

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 49 - NO. 7 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON JANUARY 2004

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

President John Roessler

On Saturday, January 17, 2004, Halifax River Audubon will be hosting the St. Johns River/Indian River Lagoon Regional Conservation Meeting at Sica Hall in Holly Hill. You are all invited to attend. We will meet with conservation chairs from Audubon chapters in our area from 10am to 3pm. Lunch will be supplied by our Chapter; please let **Lois Robinson** know if you plan to attend. This will be a good chance for you to see all the different projects we are involved in.

Next, I would like to tell you about our plans to have a booth at the Ocean Center Home and Garden Show March 11th through March 14th in Daytona Beach. This is not hard duty and I would hope to see some NEW volunteers helping us with this project.

Lastly, **Ray Scory** and I will be leading a field trip to Viera Ponds on January 24th. We will be leaving from the Publix parking lot at Taylor Road and Williamson Boulevard in Port Orange at 7:00am.

Viera Ponds was constructed and planted with emergent wetland plants as a series of connected wetlands for the advanced treatment of reclaimed water. During the fall and winter, an incredible diversity of bird species use these created wetlands and the nearby prairie hammocks and cabbage palm savannahs. An active Bald Eagle nest is visible from the wetland dike road. Thousands of wintering ducks concentrate here including Green- and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, American Widgeons, Mottled Ducks, Mallards, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Northern Pintails, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks and Whistling Ducks. Hope you will be able to join us.

MERRITT ISLAND BIRDING A SUCCESS

John Carr

Birding trips to Riverbreeze County Park and on to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge by four people on the December 12th and eleven people on the 13th were rewarded by a count of 80 and 69 species!

As we had hoped, the Florida Scrub-Jay was seen in several locations. We observed Marbled Godwits in the midst of resting Black Skimmers on the first day at Riverbreeze Park and White Pelicans up close on both days at the restaurant near Seminole Rest, both locations in Oak Hill.

We watched a Sora Rail at close range on Black Point Drive, as well as a posing Swamp Sparrow that showed its white throat and dark rufous crown. There is no shortage of Coots there. We had hoped to spot the Crested Caracara that had been reported near Black Point Drive, but it was either gone or elusive. A Merlin was viewed from the observation tower. We saw Bald Eagles both days. These were very successful trips and those who did not go missed a real treat.

HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

All who attended our Chapter's meeting December 15 thrilled to the program by **Kevin Doxstater**. This brilliant photographer prepared a 45-minute show of his bird pictures accompanied by Beethoven's most beautiful music. Not a word was spoken, but you could hear the sighs and gasps from the audience as the music and pictures blended into a sublime experience. Kevin then treated us to a "Naughty and Nice" short spritzzy encore of birds being silly, amorous, and outrageous.

Rachel Ramsey planned our dinner and provided ham, drinks and decorations to accompany the delicious dishes our members brought. Thanks to all who brought goodies and helped Rachel prepare the tables and food.

Auctioneer **Gina Holt** sold items brought for the Silent Auction for the grand sum of \$243.50.

BOARD ACTIONS - DECEMBER 1, 2003

- Motion passed to purchase 6 binoculars for \$315.00. These are to be used by the Chapter as loaners during field trips and birdwatching classes.
- Motion passed for Conservation Chair **David Hartgrove** to send a letter to the Volusia County Council concerning a proposed Water Wise Landscape Ordinance, urging stricter controls.
- Motion passed for Chapter to join the Florida Native Plant Society for a cost of \$50.00.
- Motion passed to change Monthly Program Meeting starting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm to allow business to be completed by 9:00pm.
- Motion passed to form *ad hoc* committee to coordinate Chapter's booth at Ocean Center Home and Garden Show, March 2004.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON'S BANQUET

Ray Scory

Our Chapter's first annual awards banquet was a wonderful success. So much so that we already have reserved the Palmetto Club for our second annual awards banquet next May.

This May 17 evening celebrated our Chapter's eightieth year of continuous membership. Eighty-eight people attended and enjoyed good conversation, deserving honors and a slide program of miniature beauty, "Butterflies Serendipity," presented by **Linda** and **Buck Cooper**.

Special recognition went to **Angelo Cerrito** for his dedication to our Chapter and his treat of hosting our Chapter's year-ending picnic for the past fifteen years.

Robert Coleman, Regional Manager of Florida Power and Light Co., received our sincere appreciation for his company's generous financial support of our newsletter and other activities.

John Carr received the "President's Award" for his outstanding and dedicated service to Halifax River Audubon.

Louise Chapman, science teacher at Mainland High School, received our newly established "The Walter Boardman Preservation Award." This award recognizes her achievements in environmental education and preservation, and especially for her outstanding efforts in establishing a model of educational awareness of the environment, the Rose Bay Project.

Lois Robinson, our immediate Past President, was honored for her inspirational leadership and dedicated service to our Chapter over the last four years.

The evening closed on a contented appreciation of a good time, good food and good entertainment in the company of good friends.

BUTTERFLY WALK - MAY 20, 2003

Ray Scory

They are gorgeous. They are tiny. They are hard to observe. They are amazing. They seem to exist in an atmosphere of another world, yet we can see them as they go about their mysterious ways. They move on the strength of delicate wings and the whims of changing winds. They float like carefree bubbles and flow in rhythmic dance like sheer lace feeling the touch of quiet breezes. They are butterflies and they are beautiful.

Thanks to **Linda** and **Buck Cooper**, our banquet guest speakers the night before, twelve of us enjoyed a unique experience chasing butterflies instead of birds the next day.

Three locations hosted a variety of species. We saw up close many Great Florida Whites feasting on tiny flowers in the mangrove sections along Dunlawton

Bridge. At Allandale Nurseries the Coopers showed us the kinds of plants that will attract butterflies. Here we watched a beautiful Orange-barred Sulphur drop her eggs on Canna leaves and identified a Monk Skipper, its overall brown coloring remindful of the color of a monk's cloak. The gardens were full of moving Great Florida Whites, a common butterfly in our area.

Our last stop was at Sugar Mills Botanical Gardens. Now this is a must stop. Visit for the sheer beauty of the place, the live oak trees and gardens that attract a host of butterflies and birds. The Coopers showed us a Carolina Satyr, a butterfly no bigger than your fingernail. This butterfly drops her eggs in the fallen oak leaves on the ground, and her caterpillar likes to eat them. We got a good look at a Hackberry Emperor as she anchored herself to the base of an oak tree. We were lucky; normally this butterfly stays in the canopy of trees.

As our wonderful trip came to a close, we spotted Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Giant Swallowtails flitting about and, not to be outdone, a Northern Cardinal and Carolina Wrens sang. A Great Crested Flycatcher and a Red-eyed Vireo added their farewell notes.

WELCOME to new Halifax River Audubon members **Giles M. Cherrick, Rusty Claunch, Anne Elise DuPont, Carolyn Foster, Carmen Henle, Dr. Joseph LeCompte, Bart and Connie Paulding, and Denise W. Scott.**

ALLIGATOR FARM TRIP

David Hartgrove

The trip to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm was made on Friday, May 16th. Fourteen people made the trip and were they rewarded for the effort. In years past, the Wood Storks were standing around as if they weren't

sure what to do. This time, each stork nest had 3 of the ugliest

babies you've ever seen; so ugly they were cute. We could almost

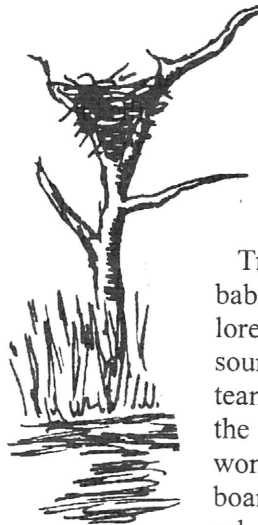
reach out and touch Great Egrets with babies nearly the size of their parents and potential parents just

beginning incubation. There were

Tricolored Herons with 2-day-old babies and Snowy Egrets with blood red

lores and feet making their strangled cat sounds to attract a mate. The place was

teaming with life and renewal. We ended the day with 40 species and had a wonderful time. Over the summer the board will put together next season's schedule of field trips. Let us know if you have any suggestions.



New Time: 6:30 p.m.

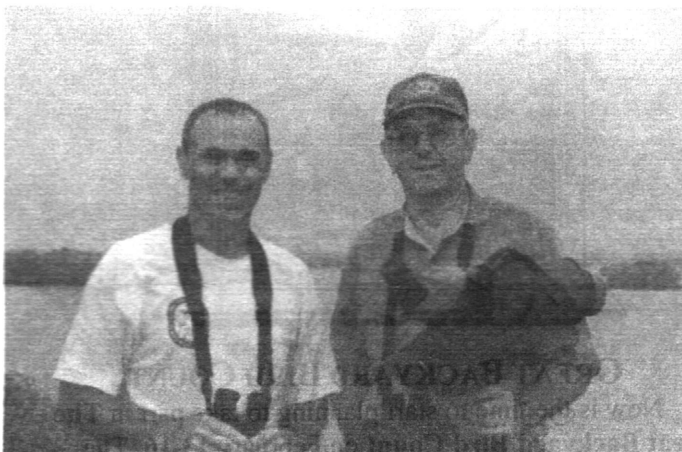
JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Gina Holt

Our January meeting will bring live predators into Sica Hall for an evening of rapture, I mean raptors! No kidding.

Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland is sending **Lynda White** and her famous eagles, owls and hawks to spend the evening with us. Lynda is the EagleWatch Coordinator for the state of Florida and she will be sharing some information on the EagleWatch program, as well as up close and personal visits with Southern Bald Eagle; the largest hawk in Florida, the Red-tailed Hawk; our large wetland owl, the Barred Owl; and some smaller falcons and owls. I will be assisting her.

You never know what to expect with live animals, so bring your friends and plan to be entertained! You won't get this close anywhere else!



Jerry Krummrich and Ray Scory

November 7 & 8, 2003

LAKE CITY OVERNIGHT TRIP

Ray Scory

An overnight field trip is much more than just going birding for two days and being inconvenienced to get a motel room. An overnight birding field trip is a multiple-pleasurable event blessed with birding as a central theme. Cloaked under a clear blue Friday sky and a mystical foggy Saturday morning, ten members of Halifax River Audubon began their birding adventure ably led by **Jerry Krummrich**, area biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Lake City, a town situated at the crossroads to Florida's panhandle.

At Alligator Lake, a newly purchased 1000-acre farm, we walked trails under flowing branches of Live Oak trees, where few people have trod. We drove to hidden spots of natural wonder and listened to two Barred

Owls call out in musical conversation, "who cooks for you, who cooks for you all!"

Early Saturday morning found us at the PCS Phosphate Company property with special permission to enter this vast panorama of lakes, wetlands and miles of navigable dikes. An early morning fog lifted by 10:00am and we got great looks at Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, a life bird for me, Swamp Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows, I believe a life bird for many. We observed sixty-one other species that day, including American Avocets, Ruddy Ducks, Savannah Sparrows, Song Sparrows, a Great Horned Owl and hundreds of Blue-winged Teal.

However, it wasn't the appearance of eight different raptor species that excited us. Instead, we were spellbound by the feeding frenzy of American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants. Hundreds of them. Moving in wild precision, mirroring the frantic movement of prey below. The birds, diving, splashing, crashing through the water, circling, plunging, constantly moved in a state of ecstatic necessity. A lake alive with dazzling activity controlled our attention for twenty minutes and finally exhausted, both people and birds, the frenzy stopped and we knew that we had just witnessed something very special. Wow, the wonder of it all!

So then the trip ended and we drove home. However, the adventure will long be remembered, made possible by good food, good conversation, good people, a good place to sleep, and oh yes, great birding.

BIRD STAMPS

Willie Burns

Two of our members have purchased a small collection of bird stamps from around the world. They have donated the collection to the Chapter for our use as a fundraiser. We will sell them at the **Golden Dog** table at the January meeting to any interested members.

They have sorted the stamps into packets of the various issuing countries. There are over 700 stamps in all. For simplicity we will be selling the packets for the amount of stamps inside at ten cents per stamp. The packets range from four stamps to several dozen.

If anyone would like the entire collection, we will of course entertain any reasonable offer. They will make excellent gifts or an interesting collection to keep.

REMINDER

Halifax River Audubon would like to remind everyone who comes to Chapter meetings at Sica Hall not to bring alcoholic beverages, as the town of Holly Hill does not permit them.

MARY KELLER HONORED

Pat Mihalic

Volusia County Council Chairman **Frank Bruno** paid a visit to our Christmas Meeting to make a special announcement. He surprised the members and guests with a wonderful Christmas present. He announced that the decision had been made to name the Marine Science Center's new bird rehabilitation facility in honor of **Mary Keller**. Members and guests responded with resounding applause.

Several suggestions for the formal name of the facility have been proposed with "Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Center" as the front-runner. If construction stays on schedule, the official ribbon cutting ceremony will be in March 2004.

I spoke with Mary the following day and she said that Frank had called to inform her and her husband Red of the Council's decision to name the facility for her. She said she was humbled and thrilled with this honor that she never expected. She said that she just did what she could to help the birds and she was grateful to everyone who had supported her efforts. This honor is one that is greatly deserved by a woman who has dedicated her life to caring for injured birds so they can be returned to the wild.

Congratulations, Mary, from all of your friends and supporters at Halifax River Audubon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ROSE BAY?

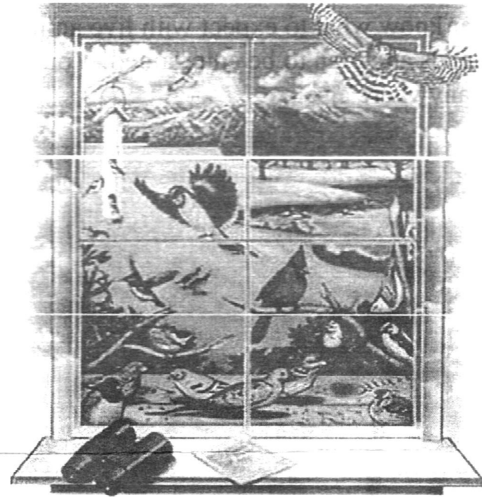
David Hartgrove

On December 3rd and again on December 10th, **Ray Scory** and I went down to Rose Bay to assist the students from the Mainland High School Bird Group as they gave lessons in bird identification to 5th graders from several area elementary schools. Our Chapter has been involved with the Rose Bay Legacy Project since its inception and we look forward to the time we spend with the Bird Group and the other students. On both of these days, we watched as the Bird Group asked the 5th graders about their favorite birds (hummingbirds and Bald Eagles tied), gave pointers about what to look for when trying to identify a bird, and assisted the kids in the use of binoculars and spotting scopes. It's hard to describe the excitement in the little kids' voices as they looked at a Tri-colored Heron through a scope for the first time.

Over 300 5th graders came both days and they were broken up into groups of 8 to 10 to tour various work stations set up by the students involved in each of the disciplines represented at Rose Bay. These were set up all over Spruce Creek Park to teach the 5th graders about subjects such as water quality testing, aquatic plants, ichthyology, aquatic invertebrates, entomology, mapping and use of GPS technology, botany and others, including birds. Our Bird Group students did quite well and with a

little gentle coaching from Ray and me, they all pitched in to give the 5th graders a quality experience.

Our next scheduled session at Rose Bay won't be until March of 2004. Soon after the students return from their Christmas/New Years break, they'll begin preparing for the FCAT tests, upon which so much depends for the students and the school. After the tests, we'll be able to resume the more fun learning activities. Each year the Bird Group selects a project upon which they'll be graded at the end of the year. This year they've decided to produce an illustrated field guide to the birds of the Rose Bay area. When we get together in March, Ray and **Kevin Doxstater** and I will get to see how the project is progressing and offer input.



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Now is the time to start planning to take part in **The Great Backyard Bird Count** on February 13-16. The annual count is always on Washington's Birthday Holiday Weekend: Friday-Monday. National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsor the count.

If your backyard attracts birds, you can count birds from home. Or, you can go to a park or other area nearby. The more people that count, the better the data collected.

National Audubon says, "Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, where are the birds? Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. We want to take a 'snapshot' of our North American bird populations, and you can help us do just that."

"Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge. Your bird list can help answer questions about the health of our bird populations."

"In 2003 citizen scientists like you submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds of 512 species."

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 3

Southeast Volusia Audubon. Christmas Bird Count.
Contact Gail Domroski 428-0447.

Monday, January 5

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

Friday, January 9

HRA Field Trip. Tiger Bay State Forest & Rima Ridge. Meet 7:00am at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. (US-92). Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch.

Saturday, January 10

Flagler Audubon Trip. Safari Wildlife Boat Tour on Lake Monroe. Depart Highpoint Marina, DeBary 10:00am. \$15. Lunch at Swamp House, 12Noon. Reservations required. Call Arnie Levine 386-446-1906.

Monday, January 19

HRA Program Meeting. Lynda White, Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, "Eagles and Other Birds of Prey in Florida." 6:30pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill.

Wednesday, January 21

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society program. Clay Henderson. Edgewater Library, 7:30pm.

Saturday, January 24

HRA Field Trip. Viera Ponds, Brevard County. Meet 7:00am at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd & Williamson Blvd. Led by John Roessler 255-9826. Bring lunch.

Saturday-Sunday, January 24-25

Manatee Festival, Valentine Park in Orange City. 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Tuesday, January 27

West Volusia Audubon meeting. "Bears." Slides by Ric Kessler, professional photographer. Women's Club of DeLand, 128 W Michigan Ave. 7:00pm.

Sunday, February 1

HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway Park. Meet 4:00pm under bridge, NW side. Chapter will host Boy Scouts of Greater Daytona Area. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630 and Kevin Doxstater 212-4319.

BROWN PELICANS AT DAYTONA

from Chap. 2, *Flight into Sunshine, Bird Experiences in Florida*, Helen G. Cruickshank. Macmillan. NY: 1948.

Our little camp was as queer as any ever set up. We had dragged the boat across the mud to a sheltered recess in the mangroves. This recess was floored with sand and covered with a sparse growth of grass. Allan thought most tides failed to inundate it. We hoped if the now rising tide did flood our camp, not more than an inch or two of water would cover it.

