill. Since the state is in a budget crisis of its own making and the House leadership and the Governor lack the will to correct past mistakes in tax cutting, the prospect of letting the Everglades slide into total degradation seems an alternative they can live with. We can't. We must let them know that any attempt to amend the Everglades Forever Act will be remembered at election time. It's the only course of action we have.

### FIRST ANNUAL ST. JOHNS RIVERFEST

Sponsored by The St. Johns American Heritage River Initiative, The Conventions and Visitor's Bureaus, and The Chambers of Commerce

#### DeLand Regional Library, 130 E. Howry Avenue

- |                             |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, May 3, 10:00a.m.  | The Birds of Lake Woodruff - Pat Halliday                                   |
| Friday, May 16, 2:00 p.m.   | Manatees of Florida and Volusia County - Georgia Zern                       |
| Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.  | Recollections of a Pioneer's Grandson on the St. Johns River - Bill Flowers |
| Thursday, May 22, 6:00 p.m. | The Importance of Wetlands - Randy Sleister                                 |
| Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 p.m.  | Ghost Towns Along the St. John's River - Bill Dreggers                      |
| Thursday, May 29, 6:00 p.m. | Phantom Future: Florida Population and Water - George Sibley                |

#### Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Avenue

- |                              |                                                                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.    | Recollections of a Pioneer's Grandson on the St. John's River- Bill Flowers |
| Wednesday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. | Manatees of Florida and Volusia County - Georgia Zern                       |
| Thursday, May 15, 6:00 p.m.  | Lyonia Preserve & Land Restoration - Preserve Staff                         |
| Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m. | Birds of Lake Woodruff - Pat Halliday                                       |
| Thursday, May 22, 6:00 p.m.  | Ghost Towns Along the St. Johns River - Bill Dreggers                       |
| Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 p.m.   | Phantom Future: Florida Population and Water - George Sibley                |

## SPECIAL REPORT - Part 2

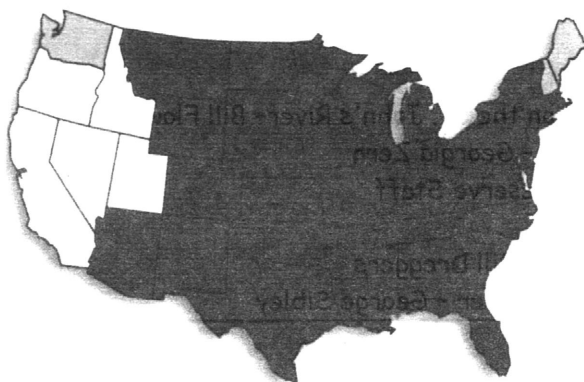
### ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF WEST NILE VIRUS

*Rick Weiss, Washington Post 28 Dec. 2002 [edited]*

It will take a while longer before it is known whether rodent populations are taking advantage of West Nile virus's impact on birds of prey. The evidence for declines in songbirds and other small avian species is less direct, in part because they are so much less visible. "We're simply not going to know for a while [about] the smaller birds, because we're not going to find the bodies," said David S. Wilcove, a professor of ecology at Princeton University who has been studying West Nile virus disease.

Still, researchers this year found more than 140 bird species sickened or dead [as a result of West Nile virus infection], including chickadees, doves, grackles, gulls, herons, kingfishers, pelicans, sparrows, swans, turkeys, warblers, woodpeckers, and wrens. And while most of those species will probably pull through as resistant individuals, mate and pass their antiviral vigor to their offspring, ornithologists expect that others will not be so lucky. They point to the experience of Hawaii, where the arrival of an avian poxvirus in the 1890s and avian malaria in the 1930s drove dozens of species to extinction or close to it. That illustrates the potential for harm when a disease organism encounters a naive population.

Several unexpected aspects of the epidemic have fed scientists' pessimism. One surprise is that the virus can be transmitted directly from bird to bird, not only via mosquitoes. Raptors can acquire the virus by eating infected prey, and some birds can apparently spread the virus in their droppings. There's also evidence that some birds can pass the virus directly to their chicks while they're still inside the egg. Another surprise is that West Nile virus can be transmitted directly from adult mosquitoes to their eggs, so that newly hatched aquatic larvae are born infected. That could make insecticides, which typically kill only adults, less effective. Scientists have also been surprised to learn that the virus can persevere through the winter, even in many Northern states. Researchers are not sure which animals are serving as the virus's winter host, but the phenomenon is allowing the disease to spread year round and is giving the summer viral eruption an earlier start each year.



*The virus had been identified in both birds and humans in 40 states, birds in 3 states and humans in 1 state, by the end of 2002.*

Yet another surprise is the number of mosquito species -- 36 at last count -- that carry the virus. "This is a virus that's never seen a mosquito it doesn't like," said Ostroff of the CDC. "That's not typical for most pathogenic viruses." If that weren't enough, some researchers suspect that West Nile virus might be capable of mixing its genetic material with that of a closely related virus, such as the one that causes St. Louis encephalitis, if both viruses were to infect a single animal. Other viruses have periodically produced such hybrids, creating in the process an entirely new and dangerous virus.

"This virus is going to spread to the West Coast big time by next year, no question," USDA's McLean said. "Each habitat is different, but California seems to be an area that has all the factors you need for a major spread. I think they're going to be facing major problems in humans, horses, birds, and other animals. I just don't see any barriers."



Such predictions have a particularly ominous ring for researchers on the California Condor Recovery Team, who have been struggling to bring the ungainly bird back from the brink of extinction. They knew that this summer's experimental inoculations of zoo birds with the horse vaccine -- the only West Nile vaccine approved for marketing in this country -- had been disappointing, with many birds failing to develop protective antibodies.

So in November 2002, veterinarians at the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos injected into the thighs of their condors an experimental vaccine to try to confer immunity before the spring egg-laying season. "We had absolutely zero negative effects," said Cynthia Stringfield, veterinarian of the Los Angeles Zoo, and preliminary blood tests suggested that the birds "had a fantastic immune response." If further tests show that the vaccine works, the team will try to vaccinate all 128 captive California condors and the approximately 70 birds now living in the wild.

### FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY AT HIGH RISK FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

New World species of birds are particularly affected by West Nile virus. The *Corvid* family, which includes crows and jays, appear to have 100% mortality when infected with the disease. Of special concern is the possible effect of the virus on endangered species such as the Florida Scrub-Jay.

## THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

*David Hartgrove*

The Internet has already been filled with reports of early migrants passing through Florida. On Saturday, May 10th, 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 at 386-788-2630 so I can begin team assignments. Thanks!

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society is conducting tours on the Marine Discovery Center's 40-passenger pontoon boat. The tours will focus on the varied habitats in the lagoon, the birds that live in them and why it is important to protect the lagoon for the birds and for us. Cost of the tour is \$20.00 for adults, \$16.00 for seniors, and \$10.00 for children 12 and under, and it lasts two hours.

For reservations, contact the Marine Discovery Center by phone at 386-28-4828 or their website at [www.marinediscoverycenter.org](http://www.marinediscoverycenter.org). The Center is located on the North Causeway in New Smyrna Beach on the site of the former water treatment plant. Dates for May are:

Thursday, May 1 at 2pm  
 Saturday, May 10 at 10am  
 Thursday, May 15 at 10am  
 Saturday, May 24 at 10am  
 Thursday, May 29 at 10am

*Don Picard, President of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society .386-428-6583.*

## DUNLAWTON BRIDGE FIELD TRIP

*Ray Scory*

It only rained hard all day, but the birds didn't care. They were at the bridge waiting when eleven of our members brought the might of their field trip enthusiasm to bear and halted the rain from falling at 4:15 p.m. Sunday evening March 30th. Never again did we see rain that evening but we did watch the sun break through and glow on island #3 and its hundreds of birds just before it disappeared into the gray of an overcast night.

For me the highlight of the evening was when I pulled into the parking lot and saw nine of our members standing under the bridge in a torrential downpour. The second best event was the display of four American Oystercatchers as they vigorously flew around the islands creating a chattering chorus of their unmistakable "kep, kep, kep" calls.

Thirty-two species were counted this evening with a Merlin, Glossy Ibis and two Green Herons making a special appearance.

It was a great few hours of birding under the Dunlawton Bridge, and five of our guests who happened by agreed.

## KEVIN DOXSTATER PRESENTS PROGRAM

Those of us present at our April Chapter Meeting were treated to an extraordinary presentation of most wonderful pictures. Kevin showed slides of some butterflies, animals, scenic views, but mostly birds, all accompanied by lovely music appropriate to the picture.

After we had caught our breathe from enjoying this, he showed us some of his local slides and told how he had come to take them. Many were from Edgewater, Merritt

Island, Daytona Beach Municipal Golf Course, Dunlawton Bridge, and Kevin's yard. A special series of pictures showed the growth of the eagle chicks near A1A in New Smyrna Beach.

One of my favorite pictures is this Painted Bunting. You can view some more of Kevin's pictures at his website [www.dox-photo.com](http://www.dox-photo.com).



## THE ALLIGATOR FARM

*David Hartgrove*

On Friday, May 16th, we'll make our annual trip to the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine. This place is a bird watcher's paradise in spring because of the wading bird rookery that occupies part of the property. By all means, bring your camera. You too can get those photos that look like you waded into the deep Everglades. In reality, you can get the photo from the boardwalk. Entrance fee is \$6.

We'll meet at 7:00 a.m. at City Island. For those of you living in Ormond Beach, we'll make a stop at the Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Boulevards about 8:00 a.m. to pick you up on our way north. Bring a drink and lunch. We'll have a picnic in the Light House Park nearby. On the way home, we'll stop at Matanzas Inlet to check out the Least Tern colony.

Any questions?  
 Call me at  
 386-788-2630.



*Least Tern  
 by Daniel  
 S. Kilby*

# THE PELICAN



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Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407)-644-0190
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

MAY 2003

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# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 48 - NO. 12**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**JUNE 2003**

## OUR NEW PRESIDENT 2003-2005

**John Roessler** was elected unanimously as President of Halifax River Audubon at the Chapter Banquet in May. He will guide the Chapter for the next two years in programs, field trips, and special projects. We welcome him and know he will continue the fine work of our previous Presidents.

John was born and raised in Cincinnati, where he was involved in summer camps and nature programs throughout his childhood. After serving in the US Navy as an Aviation Structural Mechanic he relocated to Daytona Beach. He has been employed by the City of Daytona Beach for thirty years and is now Assistant Manager, Wastewater. In his job he works with the Florida Department of Environmental Regulations, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Volusia County Health Department.

Besides Audubon, John is a member of the Audubon Eagle Watch, the Sierra Club, and the Daytona Prindle Fleet. Hobbies: Birding, boating, fishing, sailing, biking, motorcycles, and photography.

Other officers elected were **Madeline Shaddix** and **Rachel Ramsey**, Vice Presidents; **Lois Robinson**, Treasurer and Past President; **Gina Holt**, Corresponding Secretary; **Jean Lesh**, Recording Secretary, and **John Carr**, Membership Secretary and Historian. Also elected as Members at Large are **Barbara Kieran** through Chapter year 2004-2005, and **Pat Mihalic** and **Reid Hughes** through Chapter year 2005-2006.

## BOARD ACTION – MAY 5, 2003

1. The Board of Halifax River Audubon approved a motion to change the program meeting location from the Seabreeze United Church to SICA Hall in Holly Hill for the 2003-2004 year. The facilities were deemed superior and cost less. The move necessitates changing meeting dates from the third Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month.
2. The Board approved a motion to send President David Struhs of Audubon of Florida \$300 to support a Birdathon to benefit Audubon of Florida.
3. The Board passed a resolution of thanks to President **Lois Robinson** for her exemplary leadership during the past four years.

## CALENDAR

### Monday, June 9

**HRA Board Meeting.** Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 pm. Purpose: Planning year's programs. All welcome. **NOTE:** Date changed.

### Tuesday, September 2

**HRA Board Meeting.** Dickerson Heritage Library, 1:30 pm. **NOTE:** Date changed because of Labor Day.

### Monday, September 8

**HRA Program Meeting.** **NOTE:** Location changed to SICA Hall. Date changed to second Monday in month.

### Saturday October 11

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Family Fun Day". 10am-2pm. Rain date: October 18.

### Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 24-26

**AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2003.** Location: The Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando

### Saturday, December 13

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Animal Rehab and Releases". Kathy Paynter, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. 9-11 am.



## BIRD WATCHING GUIDE

Halifax River Audubon has published a Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide in a brochure. It describes 12 local birding hotspots in Ponce Inlet, Port Orange, Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach and includes a map. It also lists 6 nearby spots with driving directions. **Ray Scory**, Field Trip Chair, has put together this excellent tri-fold publication. It is available at Program Meetings.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

Audubon of Florida's weekly legislative update for the end of the regular session was one long list of appeals for vetoes by the Governor. At both state and local levels, the Republican Party seems to have decided to declare war on the environment and on the nation's environmental treasures. This seems particularly odd given that Teddy Roosevelt, one of the party's most venerated members, started the National Wildlife Refuge System one hundred years ago and was an avid conservationist. Another member, Richard Nixon, signed the Endangered Species Act into law. Protections under its regulations are why we still have Bald Eagles, Brown Pelicans and Ospreys flying our skies

So it's hard to understand the actions of the Republican led House and Senate up in Tallahassee. There are bills sitting on the Governor's desk that will, among other things: wreck the Everglades Forever Act and postpone restoration; establish Rodman Dam and its weed choked reservoir as a state recreation area, thereby preventing restoration of the Ocklawaha River; and a bill granting The Northwest Florida Water Management District a two year extension on the deadline for implementing an environmental resource permit. That District routinely ignores wetlands protection regulations in the Panhandle and developers there want that practice to continue. There were other bills that would have done serious damage to our state that luckily never made it out of the various committees that bills go through on their way to passage. The efforts of people like **Eric Draper** and **Charles Lee** of Audubon of Florida, **Susie Caplowe** of Sierra Club and others who toil tirelessly in the state Capitol are all that kept these bad bills from being enacted. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. Now, if the Governor will just keep his contract with the people of the state...

On Tuesday, May 13th, the New Smyrna Beach City Commission meeting was the stage for a victory by the "people" so to speak. The Commission chambers were filled with people holding signs saying, "No Water Taxi at Smyrna Dunes Park." It seems some carpet baggin' consultant came down here to tell us how to spend our tax dollars on transportation issues. He discovered there was no water taxi operating across Ponce Inlet. Along comes Congressman John Mica, who happens to sit on the House Transportation Committee. Suddenly, he delivers \$750,000.00 earmarked for the taxi. Veterans needing health care are being turned away from VA clinics, kids are being kicked off school lunch programs, etc., all for lack off funds. But we're getting 3/4 of a million dollars for a water taxi that just about no one wants. Is this a great system or what? The phone lines to the City Commissioners had been heating up in the days prior to the meeting. It was clear that the voters

of New Smyrna Beach wanted no changes at Smyrna Dunes Park. The land the park sits on was the site of dredge material dumped after one of the restorations of Ponce Inlet and donated to the County by the federal government. Through the efforts of the members of Southeast Volusia Audubon, the county developed a passive park that for a number of years offered excellent nesting habitat for colonial nesting shorebirds, like Least Terns and Black Skimmers. The County has a Habitat Conservation Plan that calls for some vegetation management to restore that nesting habitat. They'll have to be careful though. The Endangered Southeastern Beach Mouse also breeds there and their needs have to be addressed too. **Lee Bidgood** rose to speak eloquently about the history of the park and its importance to the people of the area. The Commissioners listened. They voted to accept the money so as to retain control of the project but they solemnly promised to prevent any degradation or changes to Smyrna Dunes Park. It was a small but important victory for the people



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet*

*Don R. Eckelberry*

### SPRUCE CREEK PARK

*April's Tuesday morning gatherings*

*Ray Scory*

Spruce Creek yields its treasures reluctantly. However, that is exactly what makes birding at the park so exciting. The birds are there but you must find them.

Five Tuesday mornings in April we met at the Park for about two hours each morning. Graciously the Park assembled forty-five different species of birds for our viewing pleasure.

One morning, three of us witnessed for about a half hour the antics of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and seven species of warblers flitting through live oak and myrtle foliage. Incredibly, we saw it all by standing in just one spot. The wonder of it all, never to be repeated again any other Tuesday morning.

If you want to hear a chorus of Clapper Rails, or see majestic Bald Eagles soaring against an azure sky, or dream along with soft April winds rippling through the sky blue waters, try Spruce Creek Park. It may not happen every time, but it will happen.



## SPECIAL REPORT – Part 3

### ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF WEST NILE VIRUS

*Rick Weiss, Washington Post 28 Dec. 2002 [edited]*

Zoos may take the lead in the fight against West Nile virus. More than 100 U.S. zoos and wildlife parks have joined a newly created information-sharing network, which has its headquarters at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, to track West Nile virus infection and other emerging infections in exotic animals. Some scientists suspect the network may even prove useful in the cause of homeland security, by providing a sensitive nationwide "sentinel system" for detecting the first hints of a bioterrorism attack. After all, zoo officials noted, New York crows were dying in droves in the fall of 1999, but no one figured out that West Nile virus was the culprit, or that the deaths were related to a spate of unusual human illnesses, until a crow died on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo. Zoos, it turns out, take every death seriously -- even those of non-zoo animals on zoo grounds -- because any death can mark the start of a devastating epidemic. "Every dead animal is picked up and immediately necropsied," said McNamara, the Bronx Zoo pathologist. "That's not true in Central Park." When the Bronx crow was found to be teeming with West Nile virus, it was the first evidence that the Old World virus had leaped the Atlantic -- and the beginning of the recognition that an epidemic was already under way in humans. A zoo vet could be the first to know whether terrorists have released a human or animal pathogen. The consortium is seeking federal funding.

Still, some scientists fear that the nation may soon become less able to prevent outbreaks such as that of West Nile virus -- whether accidental or intentional. They said the U.S. system for screening incoming animal, plant and microbial life, a patchwork of more than 20 agencies, has long been undervalued and underfunded. Now the largest component, the Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is to become part of the new Homeland Security Department. That's leading many ecologists to fear that it will narrow its focus to classical bioterrorism pathogens such as anthrax, leaving the nation more vulnerable to [agents] such as West Nile virus. "I have a feeling that beetles in imported wood packaging are not going to be at the top of the list," said Faith T. Campbell, director of the invasive species program at the American Lands Alliance in Washington. Yet the recent U.S. invasion by Asian longhorned beetles, which arrived in wood packaging from China, is expected to cost the nation as much as \$669 billion in insect-destroyed trees in urban areas alone in coming decades, Campbell said. The West Nile virus epidemic should be a wake-up call to beef up the nation's surveillance and quarantine network, scientists say.

## SMITHSONIAN AND AUDUBON HOST

### SUMMIT ON WEST NILE VIRUS

*From the Pelican, newsletter of Audubon of St. Johns, Feb/Mar 03*

In response to the alarming spread of West Nile virus (it has now been found in all but 4 of the continental states), a 2-day summit was held in early February attended by ornithologists, virologists, epidemiologists, entomologists and other scientists. The attendees outlined a series of steps that need to be taken to understand West Nile virus and its effects on people and wildlife. Scientists discussed the threat the virus poses to our native bird populations. "West Nile has infected more than 100 bird species and has killed countless numbers of birds and other wildlife," said Audubon Senior V.P. of Science, Frank Gill.

West Nile virus, endemic to Africa, Eastern Europe, Western Asia and the Middle East, but not the Western Hemisphere, hit New York in 1999 and spread at an alarming rate both geographically and regarding the number of humans and animals affected. The disease is most commonly transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes, although host-to-host (i.e. human to human, bird to bird) transmission has now been confirmed.

The group set several research priorities: how the virus spreads geographically, how it is transmitted from host to host, how to assess its impact on birds and other wildlife, and how we might intervene successfully.

The group will continue to cooperate and collaborate and will meet again in July 2004 to reassess the situation.

**"It is I,"** said the Sparrow, **"with my little bow and arrow."** Scientists do not know why corvids such as the blue jay are so susceptible to West Nile virus. Most likely, it is simply some unlucky combination of the particular viral strain that has invaded North America and these species' genetic makeup. The nonnative house sparrow suffers relatively low mortality, although it carries and multiplies the virus in its body. Like the pathogen, the bird is an Old World native, so it makes sense that it has some resistance.

Researchers now suspect that house sparrows play a major role both harboring the virus over winter and spreading it across the country.



*Sheridan Oman*

## TURTLE DAY

*Willie Burns*

Turtle Day, held for the first time on April 5, 2003 in Ponce Inlet, was a clear success. Those of use from HRA set up our display on the broad porch along with many other interesting organizations.

Turtle Day was held to commemorate the successful opening of the Marine Science Center, Earth Day, and the release of a huge rehabilitated turtle back into the Atlantic Ocean. Guided tours were given of the facilities, with easy to understand talks on how and why the animals were being cared for.

**David Hartgrove** and other Chapter members answered many questions about local birds. We did see some warblers, woodpeckers, and other birds in the trees near the porch. The numbers were perhaps lessened by the feral cats at the Lighthouse.

As always, our Golden Dog book-selling operation was advancing our missions of information and education. We sold lots of books, increasing our treasury at the same time.

Members of our Chapter should plan on attending these Earth Day type events. Speaking to an interested public is always fun. We always hear some interesting stories and new members are often added to our Chapter at the same time. All that is needed is to wait for someone to stop at our display, and talk to them.

It is even more fun when we are "selling bird feeders." These are pinecones, coated with peanut butter and birdseed. Everyone loves to make them. Our members enjoy helping just as much! It sparks interest in birds both among the children and their parents. We did not have the space at Ponce Inlet, but make these fun things at the Manatee Fest and Washington Oaks.

Plan on joining us next year! If you cannot help with our display booth, come and enjoy the tours of the facility.

## OXYOPS CONTROLS MELALEUCA

*From Lake Region Audubon News, March-April 2003*

*Oxyops vitiosa* is an Australian weevil imported into Florida to control melaleuca tree growth. These trees and non-native and tend to replace native trees. Initial beetle releases occurred April 1997. Weevils now exist in Dade, Broward, Lee, Collier, Palm Beach, and Glade counties. Melaleuca weevils, also called melaleuca snout beetles, do not move around; they stay in a small area and eat only new melaleuca leaves. They must be physically moved to new areas.

In January 2003, several of the tiny melaleuca weevils were released at Street Audubon Center by the Polk County Extension Office and Audubon. Street Nature Center is the farthest north they have been released and this winter's cold weather may have damaged the weevils. The weevils will continue to be

monitored carefully by Educator/Naturalist Dawn Spieth and the Polk County Extension Office.

For more information and photos, visit [http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/beneficial/melaleuca\\_weevil.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/beneficial/melaleuca_weevil.htm).

## DUNLAWTON BRIDGE - MAY 25, 2003

*Ray Scory*

You can count on it. At least one eventful sighting every time will present itself on our Sunday evening field trips to the Dunlawton Bridge, and it happened again.

All fifteen birders in attendance kept their binoculars and two spotting scopes training on the eleven American Oystercatchers scurrying about on the oyster flats of Island #3. Three of those eleven were American Oystercatcher chicks, and what a privilege it was to witness their behavior. The chicks were gray in color with white bellies. Their long, stout bills hinted at what is to mature into a life of probing among the rich bivalves of the Halifax River.

Only one word can describe their behavior for us – adorable. A chick gently eased down into the shadow side of the adult's body. Side by side, bodies touching, one in the protected side of the other, the other resting, ever alert – with her chick.

Two living creatures, one protected, the other protecting, one teaching, the other taught. This evening, going about their natural ways, they let us in to witness this wonderful moment.



Now best of all, to make the experience even sweeter, captain **Willie Burns** was there with his ever-reliable boat, *The Passing Wind*, and sea savvy first mate, **Kitty Albee**. Kitty boarded three birders at a time and they cruised the waters surrounding the bridge, getting the opportunity to see up close the antics of the young chicks on the oyster bar. Thanks Willie and Kitty.

Twenty-eight species of birds were identified this evening by fourteen observers and one boat. Some other birds observed were Caspian and Royal Terns, Least Terns and a Black-crowned Night-heron.

The evening faded into night as Willie and his boat came across sunset waters to say goodnight to thankful birders.