This camp was on the side of the reef opposite the pelican colony. ... The birds in this small colony appeared little disturbed when Allan placed the blinds by the nests but perhaps that was due to his skill at working with smooth motions and the fact that we were so soon concealed. Nevertheless we risked no chance of desertion

in the colony and took care that a thick band of mangroves lay between our camp and the birds. Cooking was somewhat of a problem. There was no wood except rubbery, live mangrove and no place to build a fire anyway. So we managed with just the tiny sterno stove. We placed that on one of the boat seats and prepared our supper there. We cooked an old camp standby. An onion was chopped and then fried in all the fat that could be taken from a can of corned beef. Once the onion was tender, the corned beef, a can of tomato paste and one of kidney beans were added and all stirred together until thoroughly heated.

Once our supper was finished, we arranged our sleeping bags. Mine was put on the bottom of the boat. All the supplies and equipment were piled on the bow and stern seats. Allan made a big pile of resilient mangrove branches that he hoped would keep his sleeping bag above the water.

We were many miles from Daytona. Even the Coast Guard Station, the nearest habitation, was some miles distant. No man-made sound reached us. No visual sign of man came to us except the distant beam from the tall red lighthouse on Ponce Point. Our long narrow mangrove reef was a place apart from man. ...

In the stillness of early evening we walked toward the deep water for a dip. Everything was quiet except for the hushed lap of water and the muffled cries of young pelicans. The sound of breath expelled in a loud hiss treated us to a "Naughty and Nice" snort spitzzy encore of birds being silly, amorous, and outrageous.

Rachel Ramsey planned our dinner and provided hum, drinks and decorations to accompany the delicious dishes our members brought. Thanks to all who brought goodies and helped Rachel prepare the tables and food.

Auctioneer Gina Holt sold items brought for the Silent Auction for the grand sum of \$243.50.

BOARD ACTIONS - DECEMBER 1, 2003

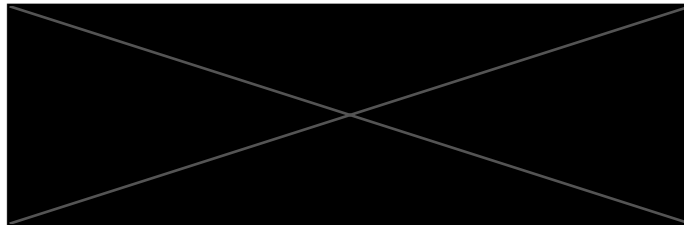
- Motion passed to purchase 6 binoculars for \$315.00. These are to be used by the Chapter as loaners during field trips and birdwatching classes.
- Motion passed for Conservation Chair David Hartgrove to send a letter to the Volusia County Council concerning a proposed Water Wise Landscape Ordinance, urging stricter controls.
- Motion passed for Chapter to join the Florida Native Plant Society for a cost of \$50.00.
- Motion passed to change Monthly Program Meeting starting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm to allow business to be completed by 9:00pm.
- Motion passed to form *ad hoc* committee to coordinate Chapter's booth at Ocean Center Home and Garden Show, March 2004.

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
POST OFFICE BOX 166
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #395
Daytona Beach, FL



Large white rump patch seemed all in order, but her talons had blood on them. Mary Jean told us of watching a Harrier many times in this vicinity of the Refuge. We were all sobered by this turn of events. About 15 minutes later we spied another female Northern Harrier, dipping over the Autumn marsh grasses. We were all thankful to see her and began conjecturing, "Had the two females tangled recently and had one done the other in? Had one been the younger usurper or had the resident female outdone a newcomer to the territory?"

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A recent issue of Rolling Stone magazine carried an excellent article by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. that detailed the lengths to which our country's natural heritage has been auctioned off by the current administration. Truly, the foxes have been placed in charge of security in the hen house. I have written in the past about former lobbyists for oil and mining industries being placed in charge of rule making (and breaking) at the Departments of Interior and Energy, the Bureau of Land Management, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Environmental Quality. In George Orwell's book 1984, propaganda was used to placate and manipulate the populace of a country in what was, for Orwell, a distant

January 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 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. 9

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

MARCH 2004

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE FIELD STUDY

Mary Jean Rogers, Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR

Early March is almost upon us. It's time to begin thinking Swallow-tailed Kites. Whether or not you plan to volunteer for the kite research project to be conducted by **Dr. Ken Meyer** of Avian Research & Conservation Institute, Gainesville, and the refuge – read on.

The Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR, Halifax River Audubon and West Volusia Audubon Society are partners in the project. Each group will contribute 65 hours of voluntary field personnel time, which will amount to a total of roughly \$100 in project value.

Swallow-tailed Kites make their 5000-mile return flight to Central Florida after wintering in central Brazil where they inhabit ranch land with remnant patches of native forest much like DeLand. Their journey begins south of the Equator about the same distance they will end up north of the Equator during breeding season.

The kites lay their eggs the first week after their return. This is the easiest time to spot them. During the 28-day incubation period, the birds are hard to find. After the hatch they are again conspicuous as they scour the treetops for lizards, frogs, snakes, large insects and small birds to feed the nestlings.

Any kite-sighting is a good one, but the best are the sightings leading to discovery of a nest. If you see a kite carrying nesting materials, or food, or if you hear it calling, **don't take your eyes away from it!**

A nest can be of great importance because it may add new data. It provides opportunity to tag or to affix communication devices to chosen individual kites. This can provide a treasury of information on kite behavior.

In the past, the distribution of *Tillandsia* colonies exactly equaled Swallow-tailed Kite populations. The kites are very dependent on these plants, especially Spanish Moss and Old Man's Beard. To find a nest, look for Old Man's Beard. To garner twigs for building the nest, kites also need cypress nearby. Cypress breaks off easily; pine does not.

The nest, a two-foot-wide platform, half cypress twigs and half Old Man's Beard and Spanish Moss, is a shabby flimsy affair, poorly constructed, poorly secured in precarious situations.

Nest trees are usually pine, any kind of pine. Look for a nest high in the growing tips where cross branches lend support and allow easy entry to the kites.

Breathtaking in their graceful flight, kites are clumsy creatures when not air-borne.

There are almost always three birds around the nest. The third, a non-breeding male, is probably a two-year-old and probably has an ulterior motive, like finding the female alone. It is difficult to distinguish the sex but the behavior is male. As a rule, male kites carry nesting materials.

Make all the copies you need of the enclosed form for personal use, one for each sighting, and deliver, e-mail or mail back to **David Hartgrove**. Good luck on your research! We wish each of you many kite sightings.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Halifax River Chapter members can do two things to help in the research: Volunteer for observations at Lake Woodruff NWR; Make observations anywhere else during your normal activities. An insert is enclosed in this newsletter for Chapter members and their friends to record Swallow-tailed Kite sightings. It is suggested that if you have a compass, take it with you in your car so you can get accurate directions of a kite's flight pattern. If you see a kite carrying nesting material, please call David right away so that someone can quickly locate the nest.

SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Join with us to honor the recipient of *The Walter Boardman Preservation Award* on this special evening at The Palmetto Club. Our social hour begins at 5:30pm with dinner served at 6:30pm. Come to have fun, be with your friends and enjoy an entertaining tale of early Florida natural history presented by a master storyteller.

Save this date - Monday evening, May 17, 2004

Call for Presenters and Speakers

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Ray Scory

I am designing a Halifax River Audubon web page for the Rose Bay Legacy Project. The Speakers Bureau page will list the names and qualifications of people with expertise in avian education, teaching, speaking or audio-visual presentations.

If you are interested in having your name and qualifications listed in the Halifax River Audubon's Speakers Bureau link, please contact me at 386-763-4260. Please respond immediately after reading this message. Time is important.

TOMOKA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Lois Robinson

On January 24th, the three Volusia County Audubon Societies worked together to judge and provide prizes to middle school and high school students participating in the Tomoka Regional Science Fair at the Advanced Technology Center in Daytona Beach. We had our own set of criteria for judging over forty exhibits focusing on conservation and the environment. The four winners were awarded US Savings Bonds in varying amounts. The Judges were **Dale Samler, Glade Koch, David Hartgrove,** and **Don Picard.** The winners were:

- **Cristina White**, Spruce Creek High School, 1st Place Sr. Division, Driving on the Beach: A Comparison of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon Levels.
- **John Cunningham**, Spruce Creek High School, 2nd Place Sr. Division, Coastal Zoning's Effect on Loggerhead Nesting.
- **Charlene McLaughlin**, Silver Sands Middle School, 1st Place Jr. Division, Comparison of Sedimentary Layers in Core Samples and Water Samples from Waterways in the Ponce Inlet, Florida area.
- **Elana Honigman**, Bet Sefer Heritage School, 2nd Place Jr. Division, Photosynthesis in *Eloдея*.

We congratulate these winners and all the participants for their interest in the environment and good science.

These four young people will be attending our March 15th program meeting and they will bring their exhibits for us to see. They will be first on the program since it is a school night and they will not be able to stay longer. Come a few minutes early so you can view their exhibits before the meeting begins at 6:30 pm. We want to encourage them. They are our future environmentalists!

NOTE from Barbara Samler: This is the third time that Cristina White placed first for the Audubon Award! This despite the fact that students' names and their schools' names are not available to judges and besides that, three of our judges were new this year.

The Pelican Gallery

A CALL FOR YOUR ARTWORK

Ray Scory

If you wish to exhibit your art specialty at Sica Hall, please contact me. The Gallery will display your work as you wish. The only restriction is that the work must have been made in Florida. You may display framed photographs, mounted snapshots, paintings or artwork in any media. The subject matter is not restricted to only birds. However, the subject matter can be landscapes, flowers even your grandchildren playing on the beach.

We just want to see your artistic interests and enjoy looking at them as much as you enjoyed making them.



AUDUBON EAGLEWATCH REPORT

January 17, 2004.

Lynda White, Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator

St. Johns County – Nest SJ007. The pair that had nested there since 1986 has abandoned the nest site. This appears to be a case of cumulative stress from continued construction during nesting season. To date an alternate nest site has not been located.

Indian River County – Nest IN011A. This nest, currently active with incubating birds, is on property slated for development. The nest is in a dead tree and the developer is limited in the number of homes built “as long as the birds stay put.” The nest is being monitored daily by Audubon EagleWatch volunteers.

These are just two examples of the increasing pressure from development on Florida’s eagles. Please be aware of the importance of reporting any real or suspected threats to nest sites.

BOARD ACTIONS – FEBRUARY 2, 2004

- Motion passed to support concept of Volusia County Growth Boundaries and putting the proposal on the November voting ballot.
- Motion passed to add HRA linkage to Rose Bay Legacy Project website.
- Motion passed to plan Birdathon fundraising event March 19, 2005.
- President John Roessler wrote letter to Governor **Jeb Bush** urging him to take action on coastal issues as outlined in the Pew Commission report and the US Commission on Ocean Policy. No motion was passed, but Board stated approval for him to send the letter.
- Motion passed Board by email vote to approve nominating Committee members **Morrell Robinson, John Williams,** and **Vivian Smith.**

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

I've written in the past about the plan to extend Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40. The proposed route would run between the Tomoka River and I-95. The reason for the extension is to facilitate commercial development. The original reason for my opposition to the road was limited to the effects such a road and the resulting development would have on the river, a designated Outstanding Florida Waterway. Now, having walked the entire length of the property, I see that there's a lot more to be lost than just water quality in the river and eventually the Tomoka Basin.

On a cold, windy, overcast Sunday morning, **Michele Moen, Don Spence, Ray Jarrett** and I set out to document what was at stake in the plan to extend the road. Don and Ray are plant specialists and Michele and I were along to see what kinds of birds and other wildlife might be in the area. We headed north along a dirt road near the Humane Society, then followed a fire break west into the deeper woods and headed down slope toward the river. We walked through palmettos and turkey oaks, seeing gopher tortoise burrows and deer tracks. We dropped down onto the flood plain of the river and began to negotiate the muddy ground covered with a plant called lizard's tail and trying not to stumble over the cypress knees. And then, we were standing next to the clear, tea colored water of the winding river, no more than 10 feet across at this point. From off to the east came the incessant sounds of I-95. Above was the "churr" of a Red-bellied Woodpecker, the "peter, peter, peter" call of Tufted Titmice and the "uh, oh" call of Fish Crows. We heard Red-shouldered Hawks and Carolina Chickadees. Down along the river, there are the stumps of old cypress giants that were selectively logged out 50 years or more ago. Some of them are 4 feet or more in diameter and there are still lots of large, beautiful cypress trees there. Walking along the flood plain was difficult so we headed back up slope to hike the old sand ridge and scrub habitat. If they could find this spot, Florida Scrub-Jays would do just fine here.



We walked along, taking note of the bobcat tracks and, just west of the long wetland that's visible from I-95, we found the remains of a freshwater turtle nest. There was no way to tell what species it was but the dried, leathery remains of the eggs spoke of a successful hatching. The wetland is full of small, sapling sized pond

cypress and water hemlock and when we walked down to its edge, we flushed a Wilson's Snipe that rocketed off over I-95.

We walked on, across damp sand that clung to our boots as we tried to avoid stepping on the tiny white flowers called "innocence." Then we plunged back down slope toward the river again and found clumps of the shiny orange seeds of coontie and the lovely pink flower spikes of buckeye. Though there are the unmistakable signs of humans around (an old Orlando Sentinel paper sales box, beer cans and assorted trash) the place is too beautiful to turn into more parking lots, office complexes and fast food restaurants. In addition, the area between the east side of the river and I-95 is narrow enough that there's no way to develop the land without heavily impacting the river and its associated wetlands.

The county's road plans already call for extending Tymber Creek Road through to LPGA Boulevard as a bypass for I-95. Surely a way can be found to preserve the river and its water quality by having the development concentrated along that road. We can't stop them all. But this idea to extend Tomoka Farms Road is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. We'll keep you advised on the situation and our challenge to this misguided plan.

Help is needed to transport injured seabirds from beachside Life Guard stations on weekends and other times. Please call **Sue Higgins** at 767-6808 for details.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

John Carr

On Sunday, 15 of February, **Carol Branch, Joan Treves** and I did an area of the N.E. Quadrant of Volusia County to record the number of species and individuals for the annual count. These counts can be done in varying sized areas from small to large. We covered Tomoka, Bulow, and Peninsula State Parks, in the 32174 zip code area. Despite rainy and very windy conditions the first part of the day; our final count was 56 species and 1634 individuals.

At Boardman Pond on Highbridge Road we delightedly observed 3 Green-winged Teal, 20 Dunlins, 30 Long-billed Dowitchers, some Greater Yellow-legs, and various herons and egrets. Another delight was a raft of 200 Black Scoters at Peninsula Park 300 yards off shore, and numerous Northern Gannets diving for food.

Gusts of 30-mile winds kept the raptor count down to 2 Red-shouldered Hawks that chose to roost in trees.

Next year, you might want to participate in this annual count.

CALENDAR

Monday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 4

West Volusia Audubon field trip – Dora Canal Boat trip. 1½-hour tour of Dora Canal and the Dead River. \$14/person. Reservations required. Call Vivian Taylor 734-1390.

Thursday–Sunday, March 11-14

HRA booth at Ocean Center Garden Show

Saturday and Sunday, March 13-14

Pelican Island Wildlife Festival. Riverview Park, Sebastian. Contact: Joanna Taylor (772) 562-3909.

Monday, March 15

HRA Program Meeting. Dr. Marc Minno, “Florida Butterfly Gardening.” 6:30pm. SICA Hall, Holly Hill.

Friday, March 19

HRA Field Trip. St. Johns Ferry and Ravine Gardens. Meet 8:00am at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. Led by Willie Burns 253-2150. Bring lunch.

Saturday, March 20

SE Volusia Audubon field trip to Washington Oaks State Gardens. Contact Gail Domroski 428-0447.

Tuesday, March 23

West Volusia Audubon program. **Kevin Doxstater**. “Beautiful Birds, Beautiful Music.” 6:30pm. Women’s Club, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand.

Thursday, March 25

West Volusia Audubon field trip. Drive Lake Woodruff. Meet in the refuge parking lot at 8:30am. Optional lunch at DeLeon Springs. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 for reservations.

Saturday, March 27

HRA Field Trip. Volusia County Landfill. Meet 8:00am at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. & Williamson Blvd. Led by Kevin DeWall, 767-3031. Bring lunch.

Saturday, March 27

Herb Society Plant Fair. See article.

Sunday, March 28

HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway Park. Meet 4:00pm under bridge, NW side. Led by Kevin Doxstater 212-4319.

Saturday, April 3

HRA Field Trip. Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Meet 8:30am at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. (US-92). Led by Gina Holt, 253-3466. Bring lunch.

Monday April 5

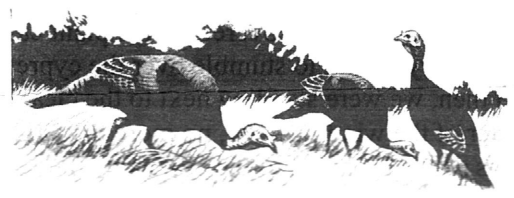
HRA Board Meeting, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street.

NEDRA COUNTS ONE BIRD

Nedra Sekera, January issue, The Limpkin, Indian River Audubon Society newsletter

I just have to share this with you all and hope you get a little chuckle out of it. When I returned home from the Merritt Island CBC I was greeting my husband and our lab, Buddy, when I noticed these really **big** brown areas **all** over our light colored carpet. I tried not to sound too accusing when I asked what happened. My husband said I would never guess in a million years and he was right.

It seems that Buddy wanted to go out and when my husband opened the door onto the back porch there was an immediate commotion with terrible sounds and a burst of feathers all over. An unfortunate hen turkey had found its way into our back porch. My husband was finally able to separate the dog and the turkey but not before it had done some really amazing flying feats resulting in much turkey poop which the dog immediately walked in. And of course, tracked through the house. Eventually, the turkey was coaxed (if that’s the right word) outside and except for being slightly bald was in good condition. Buddy has a few feathers to remember the occasion and I have to call the carpet cleaners.



REPORT BANDED PAINTED BUNTINGS

The Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland has an on-going program to band Painted Buntings. They request everyone to report bands on Painted Buntings. The data will be used to help discover why the Painted Bunting population is declining.