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JUNE 2003

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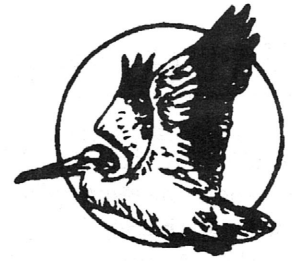
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# THE PELICAN



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**VOL. 49 - NO. 2**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**AUGUST 2003**

## WELCOME TO AUDUBON ADVENTURES

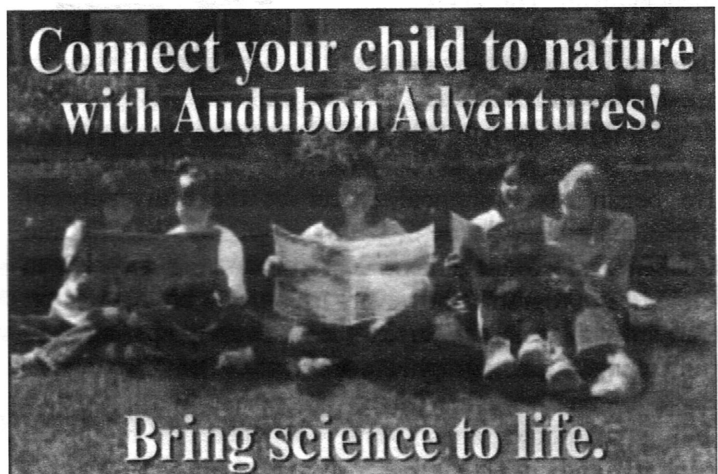
**Rose Mary Cole**

As a member of Halifax River Audubon you may not be aware that one of the many projects of our chapter is called **AUDUBON ADVENTURES**. This is an education resource kit for grades 3 through 6 about birds, wildlife, and habitats and is made available by the National Audubon Society. The program has received many awards nationally.

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES** helps hundreds of Audubon Chapters implement successful educational outreach into local schools. Last year Halifax River Audubon provided Classroom Resource Kits for 12 classrooms in nine elementary schools in the Halifax Area. We hope to continue to increase the number of classrooms involved in this exciting program for our students. Materials are professionally designed to increase awareness and appreciation in children about birds, wildlife, and the natural systems of the earth and to create in them a sense of stewardship for the natural world. Each Classroom Resource Kit contains supplies for up to 32 students at a cost of \$35.00 per kit plus \$6.50 for shipping and handling. Here is what is included:

- **Audubon Adventures** Student Newspapers: 4 editions (32 copies of each per kit) of a tabloid-style newspaper for students, focusing on 4 different nature science themes; a "you-are-there" essay; paper-and-pencil activities and puzzles, and suggestions for involving families.
- Classroom Resource Manual for the teacher complete with background information on four different topics, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, hands-on activities, research material, duplicating masters, links to relevant websites, glossaries, etc.
- Plus **FREE BONUS** items: Audubon's Guide to a Healthy Schoolyard, an official classroom certificate, Florida-specific inserts, and a Healthy Habitat poster.

Four themes in the **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** series will be released this fall. These are: Grasslands, Coniferous Forests, Fresh Water Environments, and Urban Habitats. **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** is aligned to National Standards for science and language arts. Charts are included in every kit to help teachers enhance student's science literacy while reinforcing learning in language arts and other curriculum areas.



One other bonus that comes with involvement in this program: National Audubon Society provides each of our participating teachers membership in Halifax River Audubon, Audubon of Florida, and Halifax River Audubon – what a great way to add to an informed membership.

Please send your check for \$41.50 made to Halifax River Audubon to Rose Mary Cole, 3333 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

## A CHANGE IN PLANS

As you know, Halifax River Audubon has changed its monthly program meeting place to SICA Hall in Holly Hill. We had thought the change also meant changing our meeting time. But we have learned that we can still meet the Third Monday at our new location.

So we will see you there, SICA Hall, on September 15 at 7:00 pm!

## MERRITT ISLAND - "GARDEN IN THE SUN"

**Ray Scory**

Halifax River Audubon will begin our new program year at a new location. On September 15 at 7 pm at SICA Hall (new meeting place) **Marc Epstein** will present "Garden in the Sun."

The Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge spans over 140,000 acres. Marc Epstein explores the refuge's amazing ecology in a web of wildlife that inhabit its swamps, marshes, uplands, and coastal beach and dune systems.

Marc takes you on an outstanding photographic journey with wonderful images and sound tracts that bring you an intimate vision of the heart and spirit of our National Wildlife Refuge System at Merritt Island. His program begins with the basic science of wetlands and wildlife and leaves you with an enhanced understanding and appreciation of the art and science of wildlife management. This is an outstanding audio-visual presentation and a moving experience of landscape and wildlife at Merritt Island NWR.



Marc is a professionally Certified Wildlife Biologist. He began his biological career at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a degree in Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management. Before pursuing a career in biological programs, however, Marc was an Art major. Part of his undergraduate thesis was preparing and publishing a photographic documentary of "time lapse ecology" on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts using "then and now" photographs. Marc continued his biological studies and received a MS degree in Wildlife Management. Marc started working as a Wildlife Research Biologist in S.C. He came to Florida in 1985 as the Manager of the Guana River Wildlife Management Area in St Johns County, and was later promoted to Florida Statewide Wetland Wildlife Coordinator. In 1994, he joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the North Florida Endangered Species Section. Marc currently serves at Merritt Island NWR as the Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Marc is also a professional photographer who has published in numerous national and international books and magazines. Marc's work has appeared in Outdoor Life, Coastal Living, Field & Stream, Ducks Unlimited, Florida Wildlife, Audubon, and many other magazines. Some of his photography may be viewed at [www.marcepstein.homestead.com](http://www.marcepstein.homestead.com). Come join us and Marc on the wonderful journey into sound and photography.

## CALENDAR

### Saturday, August 2

Audubon Regional Conservation Committee meets in Altamonte Springs 10am to 3pm.

### Monday, August 4

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30. Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street.

### Wednesday, August 6

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club, Barbara Herrin, "Wetlands Alert." 7pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill

### Friday, August 29

**President's Choice Field Trip**- Princess Place. Meet at Publix parking lot on Williamson and Granada Blvds. 7:30 am. Led by President John Roessler. 386-255-9826

### Tuesday, September 2

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30. Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street.

### Monday, September 15

**HRA Program Meeting, Marc Epstein**, "Garden in the Sun," 7:00 pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill.

### Saturday, September 20

**International Migratory Bird Count**. Meet at eastern end of parking lot at City Island Court. 7:00 am. Led by David Hartgrove 386-788-2630.

### Sunday, September 28

**HRA Field Trip**. Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway Park 5:00pm. Meet under bridge, northwest side. Led by Kitty Albee 386-254-8246

### Monday, October 6

**HRA Board Meeting**, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach. 1:30pm

### **NOTE:**

The movie "Winged Migration" is a film about birds and their migrations. It has been getting rave reviews from those who have traveled to Maitland to see it.



**Betty Nelson**, of Cinamatique in Daytona Beach, says that the film will be on their Fall Film Schedule. The dates are not available at this time. Cinamatique exhibits choice foreign and unusual films at N&S Cinema 6, located behind the Volusia Mall.

**W**ELCOME to new Halifax River Audubon members **Elaine Brayton, Walter Dunagan, Barbara A. Fink, Charles H. Frank Jr., Robert Haab, Hottinger, Grace Kwiatkowski, Paul Merenda, Wanda J. Pierson, Irene Tworkorski, Jill Winter, and Joseph Woodbury.**

### CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

Population growth across the globe averages 1.4%. Florida's growth rate averages 2.6%. The state's population increased by 3 million people, just in the 1990's. In 2001 the state's population was estimated at 16 million. Unchecked, that figure will double in the next 27 years to 32 million! Try finding a quiet place to bird watch or have a reflective moment then.

Our "leaders" assure us that growth is inevitable and judging by events of the past, this seems accurate. The haphazard approach to growth management that has marked our "progress" up to now has been a disaster, for our quality of life and for the environment we all need to survive. So when Volusia County announces the intention to establish a mechanism to help channel future development into existing urban boundaries, rather than allowing the bulldozing of ever increasing acres of wild and agricultural habitat, we need to listen to see if it's something we can support.

On Saturday, July 19th, I attended a meeting at the Port Orange Library, complete with coffee, muffins, granola and power point presentations. The meeting was hosted by "Delfa" (Deltonans For Accountability) and the county's Growth Management Department. The morning began with a slide show by **Michelle Moen**, of Delfa, that catalogued many of Volusia County's environmental jewels and the risk they face. Then **Ron Paradise**, a third generation Floridian and a 13 year veteran of the Growth Management Department, delivered a presentation introducing "UGB." That's the concept of Urban Growth Boundaries, a term we're likely to see a lot about in the media over the next few years. The idea is that the county will encourage development in areas considered urban now (i.e. within city limits) and discourage development in areas currently zoned agricultural or environmentally sensitive. This plan is still in the early stages and as always, the devil is in the details. But as presented, this seems a positive development in the county's attitude toward growth management.

### CALL FOR ACTION

*David Hartgrove*

A positive development on the growth management front is the move for a constitutional amendment to place land use decisions in the hands of those most affected, the voters of our state. The "Referenda Required for Adoption and Amendment of Local Government Land Use Plans" is a mouthful and has developers and local government officials whining already. To me, this is a sure sign that we're on the right track. Simply put, this amendment would require the public vote for any changes to local Comprehensive Growth Management Plans. This doesn't mean that every zoning change sought by a business wanting a bigger sign will have to meet voter approval. It does mean that what's about to happen to the "LOOP" would have been in the hands of the voters had this amendment been in place two years ago.

If, like me, you're sick of seeing large tracts of beautiful, environmentally sensitive land turned into acres of asphalt and St. Augustine grass, I urge you to sign and mail the petition you'll find in this copy of The Pelican. As we're on summer hiatus, it was necessary to contact board members via e-mail before making the major decision to include this petition in our newsletter. We are not a political organization. We do not, as a group, endorse candidates or political parties. But this is a nonpartisan issue and goes to the heart of our motto.

If we want "to be the stewards of this natural world," we need to be more involved in decisions made regarding its future. At this time, we call, write letters, and attend meetings to speak out in favor of preservation of our environmental heritage. Then a couple of attorneys and a developer have a closed door meeting somewhere, followed by a close vote in a council chamber. The next thing you know, here come the bulldozers.

Enough! This proposed amendment would mean that we, the people, would decide what our future would be. Our chapter's board urges you to sign and mail in the enclosed petition. Then vote "YES" when it appears on the ballot. We can decide what kind of home we want for our children and ourselves.

\*\*\*\*\* PETITION INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\*

- 50,000 authenticated petitions must be presented in Tallahassee this fall, so that the Florida Supreme Court can OK the petition's legality.
- 500,000 petitions must be submitted by August 3, 2004, which would allow the proposed constitutional amendment to appear on the fall 2004 ballot.
- Copies of the petition can be picked up from an Audubon chapter or Sierra Club leader or by printing out forms from [www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com) or by writing to Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc., PO Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170.

# THE PELICAN



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<b>Rachel Ramsey</b>	Vice President	673-1037	blooheron@earthlink.net
	Ways & Means		
<b>Madeline Shaddix</b>	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
<b>Lois Robinson</b>	Treasurer	760-8480	marobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
<b>Jean Lesh</b>	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyingsqrl@bellsouth.net
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	Ways & Means		
<b>John Carr</b>	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
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<b>Willie Burns</b>	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
<b>Kevin Doxstater</b>	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@mindspring.com
<b>Reid Hughes</b>	At-Large	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
<b>Barbara Kieran</b>	At-Large	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
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<b>Rosemary Cole</b>	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
<b>David Hartgrove</b>	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
<b>Kevin DeWall</b>	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
<b>Ray Scory</b>	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
<b>Angelo Cerrito</b>	Finance	767-5397	
<b>Open</b>	Hospitality		
<b>Fran Carr</b>	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
<b>Joan and James Anderson</b>	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	<b>Mary Keller</b>	252-2794
Bird Identification	<b>Lois Robinson</b>	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

AUGUST 2003

**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
 appreciates the support of its 2003-2003  
*The Pelican* Underwriter

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

**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
 appreciates the support of our activities by  
**THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL**

**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 SICA Hall, Holly Hill, 3065 Daytona Ave., 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 and time.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 49 - NO. 3**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**SEPTEMBER 2003**

## Come To Our First Meeting

### SICA HALL

*Ray Scory*

If you can only make one meeting this year, this is the one you want to attend. It is special for three exciting reasons.

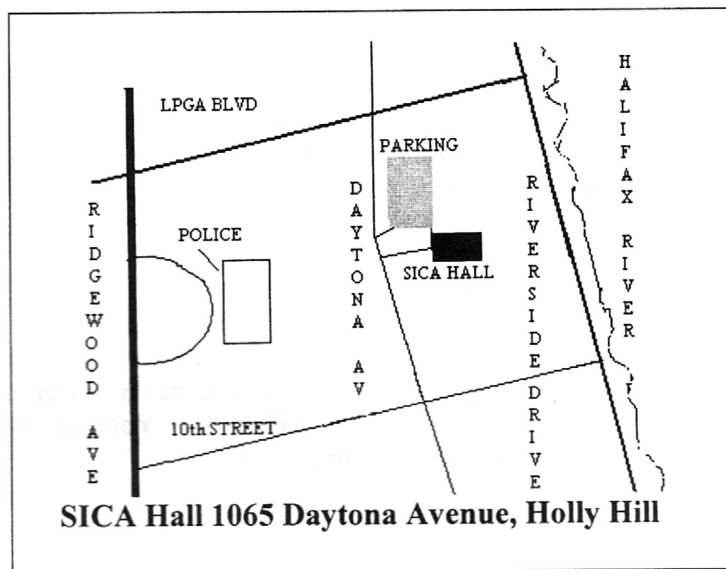
One - we have moved to a new location with a larger hall, nicer facilities, better, easier and more parking, easier to find and a space to display members' artwork.

Two - **Ken Doxstater** will be our first artist to display in THE PELICAN GALLERY. He will exhibit new bird photographs of incredible beauty and impact. You must come to see startling images created with technology from the new age of digital photography.

Three - **Marc Epstein**, Senior Biologist for Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, will present a program "Garden in the Sun, An Intimate Look At Merritt Island NWR," one of the great birding hotspots on the east coast. Marc is an accomplished photographer. His color images will enhance this audio-visual program.

These are three great reasons to attend and, for one more time, **Steve and Barbara Kieran** will serve as hospitality host and hostess. Their unselfish service volunteered for this meeting only adds frosting to an already delicious cake.

SICA Hall is located at 1065 Daytona Avenue in Holly Hill directly behind Holly Hill City Complex. Here is a map to help you find SICA Hall.



## CALENDAR

### Tuesday, September 2

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street. Note date change because of Labor Day.

### Wednesday, September 3

Sierra Club. David Griffis "Smart Growth and Our Natural Resources." 7:00m at SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill, directly behind Holly Hill city Complex

### Sunday, September 7

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Grandparents Day. 10am-4pm. Games, Crafts, and Adopt-A-Bird (2-4pm). Birds up-close and personal. Grandparents free with grandchild paying \$4. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 407-644-0190.

### Friday, September 12

Film "Winged Migration" will show at W&S Theater in Daytona Beach for one week. Sponsored by Cinamatique.

### **Monday, September 15**

**HRA Program Meeting, Marc Epstein**, "Garden in the Sun," 7:00pm, SICA Hall, Holly Hill.

### Saturday, September 20

**International Migratory Bird Count**. Meet 7:00am at City Island Court House Annex east parking lot. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630. Bring lunch.

### **Saturday, September 27**

Audubon District Conservation Meeting. 10am-3pm.

### **Sunday, September 28**

**HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway Park**. Meet 5:00pm under bridge, NW side. Led by Kitty Albee 254-8246.

### Sunday, October 5

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Anniversary Celebration." 10am-4pm. Celebrate 24 years of raptor rehabilitation. Free. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 407-644-0190.

### Monday, October 6

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach.

### Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28

**HRA Field Gatherings. Spruce Creek Park**. Meet 8:00am at Spruce Creek Park pier. Led by Kevin Doxstater 212-4319 or Ray Scory 763-4260.

### Thursday - Sunday, October 9-12

Florida Birding & Nature Festival. See article.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

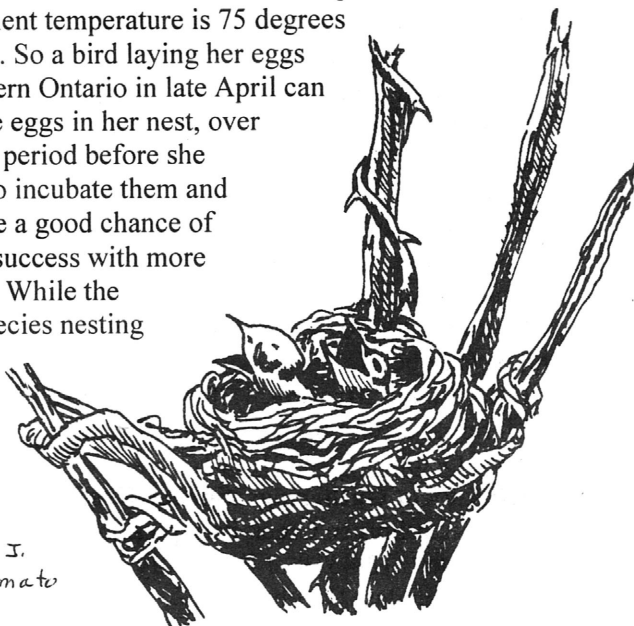
*David Hartgrove*

Summer is winding down. Reports of early migrants are being posted daily on the Internet. And a new study, just released by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, says that any birds nesting now face higher risk of failure. Birds here in Florida often raise two or more broods in a year. Any of you who have watched your back yard feeders know that it's common to see the local Cardinals with their fledglings in tow as early as late March and again by mid-July. It has long been known that birds nesting in southern latitudes nest more frequently. They also lay fewer eggs per nest than other members of their species nesting further north. This new study may show why.

Generally speaking, songbirds lay one egg per day and do not begin incubation until the last, or second to the last, egg has been laid. This helps guarantee that all of the eggs will hatch at about the same time. When eggs hatch at staggered times, the nestlings hatching earliest develop faster and grow larger than their siblings. When the parents return to the nest with food, they tend to feed the largest mouth and that can mean starvation for those hatching late. This is why cowbird nest parasitism has such deleterious effects. A recent post on the Florida Birds List (an Internet birding site) asked for help in identifying a large, noisy bird being fed by a pair of Northern Parula Warblers. It was a young Brown-headed Cowbird whose mother had laid an egg in the Northern Parula Warblers' nest. No doubt this interloper was the only one to survive from that nest. But this is about nest temperature and viability, not Brown-headed Cowbirds.

### Nest Temperature

Optimum temperature for embryo development in songbird eggs is between 96 and 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Eggs can remain viable for extended periods if the ambient temperature is 75 degrees or lower. So a bird laying her eggs in southern Ontario in late April can lay more eggs in her nest, over a longer period before she begins to incubate them and still have a good chance of nesting success with more of them. While the same species nesting



in Daytona Beach at the same time of year faces higher temperatures. Eggs exposed to ambient temperatures above, say, 82 degrees before incubation begins, are subject to asynchronous, abnormal development. So the nest in Ontario may hatch 7 of the 7 eggs laid. While the nest in Daytona Beach may hatch only 4 of the 5 eggs laid due to the exposure to higher temperatures prior to the onset of incubation. Through Cornell Lab's "Birdhouse Network," citizen scientists will continue to monitor Eastern Bluebird nests to collect information on how many eggs are laid. And soon they'll be using dime sized data loggers that will record nest temperatures over an extended period. This information can provide insight into incubation activity by the female.

So, why is this important in the grand scheme of things? The more we know about the natural world, the better we'll be able to protect it in the future. One possible effect of global warming could be that birds will be forced to reduce the numbers of eggs they lay. Fewer eggs translate to fewer birds and for some species that could tip the balance toward extinction. In the vast web of life, one thing can have unintended consequences for another.

### Overnight Trip

#### LAKE CITY

*Ray Scory*

Date: November 7 and 8, 2003

Deadline for reservations: October 20, 2003

Limited to 25 people

We will depart Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. for two wonderful days of birding. Our destination is Lake City, Florida where we will explore two or three birding hotspots in the region.

Alligator Lake Park is our first day destination. This park is a newly purchased private park of diverse habitat, still revealing its wildlife wonders.

Saturday morning we will begin our search for northern migrants and wintering ducks at PCS Phosphate Company's private property. **Julie Barshears**, coordinator for the Great Florida Bird Trail informed me that this summer she found Whistling Ducks and flocks of water birds and shore birds there.

For more information or to sign up, call **Ray Scory**, come to the September and October meetings, and read your *Pelican*.

### NOTICE:

**Mary Keller**, bird rehabber, needs supplies for her injured and sick birds. Weary migrants will be coming through our area soon. Don't forget her and the birds. Her address is 1216 Denece Terrace in Holly Hill. You can call **Pat Mihalic** at 767-9437 for pickup.

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The National Audubon Society publishes an environmental education program in kit form for children in grades 4 to 6. Each classroom kit includes a classroom resource manual, videotape, internet projects and four different editions of a newspaper. Through these articles and hands on activities, children develop an understanding and appreciation of wildlife and the importance of preserving habitat.

Each issue of **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** will journey to a natural place in a "you are there" style. Students will learn about regions in North America and explore principles and processes in the environment.

Halifax River Audubon has sponsored many classrooms in the past. Please consider a \$41.50 donation for our Chapter project. Call **Rose Mary Cole** 756-1422 for more information. Checks should be made out to "Halifax River Audubon" with "Audubon Adventures" in the memo area and can be sent to Rose Mary Cole, 3333 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118 or given to her at the meetings.

## AUDUBON'S ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

- What: Audubon of Florida Assembly 2003
- When: October 24 through 25, 2003. Assembly opens Thursday with Buffet Breakfast. Concludes Saturday at 3 pm after closing remarks.
- Location: The Rosen Plaza Hotel on International Drive, Orlando

Join us for this year's assembly with its theme of Connecting People with Nature. Share programs, workshops and meals with fellow birdwatchers, activists, educators, citizen scientists - people who make room for nature in their communities and in their lives.

Your Annual Assembly is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new connections with the people who share the same values and are pursuing similar goals. Help us prioritize Audubon of Florida's conservation agenda for next year. Attend workshops on chapter leadership, environmental issues, and advanced birdwatching skills.

Your registration fee covers all events including lunches and Friday's fabulous dinner program. Register early (before September 23rd) for only \$99.

Look for registration materials in the August edition of *The Florida Naturalist* (which you have probably already received) or visit our website [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org) to download additional information.



## ST PETERSBURG FESTIVAL

This spectacular festival will present some of

the most prominent and expert birders in seminars and field trips October 9 through 12. **George Archibald**, **Steve Nesbitt**, and **Jim Kraus** will hold a special seminar on Whooping Cranes. Symposium members are **Lou Hines** (National Wildlife Refuge S.E. Regional Manager), **Rich Paul** (Audubon's Coastal Islands Sanctuaries Manager), **Arthur Morris** (Wildlife Photographer), **Ron Hight** (Merritt Island NWR Manager), and **Jim Kraus** (Chassahowitzka NWR Manager).

Seminars will be offered on Florida's frogs, turtles, and bats; on woodpeckers, Scrub-Jays, Wood Storks, hummingbirds, and warblers; on butterflies and their plants; and on photography. Many seminars are geared especially for children and their families.

And more than 30 field trips are available for all skill levels of wildlife watchers.

The event will be headquartered at Eckerd College, where Halifax River Audubon members have stayed during two overnight field trips. Other hotels are available, but you can't possibly do better than to sign up to stay at Eckerd College. And the price is right - \$60 plus tax per night!

So make your reservation now for Eckerd College Lodge before it fills up, at (800)465-9009. For questions about registration for the Festival, call 1(866)734-2473 or e-mail [regfbnf@earthlink.net](mailto:regfbnf@earthlink.net).