Most birds have 2 bands on each leg; some have only 1 on each leg. The Silver band has the USGS number. The 10 band colors are Dark Blue, Light Blue, Yellow, Red, Dark Pink, Light Pink/Flesh, Orange, Purple/Lavender, Light Green, and Black.

- The bottom band is the one nearest the bird’s toes
- Males are brightly colored
- Females and immature males are green
- Some birds may have bands that are all the same color.

What to note:

Left Leg: Top and Bottom Band Colors

Right Leg: Top and Bottom Band Colors

Bird’s color:

Date:

Where observed: Area, County, State

To get a report form: Contact Rae Bourquein, (863) 425-3003 or raebourquein@hotmail.com.



MARCH PROGRAM SPEAKER

Barbara Kieran

Dr. Marc Minno will guide us in choosing plants for our gardens that butterflies love when he presents our program at Sica Hall at 6:30 on March 15. His talk, "Florida Butterfly Gardening," is the perfect subject for Dr. Minno, a biologist with the St. Johns River Water Management District. He is also the author of Butterflies of the Florida Keys and the coauthor of Florissant Butterflies: A Guide to the Fossil and Present -Day Species of Central Colorado.

Dr Minno is active in the Florida Native Plant Society and other community organizations. If you have a copy of Dr. Minno's book, bring it to the meeting and he will be glad to sign it for you.

PROGRAM ON RARE FLORIDA BIRDS

Glade Koch

At our Chapter's monthly meeting February 16, we heard **Dr. Ken Meyer**, Director of Avian Research and Conservation Institute, and graduate student **Gina Zimmerman**, tell about their studies of two birds. Dr. Meyer presented slides of the Short -tailed Hawk, a bird unique to Florida in the U.S., and an update on the Swallow-tailed Kite. Neither species is listed for their rarity on any official list although the hawk population is estimated to be less than 250 pairs.

Short-tailed Hawk nests are very hard to find because they nest in isolated pockets in deep woods. They migrate within Florida, though, and are more easily found and radio-tagged in their southern range in the Keys.

The beautiful Swallow-tails are just now making landfall in Florida in the Tampa area straight from wintering in Brazil and will be around us here soon

You may contribute to this research by making your check to: Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Dr. Ken Meyer, 411 N.E. 7th Street, Gainesville, FL 32601.

Herb Society Plant Fair will take place Saturday, March 27 at Riverside Meeting House, Beach St. and Granada Blvd in Ormond Beach from 10am to 3pm. Herbal Luncheon is \$6. Peg Muse will talk on Flower Arranging, and Honor O'Reilly's talk will be "How to Grow Herbs."

JOIN AUDUBON



Yes, I want to join **Halifax River Audubon Inc., Audubon of Florida and National Audubon Society** at the special introductory rate of \$20.60. I save 43% off regular dues.

As a Senior Citizen or Student, I may join for \$15.60

Dues for **National Audubon Society** include \$10.00 for *Audubon* magazine plus \$0.60 sales tax. You will also receive the Audubon of Florida magazine *The Naturalist* and the Halifax River Audubon newsletter *The Pelican*.

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, complete the form and return it to Halifax River Audubon, Inc., P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166.

Halifax River Audubon, Inc. **does not renew** National Audubon Society memberships or those of Audubon of Florida. **You must make renewal payment directly to National Audubon Society.**

Yes, I want to join **Halifax River Audubon, Inc.** as a Chapter-Only member. I will receive our Chapter's *The Pelican* newsletter only.

The dues for this membership are \$20.00 for adults or \$15.00 for Seniors or Students. Make your checks for this category of membership payable to **Halifax River Audubon, Inc.** and mail to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, Florida, Florida, 32115-0166

Name _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

Meetings are held September through May at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave. Holly Hill, at 6:30 pm. All interested people and guests are **Welcome**.

Visit our Web Site: www.halifaxriveras.org

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
POST OFFICE BOX 166
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #395
Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
113 CENTENNIAL LANE
DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Reid Hughes	At-Large	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Barbara Kieran	At-Large	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Open	At-Large		
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

March 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

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. 10 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON APRIL 2004

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

First, an update on the proposed extension of Tomoka Farms Road. On March 1st, I sat in a meeting room in the County Attorney's office for nearly 8 hours while a group composed of representatives from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Consolidated Tomoka Land Company, the County Attorney's office and our attorney, **Dennis Bayer**, sparred back and forth over reasons for and against extension of the road. Obfuscation seemed to be the rule of the day as those in the room advocating the building of the road put a number of specious arguments forward. Our side tried to be sure that the DCA representatives didn't completely get lost in the avalanche of snow jobs being posited by the advocates. In the interest of brevity, let's just say that nothing was decided and there's another meeting scheduled for March 30th. We'll keep you posted.

"Shortsighted men... in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things." So said Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican president who knew the value of wild lands. The current administration has an entirely different view of the "value" of wild lands. The value they place on wild lands is in direct proportion to the amount they've received in campaign contributions from various extraction industries. Here are several examples.

Washington is full of acronyms. One of the most important to the environment is one you may not have heard of: NEPA. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that government agencies "prevent or eliminate damage to the environment." While that sounds vague to the point of absurdity, it means that before a government agency signs off on some big project, it must look at the environmental ramifications of that project. It also means that the public gets to be involved in the decision making process. It's part of what gave the environmental movement the right to take the government to court to force clean up of the Everglades. NEPA is the Magna Carta of the environmental movement. All other environmental laws, their enforcement and standing, are based on this act. The White House has set up a special task force to find ways to circumvent this act whenever it obstructs the wishes of those big campaign contributors.

Another acronym you may not have heard of is FIFRA. That's the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The Environmental Protection Agency set up the FIFRA Endangered Species Taskforce to gather information on where protected species are located so the EPA can determine if pesticides are affecting them. In spite of what should be required under NEPA, the taskforce is made up of 14 representatives from agro-chemical companies. They hold regular, secret, unrecorded meetings with EPA administrators. Surprise! In the last year they've shifted focus from gathering the information to pushing the EPA to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

Finally, we come to the wanton theft of our national forests, specifically, the Tsongass, in southeast Alaska. Though the state's Congressional delegation is small, they're in positions of real power. They've been pushing for clear-cutting of old growth forestlands in the Tsongass and other national forests in the state for years. At last they have a willing partner in the White House. It's the rape of a national treasure. And we taxpayers will get to subsidize it. Though a worldwide glut of timber has been forcing down prices for years and there's plenty to meet the country's needs, in 2002 we taxpayers spent 36 million dollars to build logging roads into the Tsongass. Then the feds charged the logging companies a whopping 1.2 million dollars for the timber they took out. That means we taxpayers paid nearly 35 million dollars in a single year for the privilege of having private companies destroy a unique national treasure.

In the early 1920's, another Republican presidency was nearly brought down by the Teapot Dome oil scandal. What's going on in Washington now is far worse than anything contemplated by Mr. Harding and his cohorts. Though he later had a falling out with the Republican Party, Teddy Roosevelt would surely be ashamed of what this administration and its henchmen in the Congress have done in the 21st century. I know, it's not going to happen, but it's time for impeachment hearings.

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

P.J. O'Rourke

THE GOLDEN DOG

Willie Burns

The motto of "The Golden Dog," our Chapter's book store, is to fulfill our mission, namely to provide information and education to increase awareness of the environment. To this end we have managed to procure another marvelous book that we are offering to our members.

For a limited time, we shall sell at a discount the book *Reflections of the Blue Cypress* by Richard Baker and Juanita Baker. It is published by Florida's Pelican Island Audubon Society, which is receiving all proceeds of the sale of this lovely work of photography, history, and poems.

The photography is almost up to our member **Kevin Doxstater's** standard. The poems and text of the rest of the book are also true treats. It was all photographed from a canoe on Blue Cypress Lake (near Vero Beach). Both the Bakers are Ph.D.s. This is reflected in the accurate history of the area included within. This book deserves to not only be in all of our libraries but also those of our children and grandchildren.

At the next TWO general meetings and next board meeting, it can be purchased at 10% off the list price of \$34.95, a saving of \$3.49. With tax, the price comes to \$33.49. After these meetings we shall sell them at their regular price of \$34.95, plus \$2.27 for a total of \$37.21.

Our intent is to assist their Chapter in their fundraiser and also raise money for our Chapter. By us selling a bunch up front, they are paying shipping, giving us a good price break and allowing us to sell them on consignment, a really big help to our operation.

You can simply pick one up at the general or board meeting. Please notify me if you intend to so do, and how many, so we do not run short.

FIELD TRIP TO LAKE APOPKA JANUARY 9, 2004

Ray Scory

A chill was in the air this day - the day that we birded Lake Apopka. On this cold, overcast day, more reminiscent of a day in New England than early Spring in Florida, we stood strong against a determined wind humming over vast flatlands, and saw birds. Fulvous Whistling Ducks and a White-crowned Sparrow were the birds of the day together along with a Bald Eagle, Sandhill Cranes and Northern Harriers.

Sixty other species of birds appeared as the wind and cold did its best to keep them undercover. However, sixteen Audubon members would not be denied.

Led by **Harold Weatherman**, our St. Johns River Water Management District representative guide, and by the pure enjoyment of birding, we had a wonderful time.

The north Shore of Lake Apopka and Clay Island consist of over 18,000 acres of former farmlands now serving as a natural cleansing filter for the waters of Lake Apopka and the Harris chain of lakes. We were privileged to get first hand information regarding the restoration of Lake Apopka from Mr. Weatherman. This trip gave us an up front look at how a great lake can be brought back from ruin to its natural state by the hard work of dedicated and visionary people.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BIRD TALK

Carol Branch

On February 26th two of our Chapter members presented a short program to a group of 9, 10, and 11 year olds at Ormond Beach Elementary School.

At the request of teacher Mr. Scardigno ("Mr. S."), **John Roessler** projected bird pictures while I did the talking. This Club group consisted of 15 lively, interested youngsters who were able to add to the session with sightings and experiences of their own as they looked at pictures of common backyard birds. We added the sound to the pictures and some remembered hearing the calls.

Each Thursday for a few weeks the Club members will do activities related to birds.

BOARD ACTIONS, MARCH 1, 2004

- Motion was passed to appoint **Carol Branch** to fill a vacant At-Large position on the Board.
- Motion was passed to purchase 24 each mugs and tote bags with the Chapter logo. These will be sold at meetings and community events and given as gifts.
- Motion was passed to purchase 2000 flyers of the "Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide." The flyer has been edited and expanded and will be distributed to members in September.
- Motion was passed to replace the April 20 program speaker Mr. Richardson because his required travel expenses were excessive. Mr. John Crisp of the Marine Science Center will be our program speaker.
- Motion was passed to send a letter to Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission protesting the proposal to stop protection to Double-crested Cormorants. If protection were stopped the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Service would then be able to pursue its plan to shoot and gas roosting cormorants and their nestlings in Florida as well as in other States. The purpose of the proposed killing is to stop cormorants from eating fish raised in commercial fish farms.
- Motion was passed by phone and email vote to donate \$200.00 to Attorney **Dennis Bayer** as a "thank you" for the long hours he has spent on legal issues of environmental concerns.

MAY 17 BANQUET - DR. WALTER TAYLOR

Ray Scory

Dr. Walter Taylor will bring to our Halifax River Audubon May 17 banquet a perfect blend of wit, entertainment and Florida history. He will portray, in period costume, Andre Michaux (1746-1803) - the first trained botanist to extensively explore the American wilderness east of the Mississippi River, the Bahamas, and Spanish East Florida. Sent by King Louis XVI of France, the tireless royal botanist discovered numerous plants unknown to science as well as establishing two early botanical nursery-gardens in America. In the Spring of 1788, Michaux visited Florida at which time the land was under rule of Spain. Dr. Taylor's presentation will bring to life the daring and fruitful explorations of Andre Michaux in Florida.

Dr. Taylor serves as Associate Chair and Professor of Biology at the University of Central Florida, teaching such courses as biodiversity, ornithology, Florida natural history and invertebrate zoology. He is an accomplished keynote speaker presenting his colorful programs to a wide-ranging audience of various natural science organizations and several professional societies.

He has authored numerous books, such as the well known *The Field Guide to Florida Wildflowers* and most recently coauthored with Dr. Elaine M. Norman *Andre Michaux in Florida, An Eighteenth-Century Botanical Journey*.

NOTES FROM THE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Lois Robinson

Those of you who log on to the Web site regarding the Great Backyard Bird Count (www.birdsource.org) will find some interesting statistics. Here are a few of them:

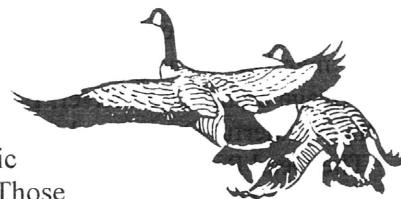
In the top ten list of birds spotted by the most birdwatchers the weekend of February 13-16 the leaders were the **Mourning Doves**. This was followed by Northern Cardinals and Dark-eyed Juncos—no big surprise there. The most numerous of the species counted were **Canada Geese** with 600,448 sightings turned in. We in Florida don't realize how many there are around the country since we don't see them here very often. European Starlings were the next numerous followed by American Goldfinches.

Florida was the eighth in the list of states submitting the most lists. California was first followed by New York. To our credit Florida was third in reporting the most species. We reported 236 species while Texas found 295 and California found 276 species. Florida was fifth among



the states in the total number of birds observed (not species) logging in at 199,284.

This Web site also reported the top ten cities finding the most species. Florida had three cities on that list which I think gives credit to the energetic birdwatchers in the state. Those three cities were Jacksonville, Orlando and Mims. Little Mims listed 111 species, which is a great count for one weekend. We credit this to the hard work of the Space Coast Audubon (new name of Indian River Audubon) as well as Duval County Audubon and Orange County Audubon.



Halifax River Audubon entered the 75 species we saw on our trip to Lake County and Emerald Swamp but Lake County received that credit. **John Carr, Joan Treves and Carol Branch**, covering some of the Volusia County area, logged in 56 species. They reported numerous Black Scoters, which we don't often see.

Thanks to all of you who participated and did your part for bird science.

Florida Audubon 2004 Legislative Agenda Item

RURAL LAND PROTECTION

Senator Dockery has again sponsored a bill to provide bond-based funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act. This is a priority for Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Association and the Florida Forestry Association. However, a House sponsor has not stepped forward, perhaps because last year's bill hit a wall in House Appropriations after Senate passage. Audubon will push for non-recurring general revenue (GR) to jump-start this program.

National Audubon 2004 Legislative Agenda Item

EXEMPTIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

It looks like the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) will once again ask Congress to grant them exemptions from America's most important environmental laws. In 2002, it was the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In 2003, it was portions of the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. Now, in 2004, they are coming after exemptions that could have dire consequences for the health of our children and families. Congressional insiders are reporting they will seek exemptions from portions of the Clean Air Act, the Superfund law designed to clean up our nation's most polluted places, and solid waste laws meant to protect public health! *Stay tuned - more on this to follow as DoD releases its plans!*

DORA CANAL BOAT TRIP

Willie Burns

Please join us on Friday, April 16, 2004 for our annual Dora Canal Field Trip. The cost is \$20.00 per person, member or guest. This year we expect a full two-hour voyage on the Dead River, Lakes Harris and Eustis, and the wonderful Dora Canal.

The Dead River was named for the lack of current. The flow moves in either direction during heavy rains, as does the Dora Canal. Otherwise the River sort of just sits.

Visits to rookeries of Great Egrets, Anhingas, Great Blue Herons, and virtually every other bird found in Central Florida are on the agenda. By running our trip a little later this year we expect to see and hear more of the beautiful and elusive Prothonotary Warblers. We always see Purple Gallinules and Wood Ducks, often with young.

Our trip will leave from the parking lot at Circuit City, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. Please note the earlier departure time: **8:30am**. This will give us extra time to drive to Eustis and ensure a full two-hour boat trip. The boat will leave the dock at 9:30am.

Please call me, Willie Burns, for reservations. Send me your \$20.00 at least a week before the trip to secure your reservation. We expect to have a waiting list as WE FILL OUR QUOTA OF 36 QUICKLY. My telephone is 253-2150 and my address is 810 Mason Ave. #31, Daytona Beach FL 32117.

If you desire, bring a picnic lunch and join many of us at a shady glen beside the Canal after our voyage. We will provide cool water on the boat, which does have sanitary facilities of a sort. The boat does have a top, but bring sun block also.

REHABBERS WORKSHOP

Gina Holt

I recently attended the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Annual Symposium that was held in Orlando the week of March 1. The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey hosted several tours for the rehabbers who came from as far away as Seattle and Canada. We also took several buses to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors were all excited to see the gators and the manatees, as well as all the waterbirds.

The convention kicked off Wednesday with four full days of workshops covering everything from emergency preparedness to setting up a lab. I attended workshops on feeding techniques for waterbirds, avian fracture immobilization, and a raptor management seminar designed to help individuals teach about birds of prey. Walter Crawford of the World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri presented this workshop. He has worked with birds of prey for over 40 years, is a master falconer and for years has helped the Center in Maitland find a home for their non-releasable eagles and other birds.

We also got a chance to visit Sea World and take a behind the scenes tour through their rehab areas, including manatees, sea turtles and marine fishes. They have a large exotic bird population, and we visited up close with their two African Fish Eagles.... you know, the ones that fly at the Daytona 500 every year.

Rehabilitation is a growing field with many of the 500 plus people attending this convention under 35-years-old. Rehab goes hand in hand with education and the individuals I met are dedicated to our wildlife and the environment. It was an experience I hope to repeat.

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 3

HRA Field Trip. Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Meet 8:30am at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. (US-92). Led by Gina Holt, 253-3466. Bring lunch.

Saturday, April 3

Marine Science Center. Turtle Day, 10-2. Kid's interactive activities, educational booths, and turtle crafts. Possible release of rehabbed sea turtles.

Monday April 5

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

Saturday, April 10

Friends of Lake Woodruff Event. 9:00-11:00am. Swallow-tailed Kites. Meet at parking lot at end of Mud Lake Road.