## Center for Birds of Prey "First Sunday of the Month" Program

First Sundays of the Month are special at the Center with special programs for special events. September's First Sunday event will be Grandparents Day; October's event is their 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; November's event is Eagles in Florida; and December's event features Holiday gift items.



Check the Calendar in our newsletter, or call the Center at (407)-644-0190 for more information. The Center is located at 1101 Audubon Way in Maitland.

P.S. Admission price is \$5.00, but Audubon Members get a 10% discount! .

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

*Fran Carr*

Representatives of Audubon Chapters located along the east coast of Florida met August 2 to discuss conservation issues common to the Chapters in this area. These issues are organized into resolutions that will be brought before the Audubon of Florida Assembly. If approved by the Assembly they then become official Audubon policy. The full name of the committee is "Audubon Conservation Committee of St. Johns River Water Management District/Indian River Lagoon."

There was spirited debate on the wording of the resolutions and most were sent back to committee for final text. The group will meet again before the Audubon Assembly for final approval.

Resolutions:

- Model Fertilizer And Pesticide Ordinance For The Indian River Lagoon. Committee will make into model Resolution.
- Land Acquisition Resolution. Sent back to committee.
- Climate Change Resolution. Sent back to committee.
- Green Swamp Area Resolution. Passed.

Other items brought before the committee were a review of conservation concerns around the State; review of land purchased for \$40 million by the SJRWMD in the Matanzas Marsh in St. Johns County; discussion of the Hometown Democracy Petition for Constitutional Amendment; and the search for an environmentalist to become a member of the St. Johns River Alliance. Four members of our Chapter were present: **John Roessler, David Hartgrove, and John and Fran Carr.**

**W**ELCOME to new Halifax River Audubon members **Daytona Cubs, Buck Rogers, Charlotte Fenwick, and Elaine Brayton.**

### More What's-In-A-Name

*Willie Burns*

We all enjoy seeing Egrets. And of course there are females. Are they called "Egresses?" Or is that the term used when Poppa Egret fools around a little and Mamma Bird shows him the door?

Perhaps the Egress is accessing the egress... I know, that is an ibis-mal pun (that should be tossed into an abyss).

Bird puns don't soar like eagles, at least to some of us. There are even those who call Creepers "Halloween Birds" for being creepy. Some people even say all puns are for the birds!

Before my digressions cause aggressions, I'll find the egress from this column and go watch several Egresses.

## THE PELICAN GALLERY

*Ray Scory*

We now have a place to showcase our artistic talents. It is called THE PELICAN GALLERY and is located in the entrance lobby of SICA Hall, our new monthly meeting location.

All Audubon members are welcomed to exhibit their artistic specialties. We will exhibit all visual media that can hang on a wall such as photographs, paintings, charcoal drawings and snapshots. The one restriction is that the subject matter must be of Florida wildlife, landscapes or human interest. The creative works of a particular artist can be exhibited for a period of three to six months. However, you will exhibit at your own risk. Halifax River Audubon is not responsible for the damage or loss of your artwork. Please contact Ray Scory if you wish to display your artwork at THE PELICAN GALLERY.

### Kevin Doxstater Exhibits

Kevin Doxstater has agreed to be our first exhibitor and a reception will be held in his honor at our first monthly meeting, September 15, 2003. The reception is immediately after our short business meeting, following the speaker's presentation.

Judging from the slide show he presented to us this past year, his photographic display of spectacular photographs of birds should be a resounding treat.

Come meet the artist, talk to him about his work and just enjoy his wonderful exhibit of bird photography.

### MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

New Members of National Audubon. Use the green ink form supplied by Halifax River Audubon. Give it or mail it to **John Carr** (359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, 32118) with a check to **National Audubon Society**. This way we get credit. Cost is \$20.60 and \$15.60 for Seniors and Students. Includes *Audubon Magazine* and Audubon of Florida *Naturalist*.

Chapter Only Members. Use green ink form. Write "Chapter Only" on it. Give it or mail it to **John Carr** with a check to **Halifax River Audubon**. Cost is \$20.00, \$15.00 for Seniors and Students. Chapter Only Members will receive our Chapter newsletter only.

Renew National Audubon Membership. Send regular renewal to National Audubon Society on their form. We will get credit automatically. We do not process these renewals.

Renew Chapter Only Membership. The Chapter will notify you when your membership should be renewed.

Answer the Famous Owl:

**WHOO...**



.....wants to expand their enjoyment of birds and the environment? All one has to do is volunteer to assist one of our committees. Easy work and lots of fun. No money accrues, just lots of fun and pleasure.

Halifax River Audubon needs assistance with ALL of our programs. This

includes hospitality, Audubon Adventures, Golden Dog, field trips, programs, greeting new members, even selling raffle tickets. You do not have to take over a program and do a large amount of work; just help.

Interested in Conservation? **David Hartgrove** can always use another person to help ease his load. Coming to our Earth Day events and helping is the simplest thing there is. Just show up and talk to people about birds and nature.

Don't feel left out because someone has not asked you to help, nor be too shy to volunteer. The heart of every organization is those who volunteer to help keep

things running. The heartbeat of America is its core of volunteers.

The Famous Owl is asking "WHOO" would like to get a little more involved? It's possible in just about any facet of what we do. Join in! It is more fun than you may think. All it takes is a little time.

Speak to any board member at the next meeting, or call the person in charge of a program you would like to learn more about. It is very easy to do. Most of us have ideas of things we'd like the Chapter to do. Fell free to speak up.

## FALL MIGRATION COUNT

*David Hartgrove*

The Fall Migration Count will be held on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. in the usual place. This is an all-day event but we can easily make arrangements to get you back to your car if you need to leave early. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in a "citizen science" project, enjoy the outdoors and see a lot of birds.

We'll be divided into at least four teams to cover our area. There will also be teams from Southeast Volusia Audubon and West Volusia Audubon covering their respective territories. We have a lot of fun, enjoy a picnic lunch (be sure to bring yours), and learn a lot too. So please join us and in order to make planning teams easier, be sure to call or e-mail me to let me know you're coming

## SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

**November 12-16, 2003**



**PELAGIC BIRDING TRIP  
MORE THAN 30 FIELD TRIPS  
SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS  
NATURE BASED TRADE SHOW  
KAYAK TRIPS  
BOAT TRIPS  
ART COMPETITION  
VENDORS WELCOME**

### **NEW THIS YEAR - KAYAKING SEMINARS & TRADE SHOW**

This exciting five-day event offers an opportunity to explore the globally significant natural areas of Florida's Space Coast, home of the largest collection of endangered wildlife and plants in the continental United States.

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE - KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

For more information contact:  
Neta Harris - 321-268-5224  
Laurilee Thompson - 321-268-5000  
[www.nbbd.com/fly](http://www.nbbd.com/fly)



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITION FORM

104.185 – A person who knowingly signs a petition or petitions for a candidate, minor political party, or an issue more than one time commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the following amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the next general election.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name as it appears on Voter I.D. Card

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ -or- DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

√ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF REGISTERED VOTER DATE SIGNED

**BALLOT TITLE:** REFERENDA REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS.

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Public participation in local government comprehensive land use planning benefits Florida's natural resources, scenic beauty and citizens. Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice. Provides definitions.

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA THAT:

**Article II, Section 7. Natural resources and scenic beauty** of the Florida Constitution is amended to add the following subsection:

Public participation in local government comprehensive land use planning benefits the conservation and protection of Florida's natural resources and scenic beauty, and the long-term quality of life of Floridians. Therefore, before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, such proposed plan or plan amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body as provided by general law, and notice thereof in a local newspaper of general circulation. Notice and referendum will be as provided by general law. This amendment shall become effective immediately upon approval by the electors of Florida.

For purposes of this subsection:

1. "Local government" means a county or municipality.
2. "Local government comprehensive land use plan" means a plan to guide and control future land development in an area under the jurisdiction of a local government.
3. "Local planning agency" means the agency of a local government that is responsible for the preparation of a comprehensive land use plan and plan amendments after public notice and hearings and for making recommendations to the governing body of the local government regarding the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive land use plan.
4. "Governing body" means the board of county commissioners of a county, the commission or council of a municipality, or the chief elected governing body of a county or municipality, however designated.

Serial Number: 03-23

Date Approved: 06-18-03

Return to: **Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc., P.O. 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170.**

**PLEASE HELP US! Sign a petition, get five more signed and ask those five to get five more and so on:**

**"5 For Florida's Future!"**

Note: Contributions should be made payable to "Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc."

pd.pol.adv., Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.

www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com

*Putting the PEOPLE back in charge of the places where they live!*

- Join with Floridians who understand that the power to decide land use changes has *always belonged to the voters* - and it's time to take that power back!
- Join with Floridians who want to expand democracy in our communities and bring back government *of the people, by the people, and for the people.*
- Join with Floridians who agree that the *citizens* should have the *final voice* for hometown change.
- Join with Floridians who are tired of bad development that increases our taxes, ruins our communities and wrecks our quality of life.
- Join with Floridians who care about Florida's future.

Both the United States Supreme Court and the Florida Supreme Court have consistently recognized that local land use decisions can be made *directly by the voters.*



Please Place  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail To:

Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 636  
New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170



**VOTERS WILL DECIDE**

**If *They* Want Certain Land Use Changes  
In Their Communities!**

**VOTE**

**✓ YES !**

**FOR FLORIDA'S HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY  
AMENDMENT!**

# THE PELICAN



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September 2003

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON  
appreciates the support of its 2003-2003  
*The Pelican* Underwriter

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

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON  
appreciates the support of our activities by  
**THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL**

**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 SICA Hall, Holly Hill, 3065 Daytona Ave., 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 and time.

## Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	OwensI@CODB.US
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Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
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Open	Hospitality		
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@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

# THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 49 - NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

OCTOBER 2003

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

### *Imperial Woodpecker*

A good deal has been written in recent years speculating on whether or not Ivory-billed Woodpeckers still exist. Their last known colony was in what's called the Singer Tract, in the Atchafalaya Swamp in southern Louisiana. The latest expedition there revealed no evidence of the birds' survival. Now comes word that the Imperial Woodpecker, a cousin of the Ivory-billed if you will, has passed into the abyss of extinction too. The Imperial Woodpecker was four inches larger, had similar markings and was once fairly common in the extensive pine forests of Mexico's Sierra Madre Mountains. Like the Ivory-billed, confirmed sightings date back to the early mid-fifties. And like the Ivory-billed, new, supposedly reliable sightings took place in the last several years. But a recent sixteen-day expedition into the area by a joint team of Mexican and U.S. ornithologists found no trace of this magnificent bird. And finally, just like the Ivory-billed, habitat loss of old growth forests is the apparent reason for this bird's disappearance.



*Ivory-billed  
Woodpecker*

### *USFWS Blueprint*

On a brighter note, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just produced a draft of their new plan for managing migratory bird populations. It's title, *"A Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds"* sounds ambitious and with 95 million acres of wildlife refuges in their system, they have the means to greatly affect the health and viability of all bird species, migratory and otherwise. The original mission of the USFWS was to regulate the harvest of wildlife. The language of this new plan shows how far the agency has moved away from the single-minded purpose of regulating hunting and fishing. Some of the goals listed in the plan include:

- "manage migratory bird populations to maximize their ecological sustainability and socioeconomic benefits",
- "protect, conserve, and restore migratory bird habitats", and
- "improve hunting, bird watching and other outdoor bird-related experiences".

This is good news for birds and for those of us who watch, photograph, count and just plain enjoy them. It's important to remember that this is just a draft and that folks in mining and other extraction industries will be lobbying for unfettered access into all of the nation's public lands. And others will be looking to engage in activities that aren't compatible with preservation of migratory birds and their needed habitat.

Just recently the Navy published a plan to build a new training site for jet fighter groups adjacent to one of the largest refuges in North Carolina. The refuge hosts 100,000 Snow Geese every winter. Let's hope the new *"Blueprint"* is used to convince the Navy that there must be safer and better places to build a new training facility.

### *Tomoka Farms Road*

Finally, there's also good news here at home. Local environmental groups pleaded with the Volusia County Council not to permit the extension of Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40. The planned route went right through a gopher tortoise sanctuary and paralleled the Tomoka River, a designated Outstanding Florida Waterway. In addition, the road's planned terminus at SR 40 would be a traffic nightmare since it's 3 blocks west of I-95. While the Council chambers were full of angry residents, the Council voted against the measure.