Friday, April 16

HRA Field Trip. Dora Canal Boat Trip. Meet **8:30am** at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on ISB. (US-92). Reservation required. Led by Willie Burns 253-2150. *See article.*

Monday, April 19

HRA Program Meeting. John Crisp, Director of Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet. 6:30pm. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. *See article.*

Tuesday, April 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. Paul Rebmann. "Walk through Hand Ave. Central Park Nature Trail." Meet 5:30pm along lake on Hand Ave. between Orchard and Nova. Dessert to follow at 7:00pm at Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Info at 441-0423.

Saturday, April 24

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip to Lake Woodruff NWR. Contact Gail Domroski 428-0447.

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25

Earth Day Celebration. Washington Oaks Gardens. *See article.*

Friday, April 30

HRA Field Trip. Big Day Challenge. Meet 7:00am under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway Park, NW side. Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. *See article.*

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Second Annual Awards Banquet

Monday, May 17, 2004

Cocktails at 5:30pm - Dinner at 6:30pm



The Palmetto Club
1000 S. Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL
Casual Dress Attire

Our Guest Speaker
Dr. Walter K. Taylor

- Associate Chair and Professor of Biology and Ornithology, University of Central Florida.
- Recipient, coveted University of Central Florida Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
- Authored, *The Field Guide to Florida Wildflowers* and *Wildflowers in their Natural Communities*
- Co-authored, *Andre Michaux in Florida, An Eighteenth-Century Botanical Journey*
- Keynote speaker for several Audubon and Native Plant Chapters and garden clubs

Dr. Taylor gives an entertaining and interesting portrayal, delivered in period costume, of Andre Michaux, the first-trained botanist to extensively explore the American wilderness east of the Mississippi from 1785 to 1796. His presentation features Andre Michaux's visit to Florida in the Spring of 1788. A program of rare plant discoveries, intimate insights and early Florida history.

DO NOT MISS THIS ONE

Join your friends at the Palmetto Club for a night
of camaraderie, good cheer, wonderful entertainment and fun.

cut here-----cut here-----cut here

Halifax River Audubon Banquet Reservation Form - Must receive by May 10, 2004

Please choose from the two entries: Price at \$20.00 per person

Broiled Salmon with Dill Sauce_____ Chicken Breast stuffed with Spinach/Artichoke_____

Total number of dinners ordered_____, Total amount enclosed - \$_____.

Names of persons attending: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

email: _____ phone: _____

Please return this form and your check payable to Halifax River Audubon
Send to: Barbara Kieran, 1843 Old Tomoka Road, Ormond Beach, FL 32174
For more information, contact: Barbara Kieran @ 386-672-2927 or Ray Scory @ 386-763-4260

MARINE SCIENCE CENTER PROGRAM

Pat Mihalic

John Crisp, Director of the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet, will speak at our April 19 Meeting. He will tell us about the new Center and especially about the new Mary Keller Bird Rehabilitation Center. **Christine Wise** (the bird rehabber) and **Michelle Bauer** (the turtle rehabber) will be with him and tell us about their rehabilitation activities.

Welcome to new members **Dorothy Agor, Deborah A. Buckreis, Ellie Evans, Bob & Freda Holt, Betsy Hooker, Rowland McDowell, and James J. Trias.**



BUTTERFLIES – MARCH 15

Barbara Kieran

Seventy-five people watched and listened in awe as **Dr. Marc Minno** showed slides and took us through different stages of the butterfly from the egg to the adult.

There are typically five larval stages. At each molt, the size, color, and ornamentation of the caterpillar changes. The easiest way to judge which stage a particular caterpillar has reached is by examining the head capsule. Although the body length may double within a stage, the head stays the same size. The head capsule is shed separately from the cuticle, except at the final molt.

Swallowtails winter over in the chrysalis, which are supported by a silk thread that is spun by the caterpillar. Swallowtail eggs are round, whereas the Sulphur's eggs look like a grain of corn. Females lay their eggs on the host plant; some lay a cluster of eggs while others may deposit several eggs on the same plant.

Dr. Minno explained the coloration and shapes of different caterpillars and how they protect themselves from different kinds of predators. Each species eats different food, and when seeking food, butterflies evaluate the shape, color, fragrance and taste of flowers.

Dr. Minno said that when you see a male butterfly sipping water from damp sand or mud, this is called puddling. They are getting salt and nutrients, especially proteins. This is part of the mating process to help develop and enrich the eggs. Males recognize the female by color and scent.

Florida has several species of butterflies, the Giant Swallowtail being one of the largest, and the Skippers are known as the Warblers of butterflies.

No one wanted the program to end; we could have listened for hours.

THE BIG DAY CHALLENGE - APRIL 30

Ray Scory

Our Big Day Challenge is a spin-off of the original World Series of Birding originated by **Pete Dunn** in New Jersey. Instead of trying to count all the birds in Florida for a 24-hour period, however, we will use our *Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide* as the map for our search. Extra Guides will be provided.

Starting at the Port Orange Bridge at 7:00am, we will drive to all 12 locations listed in the guide plus two newly added locations to see how many bird species we can find before darkness sets in. Now this is not a frantic race to find birds. However, with about twelve hours of daylight, 14 locations to visit, daylight traffic between each location and finding birds, we don't have much time to waste, and that is the fun of the day. Bring a lunch or plan a lunch break. If enough people show, we can break into teams so that we can enjoy a more intimate thrill of the chase.

LETTER FROM MARY KELLER

I read the letter **Pat Mihalic** wrote for the Audubon newsletter a while back about the bird rehab center in Ponce Inlet. We received a call from Volusia Council member **Frank Bruno** saying it was to be named for me.

I feel very honored about this and very proud of my family for the time and help they have given myself and the wild life in my care over the years.

Thank you, Mary Keller.

EARTH DAY AT WASHINGTON OAKS

Halifax River Audubon will participate again in the celebration of Earth Day on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Our Chapter activities will include guiding birding walks with telescopes and the Chapter's new binoculars to let visitors view birds. Golden Dog Book Store will sell books and other items. Several members are needed to help with our Pinecone-and-peanut-butter bird feeders, made by kids. Call **Willie Burns** to volunteer to help man our booth.

The Park has a marvelous collection of flowers, including roses, begonias. A chain of ponds and streams are fed by artesian springs. The Intracoastal Waterway borders on the west and the ocean is on the east, with a collection of native Coquina rock unmatched in the area.

Other festival events will be Florida Folk Musicians and Storytellers, Interpretive Programs, Kid's Programs, other Environmental Clubs, Arts and Crafts, Historical Demonstrations, a special Youth Potting Program and Friends Plant Sales. Vendors and local organizations will sell a variety of food items. Admission will be \$5.00 per vehicle. Both days the park will observe regular park operating hours from 8:00am to sundown.

LAKE WOODRUFF TRIP

Glade Koch

Eight of us met **Mary Jean Rogers**, a member of Friends of Lake Woodruff, at 8:00am at the Refuge Visitors' Center on Saturday, November 22. Mary Jean drove the Refuge's vehicle, carrying some of us and **Lois Pouchey's** van-load of birders followed. We used the Chapter's Talk-Abouts to keep in touch. Forty-nine species were recorded ranging from a single Least Sandpiper and Limpkin to about 100 Blue-winged Teal.



We enjoyed watching a female Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk) rising, and then gliding over the lake. Later, while we were walking a dike, we came upon the body of a Northern Harrier. Her rich brown feathers and large white rump patch seemed all in order, but her talons had blood on them. Mary Jean told us of watching a Harrier many times in this vicinity of the Refuge. We were all sobered by this turn of events. About 15 minutes later we spied another female Northern Harrier, dipping over the Autumn marsh grasses. We were all thankful to see her and began conjecturing, "Had the two females tangled recently and had one done the other in? Had one been the younger usurper or had the resident female outdone a newcomer to the territory?"

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A recent issue of Rolling Stone magazine carried an excellent article by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. that detailed the lengths to which our country's natural heritage has been auctioned off by the current administration. Truly, the foxes have been placed in charge of security in the hen house. I have written in the past about former lobbyists for oil and mining industries being placed in charge of rule making (and breaking) at the Departments of Interior and Energy, the Bureau of Land Management, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Environmental Quality. In George Orwell's book 1984, propaganda was used to placate and manipulate the populace of a country in what was, for Orwell, a distant

future. 1984 is twenty years in our past and the folks in charge in Washington have turned what was a scary and cautionary tale into a blueprint for running our nation.

The President and his handlers have gone to great lengths to try to convince an amazingly gullible public that the much touted "Clear Skies" program is an effort to improve air quality in the country. Under this plan they propose allowing three times as much mercury to be released into the atmosphere by the year 2007 than would be permitted under the current Clean Air Act. The Centers For Disease Control has published a report that roughly 8% of the women in this country of child-bearing age have dangerous levels of mercury in their bodies already, placing over 300,000 newborns at risk each year. How does this "pro life" President sleep at night?

Under another insidious euphemism, we're presented with what's called the "Healthy Forests" initiative. This program was sold to the public and Congress as a solution to the devastating fires that ravaged thousands of acres of the country over the last decade. Loggers were to be charged with removing the underbrush that provides the fuel load contributing to the disasters we've witnessed over the past few summers. But the language simply opens areas of old growth to logging, period. In the past, regulations regarding logging on federal lands required environmental impact statements and allowed groups like Audubon, Sierra, etc. a voice in protecting the public's interests in logging decisions on the public's land. Now of course, the once and future lawyers for the logging companies are in positions of authority at the Department of Interior and the Forestry Department. So tucked away in the language of the "Healthy Forests" plan is wording that removes the right of "we the people" to be involved in those decisions. The party that gave the country Abe Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt has been hijacked by a bunch of thugs whose only interest is quick profits for the folks that bankrolled them into power.

Several years ago, there were reports of an immature Iceland Gull at Matanzas Inlet. Three of us took off to see this Arctic specialty that had supposedly wandered down so far south. And having no experience with this species, we too fell under the spell of seeing what we expected to see. More learned observers pointed out that the bird was far too small to be an Iceland Gull, even an immature one. What we were seeing was a leucistic Ring-billed Gull. Leucism is similar to albinism and indicates an absence of color or a washed out appearance. I mention this because this is the time of year we can expect to see Whooping Cranes. Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes have flown in from up north to associate with their Florida sub-species cousins and often a Whooper or two is seen in their company. In May of this year, 2 leucistic Sandhill Cranes were reported near Osteen. So keep sharp eye out and be sure what you're seeing is what's really there.

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
POST OFFICE BOX 166
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #395
Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
113 CENTENNIAL LANE
DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Reid Hughes	At-Large	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Barbara Kieran	At-Large	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Carol Branch	At-Large		jtreves@voyager.net
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin DeWall	Electronic Comm.	767-3031	kdewall@cfl.rr.com
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	frannipec@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

April 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
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.

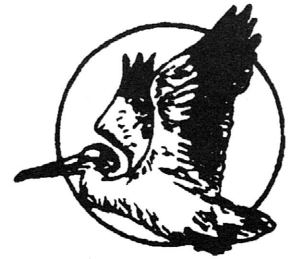
Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

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. 11

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

MAY 2004

DAVID ANDERSON NAMED STATE DIRECTOR OF AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

Dr. Anderson brings a wealth of experience to Audubon. As Director of the San Francisco Zoo, Anderson is credited with helping modernize and refurbish the institution, including leading a \$25 million private capital campaign that brought about major new construction and design of intensive interactive components to the Zoo. Anderson also initiated a successful effort to privatize the Zoo in 1993 in order to increase funding and bring more focused governance to the institution.

A life-long conservationist, experienced curator and highly successful fundraiser, Anderson also served as Associate Director and General Curator at the Audubon Park and Zoological Gardens in New Orleans where he oversaw new exhibit construction - including the design and opening of six new exhibit complexes - fundraising and supervision of the educational department.

Along with his management experience, Anderson has a background in animal management, including his role as Assistant Director and Colony Supervisor at the Duke University Primate Center, where he managed day-to-day operations of the Primate Center and was trained in veterinary treatment of prosimians.

Throughout his career, Anderson has been an active member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) where he served on the board of directors and was chairman of the Honors and Awards Committee. He has also been published in several AZA publications, including *The AZA Field Conservation Resource Guide* and has contributed to several magazine articles and reference books regarding the biology of primates and lemurs. Anderson also helped found the Madagascar Fauna Group, an international collaboration of zoos and institutions working in Madagascar to preserve wildlife and their habitat, as well as the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, a consortium of American zoos working with zoos in Central America to foster greater conservation efforts.

"I am excited about leading Audubon of Florida into its second century of conservation," said Anderson, "Audubon's statewide conservation agenda is well established, and I look forward to working with the staff and board to make it happen!"

He began his new assignment on April 5, and will work out of Miami.

Have you forgotten to buy your tickets?

May 10, 2004
is the
Absolute Deadline
for
Our Second Annual Banquet
At
The Palmetto Club
May 17, 2004

This Banquet replaces the last regular meeting of the year
So don't go to Sica Hall May 17th, we won't be there.

We will be at the Banquet at the Palmetto Club
enjoying a fine meal and the expertise of a wonderful
speaker

Dr. Walter K. Taylor

We will also recognize the heroic environmental efforts of
one of our own members with the

Walter Boardman Award

and

the valuable contributions to our Chapter with the

President's Award

**Please send in your reservations now
so you can join us for this special evening**

GOLF COURSES

The National Golf Foundation says that golf is big business in the United States, contributing more than \$49 billion a year to the economy. Nearly 18,000 golf courses are in this country, more than half the world's 35,000 golf courses, according to the Worldwatch Institute, a global environmental monitoring group. These golf courses cover more than 1.7 million acres and soak up an estimated nearly 4 billion gallons of water daily. They also use pesticides and fertilizers that contribute to water pollution.

The industry is trying to mitigate its environmental impact by using advanced irrigation systems, treated liquid waste, grasses that require less water, and pesticides that break down more quickly.

Scripps Howard News Service writer Joan Lowy

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

First, an update on Tomoka Farms Road Extension and the property that earlier tonight [April 22] was annexed into Daytona Beach.

On April 6th, there was a legal notice in the Daytona Beach News-Journal announcing that the owners of 400 acres of property were requesting annexation into Daytona Beach. The 400 acres lie north of LPGA Boulevard and west of I-95. This is adjacent to the property currently under dispute regarding the construction of a road to facilitate development of the land between the Tomoka River and I-95.

Annexations require an ordinance to make the action official, so the Daytona Beach City Commission met to consider the annexation request. Attached to this request was a map. It was poorly copied and showed only the barest of detail.

I rose to speak against adoption of the ordinance and noted that a portion of the land was entangled in the mediation decision awaiting final resolution by Volusia County and the Department of Community Affairs over development impact fee credits and a Comprehension Growth Plan Amendment. (The fact that those applicants want to squeeze a 4-lane divided highway in between this pristine river and I-95 is the crux of our argument against it.)

One of the property owners present was asked about my statement; he stated that there was no litigation that he knew of and the land for which he and his partner were seeking annexation was west of the River. He then said that the land I was referring to was east of the River. He was correct.

But to state that the 400-acre parcel is west of the River flies in the face of the evidence, such as it is. While the aforementioned map was poorly drawn, it clearly showed that the Tomoka River bisects 4 of the 7 parcels that make up the land at issue.

In the back and forth dialog that ensued between me, various Commission members, the property owner, and the City's planning administrator, I mentioned that fact. I also stated that the problem, as I saw it, was that the Commission was about to vote on an issue on which they had little or no information.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of annexation.

This was just the first step in the long march toward developing this lovely River and its wetlands. The real problem here is that the Commissioners who are voting on these important issues are voting blindly. To them, the Tomoka River is this barely visible, squiggly line on a piece of paper. In reality, it's a beautiful, tranquil, tree-shaded stream full of life and used by all kinds of wildlife.

Halifax River Audubon, Wetlands Alert, Sierra and others are all trying to save this Outstanding Florida

Waterway from further degradation. We suffered a set back in this vote. We will continue to do what we can.

Walmart

The recent decision by the Army Corps of Engineers to deny Walmart a dredge and fill permit for their planned super store in New Smyrna Beach was good news. It was discovered that the permit request stated that only 1/2 acre of wetlands would be impacted. Upon investigation the Corps found that slightly over 13 acres were impacted. Just an innocent oversight on Walmart's part, no doubt.

In Inglewood California, Walmart tried an end run around local politicians who had the temerity to listen to their constituents. An ordinance was passed limiting the size of super stores. Walmart decided to try using the ballot access process to get their way. A "grassroots" organization, the "Citizens Committee to Welcome Walmart to Inglewood" was formed and spent 1 million dollars collecting 6,500 signatures to put the issue on the ballot. They lost by a vote of 7,049 to 4,575. A whopping defeat and proof that even the people who signed the petition voted against the issue. So sometimes, the good guys do win.

BOARD ACTIONS – MAY 2004

- **Ray Scory** reported that 163 bird species were reported as seen on Chapter birding trips this year.
- A celebration at Rose Bay will be held April 28 for the end of the school year's activities there
- **David Hartgrove** reported on the chapter's involvement in the Swallow-tail Kite nests survey. **Lois Robinson** reported on the Roseate Spoonbill banding program that Audubon of Florida is doing. To get involved, call either of the above persons.
- **David Hartgrove** reported on the work the Chapter and other environmental agencies are doing to block the extension of Tomoka Farms Road northward.
- Motion was passed to spend \$50 to join the Friends of Flagler/Volusia Coastal Parks Citizens Support Organization. There is a new recreation area in this group of parks called the Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area on A1A in Flagler County.
- Motion was passed to allow **Paula Wehr** to spend up to \$150 to set up our new website. The website will have the same address as now.
- **William McQuilkin, Jr.** has been approved by e-mail vote of the Board as our Chapter's nominee for Southeastern Regional Director on the Audubon National Society Board. The Southeastern Region covers seven states including Florida and **Bill** has served us well for his past term of three years. **Bill's** home is in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.
- **Kevin DeWall** resigned from the Board as Electronic Communications Chairperson.

EGGSHELLS

Something you might consider putting out for the birds are eggshells. Female songbirds need 10-15 times more calcium for their eggs than a mammal the same size does for its embryos. Without enough calcium, a bird's eggs can't hatch and that means no young are produced.

This is a simple, easy-to-do activity, yet one that can make a difference for both the birds and the participants.

1. It's best if the shells are completely dry before they get stored anywhere so you may want to dry them out on the counter overnight. They should be stored in a container that breathes (avoid plastic) so any residual moisture will dissipate.
2. Once you've accumulated "enough" eggshells (you be the judge of how many you want to deal with) they need to be crushed prior to being distributed to the birds. Don't worry too much about the size of the pieces as long as you have a variety for birds to choose from (small birds will choose smaller sizes, etc).
3. The best time of the year to offer your shells is in the early spring when birds are beginning to build their nests and lay their eggs, but they often take them at other seasons in smaller quantities. Simply scatter the shells around your feeding areas. If you aren't feeding the birds, you can still scatter shells in any areas you think birds will frequent.
4. If you can keep a general idea of how many shell fragments are lying around, you can approximate how attractive they are for the birds. As the females approach egg-laying, they'll be more and more interested in these shells and will add them to their diet. Males too need calcium and may or may not take shells as their own calcium needs dictate. Keep in mind that in some areas, calcium will be easier to acquire so your shells will be more or less attractive to the birds based on this factor.

P.S. nesting birds are extremely venerable to cats, so please keep your pets inside whenever possible.

SCRUB JAYS

Lynn Bowen

West Volusia Audubon Hummer, February 2004



Photo courtesy of James Urbach

The Florida Scrub-Jay is a precious, friendly, beautiful bird found only in Florida! About 100 live at the Lyonia Preserve in Deltona. The Preserve contains 220 acres of dry oak scrubland. This is the only kind of home where scrub jays will live. Other territories are scattered throughout the state.

A scrub jay is about eleven inches long with a thirteen and one-half inch wingspan and only weighs 2.8 ounces. The upper part of the body is sky blue and gray and the underpart is gray. Black eyes, a whitish forehead and pale blue cheeks grace the beautiful blue head. They have very slim black legs and feet.

Qualified people put bands on the birds' legs once or twice a year and by looking at the color and number of these bands, they are able to know each bird personally and which territory is its home. About six "tribes" live at the preserve and are clannish.

A few scrub jays are the watchers for their tribe and sit on high trees to cry an alarm if a problem is spotted. Once when I was there, many scrub jays were together in a tree calling "kreesh, kreesh" and looking at the ground. I cautiously approached for I knew a problem lurked and saw a large diamondback snake coiled just off the path. The snake didn't even move, thank goodness. Unless it is bothered, it won't retaliate, so we were all safe.

Florida Scrub-Jays are officially designated as a threatened population due to spreading urbanization and agriculture using the land they love. They are dependent upon scrub oaks for nesting as well as food. Their diet consists of acorns, grasshoppers, beetles, ants, wasps, spiders, berries and other fruits.

These are friendly, curious birds and their alert black eyes don't miss a trick. Most birds are wary of being too close to humans, but scrub jays assume everyone loves them and I think we all do!

National Audubon Society News

SUPREME COURT VICTORY

On March 23, in a case involving pollution in the Everglades, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that pollutants cannot be pumped into U.S. waters without a Clean Water Act discharge permit, regardless of whether the pump originates the pollutants or merely conveys pollutants that originate elsewhere. This is a victory for clean water protections - not only for the Everglades - but nationwide!

The specific case, South Florida Management District v. Miccosukee Tribe, addressed whether the protections of the Clean Water Act apply to the Management District's practice of pumping stormwater uphill from a collection canal in a developed area into a natural wetland area in the Everglades. While the Supreme Court's decision protects the Everglades, the ruling's impact go far beyond South Florida. Exempting conveyance of pollutants from permitting would have opened the door to serious degradation of our wetlands, lakes and streams by allowing pollutants to be pumped or piped into bodies of water anywhere in the U.S., threatening healthy drinking water as well as restoration projects everywhere - especially the Everglades.

LAWN FLOWERS A BONUS TO CONSERVATION

Robert.P. Haviland

Daytona Beach News-Journal 9-29-03

As agencies and authorities increasingly admit that fresh water in Florida is not an inexhaustible resource, new words and new ideas appear. If you have been paying attention, there are such concepts as de-salinization, demineralization, aquifer storage and recovery, and others. All of these are directed to providing more fresh water to allow present practices of use to continue, even though there is an inherent increase in cost.

There are some other approaches being mentioned. One is the general idea of cutting back on use. For the public, this is sometimes expressed by the word "xeriscaping," which just means using plants that do not require more than the natural water provided by rainfall, with all of its variations and its wet season-dry season pattern.

Since lawns use a sizeable fraction of present water demand, it is natural to apply this concept to the lawn. It turns out to be surprisingly simple. The major step is – stop watering. Turn off the sprinkler system, and let nature develop the kind of lawn that can exist with the variations of nature.

Actually, there are steps to help the natural process along. The most important of these is to stop using herbicides on lawns and shrubs. The purpose of weed killers is to keep the plants adapted to the area from growing. A natural lawn is based on these intruders.

To help this process along, keep mowing, but set the mower height about one inch higher than usual for irrigated lawns. This gives the new plants more time to develop, and more body to withstand adverse conditions.

Some advocates of xeriscaping also say, stop applying fertilizer. But for any recently developed area, it is necessary to keep applying fertilizer: it is likely that the lawn consists of sod from a sod farm, grown in a layer of sewage sludge, with the harvested sod simply laid over the bare sand left after the lot was cleared. Older areas will have a build-up of organic material in the soil, especially if the grass clippings have not been carried away. But unless the dark organic layer is at least six inches thick, fertilizer is necessary. Just don't use the common and cheap 6-6-6 mixture: the first good rain will take it to the nearest water body, to increase the algae growth so common in canals and city ponds. Use a slow-release type, more expensive but longer lasting and far less damaging. It may be a good idea to add some trace minerals, if the fertilizer doesn't include these. A common form is called frit, a glassy sand made by pouring blast furnace slag into water. One application lasts for years.

The change in the lawn may be gradual or quite sudden. Invasive plants will appear and may die back the

next time the lawn is mowed. But plants adapted to short height will prosper, gradually taking over. Some will be creepers, a fairly large plant, but never more than a few inches above the ground. Others will be small, with many present. It is not uncommon to count a dozen species in a square yard. Flowers will appear, almost hidden in other vegetation. One of the first is a Florida violet. Others will have small yellow, white or blue flowers.

The most likely sudden change is an infestation of cinch bugs if the original lawn is the common St. Augustine grass, an import from Texas. It turns brown as the bugs devour the sap of the plant, and dies. If the large brown patches are unsightly, sow annual ryegrass as a temporary measure, to last until native grasses take over. Rye will die off during the winter months.

In the spring, it is best to delay mowing until the flowering plants have seeded. Many of these have a flower on a stem perhaps 6 to 8 inches high. One of the most interesting is a native Florida orchid. The yellow bloom is not large and is unimpressive until examined closely with a magnifying lens. This plant can also be seen in the grass along roads, if the spring roadside mowing is delayed.

It will take about three years to make the full transition. Then a true lawn will have been developed. True, the color will not be the same green of expensively maintained monoculture grass, and the color and appearance will change with season. But it will be much cheaper, far less damaging and enormously less consumptive of water.

And as a bonus, you can have flowers in your lawn too.

Haviland, an environmental activist and retired engineer, lives in South Daytona.

Interesting new insecticide

NATURE'S PESTICIDES

In an ideal world, organic gardeners would produce beautiful crops free of pest infestation or disease, but in the real world your garden sometimes needs a little help. Luckily, plants produce their own natural chemicals in self-defense against fungi, insects and animal predators. The bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) produces a useful insect toxin that is available as an organic spray. Commercially available Pyola is a broadly useful spray that combines an insecticide derived from pyrethrum flowers with canola oil from rapeseed. Other common pests can be deterred by increasing soil alkalinity or acidity and interplanting insect-resistant plants such as marigolds and sunflowers.

Jim Motavalli

Environmental Defense Solutions

(Pyola costs \$16.95 a pint from Gardens Alive at www.gardensalive.com.)

CALENDAR

Monday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 5

Sierra Club program meeting. Doug Weaver, Director of Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management will discuss the progress of VOLUSIA FOREVER. 7:00pm. *Note: Sica Hall is being renovated at this time.* Meet at Unitarian Universalist Meeting Hall, 56 N. Halifax Ave., Ormond Beach (behind Post Office).

Saturday, May 8

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

Friday, May 14

HRA Field Trip. Beginners Butterfly Walk. Meet 9:00am at City Island Court House Annex east parking lot. Led by Madeline Shaddix 761-0301. Bring lunch.

Friday, May 14

SE Volusia Audubon field trip. St. Augustine Alligator Farm. Call Gail Domroski. 428-2447.

Saturday, May 15

Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge Event. 8:30-10:30am. The Volusia Tract. Overview: **Trees, Plants, Fungi, Controlled Burns**

Monday, May 17

HRA Banquet. Speaker Dr. Walter Kinsley Taylor. Reservation required. Social hour 5:30pm. Dinner 6:00pm. Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach. St. Daytona Beach.

Friday, May 21

HRA Field Trip. Alligator Farm, St. Augustine.. Meet 8:00am at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2620. Bring lunch.

Sunday, May 23

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

Wednesday, June 2

Sierra Club program meeting. "The Fate of Humanity," Ross McCluney, Senior Scientist of the Florida Solar Energy Center. 7:00pm. Unitarian Universalist Meeting Hall, 56 N Halifax Ave., Ormond Beach. *OR - Sica Hall if renovations there have been completed.*

Saturday, June 26 and Saturday, July 10

Merritt Island Wildlife Association members only. Sea Turtle Walks to Canaveral National Seashore in search of a nesting sea turtle. RSVP to reserve your space now as space is limited. Call 321-861-2377.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Lois Robinson, Treasurer

Spring is a low time of the year as far as finances go for HRA. We have gone from a checking account balance on January 1, 2004 of \$6,110.80 to a balance on April 4, 2004 of \$3,695.02. We do have a healthy savings account with H & R Block and I will be transferring \$2,000 from that account soon to get us through the lean summer months. But living off your savings is not a good practice to get into. All this is to say that if you want to make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift to HRA now is the time to do so. You may designate your donations (made out to Halifax River Audubon) for Audubon Adventures, for underwriting the Pelican, the general budget, or whatever you desire. The printing and mailing of the Pelican is by far our biggest budget item and we all think it is worth that and more.

You may also give a chapter membership to someone you know (\$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors). This is a great way to help us and recognize your loved one. The person designated will receive *The Pelican* monthly. Don't forget membership in National Audubon (\$20.60 adults, \$15.60 seniors). This way you are more involved in conservation on a national level and you receive the beautiful Audubon magazine. Both kinds of membership are important. Send your contributions to Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115.

We are planning a money raising Birdathon for March 2005 but your help is greatly appreciated now. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee presents below the names of the persons who have accepted nominations for the offices shown.

- Kevin Doxstater—Board Member At Large, Class of 2007
- Willie Burns—Board Member At Large, Class of 2007
- Carol Branch—Board Member At Large, Class of 2005 (Carol is serving out an unexpired term of a board member who resigned)

Elections will be held at the May general meeting.

Submitted by Morrell Robinson, Nominations Chair

MARY KELLER

Mary Keller cares for baby and injured birds.

Here is some of her needs right now: Kaytee Exact Hand-Feeding Baby Bird Formula, fresh or frozen sugar-free berries, wild bird seed, Gatorade liquid, and dry Purina One dog food.

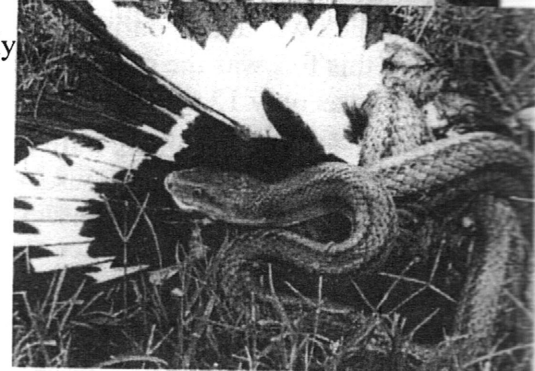
Items can be dropped off at her home at home on 1216 Deneece Terrace, off Derbyshire Road between 10th Street and LPGA Boulevard.

NATURE THWARTED

John Tribe, published in Habi-Chat, newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association, Spring 2004.

A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers built a nest, 30 feet up in a dead palm tree at MIWA board member John Tribe's house on Merritt Island. They were raising two young chicks when, one evening, an uninvited guest decided to join the party. A yellow rat snake climbed the palm tree trunk and was preparing for a baby woodpecker meal when it was attacked by one of the parent birds. The bird and snake fell to the ground. The woodpecker was on borrowed time as the snake's constrictions began to snuff out its life. John's wife, Melinda, saw the death struggle at the foot of the tree and called John. He unwrapped the coils of the protesting snake until he could release the woodpecker. Amazingly, after it shook its feathers straight, the woodpecker struggled into the air and flew off. Meanwhile a resident blue heron became interested in the activities and moved in for what he thought would be a snake hand-out for dinner. Consequently John took the snake around to the front of the house to release it and keep it away from the heron and then added an aluminum shield around the base of the tree to preclude any further snake climbing attempts.

The end result? Both the snake and the woodpecker lived to see another day, the heron had to go catch dinner on his own and the two woodpecker chicks survived to fly from the nest a few days later. They did this with the help of both parents who, unconcerned by the near miss with the snake, continued to defend them from the hawks and owls who also tried to snatch a meal from the nest. Nature can be tough on the young.



TALE FROM THE MUD FLATS

Willie Burns

On Sunday, April 4th, **Kitty Albee** and I were headed south on the Inter Coastal Waterway from under the Dunlawton Bridge. Just as we passed the confluence of Harbor Oaks Creek, which drains Rose Bay, I saw two birds wheeling dramatically overhead. "Eagles," I shouted, alerting Kitty as I pointed aloft.

After checking for any nearby boat traffic, as the busy ICW is like I-4 on sunny afternoons, I swung to starboard (right to land lubbers) and slowed to watch. There was a third year immature Bald Eagle chasing an Osprey. The Osprey was carrying a fish.

They provided a wonderful display of aerial acrobatics as they maneuvered for an advantage. The bigger eagle was stronger but the Osprey was determined to hold onto his lunch. After a few minutes it appeared the Osprey was tiring, his dives and turns slowing.

A couple of opportunistic Brown Pelicans arrived, circling below and hoping to catch whatever came their way. They must have seen this game before!

However, everything changed with the arrival of a mature Bald Eagle. Flying strongly from the west on heavy flaps of his large wings, he was hurrying to the scene. A bird on a mission. Both combatants saw the rapidly approaching menace.

The Osprey dropped the fish and dove to the east out of harm's way. The immature Bald Eagle, obviously

worried himself, swung to the west. The fish twinkled in the sun as it fell towards the water. The mature Bald Eagle quickly gave pursuit to the fleeing immature.

The fish hit the water, to be pounced upon by one of the Pelicans, the second having headed for safety. The Osprey disappeared over the mangroves to the east. The immature tried without success to elude the adult.

The adult easily outmaneuvered the younger bird. First he scored a minor hit, then quickly gave him a seriously hard thump. The younger, almost knocked out of the sky, recovered, dove towards the water and disappeared to the northwest. The adult slowed down and calmly perched on a dead snag on the western edge of the ICW, looking for all the world like the lord of his domain.

The combat had gone from an inter species food fight to one over territory. The Pelican hurriedly swallowed the fish and flew off to the south, low on the water. Peace returned to the air, at least for a while.

TWITCHERS WATCH ROBIN SERVED RARE

Birdwatchers from all over Britain who gathered in Grimsby to catch sight of a rare American Robin were horrified to see her eaten by a passing sparrowhawk.

They were still setting up their cameras when the predator swooped down from a row of drab factories and warehouses on an industrial estate.

Corr blimey!

RAVINE GARDENS AND ST. JOHNS RIVER

Willie Burns

On Friday, March 19th, twenty-one members and guests traveled to Palatka and the beautiful Ravine Gardens State Park. We saw close to 50 species of birds and a wonderful display of flowering trees and shrubs.

After leaving the Publix Parking Lot in Ormond Beach, our first stop was in Crescent City at a municipal park. Although the dogwoods and many of the azaleas have died off over the years, many still remain and even more important, there is a clean and functioning rest facility!

The near by lake had been usurped by boat racers, precluding seeing any ducks, Limpkin, or other waders. On we went to the metropolis of Fruitland, which consists of a small grocery, a gas station, a post office, and the mandatory video store.

We stopped at the Welaka fish hatchery and made good use of its overlook tower. One Snipe was spied diving for cover, and two Meadowlarks were prancing on a berm. We also got several Bald Eagles, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, a Wood Stork, and even a Pileated Woodpecker on a near by pine tree.

Our next stop was the Fort Gates ferry. This ancient contraption crosses the northern end of Lake George, Florida's second largest natural lake. The operator, *Captain James*, ran us across the river and back. Coast Guard regulations would have had his vessel overloaded so he left a pick up truck until his next trip.

We saw more Osprey and eagles, several varieties of terns, some very plump turtles and also a Gator, and even a Brown Pelican. As we headed back north we stopped to unsuccessfully identify a very antisocial warbler.

The Gardens were lovely. Many of the group walked the trails in the ravine. A high point was seeing two Barred Owls, one of which carried a mouse to his beloved! At midday! Three Red-headed Woodpeckers, several Red Bellieds, and another Pileated made appearances.

As we lunched in the pavilion at the top of the ravine a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites flew over and around, spooking a hitherto unseen flock of warblers from a near by tree. Some of us drove the perimeter road, seeing and or hearing Cardinals, Titmice, and Parulla Warblers. Kitty managed to see a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Tired and happy, we all wended our way home. It was such a fun trip that a few of us even "got together" near Barberville.

CHERTOK PHOTO CONTEST NEWS

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Orange Audubon Society's 2004 Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest theme is *Native Wildlife of Florida - Preserving Nature through Photography*. This

35-mm slide competition is open to all ages. The subject matter must be native to Florida, so participants can enhance their knowledge of native species.