Late that same night, after all of the voters had gone home, the vote was reversed. This meant an amendment to the county's growth management plan had to be sent to the state for approval. Often, this is a mere formality. But this time, someone up in Tallahassee said, "Wait a minute." The plan has been declared "Not in Compliance."

An appeal hearing will take place to try to deal with the issue. Local attorney, **Dennis Bayer** will be there looking out for our interests. Maybe this time common sense will prevail. Let's hope so.

**W**ELCOME to new members Linda Delaura, Patricia Ellwanger, Kenneth A. Everts, J.W. Finley, Doris A. Gruel, Joyce LeBarron, Shirley McCrary, Billie Ohrtman, Tricia Reonas, Faye Stephens, Douglas Stutz, and Ms Susan Wilson.



### September Program

## MERRITT ISLAND – GARDEN IN THE SUN

*Pat Mihalic*

Marc Epstein presented a very informative program about the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The first part of the program was a map overlay slide show. He pointed out the many areas of the preserve where bird populations can number into the thousands.

After the program he fielded questions from our members and guests. He ended with a photo slide presentation using photographs from his own collection. He is a very talented photographer and all enjoyed his photos and the musical score that he chose to underscore his presentation.

### October Program

## EMERALDA MARSH

*David Hartgrove*

Our October speaker, Peter May, will tell us about Emeraldal Marsh – the destination of our February 13 field trip. Peter is a bird census specialist contracted by the St. Johns River Water Management District to assist in the District's plans for the restoration of the Marsh. The Marsh is located in Lake County right below the Marion county line.

Peter will not be able to guide us on our trip (he has a teaching conflict at Stetson), but this slide presentation will give us an idea of what we can expect to find when we go there. To find out more about the Marsh and to get maps of the site, log in to <http://www.stetson.edu/~pmay/emeralda/direct.htm>.

## BOARD ACTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

- Motion passed committing to participate in a Swallow-tailed Kite census at Lake Woodruff NWR under the direction of **Dr. Ken Meyer** in spring 2004.
- Motion passed on procedure for Board to process urgent action items between regular Board meetings.
- Motion passed on regulation designed to prioritize participation on some field trips to the advantage of Audubon members and their guests.
- Motion passed to search for chairpersons for Program, General Meeting Recording Secretary, Hospitality, and Education.
- Motion passed to join the Environmental Council of Volusia & Flagler Counties consisting of representatives of environment-concerned groups. David Hartgrove is designated as Chapter's representative. Fee is \$25.
- Motion passed to include the Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide in the October *The Pelican*

## NEW BEGINNING BIRDERS CLASS



Sign up now for our new Beginning Birdwatcher's Class and enjoy a wonderful hobby and an insight into the wonderful world of birds—endlessly fascinating and educational. The class includes: how to identify birds, using binoculars, where to find birds, bird habitats, migratory wonders and many other facts. We will have bird slides, handouts, guest speakers and field trips to our favorite birding places.



- Where: Colonial Colony South Mobile Home Park, 1275 Beville Road
- Dates: Wednesdays, October 15, 22 and 29
- Time: 9:30-11:00 am
- Cost: \$35.00 for three classes, three field trips.



To Register call the office of Colonial Colony South at 767-8521 or **Lois Robinson**, teacher, at 760-8480.

## STALKING SWALLOWTAILS

*David Hartgrove*

And no, I don't mean swallow-tailed butterflies. Our friends at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge have asked us to participate in a research project involving nesting American Swallow-tailed Kites. These gorgeous birds recently flew off to spend the winter in western Brazil. We know this thanks to the pioneering work done by **Dr. Ken Meyer** and his associates at Avian Research and the University of Florida. Many of you may remember the excellent program Dr. Meyer presented at our January, 2002 general meeting. He will be coordinating the gathering of data.

This all came about because of a grant from the good folks at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The SWTK's (that's official AOU\* shorthand) will be returning around the middle of February. Nesting can be any time between March and June. So the study will be done next year.

We're committed to a minimum of 65 hours of observation at and around Lake Woodruff NWR. Stay tuned for further updates on how you can help out with this exciting opportunity.

*\*American Ornithologists Union*

**REMINDER: Audubon Adventures in our schools. Give your support.**

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, October 1

Sierra Club. Joe Murphy, Regional Conservation Organizer for Florida Sierra Club, "Public Lands." SICA Hall 7pm

### Sunday, October 5

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Anniversary Celebration." 10am-4pm. Free. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 407-644-0190.

### Monday, October 6

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach.

### Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28

**HRA Field Gatherings. Spruce Creek Park.** Meet 8:00am at Spruce Creek Park pier. Led by Kevin Doxstater 212-4319 or Ray Scory 763-4260.

### Saturday October 11

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Family Fun Day." See article.

### Sunday, October 12

**THE BIG SIT.** See article.

### Tuesday, October 14

West Volusia Audubon. 2-hour Rose Bay boat trip on *Sunny Daze and Starry Nights*. Cost \$15 (\$14 over 60). Depart from Aunt Catfish's Restaurant at 10am. Contact Vivian Taylor for reservations at 734-1390 or email [vctdeland@yahoo.com](mailto:vctdeland@yahoo.com).

### Wednesdays, October 15, 22, 29

**HRA Beginning Birdwatching Classes.** Activities Center of Colonial Colony South. To enroll, call Lois Robinson, 769-8480. See article.

### Saturday, October 18

**HRA Field Trip. Bluffton Ridge.** Meet 7:00am at Publix parking lot, Williamson and Granada Blvds. Led by Rachel Ramsey 673-1037. Bring lunch.

### Monday, October 20

**HRA Program Meeting, Peter May**, "Emeralda Marsh" 7:00pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill. See article.

### Friday and Saturday, October 24-25

The Audubon Assembly 2003. See article.

### Saturday, November 1

**HRA Field Trip. Washington Oaks State Gardens.** Meet 7:00am at City Island Court House Annex east parking lot. Led by Kevin DeWall 767-3031. Bring lunch.

### Sunday November 2

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Eagles in Florida." 2-4pm. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 407-644-0190.

### Monday, November 3

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach.

### Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8

**HRA Overnight Field Trip. Lake City, PSC Phosphate Co., and Alligator Lake.** Meet 8:00am at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. Reservation required. Led by Ray Scory 763-4260.

## GOLDEN DOG BOOKS

We have had several queries regarding Golden Dog Book Sales. This is a complete subsidiary of Halifax River Audubon. All profits go directly to the Chapter. It is virtually self-sustaining, and has cost us nothing. The only costs, except for six dollars for plastic bags, are for stock.

**Willie Burns** got into this five years ago. Needing a name, he named it for a wonderful Golden Retriever, Chris. Sadly, Chris passed last summer at age fourteen. Willie didn't plan on being a book store, but a clever suggestion from **David Hartgrove** sparked the idea.

To date we have raised \$2,511.00 for our Chapter. Willie has full records of his accounting. Anyone can see them at any time. Anyone can also volunteer to help, of course! You do not even have to have a Golden Retriever.

We sell the highly praised *Florida's Fabulous* series of nature books, with accurate information and wonderful photographs. We can also order several of the same type on the Northeast. A series of children's books, based on a bird named *Pelican Pete*, has been very highly rated for children up to age ten. This series comes with a plush stuffed Pelican.

A series of environmental books by **Dr. Deborah Green** is based on Canaveral Seashore, Merritt Island NWR, and the Wekiva River basin. We always carry a number of the Halifax River Audubon cookbooks. In the fall we carry Audubon calendars. At the present time we are exploring **David Allen Sibley's** new and updated field guides, the state of the art. At various times we also sell other interesting things.

Our main focus is on information and education, our Chapter's prime mission. The fun of selling good products is even more fun. Stop by at meetings to talk to Willie and to stock up on Christmas presents. *Pelican Pete* is great for the Grandchildren. We give a ten percent discount for sales of three or more books.

## GREATER DAYTONA BIRD WATCHING GUIDE

We have included a copy of the *Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide* in this edition of *The Pelican*. This is a splendid guide by our Chapter members: produced by **Ray Scory**, artwork by **Jane Scory**, photographs by **Kevin Doxstater**, and edited by **David Hartgrove**. This area has needed such a guide for many years and this one fills that void. Additional copies are available at program meetings and Bird Feeders store on Ridgewood Ave.

## Connecting People with Nature

### AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

The Audubon of Florida Assembly is the largest gathering of conservation-minded citizens in the state. The dates to remember are October 24-25.

Join chapter members and leaders, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, scientists, politicians, agency personnel, students and other Floridians to network and learn about our environment. Your registration fee (\$125 after September 23) covers all events including lunches and Friday's fabulous dinner program. More information can be downloaded from [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org).

This year's Assembly will be hosted by the Rosen Plaza Hotel at 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819, e-mail address: [www.rosenplazahotel.com](http://www.rosenplazahotel.com). Reservations can be made at 1-407-996-9700 or 1-800-627-8258. Say that you are with the Audubon Assembly for the special rate of \$122.63/night including tax.

A Days Inn Motel is close by at 9900 International Drive for \$46.83/night including tax if you mention Audubon of Florida. Call 1-407-352-8700 for reservations.

### THE BIG SIT!

*Ray Scory*

THE BIG SIT is just fun. BIG FUN.

Join an international group of sitters on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Pick any spot - your backyard, a park, sit in a tree or stand on the jetty at Ponce Inlet and count the birds that you can see from one 17-foot diameter circle. Spend as much time as you can allow in a 24-hour period. Have a barbeque, bring breakfast, bring a lawn chair or recliner. Just enjoy the day and count the birds. You might be surprised at what you can see when you let them come to you.

This event gets bigger every year. Birdwatcher's Digest is co-sponsor with The New Haven Bird Club. Swarovski Optics awards a generous prize for the "Golden Bird" (a kind of lottery among those who spot a secret bird). THE BIG SIT is like a Big Day, open free to every individual and club in every state and country.

I will again be at the Dunlawton Bridge from daybreak to sunset. For an enthusiastic testimonial, call me, Ray Scory, (386-763-4260). I have participated in THE BIG SIT for ten years.

For registration and rules, email [BirdWatchersDigest.com](mailto:BirdWatchersDigest.com) and click on THE BIG SIT.

For more detailed information, go to NHBC website: <http://members.aol.com/nhbirdclub/> and click on THE BIG SIT.

## Celebrate

### 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
and National Wildlife Refuge Week

This event will take place at the Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday, October 4 from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Audubon Birds of Prey Center folks will be on hand with live hawks and eagles, and some wild residents from the Brevard Zoo will be visiting as well. Get up close and personal to wild songbirds while watching bird bander **Richard Poole** demonstrate mist netting and bird banding techniques, or sit back and relax and enjoy the music and story telling being performed by the Shadetree Pickers.

Guided bird watching and wildlife tours and children's wildlife activities will be presented throughout the day. Also, visit with wild manatees and enjoy a presentation on Florida's snakes, and meet some live reptiles.

Join us in celebrating this amazing National Wildlife Refuge. Merritt Island Wildlife Association will be selling refreshments. In addition, enjoy the 10 miles of refuge trails and visit the nature gift and bookstore located at the visitor center. All activities are free unless specified.

Please contact **Ranger Nancy Corona** for more information at email [Nancy\\_Corona@fws.gov](mailto:Nancy_Corona@fws.gov) or phone 321-861-0668.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### LAKE WOODRUFF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FAMILY FUN DAY 2003

The sixth annual Family Fun Day, to be held Saturday, October 11 (Rain Date: October 18), is a special event. It will celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, inviting people to discover the refuge in their midst. Also, the occasion will honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Admission is free. Free public transportation will whisk you from the parking lot at Lighthouse Christian Center to the festival and back to your car. Food and drinks will be available. Two golf carts will make free roundtrip tours to the Audubon Lookout.

There's more! Among old favorites are the Children's Tent, Wildlife Rehab Display and hourly releases. Greathouse Butterfly talk and butterfly release. A bird walk. Spotting scopes. A nature walk. Among the new: a Native Plant Society sales booth and a gopher tortoise exhibit. New exhibitors will represent various functions of the refuge and its flora and fauna.