The image that takes first place will grace the cover of OAS' 2004-2005 brochure, and the photographer will receive a \$125 cash prize. Second and third place winners will receive \$75 and \$50 cash prizes, respectively, and all three as well as honorable mentions will get ribbons and recognition in the *OASis*. But that's not all.

We are pleased to announce that in addition to the OAS cash prizes and recognition, Colonial Photo & Hobby, Inc., Orlando, Florida, will award an in-store gift certificate (\$100 face value) to the first place winner. To encourage nature photography and enhance recognition of OAS and the contest, Colonial Photo will also display an enlarged print of a winning slide within its retail premises. The display will credit the winning photographer, describe the equipment used and locale in which the shot was taken and publicize the contest.

Deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries is **May 20, 2004**, with winners announced at OAS's annual potluck dinner and slide show of photo contest entries on June 17, 2004. For entry form with contest rules, visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org or give your name and address to Teresa (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Good luck!

SPRING BIRD COUNTS

David Hartgrove

Saturday, May 8th, is International Migratory Bird Day. It's also the date for the Spring Migration Count. As usual with counts, this will be an all day affair but we can easily see to it that you're back to your car if you need to leave early. Bring your lunch and meet us at the east end of the City Island Court House parking lot at 7:00 a.m.

We'll split up into teams and head out to our respective areas. Please, don't say to yourself, "They don't need me. I don't know a lot about birds. I just like to watch them." Participating in a count like this is how you learn more and have fun doing it.

The North American Migration Count was begun over 10 years ago by a fellow named Jim Stasz at Pawtuxent National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. The idea was to have counts done all over North America on the same day to give a "snapshot" of the progress of migration across the continent.

The Florida Ornithological Society has taken over as official sponsors of the NAMC here in Florida. The information collected will be posted on their web site and available to researchers from all over the world. So it's important work we'll be doing while having fun and learning a little more about the birds. Please, come and join us.

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

POST OFFICE BOX 166

DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #395
Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
113 CENTENNIAL LANE
DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	OwensI@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
Madeline Shaddix	Ways & Means		
Lois Robinson	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large		jtreves@voyager.net
Willie Burns	At-Large	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Reid Hughes	At-Large	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Barbara Kieran	At-Large	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Pat Mihalic	At-Large	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Paula Wehr	Electronic Comm.	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
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

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

May 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. 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. 12 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON JUNE 2004

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Well, here we are at the end of our season. Our Chapter takes its annual hiatus for the summer. Though there won't be any meetings, we will continue to keep you posted through the *Pelican*.

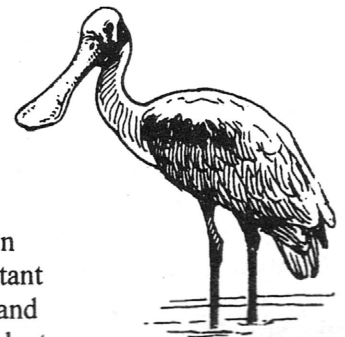
And speaking of that, a recent message I received is yet another in a long list of unbelievable events taking place in the halls of the Environmental Protection Agency. In late 2001, representatives of the meat packing industry approached the EPA with a wish list of regulatory relief provisions that would essentially let them off the hook for pollution created by the large farms they run. "Farms" in this case is really a misnomer. We're talking about 6,000 hogs crammed together in large, concrete buildings whose mountain of excrement is washed off into huge holding ponds that are a source of both air and ground water pollution. The same technology is used for chickens and cattle and the pollution created by these "farms" poisons and sickens the neighbors for miles around. Now the EPA has set forth its version of revised regulations and *Shazam!* it reads just like the wish list presented to them by the industry 3 years ago. The industry even gave the EPA honchos Power Point presentations to show Congress in the drive to make these proposed rules the law of the land.

On a much more positive note, a recent post on the Florida Birds List told of a Red Knot that was seen at Ft. George Inlet near Jacksonville. This bird was banded as an adult in May 1984 on a beach in Brazil. This means that the bird is at least 21 years old and has flown at least 400,000 miles in its lifetime! Red Knots breed north of the Arctic Circle and fly as far south as Tierra Del Fuego. Then they turn around and start the trip all over again. The mind reels at the thought of all the hardships and dangers this small bird has faced over the years and miles. This bird was identified from a digiscoped photograph sent to Brian Harrington, of the Manomet Center for Conservation Science, the man who banded the bird.

Speaking of banding birds, if you're out this summer and see any Roseate Spoonbills, look for bands on the birds' legs. The birds will have a silver band on the lower part of one leg and one or more colored bands

on the upper portion of the other leg. Hopefully, they'll be perched on a tree limb and not belly deep in the water. If you see a spoonbill with bands, please write down the information on the colors and which leg the bands were on and send the information to me.

Audubon of Florida is conducting this survey and we can all be an important part of it.



The Spring Migration Count was another important "citizen science" project and I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who came out to spend the day counting birds. Next month's *Pelican* will have all of the numbers but I can tell you now that one interesting find was a pair of White-eyed Parakeets in Reed Canal Park, in South Daytona.

In this issue of the *Pelican* we have enclosed a copy of the petition to get the Urban Growth Boundaries initiative on the November ballot. There has been a lot written about this issue in the local press. This is an idea that was pioneered in the Pacific Northwest and has been an effective way to manage growth there. The Volusia County Council was all set to bring the issue to the voters until a delegation of developers and their attorneys browbeat them into backing down. Now they're pushing for a study costing nearly \$100,000.00 that we don't need and can't afford. We need 14,000 signatures by June 15th. That's why it's of vital importance that you put down the *Pelican*, get out your pen, sign the petition and mail it right now! Please, we need your help on this.

At the banquet this past Monday, I was given the Walter Boardman Preservation Award. I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Boardman. He served as Conservation Chair for this organization before I got involved. He was a mentor to some of the most effective members of the environmental community here in Volusia County. I am deeply humbled and honored to be held in such high company. Thank you.

SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Ray Scory

Our May 17 Banquet was more than a party and a place to go for a good meal. It was a celebration and an opportunity to recognize the efforts of a couple of dedicated people who make our community a better place to live, and who make our Audubon Chapter strong.

David Hartgrove was the recipient of the *Walter Boardman Preservation Award* in recognition for "meritorious achievements in environmental educational and preservation." His tireless efforts for conservation and habitat preservation in the State of Florida are exemplary. In his own quiet way he just keeps doing his work.

As for tireless efforts, try putting our Chapter's newsletter together every month. President **John Roessler** selected **Fran Carr** as this year's recipient of *The President's Award*, recognition "in appreciation for outstanding and dedicated service to Halifax River Audubon." I especially value our newsletter, *The Pelican*, as a prize-winning achievement.

Walter K. Taylor, PhD was charming, interesting and entertaining. His program of André Michaux' eighteenth century botanical discoveries along our coast and the St. Johns River held our interest throughout the hour. Taylor dressed as Michaux and spoke in Michaux' own words from his Journal and illustrated his travels and discoveries with slides.

As a fitting tribute to their celebrated evening and remarkable efforts Fran Carr and David Hartgrove also drew winning tickets for our raffle donations.

BEGINNER'S BUTTERFLY WALK - MAY 14

Ray Scory



It wasn't so much a Beginner's Butterfly Walk but a wonderful botanical gardens adventure to two beautiful locations. One was to the Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens in Port Orange and

the other was to **Madeline Shaddix's** home exquisitely nestled on the Halifax River. Madeline has transformed her home into a wonder world of visual pleasures - a cascading water fountain and magnificently arranged flower beds are easily accessed by a series of entwining brick walkways.

All these visual pleasures can be taken in from her upper yard patio, comfortably shaded by a spreading Live Oak tree. The yard slopes down toward the river in gradual harmony with the landscaping and flowing river. The yard is alive with wildlife activity - many colorful flowers sway to the rhythm of gentle river breezes,



butterflies float to the same rhythms and birds are everywhere - a Great Blue Heron on the seawall, gulls flying by and smaller birds dancing in the overhanging foliage. Madeline's home is a dream haven for wildlife and she was the perfect southern hostess serving a cool glass of a fruited punch on the patio to an educated garden tour naming flowers, insects, butterflies, birds and solid advise on how to care for them.



With a butterfly field guide in one hand and binoculars in the other, three Halifax River Audubon members and a guest identified a total of twelve different kinds of butterflies. My favorites were the Ceraunas Blues, beautiful blue, thumbnail-size butterflies

that were attracted to the blue flowers of Madeline's plumbago bushes.

Thanks Madeline. Thanks Sugar Mills Botanical Gardens. Your efforts are works of art and you made our morning a refreshing visual treat.

Chicken Soup for the Nature Lover's Soul

GOLDEN DOG'S LATEST "WOOF!"

Willie Burns

We now have a limited quantity of the new book *Chicken Soup for the Nature Lover's Soul*. Yes, this is the latest in the highly regarded and enjoyable series of thoughtful and relaxing books.

John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society has written the Forward to the book. He raves about the book. It is intensely readable, great for when we want to read but not get involved in a full book. It is a compilation of 85 stories, some funny, some serious, all great tales, in a soft-cover volume.

Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, writes, "In this hectic, worry-filled world there are few places we can turn for peace, solitude and a soothing voice. *Chicken Soup for the Nature Lover's Soul* offers just such a refuge - an invaluable reconnection to the natural world that so many of us have lost, yet need so deeply."

For a limited time we are offering it for sale at a discount price of \$12.00, plus applicable sales tax. The regular list price is \$12.95 per copy. If you like, we can hold the book until the fall when we again have meetings, or mail it to you.

This book, along with our other new offering, the Florida photography and poetry book *Reflections on Blue Cypress*, are excellent additions to anyone's nature library. To order either book (including ANY of the *Chicken Soup* series), call me at 386 253-2150, or e-mail me at wwillie@Juno.com, or even send me a letter by regular "snail" mail.

Last month the Pelican published an article about how to supply nesting birds with used eggshells. This month Jean Lesh has brought new information about this practice to our notice.

EGGSHELLS

A serious aviculturist I knew would only feed eggs or shells to his birds after they'd had a 45-minute boil to kill all possible transmittable micro-organisms.

They say that only one egg in 10,000 carries salmonella; I'd like to know how "they" know. Call me a skeptic... Even without salmonella our wild birds have enough problems making their existence tough enough without our good intentions greasing the skids.

I raised exhibition poultry (and won!) for a good few years. The number of diseases to be tested for and vaccinated against is many. Coccidiosis, Pullorum, Typhoid, Influenza are just a few and YES, they are transmittable to wild birds.

I still follow that good advice and boil for 45 minutes or bake eggshells at 350° for at least 30 minutes before feeding to any birds. Yes, the vitamins are nil but the minerals are intact.

An even easier and safer way to add calcium is to go to the health food store and get KAL Dolomite powder. Stir it into the peanut butter or grape jelly that you put on your bird feeder or sprinkle it on fruit slices. Citrus is moist enough to hold it; you may have to get imaginative with other choices.

That acquaintance of mine? He was nationally respected for his breeding program and study of Red Factor Canaries as well as Lady Gouldian Finches.

BIG DAY CHALLENGE

Ray Scory

It is done. It is over. It is now history, never to be done the first time ever again. That is - our BIG DAY CHALLENGE of visiting all twelve spots listed on our Greater Daytona Area Bird Watching Guide. Paula Wehr, Meret Wilson, Ray Scory and Phyllis Mansfield, our guest from Cocoa Beach, birded these locations from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm last April thirtieth.

We started under the Port Orange Bridge energized by a cool morning, river breeze and ended the day under the pavilion at Spruce Creek Park to the threats of rapidly approaching lightning, thunder, and heavy rains. We compiled a list of 76 species of birds and recounted the exciting highlights of the day.

Phyllis was enraptured by the newly hatched Oystercatchers disguised as tiny puffs of down scurrying between the legs of their parents on the oyster bars near the Port Orange Bridge.

A Barred Owl watched us walk the newly constructed boardwalk at the Daytona Museum of Arts and Sciences.

We had little time to eat but the car made a great rolling restaurant. Who wanted to stop when the next hotspot might yield another wonderful surprise, like a Clapper Rail waiting for us out in the open at Spruce Creek Park, Wood Ducks at Buschman Park and at least one new species at each stop.

To the flash of lightning and clap of thunder Nature acknowledged our very exciting BIG DAY CHALLENGE and we all went home very happy.

CROW, THE PREDATOR

Madeline Shaddix

One recent afternoon, I looked out a window and saw a crow on the ground near my platform feeder, busily eating something. That feeder is some distance from the house, but with binoculars I could tell that the crow's meal was a Mourning Dove. I was surprised and wondered how

he got this hapless critter that was being held down on its back by the crow's impressive feet.

About an hour and a half later I was passing through the same room and looked toward the feeder again. I should explain that this feeder was once

covered on all sides by a wire mesh, a futile attempt to

keep out the monopolizing types (doves, grackles, etc.). It didn't work because the doves could pass through the large mesh, then seemed unable to find their way

back out. I was constantly having to go release a panicked dove. So long ago, in total defeat, I removed one mesh side. This time I again saw the crow, poised at the open side of the mesh with his wings outspread blocking the exit of a dove, captive inside the feeder. In very short order, this dove also became a victim of that big black bill.

I have previously observed crows robbing nests, stealing the babies and flying away with them. But I had never seen one actually attack, kill and eat an adult bird. Just when I thought that the Cooper's Hawk who has been spending winters with me had left the birds in peace, along comes a new threat. It's no wonder that the doves seem to reproduce year around; it is always open season to their predators!

PLEASE HELP MARY KELLER care for the influx of baby birds as well as injured adult birds. Her address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. You can call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup of items.



CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 15

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society program. Deborah Green. "Paradise Preserve." 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Saturday, June 26 and Saturday, July 10

Merritt Island Wildlife Association members only. Sea Turtle Walks to Canaveral National Seashore in search of a nesting sea turtle. RSVP to reserve your space now as space is limited. Call 321-861-2377.

Friday July 16

HRA Field Trip. Tiger Bay and Rima Ridge. Meet 7:00am at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. (US-92). Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch.

Tuesday, July 20

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society program. Ray Jarrett. "Nothing but Bugs." 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Saturday, August 14

HRA Field Trip. Bird the Loop. Meet 7:30am at Ormond Beach Library, corner of Beach St. and Granada Blvd. Led by John Roessler 255-9826. Bring lunch.

Welcome to new members **Marilyn Bader, Frances Bennett, Elizabeth Bush, Amanda M. Crouch, Denise Dillashaw, Sue Donnino, Sally Duncan, Marilyn Edwards, Janet Falknor, Edward J. Flanagan, Sally Goodman, Connie Graham, Shelly Green, Kenneth M. Hanson, David Horrigan, David Howe, Regina Inman, James Kenney, Pirard Leonard, Eliyu Lesser, Eleanor McLain, Shirley Meredith, Alice Parker, Mr. Carmine C. Pascale, Calyne Punnett, Earl R. Reigel, Carol Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Richart, Mary J. Roeder, Hilda Stoltz, Taffy Tavitian, Bill & Joanne Tessein, Eileen Tibbetts, Lee J. Tremel, Joan C. Uhar, Elinor Virgona, Adam Benjamin Wilson, and Carol Wylie.**

Halifax River Audubon members look forward to meeting you at field trips this summer and monthly program meetings starting September 20.

FUN AT THE FARM

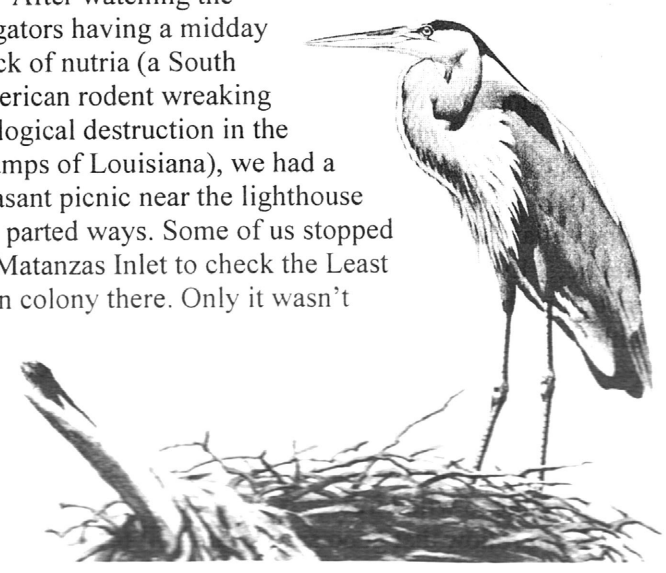
The St. Augustine Alligator Farm, that is.

David Hartgrove

Fourteen of us made our annual trek to see the rookery that has made the Alligator Farm an important stop on the Great Florida Birding Trail. Two days of storms in early April had wiped out a significant number of nests, so many of the birds were in the process of nesting again. There were lots of herons and egrets with babies in the nest and at least twelve sets of Wood Stork parents. We all got good looks through the scope at a tiny

Snowy Egret that had hatched only minutes before we arrived.

After watching the alligators having a midday snack of nutria (a South American rodent wreaking ecological destruction in the swamps of Louisiana), we had a pleasant picnic near the lighthouse and parted ways. Some of us stopped by Matanzas Inlet to check the Least Tern colony there. Only it wasn't



there anymore due to the presence of too much vegetation. The terns like a bare beach.

Then we headed off to see a Swallow-tailed Kite nest in the middle of a residential area in Palm Coast. There were two babies in the nest when we arrived and we shared the sight with a neighborhood family. Their curiosity was aroused by three carloads of strange people with binoculars and spotting scopes. I think those kids will spend a little more time looking up. I know their mother will.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Morrell Robinson, Nominations Chair

Members present at the May General Meeting voted unanimously to reelect the following Board members to various terms of office: **Kevin Doxstater, 2007; Willie Burns, 2007; and Carol Branch, 2005.**

PAWPAW CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

John Carr

The local Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has the same environmental concerns as Halifax River Audubon, Inc. Both are striving to protect and preserve native habitat and species living in this area. Both have field trips to observe plants and animal life. If you are not a member of both organizations, I believe you are missing out on a great chance to see and enjoy more of our environment. I urge you to consider becoming a member of the Pawpaw Chapter if you are not already a member. To join the Florida Native Plant Society and the Pawpaw Chapter, send your check for \$30.00 Family or \$25 Individual to Florida Native Plant Society, PO Box 278, Melbourne FL 32902 with your name and full address.

A Little History Lesson

SOLVING THE CLIMATE PUZZLE

Lee Bidgood, Jr.

People often confuse weather with climate. It is helpful to think of global climate as a gigantic jigsaw puzzle having millions of weather pieces in three dimensions with the pieces constantly changing. Scientific analysis of the global climate began only with the advent of giant computers.

For millennia our ancestors observed the weather and hoped to change it with prayers and ceremonies, but climate was mysterious. Then 19th century scientists began shedding light on the great mysteries of climate.

In 1827, a French mathematician, **Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Fourier**, became curious about why the earth has a livable temperature. Fourier knew that the sun heated the earth, but what kept it from over-heating? He decided that the earth must lose heat by invisible infrared radiation (IR), but his calculations indicated that extreme heat loss via IR would leave the earth frozen at night. Fourier decided that earth's atmosphere must act somewhat like a greenhouse by reflecting just enough IR to make our planet habitable. The greenhouse term stuck, but how greenhouse gases worked remained unknown.

That mystery persisted for 32 years. A British physicist, **John Tyndall**, accepted the greenhouse idea, but was baffled because scientists generally believed that all gases were transparent to IR. In 1857, Tyndall began measuring atmospheric gas transparency. After finding that 99 percent of the atmosphere, oxygen and nitrogen, reflected no IR, he almost gave up. Then he decided to test coal gas, which was widely used for heating and lighting. He found to his surprise that coal gas (mostly methane) was opaque to infrared rays. That led him to test other minor atmospheric components, water vapor and carbon dioxide. Both reflected some IR. Tyndall concluded that minor atmospheric components, water vapor (the invisible kind), carbon dioxide and methane trapped enough infrared radiation to keep the earth from freezing at night. Later research has confirmed his findings and added to the list of atmospheric heat trapping gases.

The next great advance in climate science came in 1896 when a future Nobel Prize winner, Swedish chemist, **Svante Arrhenius**, extended Tyndall's work. Arrhenius studied climate as a hobby. He concluded that that "we are vaporizing our coal mines" and carbon dioxide emissions would raise average global temperatures 9 degrees F in two or three thousand years. He regretted that he would never enjoy milder Swedish winters.

A tremendous breakthrough in climate science occurred in the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957-8. A few pioneering scientists organized a well-funded global research effort to study the planet's land,

sea and air. Thousands of scientists from 67 nations participated.

Roger Revelle, Director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, enlisted a young graduate student, **Charles Keeling**, to measure atmospheric carbon dioxide. In 1958, no instrument could measure the gas accurately to one part per million, so Keeling designed and built one. His instrument was installed high on Mauna Loa Mountain in Hawaii, far above carbon dioxide sources that cause local variations. It has provided a remarkable record of earth's changing atmosphere. Similar instruments are now in place worldwide.

In 1958, atmospheric carbon dioxide was 315 parts per million (ppm). Since then it has climbed above 375 ppm. The rise is always in a zigzag pattern. During summer and early fall, readings drop as vegetation uses carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. In winter and early spring, roots and rotting leaves give back carbon dioxide, which peaks around April.

The 'Keeling curve' depicting the rise of atmospheric carbon dioxide has been described as the most important 20th century advance in earth sciences. Other research that began in the 1957-8 International Geophysical Year (IGY) has added greatly to the Keeling curve significance.

Scientists drilled ancient ice cores from Greenland and Antarctic glaciers. Layers of snow compressed into ice provided a chronological record of radioactive fallout correlating with nuclear bomb detonations. Then a team under **Hans Oeschger** of Switzerland proposed analyzing the composition of air trapped in the ice layers. It was difficult, but was achieved.

Recently scientists have studied air trapped in ancient ice and reconstructed the temperature history and atmospheric composition going back 450,000 years. Ice core research reinforced by studies of tree rings and ancient sediments from lakes and oceans reveal that global temperatures and atmospheric greenhouse gases have varied in tandem for at least 450,000 years. When carbon dioxide and methane content of the atmosphere rose or fell, the temperature rose and fell with the gases. These findings have provided insight into the cause of global climate changes and enabled scientists to construct computer models of past, present and future climate.

NOTE: Lee Bidgood, Jr. is the Conservation Chairman of the Southeast Volusia Audubon Chapter. This article was published in the New Smyrna Beach Observer Feb. 24, 2004. This is the first of two articles we will print about climate change.

Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

Chief Seattle

THE PELICAN

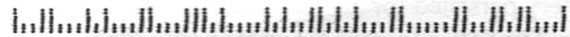


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

32119+2396 05



Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	253-3466	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtrees@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class Of 2005	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Paula Wehr	Electronic Comm.	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

June 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

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. 50 - NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JULY 2004

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In last month's issue of the *Pelican* I asked that you support the effort to reinstate Urban Growth Boundaries to the November ballot by signing the petition we sent out and mailing it in. It's hard to believe but that effort was a success ... we think.

The Volusia County Council had chosen to bring this issue to the voters themselves. Then after a serious session of arm-twisting by some big money developers who knew this issue would pass by a landslide, they suddenly reversed themselves, taking the vote away from the citizens. And they did so just seven weeks before the deadline for having citizen ballot initiative petitions delivered to the office of the Supervisor of Elections.

In the last week of April, when the decision was made by some very determined folks to seek a voter referendum in spite of the deadline, I was supportive but a bit skeptical. I was reminded of the old "Babes on Broadway" movies of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney; a plucky group of talented teens get together and save the old theater from last minute destruction by their sheer will and talent. And son of a gun, that's pretty much what happened.

Slightly under 14,000 signatures were needed. On the morning of the deadline, 18,000+ were turned in! This was entirely due to the exhaustive work of a very dedicated group of people. I said in the first sentence that we think this was a success. The signatures have to be verified. Some percentage will be tossed out for a variety of reasons. Having a cushion of 4,000 means that even if several thousand are lost during the verification process, the issue will be on the ballot in November, though the County Council still has the last word on the issue. There were published comments by a Council member saying this was a victory by paid signature gatherers and not necessarily the will of the people. It will be interesting to hear this man's comments when the ballots are counted in November. Then we'll know what the will of the people is.

Also in last month's *Pelican* I mentioned looking for banded Roseate Spoonbills. On our field trip to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm, there were three banded spoonbills standing in the trees when we arrived. The larger, colored bands located above the "knee joint" are

fairly easy to read but with the scope, I was even able to read the shiny USF&WS numbered band on one bird. I sent in the observation and later got a response. The birds we saw were banded as chicks at Alafia Bank, in Tampa Bay, during April of 2003. So if you see any banded Roseate Spoonbills this summer, or anytime, send your observations (remember to write down location and color of the bands and numbers if possible) to Brynne Langan at the Tavernier Science Center: Brynne Langan brynne47@yahoo.com. You'll be doing the birds a favor.

CALENDAR

Friday July 16

HRA Field Trip. Tiger Bay and Rima Ridge. Meet 7:30am at Circuit City parking lot, east of I-95 on International Speedway Blvd. (US-92). Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch.

Tuesday, July 20

Pawpaw Chapter Native Plant Society program. Ray Jarrett. "Nothing But Bugs." 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Saturday, August 14

HRA Field Trip. Birding the Loop. Meet 7:30am at Ormond Beach Library, corner of Beach St. and Granada Blvd. Led by John Roessler 255-9826. Bring lunch.

Tuesday, August 17

Pawpaw Chapter Native Plant Society program. "Weeding in Florida's Natural Areas." Greg Jubinsky, Environmental Program Manager of the Upland Invasive Exotic Plant Management Program, DEP. 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Saturday, September 11

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR Event. 8:30-10:30am. Exotic Plants. Meet at parking lot at end of Mud Lake Road

Monday to Friday, September 13-17

Adult Science Camp, 9:00am-4:00pm. Marineland on A1A. \$100 fee. Learn about the biology and ecology of coastal NE Florida. Biologists from Florida Sea Grant, GTMNERR, Marineland and the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory are partnering to bring you this unique opportunity. For more information or to register, please contact Maia or April at 904-824-4564. A flyer and registration form can also be downloaded from <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm>

CLIMATE SCIENCE (PART 2)

Lee Bidgood, Jr.

[A June *Pelican* article] related how a few 19th century scientists pondered why earth maintained livable temperatures despite the sun's heat and nighttime cooling. They discovered that trace gases comprising less than one percent of the atmosphere maintain a temperate climate, somewhat like a greenhouse. The term, 'greenhouse gases', has endured.

The International Geophysical Year of 1957-8 sparked climate research breakthroughs. Analysis of ancient ice cores drilled from Greenland and Antarctic glaciers revealed that average global temperatures have been linked with the atmospheric content of carbon dioxide and methane greenhouse gases. Then scientists began measuring atmospheric carbon dioxide precisely and found a steady increase.

With giant computers, climate scientists have analyzed millions of weather data bits and projected probable future climates. As carbon dioxide and other atmospheric greenhouse gases accumulate, we can expect serious changes in the global climate this century, including:

- An average temperature increase between 3 and 10 degrees F.
- More extreme hot and cold spells with more intense precipitation between more severe droughts.
- Stronger, more damaging storms.
- A sea level rise of 14 to 40 inches, caused by melting glaciers and thermal expansion of oceanic waters.

Global warming is accelerating. The ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1991. Most glaciers worldwide are melting at least three times as fast as in the mid-20th century. Arctic ice and snow cover are shrinking dramatically. Violent weather is becoming more frequent.

Florida's ecology and economy are threatened by global warming. Developed beaches and coastal wetlands would disappear as more powerful storms and surges atop higher seas destroy low-elevation coastal property. Florida's coastal counties could face bankruptcy as beach-based tourism and property values slumped. Saltwater would ruin more wells. Hotter summers with high humidity would become almost unbearable. More tropical diseases would invade our state.

Computer models depict a gradual rise in average global temperatures and sea levels, but nature rarely changes gradually. Ice core analysis has revealed abrupt changes in the last 400,000 years. As the last ice age neared its end 14,200 years ago, sea level rose 70 feet in 500 years. That was a rise of almost 17 inches per decade or 14 feet per century, possibly caused by partial melting of Antarctic glaciers.

Scientists have theorized that melting arctic ice sheets, glaciers and snow cover could dilute salty water

enough in the northern Atlantic Ocean to disrupt the enormous pole to pole oceanic current. Warm salty water of the Gulf Stream flows north from the tropics carrying heat to northern regions. If the Gulf Stream shuts down, the climate of northern Europe and possibly the northeastern US would become brutally cold, like Siberia. Much of the world would probably bake, creating a potential for super storms, spawned by the clash of cold and hot air masses.

Scientists have been reluctant to predict sudden climate shifts, because of many uncertainties. The latest warning about global warming and abrupt climate change came from a surprising source, the Pentagon.

Andrew Marshall, an influential defense planner since 1973 and, a close associate of Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld**, initiated a study of the global warming impact on national defense. The Pentagon report of last October was disclosed to *Fortune* magazine which published a summary in February. The bottom line was that global warming could pose terrible threats to national security.

Details of possible abrupt climate change were scary. Shutdown of the Gulf Stream might cause extreme cold in northern Europe and North America, with extreme heat in the Southern Hemisphere (no mention of Antarctic glacier melting). Violent storms and severe drought would cause crop losses, water shortages and widespread starvation. In short, earth's carrying capacity could become far less than the global population, leading to millions of desperate refugees and violence.

The US should be able to withstand such a cataclysm better than other nations because of our wealth and variety of arable lands. We could be threatened, however, by possible nuclear weapons proliferation and wars between countries seeking resources outside their borders.

Will this shocking assessment of possible global warming threats change the administration's attitude toward the issue? As of February 28, the Bush team had not commented on the report. Environmentalists hope that the Pentagon report will lead to bipartisan action to restrain greenhouse gas emissions, a hope shared by most other governments.

The technology to blunt global warming is well established -- greater energy efficiency and conversion to renewable energy sources. Higher mpg autos could make a substantial cut in greenhouse gas emissions; switching the present lavish subsidies on fossil fuels to renewables would speed conversion and create jobs.

Perhaps the Pentagon report will shock and awaken more of Florida's leaders and citizens. Our state should lead in demanding aggressive actions to curb global warming. We deserve the insurance policy that cutting greenhouse gas emissions would provide.

(Note: This is the second article by Lee Bidgood, Jr. about climate change).

Volusia County Spring Bird Count

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Name of Bird
12	0	0	0	0	0	5	Loon, Common
3	0	0	0	3	8	5	Grebe, Pied-billed
34	52	45	2	0	8	0	Gannet, Northern
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Booby, Brown
0	0	0	1	328	0	0	Pelican, White
503	531	707	558	1011	1949	802	Pelican, Brown
108	56	195	147	142	74	89	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
17	41	29	118	93	53	58	Anhinga
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bittern, American
0	12	0	8	6	0	0	Bittern, Least
67	64	67	78	96	97	32	Heron, Great Blue
196	297	239	412	498	788	328	Egret, Great
118	178	89	192	205	425	186	Egret, Snowy
61	53	25	77	78	73	63	Heron, Little Blue
76	43	18	60	82	255	12	Heron, Tricolored
4	1	14	1	0	1	0	Egret, Reddish
406	547	381	717	799	800	566	Egret, Cattle
12	41	15	13	20	30	20	Heron, Green
0	6	0	3	2	17	15	Night-Heron, Black-crownd
1	12	7	6	23	3	23	Night-Heron, Yellow-crownd
174	143	112	510	188	459	170	Ibis, White
64	54	0	14	26	0	12	Ibis, Glossy
0	3	0	1	0	1	0	Roseate Spoonbill
12	15	13	82	52	22	45	Stork, Wood
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Whistling Duck, Blk-bellied
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	Goose, Canada
0	0	0	19	41	69	25	Duck, Muscovy
42	58	22	36	58	66	86	Duck, Wood
10	10	4	5	7	3	0	Duck, Mottled
84	68	99	85	72	70	44	Mallard
2	0	0	0	0	0	2	Teal, Blue-winged
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shoveler, Northern
0	2	0	1	0	0	0	Scap, Lesser
6	3	22	0	0	1	0	Merganser, Red-breasted
307	795	314	507	313	216	231	Vulture, Black
108	112	128	155	200	110	183	Vulture, Turkey
63	71	68	113	155	83	71	Osprey
4	23	10	12	9	17	15	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Mississippi Kite
12	20	10	26	24	18	17	Eagle, Bald
9	0	2	0	0	0	0	Harrer, Northern
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Accipiter sp
1	1	0	0	2	0	0	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
3	0	0	2	1	0	0	Hawk, Cooper's
26	39	25	46	57	43	78	Hawk, Red-Shouldered
7	3	7	18	8	5	8	Hawk, Red-tailed
0	0	3	0	1	0	0	Buteo sp.
4	2	1	2	3	1	0	Kestrel, American
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Merlin
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	Falcon, Peregrine
7	10	2	9	19	26	6	Turkey, Wild
10	14	17	23	39	11	19	Bobwhite, Northern

10	1	22	2	0	0	4	6	Rail, Clapper
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rail, Virginia
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	Rail, Sora
0	29	1	4	16	0	0	0	Gallinule, Purple
35	73	45	103	132	42	0	82	Moorhen, Common
106	5	25	19	13	1	1	1	Coot, American
1	1	3	12	13	0	0	1	Limpkin
32	62	46	62	42	83	93	93	Crane, Sandhill
0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	Crane, Whooping
0	0	0	52	84	27	24	24	Plover, Black-bellied
1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	Plover, Wilson's
0	0	20	146	0	29	46	46	Plover, Semi-palmated
0	0	39	36	75	35	52	52	Killdeer
15	8	16	9	4	25	13	13	Oystercatcher, American
96	61	0	13	34	0	26	26	Silt, Black-necked
18	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	Yellowlegs, Greater
7	25	15	1	0	0	0	4	Yellowlegs, Lesser
2	11	6	0	2	1	1	1	Sandpiper, Solitary
35	1	20	13	5	8	15	15	Willet
7	12	13	5	7	2	7	7	Sandpiper, Spotted
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Godwit, Marbled
89	89	65	245	356	80	113	113	Turnstone, Ruddy
4	20	5	5	17	0	3	3	Knot, Red
293	218	148	156	536	151	85	85	Sanderling
193	2	55	250	123	92	287	287	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
10	16	0	0	0	0	16	16	Sandpiper, Western
17	0	4	8	0	3	0	0	Sandpiper, Least
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, White-rumped
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Purple
20	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	Dunlin
0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	peep, sp.
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	Snipe, Common
1166	3553	865	859	977	622	813	813	Gull, Laughing
98	208	363	224	230	59	65	65	Gull, Ring-billed
3	10	12	4	4	11	2	2	Gull, Herring
6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	Gull, Great Black-backed
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	gull, sp.
10	1	6	2	1	12	3	3	Tern, Caspian
262	53	177	147	97	130	61	61	Tern, Royal
2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	Tern, Sandwich
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tern, Common
0	1	19	4	3	7	1	1	Tern, Forster's
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	sterna, sp.
301	142	153	87	46	55	47	47	Tern, Least
4	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	Skimmer, Black
225	359	128	234	350	311	251	251	Dove, Rock
234	60	93	139	174	168	149	149	Dove, Eurasian Collared
661	508	496	464	670	699	399	399	Dove, Mourning
25	7	63	21	19	16	2	2	Ground Dove, Common
8	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	Owl, Barn
11	6	10	5	4	1	10	10	Screech-Owl, Eastern
6	0	1	1	1	3	2	2	Owl, Great Horned

Volusia County Spring Count Observation Data

	# Species	Individuals	Observers	Time	Owling hrs	Foot hrs
5-9-96	156	11,113	38	3:00a-7:00p	7.25	59
5-8-99	133	15,841	36	2:30a-5:30p	6.25	31.5
5-13-00	128	9,378	30	3:00a-7:15p	7.5	28
5-12-01	139	12,355	33	2:30a-7:30p	6	25.5
5-11-02	122	14,578	49	3:30a-7:00p	2.5	59.75
5-10-03	121	13,161	49	2:30a-7:30p	6	32
5-8-04	132	10,579	39	2:00a-7:15p	8.75	30.25

	Car hrs	Boat hrs	Canoe hrs	Clouds %	Temp.	Wind	Weather
5-10-97	46	2	0	10-100	55-85	N to NE 10-20	No precip
5-9-96	30.25	0	0	30-95	70-87	SW to W 15	No precip
5-8-99	88.5	2.5	0	20-100	63-85	NE to SW 3-25	Precip at sunset
5-13-00	55.75	0	0	30	67-92	Variable 5-18	No precip
5-12-01	73.25	4	0	10-25	59-83	WNW to NE 5-15	No precip
5-11-02	92	0	6.5	0-30	69-91	SW to SE 5-16	No precip
5-10-03	83	3.25	0	0-40	74-91	SW 5-15	No precip
5-8-04	91.25	2	0	15-25	67-81	ESE 10-18	No precip

A LOVELY AFTERNOON AT DUNLAWTON

Willie Burns

On Sunday, May 23, 2004 a group of happy birders assembled under the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange for another Field Trip. **Kitty Albee, David Hartgrove, Ray Scory, and John Roessler** collaborated to provide instructive leadership. As usual with these bridge trips our Naval Forces cruised the waters comfortably in Willie Burns' pleasant boat *The Passing Wind*.