Visit the Nature Store tent next to the Lake Woodruff NWR tent near the entrance gate. Browse our excellent selection of books, field guides, and T-shirts.

## Overnighter

### LAKE CITY TRIP November 7 and 8, 2003

- Deadline: October 20.
- Call **Ray Scory** now! 386-763-4260.
- Trip is limited to 25 people.

Our trip will take us to Lake City's Alligator Lake Park, and the PCS Phosphate Company's private property. We can expect to see wintering ducks and northern migrants.

Ray will hand out packets of information when you sign up, but here's some things you may want to know. The group will travel by caravan for a 3-hour drive, stopping in Palatka on the way. Bring a lunch. You will be given a map showing how to get to the Best Western motel in Lake City (\$56.50 + tax for double room). Birders will be responsible for all their costs of the trip.

There will be some walking on Friday at your discretion, and Saturday's trip will be mostly driving on dikes at the Phosphate Company property. Birders should get back late afternoon Saturday.

## REPORT FROM CANAVERAL

*Willie Burns*

Saturday 9/20 was the annual Coastal Cleanup, an international effort to clean our beaches. **Kitty Albee** and I skipped the Bird Count (sorry, David!) to help at Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana). Last year we did the count, so perhaps alternating works.

We took the Red Thing, Cana's little four wheel drive two-seater buggy complete with dump body, out on the beach to retrieve bags of Stuff. We had a supply of spare bags, ice water, and implements of destruction to make the task easier. The water served well, as we found a young Girl Scout in the early stages of heat exhaustion. Water replenished her fluids and after watching her carefully but not too obviously, we were happy to see her bounce back and have a good day.

Prior to the passing of both hurricanes, Fabian and Isabel, the beach had been quite clean from the North Pole (our northern marker) to about three miles south of Parking Lot 5. These nine miles were in good shape, making the beach safer for visitors and nesting turtles alike.

**Ranger Kristan** got the detail of keeping a record of what was found. We hauled back well over a ton of debris. Glass and plastic containers, cans, far too many helium balloons, many shoes, a hundred pounds of fish net, chunks of Styrofoam, oil containers, boxes, pails, plastic of every kind, cups, bowls, you name it, we found it.

After six hours the many volunteers had bagged everything from Lot 5 to the North Pole. **Kitty** and I, and **Skip** with an ATV and trailer, had hauled it all back to the

dumpsters. **Skip** concentrated on wood. This is very important, as it often contains nails and is quite heavy. The opportunity for injury is extreme.

Being clever, I scurried south to Lot 5 in the afternoon to evade a storm we'd seen form over the ocean. It began as a puffy cumulous cloud that thickened and increased in size. Then the lines of falling rain appeared, thready at first but quickly becoming a curtain. **Cleverly I** eluded it as it came ashore behind us.

Another followed quickly, more to the south, but we watched it pass while we loaded bags of Stuff. Then, as we headed north ahead of a third storm approaching more to the south, I cleverly (remember this word) stopped to speak with some tourists. They had seen a fairly large shark close to the beach.

"Are there sharks on the beach?" they asked. No, I did not answer that our sharks are all out in the water. I explained that harmless but large Sand Sharks are very common in the "ditch" between the beach and the first sand bar, where the waves were breaking on their way in. Bait fish often are concentrated there and sharks and dolphins often feed on them.

Remember I said, "cleverly I stopped." The rain caught us, and we got soaked as we hurried back to base. Did I mention the Red Thing has no windshield? The poor little thing was groaning under its load, and even had a tire going down. Perhaps it was low on air to start, since it didn't get any worse and was only flat on the bottom. It held enough air for us to get back and "re-inflated" itself when we unloaded!

Another shower tried to soak us as we weighed the stuff, but we hid under an overhanging roof until it passed. We finished the day with an excellent meal of shrimp at JB's in Bethune Beach and returned home, tired but happy with a job well done. The beach is once again clean. Over the next few weeks we'll make clean up runs during the week to catch the "stragglers," bits of trash still moving ashore on the currents and with the wind.

The major bird sightings were the first Black-bellied Plovers we've seen this fall. Osprey were diving in the "shark ditch," including one that was very dark, almost black. Willets, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and a few Ring-bills and Terns were on the beach, with flocks of soaring Brown Pelicans overhead. We saw the Pappa's Eagles (named for restaurant across-the-street-on-US1) both in the morning and afternoon, and several Kingfishers have now also arrived from the north.

**REMINDER: Support Mary Keller, Bird Rehabilitator, with your donations of bird supplies. Call Pat Mihalic.**

# THE PELICAN



**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
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DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05  
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 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

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Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	marobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

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October 2003

**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
 appreciates the support of its 2003-2003  
*The Pelican* Underwriter

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

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 appreciates the support of our activities by  
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# THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 49 - NO. 6      NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON      DECEMBER 2003

## MEMBERS OF THE HALIFAX RIVER FLOCK

*President John E. Roessler*

First, I would like to spotlight **Laurilee Thompson**, Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival Coordinator. At the last minute our November program, "The San Juan Islands, Jewel of the Pacific Northwest", was cancelled. With very short notice, Laurilee not only acquired **Dr. Jim Davis** to speak at our meeting, she also drove Dr. Davis to and from our meeting - all at her own expense. If you happen to run into Laurilee at her Dixie Crossroads Restaurant in Titusville, please personally thank her for her extra effort.

Dr. Davis, a prominent editor, publisher and speaker, gave an excellent presentation on Interpretive Birding.

I am also writing to ask for your assistance. It is necessary to ascertain the projects and number of hours that members give to Halifax River Audubon and its programs from January through December 2003. If you could take a few minutes of your time, call or e-mail me and let me know how many volunteer hours you spent related in some manner to Audubon. This could include your time as a Board Member, working at the Spruce Creek Park with classes, Birds of Prey, Eagle Watch, Festival selling, preparing food, committees supported by the Chapter, preparation for birding field trips, and so on.

This information will be tabulated and forwarded to Audubon of Florida. It will also be great public relations material when our Chapter is published in the newspaper. And, of course, please put out the word "**Volunteers Needed.**"

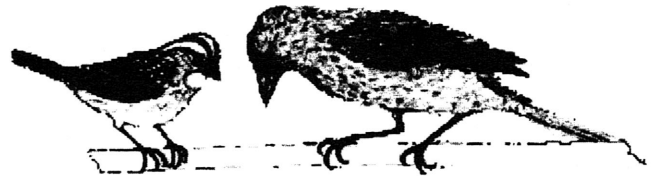
## INTERPRETIVE BIRDING PROGRAM

**Dr. Jim Davis**, Editor of Interpretive Birding Bulletin enthralled the crowd at our November program meeting with his use of slides, questions and answers, and his body language to illustrate some of the meanings of bird behavior

You can read some excerpts from his Bulletin by logging on the [www.ibirding.com](http://www.ibirding.com) web site. One example of behavior that Dr. Davis showed us in a slide, cowbird preening, was on the web page. The text follows:

"Most birders are aware that cowbirds are brood parasites, but how many have seen cowbirds deceive their quarry? The larger bird in the drawing is a female Brown-headed Cowbird. She is offering her head to be preened by a White-throated Sparrow, a potential host. Presumably,

allopreening reduces aggression between the two birds. If successful in her ploy, the female cowbird will have a better chance of approaching the sparrows nest to lay an egg without being attacked."



*A female cowbird (right) solicits allopreening from a White-throated Sparrow.*

The Bulletin is published 6 times a year and costs \$30. The publishers can be reached at 320-252-3909, or Interpretive Birding Bulletin  
1800 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., SE  
St. Cloud, MN 56304

## SPRUCE CREEK GATHERINGS

*Ray Scory*

The four Tuesdays of October have passed and the Spruce Creek Gatherings for year 2003 is now history.

The Gatherings are like a modified BIG SIT. We park our cars and take a few steps to the pier. Here we tell bird stories, enjoy each other's company and look for birds. Normally we can observe at least twenty-five species from the pier in a matter of two hours. The rest of the count is gleaned from a short walk along the park's one half mile of trails.

This year the park yielded a total of fifty-seven species for our gatherings, averaging out to 30.25 species of birds each Tuesday. The low Tuesday count was twenty-one species. The high Tuesday count was an incredible forty-one species observed on the second week. The last Tuesday yielded thirty species of birds. For the four Tuesdays, an average of four Halifax River Audubon members enjoyed the rich birding experience of this friendly park.

Some of the birds that graced our observations were: Bald Eagle, Merlin, American Kestrel, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Sedge Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pied-bill Grebe and the ever present Clapper Rails serenading us with their magnificent chattering chorus.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*David Hartgrove*

The continuing issue of the extension of Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40 has taken another turn. I have written in the past about the plan to extend this road through what is now good habitat for a variety of nesting birds and other wildlife. This extension of the road has no useful purpose other than to open the area to commercial development. Do we really need another row of strip malls and fast food eateries? No, especially when this will represent one of the final links in a long series of incremental road building ventures that will create a continuous roadway between SR 40 in Ormond Beach and SR 46 in Sanford. Anyone who believes that "growth" can be controlled along a road like that hasn't driven down south of West Palm Beach in the last 20 years.

For those of us who'd like to see a lot of what was here when we arrived saved for future generations to enjoy, this is another road to perdition. SR 415 is a part of this planned thoroughfare. The road parallels, and in places bisects, what is now a planned 100,000-acre conservation corridor through the heart of the Volusia County. This area is supposed to be set aside for fresh water recharge, wildlife habitat, agriculture, and recreational uses. The Volusia County Council, much to their credit, has just adopted the idea of setting Urban Growth Boundaries. This means getting local municipalities to concentrate development within their existing city limits.

If Tomoka Farms Road is extended to SR 40, then further pressure will be exerted to complete the road between where it currently stops about a quarter of a mile south of LPGA Boulevard and its other dead-end just north of US 92. Then there'll be an unbroken strip of asphalt from SR 40 to SR 46. If that happens, the Urban Growth Boundaries idea and the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan won't be worth the reams of paper they're written on. Regardless of the good intentions of the current Council, development pressures on future Councils will mean the end of anything that looks like a Conservation Corridor.

In the first sentence of this piece I wrote that there's been a new turn in this issue. That is that Halifax River Audubon has signed to petition as an intervener at a yet to be scheduled meeting before the Department of Community Affairs. Since DCA has found the current plan, "not in compliance," the County is offered a chance to meet with DCA officials to try to find a compromise. As interveners, we get a place at the negotiating table. We are joined in this effort by the Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler Counties, Volusia/Flagler Sierra and others. **Attorney Dennis Bayer** has taken on this case *pro bono*, much to his credit. The outcome of this issue is yet

to be determined. We believe this to be an opportunity for reason to win out over the rush to quick profits at the expense of the environment. We'll see what happens.

### BOARD ACTIONS – NOVEMBER 3, 2003

- Motion passed to petition as an intervener in the suit against the proposed Tomoka Farms Road Extension.
- Motion passed to present concept of promoting Birding Hotspots to local government Chambers of Commerce.
- Motion passed to fund reprinting form to be used to join our Chapter.
- Motion to judge local junior and high school's Science Fair and contribute to monetary prizes.
- Support **Wayne Lasch** of Duval Audubon to replace retiring **Chuck Potter** on Audubon of Florida Board.
- Approved creating and manning an Audubon booth at the March Ocean Center Home and Garden Show.
- Approved mounting bird feeders at Dickerson Library.

### THE BIG SIT

*Ray Scory*

We sat THE BIG SIT, and we had fun. **Veronica Merenda, John Carr** and I sat in a seventeen-foot circle under the Port Orange Bridge and counted birds on an overcast Sunday day. Veronica, who stayed six hours said, "It's exciting."

John Carr sat with us in the middle of the day and offered to get me lunch. I declined the offer because my wife Jane was shortly going to bring me a grilled Grouper sandwich from the DJ Deck just across the river. It doesn't get any better than that. Under the bridge, the river, a cool breeze, a Grouper sandwich, birds and good people. I guess that's what THE BIG SIT is all about. **Dick Woodbury**, my brother-in-law stopped by. He said I picked a good spot.

Many people walked by and asked me about what I was doing and looked through my scope. They liked birds more after they did that. Nobody was nasty. Everyone was nice. What a wonderful day.

I started the SIT at six fifteen in the morning and ended in the rain at six thirty in the evening. Thirty-eight species of birds entertained us. Over five thousand Laughing Gulls and a thousand White Ibis flew by northwest between seven and eight thirty in the morning. A magnificent sight!

At the end of the day, two Roseate Spoonbills flew by, breathtakingly silhouetted against a setting sun. The rains resumed, the night came, a Black-bellied Plover moved cautiously at the end of an emerging oyster bar.

In the gloom of the night, a rain shrouded Yellow-crowned Night Heron told me, "Enough is enough! You've been here in one spot for twelve hours. Go home!"



*You Are Invited To  
The Audubon Christmas Party,  
Sunday, December 15,  
6:00 pm, at SJCA Hall, Holly Hill*

Halifax River Audubon's Annual Christmas Party will be one of the social highlights of the year. Reserve Monday night, December 15, for a delightful way to start the Season and celebrate Nature and Conservation. Halifax River will provide ham and refreshing drinks; everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish to share suited for the occasion. After dinner, we will enjoy a show by Kevin Doxstater featuring bird and nature slides. Our Silent Auction will take place at the end of the evening. Bring your interesting and beautiful donated gifts for the rest of us to bid on.

### FUN AT THE FESTIVAL

*David Hartgrove*

As I write this, I have just returned from the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in Titusville. **Ray Scory** and I were asked by **Laurilee Thompson** (of the Festival's sponsors, the Brevard Nature Alliance) to lead one of the field trips. This year's festival drew the largest crowd in its seven-year history. We had a small group for our trip, which included stops at Rock Springs Run State Park, Blue Springs State Park and Lyonia Preserve. At Rock Springs, we watched as our own **Meret Wilson** gently handled and banded Gray Catbirds, a Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroats and an Orange-crowned Warbler. Then she handed the birds, each with its new ID bracelet, off to someone to release. Many of us took a turn but the 7- and 9-year olds who were also visiting the banding station that day took a couple of extra turns. Their excited smiles as their little charges fluttered away into the woods made for a photographer's dream. This stop, plus a boat trip and short hike at Blue Springs and time with the very friendly Florida Scrub-Jays at Lyonia Preserve, made for a long and rewarding day.

In addition to leading a trip, both Ray and I went on other trips and took advantage of the wide variety of workshops like raptor identification with **Jeff Bouton** and advanced shorebird identification with **Brian Harrington** and **Lee Snyder**. These are names that are near legendary in both state and national birding circles. Our own **Kevin Doxstater** was there doing presentations and a number of our members drove down for part or all of the Festival's four days. On Saturday, **Darlene** and **Shelly LaFond** and I got a chance to grab a quick side trip in between other presentations to check out part of Peacock's Pocket, a little dirt road that pulls south off SR 406. In addition to American White Pelicans, Tri-colored Herons and Northern Shovelers, we saw one of the biggest alligators I've seen in years.

If you didn't get to make it down to the Festival this year, make mental note that it's on your "to do list" for The Pelican Vol. 49, No. 6, December 2003

next year. There are interesting speakers, all kinds of bird related merchandise (including good buys on optics), exciting field trips and the opportunity to interact with some really nice folks. We'll see you there.

### WASHINGTON OAKS FIELD TRIP

*Kevin DeWall*

On Saturday November 1st we held our annual field trip to Washington Oaks State Gardens. The weather was great, the winds light, and seven of us made the trip.

We started at 7:00 a.m. in Daytona Beach, detouring around the Halifax Art Festival being held downtown, then proceeding out on the "Loop" to Boardman Pond. There we saw Pied-billed Grebes and a very active Belted Kingfisher.

We headed on up State Route A1A where we saw Florida Scrub-Jays and got a good look at a female immature Coopers Hawk. At Washington Oaks we were joined by Park Ranger **Joe Woodberry** who walked the park with us and pointed out many items of historical and natural interest. The Rose Garden was in bloom and while the bird population was not as diverse as in past years we picked up a couple of Black-and-white Warblers and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

After our picnic lunch we crossed A1A to the beach area of the Gardens where we found several species of shore birds. Unfortunately rain came in off the ocean at this point so we decided to scrap our usual side trip to Ft. Matanzas National Monument and headed south to Flagler Beach.

On the suggestion of **Novetta Duffer** we visited the Flagship Harbor Preserve, located at the base of the Route 100 bridge in Flagler Beach. It contains extensive boardwalks through a backwater area of the Intercoastal Waterway. It's well worth a visit. At the end of the day we had 45 species of birds and had gotten to see an area most of us had never visited.



## BIRDS OF PREY IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

*Gina Holt*

For almost two years now, I have been volunteering at the Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, where I am involved in rescue and transport of injured raptors from Volusia County. The number of raptors that come into the clinic from our area is significant.

For instance, in 2002 we had over 750 birds admitted to the clinic and 125 of them were from Volusia County. Of those 125, 52 were released back to their homes. That is an incredible success. The overall release rate was just barely 40% that year.

This year so far, the Center has admitted 603 birds, 60 from Volusia County, and only 19 of those have been released. Quite a different story.

Unfortunately, this time of year brings a lot of eagles and other birds injured during territorial fights. You might have read about the eagle picked up in Pelican Bay just recently. That bird, most likely a male, was found missing part of his left wing. It was just broken off at the "wrist." Naturally, he can never be released, and underwent surgery to remove another portion of that wing in order for him to survive.

But here's the rub: About three weeks ago, another eagle was picked up from Pelican Bay. This one was quite a bit larger, and most likely a female. She had been electrocuted and died from her injuries. It could be presumed that we have lost a nesting pair from that area, maybe due to their inability to defend their territory. Or perhaps one of those birds was an interloper looking to take over.

Yet another eagle was rescued in northwest Volusia County with spinal trauma, and he died also. That makes three eagles we have lost from Volusia County in less than a month. Hopefully, there won't be any more.

The Center has 20 species of birds of prey available for adoption. These adoption kits come with color pictures and histories of the birds, and make wonderful gifts, as well as helping to support the Center and all the birds they save. For more information, contact the Center for Birds of Prey at 407-644-0190.

## GIVE GREEN GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**December 7, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Looking for something unique for someone who has everything? Join **Willie Burns, Kitty Albee and Gina Holt** at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey as we celebrate the holidays with other Green Groups. There will be lots of shopping opportunities for environmentally friendly (Green) holiday gifts reasonably priced all in one location.

We will be offering our cookbooks, t-shirts and Golden Dog books for sale. Proceeds from our sale will

benefit our Chapter. The Center is at 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland. Call 386-253-3466 for details.

Admission Prices for the Center: Adults: \$5.00, Children: \$4.00, Children under 3 – no charge. 10% Discount to all Audubon Members.

## AUDUBON OF FLORIDA 2004

### Conservation Priorities

Attendees at the Audubon of Florida Assembly passed thirty-three resolutions about conservation in October. They are the focus of Audubon's efforts to effect change on national, Florida and regional governments, as well as providing guidance for local Chapters.

The resolutions can be divided loosely into four parts: those of national impact, those of general Florida impact, those of regional impact, and those concerning specific birds and animals.

#### The Resolutions of national impact are:

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
Climate Change  
Coastal Resources Protection

#### Resolutions of Florida impact are:

Citizen Science  
Coastal Beach Habitat  
Conservation Education  
Fire Management  
Florida Water Resources  
Growth Management  
Land Acquisition  
Oil and Gas Drilling  
Protected Species  
Rural Land Protection  
Transportation Policy

#### Resolutions of regional impact are:

Apalachicola River  
Everglades Ecosystem  
Florida Keys  
Green Swamp  
Indian River Lagoon Water Quality  
Lake Okeechobee  
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem  
Northwest Florida Water Management  
Ocklawaha River Restoration  
Peace River Watershed  
Pinhook Swamp – Osceola – Greater Okefenokee Ecosystem (POGO),  
Southwest Florida Land Use  
St. Andrew Bay  
Yellow River Dam

#### Resolutions concerning specific birds and animals are:

Florida Panther Protection and Recovery  
Florida Scrub-Jay Recovery  
Gull-billed Tern  
Least Tern  
Whooping Crane Recovery



## CALENDAR

### Monday, December 1

**HRA Board Meeting**, 1:30pm. Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street.

### Sunday, December 7

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Give Green Gifts for the Holidays." 10am-4pm. See article.

### Wednesday, December 10

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society program. "Bird Banding." Meret Wilson. Edgewater Library, 7:30pm

### Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13

**HRA Field Trip. Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island NWR.** Meet 7:00am at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd & Williamson Blvd. Led by John Carr 255-9350 or Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch.

### Saturday, December 13

Friends of Lake Woodruff. "Animal Rehab and Releases." Kathy Paynter, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. 9-11am.

### Saturday, December 13

Paw Paw Native Plant Society. Trip to Green Images Native Nursery. Meet 9am at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. & Williamson Blvd. You will be able to mail Christmas cards from Christmas, FL.

### Monday, December 15

**HRA Holiday Dinner Meeting. "Member Showcase." Kevin Doxstater.** Silent Auction. Note time change to 6:00pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill.

### Tuesday, December 16

Paw Paw Native Plant Society. SICA Hall 6pm. Pot-luck dinner and plant auction.

### Saturday December 27

**Christmas Bird Count.** Meet 7:00am at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630. Bring lunch.

## 3 CRANES FOLLOW GUT, BEAT THE FLOCK

*Amy Wimmer Schwarb, Nov. 18, 2003 St. Petersburg Times. The rare whooping cranes are older, wiser and more peripatetic than the fledglings following an aircraft to Citrus.*

**CHASSAHOWITZKA** - Three Whooping Cranes reached their winter destinations Sunday, guided not by ultralight aircraft flown by pilots in crane costumes, but by instinct.

Two 1-year-old cranes, both females, touched down Sunday morning inside the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, just outside a fenced-in area that awaits this year's flock of 16 fledglings.

A third crane, this one a 2-year-old male, flew on to private property in Pasco County. The three are the first Whooping Cranes to arrive this season. Lara Fondow, a biologist with the International Crane Foundation who tracked the three Whooping Cranes from a Cessna that flew behind them, described the male as "independent-minded" and said he also roosted in Pasco last year.

The females that beat the rest of the flock to Chassahowitzka also had wanderlust this year. They first flew with the other birds to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, where they were raised, then took off for South Dakota. They were brought back to Necedah, only to fly away again, this time to Iowa. From there, they began their winter flight to Florida on Nov. 8 and completed it in eight days.



"We're just kind of learning from these birds right now," Fondow said. "They were just young females, and I think young females have a higher tendency to disperse than males do."

Meanwhile, the crew trying to coax sixteen 7-month-old Whooping Cranes southward for the first time have been slowly making their way through Kentucky. That flock, battling weather and tough wind speeds, has flown only once in the past seven days.

All three cranes that arrived in Florida for the winter Sunday were from flocks that made similar journeys in past years. The male in Pasco is from the inaugural flock, born in 2001; the females at Chassahowitzka learned the flight last year.

Heather Ray from Operation Migration, a Canadian-based nonprofit group that has worked to establish a migratory flock, said the cranes usually fly swiftly through Kentucky. Last year, she remarked that she would like the chance to spend at least one day in the state. "You have to be careful what you wish for," Ray said Monday. "This will be our third stand-down day at this site alone."

## CAROL BROWNER ON GLOBAL WARMING

*Lee Bidgood in The Skimmer, November 2003  
Southeast Volusia Audubon newsletter*

National Audubon's new Chairman of the Board, Carol Browner, grew up a short bicycle ride from the Everglades and has always loved this unique international treasure. She expressed her views on global warming and Kyoto in speeches: "We need a Congress that understands the very real, very serious problem of global warming and has enough sense to ratify the Kyoto Protocol while there's still time to address the problem in common-sense, cost-effective ways." (Speech for League of Conservation Voters, October 7, 1998)

"Global warming ... Climate change ... is not some distant challenge. It is here today. More than 2,000 of the world's experts on the global environment have told us what to expect. Sea levels will rise. Insect-borne diseases like malaria will spread. Storms will intensify. Skin cancers will rise. And now-productive farmland will shrivel and fail." (Address to the National Press Club, October 3, 2000)

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Correction: Date for Annual  
Holiday Dinner is  
**Monday, December 15 at 6 pm**