A true bonus was the presence of a Scottish bagpiper, practicing under the bridge when we arrived. He graciously consented to pipe several requests, including "Scotland the Brave," "Danny Boy," and "Amazing Grace." This was well received by members of Clan Stewart, Clan Campbell, and others of that ilk. A few others were less impressed.

There were three exciting highlights. First and foremost was the appearance of two Magnificent Frigate Birds soaring overhead. The second was spotting three Glossy Ibis, the first any of us have ever seen in Port Orange. Third was seeing three Roseate Spoonbills, rarely seen at the bridge. Our apparent "local resident" Reddish Egret was on the bird island as usual.

Meanwhile our dauntless Naval Forces met with less success. We saw few additional birds between nudging shoals with the boat. A foray to evaluate and possible rescue a Common Loon that appeared stranded on a sand bar was first thwarted by shallow water in the small bay to the south west due to the very low tide.

After running down the Intracoastal Waterway and coming back south of the islands an Away Team was put ashore on the bar. Humph. The Common Loon (no, not the uncommon loon steering the boat) allowed Kitty to

approach very near, then it stumbled into the water and swam a short distance away.

After Kitty's second attempt to return to the boat (second attempt as her shoes weighed fifty pounds each filled with water), we watched the Loon return to the bar and sit in the sun again. This Loon had been at the bridge for quite a while, still in winter plumage. There was concern that it is sick or injured. Most Loons had long since headed north for the summer.

The warm sunny afternoon was most likely the reason only one Night Heron was seen, a Black Crowned. Usually we see many, both Yellow and Black Crowned, as they nest in the mangroves northwest of the parking lots.

Join us at the bridge this fall for our field trips. The large number of nesting and roosting Pelicans, Egrets, Herons, and Ibis on the island is quite impressive. We often see rare and unusual birds there throughout the year. As evening falls flocks of Ibis and Egrets return to the island. The added feature of boat rides around the many nearby islands and channels gives a new and interesting perspective to the area.

Until then, Happy Birding!

New members of Halifax River Audubon are **Beverly Ardin, Lori Armstrong, Nellie M. Brouillette, Donald Ellis, Ruth Endry, Shay Guerra, Jeannie Kretschmar, Caroline Mamakos, Maurice J. O' Neill, and Sandra Walters**. We welcome our new members and look forward to meeting you. We hope you will enjoy our monthly programs, September through May, and that you will participate in our field trips

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	OwensI@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtreves@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Paula Wehr	Electronic Comm.	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Ray Scory	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
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

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

July 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. 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. 50 - NO. 2 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON AUGUST 2004

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Here we are in the heat of summer. The almost daily lightning storms offer a metaphor for what's going on environmentally as the political season heats up nationally, at the state level and locally. Things are popping and cracking all over the place. Locally, the developers and their handmaidens in city government writhe in paroxysms of angst over the success of the Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) petition drive. UGB's enemies on the County Council have devised something called "Smart Growth" which is apparently designed to confuse the issue of growth management and allow the cities to continue annexing territory and handing out development permits like coupons in the Sunday paper. The "Smart Growth" committee set up to study the idea is being funded by donations from municipalities, the county and businesses, with the county kicking in 35 of the 59 thousand dollars collected so far. The Volusia County Home Builders Association has put up 150,000 dollars to defeat the UGB issue in November's election. Their attack ads should provide an education in the dissemination of misleading information.

Up in Tallahassee the drive to prevent the removal of Rodman Dam and the restoration of the Ocklawaha River continues. A handful of good ole boys has the ear of a couple of powerful politicians and that weed choked sump that has already cost millions to maintain continues to fester and impede progress. A "Rally For the River" is planned for February 19th and 20th, 2005. A bright note on another issue was the decision by Governor Bush to veto SB 1172. This bill began as a way to help farmers stay in business as farmers. It became a bill to encourage farmers to sell off their land to developers and encouraged suburban sprawl. The Governor was under tremendous pressure to sign this bill but in the end, he did the right thing.

Nationally, well, it's hard to know where to begin. The environmental carnage done by this president and his administration is mind boggling in its breadth. But what else can we expect when former attorneys for the oil, mining and power companies are placed in charge of the very regulatory agencies they've spent their entire adult lives fighting in court and the halls of Congress.

- In order to wreck the so called "Roadless Rule," which would have finally put the brakes on the wanton destruction of our national forests for the profit of a few well connected corporations, our Congress (at the behest of the White House) has now passed legislation stating that governors must petition the US Forest Service "not" to build roads in the forests.
- Interior Secretary Gale Norton (whose policies have wreaked havoc with department morale) overrode the recommendations of her science staff and instead of reducing winter snow mobile traffic in Yellowstone, actually issued orders allowing more!
- Then there's the request from a development company in California for an "Incidental Take Permit" for California Condors. After 25 years and 35 million dollars to bring this, the largest bird in North America, back from extinction, there are now 99 in the wild. Their choice of habitat is the huge Tejon Ranch, northeast of Los Angeles. The developers want to build 23,000 homes and a warehouse park in the middle of this rich habitat. Condors are inquisitive and can be destructive, like their cousins, the Black Vultures we have here. If the developers eventually have to shoot a condor or two, the permit would absolve them of liability.

Stay cool, keep an eye to the sky and the underbrush and we'll see you in September.

THE SECRET

Emily Dickinson

We have a secret, just we three,
The robin, and I, and the sweet cherry-tree;
The bird told the tree, and the tree told me,
And nobody knows it but just us three.

But of course the robin knows it best,
Because he built the – I shan't tell the rest;
And laid the four little – something in it –
I'm afraid I shall tell in every minute.

But if the tree and the robin don't peep,
I'll try my best the secret to keep
Though I know when the little birds fly about
Then the whole secret will be out.

CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Saturday, August 14

HRA Field Trip. Bird the Loop. Meet 7:30 am at Ormond Beach Library, corner of Beach St. and Granada Blvd. Led by John Roessler 255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

Tuesday, August 17

Pawpaw Chapter Native Plant Society program. "Weeding in Florida's Natural Areas." Greg Jubinsky Environmental program manager of the Upland Invasive Exotic Plant Management Program DEP. 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Tuesday, September 7

HRA Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach. *Note date change due to Monday's Labor Day.*

Saturday, September 18

Fall Bird Count. Meet at City Island Courthouse Annex Parking lot, Daytona Beach. 7:00 am. Bring lunch. For more information contact David Hartgrove at 788-2630. (2)

Monday, September 20

HRA Program meeting. Speaker Frank Gromling. "Right Whales." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30 pm.

Friday, September 24

HRA Field Trip. Buschman Park. Meet at the park. 7:30 am. Led by Kevin Doxstater. Call 212-4319 for more information. (2)

Sunday, September 26

HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet under bridge southside. 5:00 pm. Led by Kitty Albee. (1)

CANAVERAL NATIONAL PARK

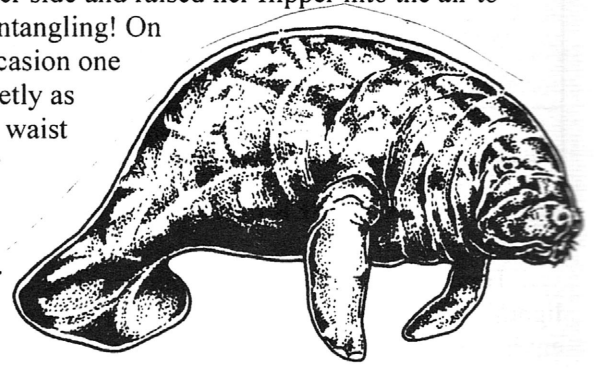
Willie Burns

Tuesday, July 13: It was a warm clear lovely day. Sadly I saw a ferret just as I entered the Park. Sad because this was obviously someone's pet released into the wild where it had no experience nor hope for survival. Even worse, the rangers must remove it as soon as possible to minimize impact on the natural ecosystem. With several endangered species here, including the Red Beach Mouse, any non-native species can be a disaster.

A Fish and Wildlife officer arrived at the dock with a large illegal net she had found in the lagoon. It was as may be expected - full of fish. We were able to return live several flounder and sea trout to the water and, of course, a lively bunch of Blue Crabs. The rest of the Mangrove Snappers, trout, lady fish, weakfish, Sheepshead, Mullet, red fish (Red Drum), Sail Cats, and several other species were dead. Two sting rays were alive, but a small one was also dead.

Several manatees had been at the net in the water, trying to release one that was stuck. The officer was able

to gently release the large beast as the others floated nearby. Manatees know! A few years ago one was caught in a crab trap line. When two rangers arrived to help she rolled on her side and raised her flipper into the air to facilitate untangling! On another occasion one floated quietly as a ranger in waist deep water cut fishing line from its flippers. They are quite



intelligent, perhaps more than most people know.

The netted crabs were large and lively. For some unknown reason I am able to remove them without harm to the crab or myself, perhaps due to lots of experience over many years. The fisheries officer got pinched on her finger, very hard and painfully. It took several minutes to pry her loose, happily only sore with no broken skin.

After we got the net into a truck for disposal I came up with my Best Line of the Day. The fisheries officer was covered with fish oil, scales, seaweed, and mud, quite damp and smelly with a very sore finger. I said that this gave new meaning to the term "fish cop." To her credit she laughed heartily at what is usually a name they are not happy with.

Illegal nets are a problem in Mosquito Lagoon and around the state. They were banned several years ago in an effort to stop the rapid depletion of fish in our coastal lagoons, especially trout and red fish. Commercial fishermen had their nets purchased by the state and were given training in other trades.

This ban, along with the "size slot" for catching red fish, has resulted in a rebound of fish and a thriving sport and commercial fishery. This is one of the few times regulation has not only worked but also produced truly wonderful results. A few hardcore miscreants, especially in the Oak Hill area, continue to use nets illegally.

Next, fellow volunteer Frank Chanudet and I did an O & R of the park. We found several Gopher Tortoises, a few marsh rabbits, and sadly a freshly killed young Yellow Rat Snake on the road. We repaired a few sand fences, removed some downed trees and branches, and of course watched birds.

There appeared to be a small flock of White Pelicans on George's Bank to the west of Parking Lot 5, a mile or two east of Oak Hill. They may have been the flock that has summered in Oak Hill for several years. No, my binoculars were back in my van, not with me!

All in all, another wonderful day in Paradise. The count of sea turtle nests is 564 for the Volusia County portion of the Park.

JULY UPDATE FROM THE CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

Gina Holt

We are barely surviving baby bird season, our busiest time of the year. June has brought us almost as many youngsters as May. Ninety-one young raptors came through our clinic in May, including: 5 Bald Eagles, 37 Eastern Screech Owls, 22 Red-shouldered Hawks, 13 Cooper's Hawks, 10 Osprey, 3 Barred Owls and 1 Great Horned Owl. (Keep in mind this is just May's total...the first babies arrived in February). By the time the 2004 baby season is over we should reach a healthy 60% release rate.

To give you an idea of what it takes to care for these youngsters, in May we used:

- Food: 287 pounds of fish, 148 quail, 595 chicks, 679 mice, 93 rats, 5000 crickets and 4000 mealworms. We went through 2 knives and three pairs of scissors cutting it all up into baby-size portions!
- Hydration: 12,000 ml of fluids were administered.
- Clean-Up: We washed 956 baby blankets, at least that many sheets, and used 150 pounds of newspaper. Thank goodness we now have a new super size washer and dryer to handle it all.
- Labor: 500+ volunteer hours were donated to feed, clean cages and care for the babies.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, or making a donation to the Center, you may contact us at 407-644-0190. We can use all the help and funds we can get. Thanks!!

LOOP-THE-LOOP

John Roessler

On Saturday, August 14, 2004 at 7:30 am I will lead a trip around the Tomoka Basin, known to most of us as 'The Loop'. We will leave from the Ormond Beach Library, which is at the bottom southwest side of the Ormond Bridge.

Our first stop will be the Tomoka State Park to see what birds are on the river. We will travel to our second stop - - the Ormond Tomb. From there we will go to the Bulow Oak Tree and then the pond on Walter Boardman. At this point, time permitting, we will walk out to the deck. Our last stop for the morning will be the North Peninsula Wildlife area where we are sure to see Florida Scrub-Jays. Again, if time permits, we will walk to the beach.

I anticipate the trip to start at 7:30 a.m. and end about noon. There should be a minimum amount of walking involved and plenty to see at our stops right by the vehicles.

I have no idea what wildlife we will see other than the scrub jay, but please join us - it should be a fun morning.

BIRDS IN HIDING PUZZLE

Courtesy of UteCoot, Wasatch Audubon Society of Utah

Get your binoculars. We're looking for 23 hidden bird family names, one in each item below. The letters of the hidden name appear consecutively, possibly interrupted by spaces of punctuation. In 1 below CARACARA is the hidden name. Good Spotting! Answers are on page 5.

1. Look out, Oscar! A car approaches.
2. Though the hare enjoyed the meadow, it cherished its burrow more.
3. Some actions occur lewdly and others just nudely.
4. He pulled an obvious flimflam in going ahead with his pyramid scheme.
5. When frustrated, he turns to necrology for relief.
6. Let's digest this over dinner.
7. He's either a brave nut or is showing nutty bravada.
8. I like the smell of hibiscus, but I can't stand brisket.
9. The besotted dog and the barfly cat cherished each other.
10. He's caught! Don't budge! Rig a rope for him!
11. A week ago Wednesday and last weekend we ate alone.
12. I didn't feel the dog's nip, even though it severed the aorta.
13. Will you fix that typo or will I have to take away your white-out?
14. Bob ran the mile in under four minutes.
15. The tropical foliage was strange, but, oh, those balmy natives!
16. Until I learn to rappel, I can't climb Ben Lomond.
17. The angel is the one with the halo on his badge.
18. Being smart increases your chances of getting clobbered.
19. He got there just in time to claim first prize for promptness.
20. That gambler leaning against Adrian's Wall owes me a mint.
21. You make both rash errors and rash blunders when you act rashly.
22. When he took me in tow, he educated me in the ways of drawing.
23. Catatonic rakers don't move much grass

BIRD BANDERS NEEDED

Meret Wilson

Starting some time in August, I will be banding birds on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Tomoka State Park as part of a 5-year project to document the avian population at 3 strategic locations within the park.

I am looking for enthusiastic volunteers who would like to become involved with this type of activity. Experience is not required. You will be trained in the proper removal and handling of birds from mist nets, documenting data, and putting up and taking down the nets. All the locations are very accessible and all the nets will be fairly close together.

I'm also looking for someone who sews who would like to help make bird-carrying bags.

If you have an interest in participating, please email me at: Mileybug@aol.com. Thank you.

ADULT SCIENCE CAMP

"Exploring Our Environment—From the Ocean to the Estuary"

Come join us for the next Adult Science Camp. It promises to be packed full of great guest speakers and tons of fun! The next "Exploring our Environment" Camp will be September 13-17, 2004. This five-day educational program is for adults who are interested in learning about the biology and ecology of coastal NE Florida. Biologists from Florida Sea Grant, GTMNERR, Marineland and the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory are partnering to bring you this unique opportunity.

The program costs \$100 per person for the five days and includes the costs for all activities included in the agenda, but participants will need to bring a bag lunch. Participants should be capable of walking on uneven surfaces and should be prepared to spend time outdoors. The program will be offered from September 13-17, 2004. Days will run from 9 am to 4 pm.

For more information or to register, please email <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm> or contact Maia or April at 904-824-4564. Space is limited and we expect to fill the class before September so don't wait to send in your registration.

REVISED HRA WEBSITE AVAILABLE

Paula Wehr

Our Halifax River Audubon website -- www.halifaxriveras.org --has been updated to include new photos from **Kevin Doxstater** (these will be updated at least every quarter), a listing of books for sale from Golden Dog Books, and a printable copy of the new version of the Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide.

The schedule of the 2004-2005 field trips will be posted as soon as the final confirmations are made. There's a link to the monthly program schedule as well which will

provide details about the speakers and topics of each upcoming meeting.

With one click of the mouse, you can link to other sites such as nearby Audubon chapters, conservation organizations, national and state parks and more. Please visit our revised site. If there is other information that you'd like to see included on our web pages, please contact me.

TIGER BAY AND RIMA RIDGE - JULY 20

Ray Scory

Our experiment of holding a Summer field trip proved to be extremely successful.

July was the month for birds at Tiger Bay State Forest and the Rima Ridge tract. Our total count was thirty-three different species of birds. We saw the usual Tiger Bay birds such as Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, Eastern Bluebirds and Bachman's Sparrows.

Yes, Bachman's Sparrows - up close and singing and right alongside the road. So close that we didn't have to use binoculars to see the diagnostic markings of the birds and best of all, all ten of us got to see them and hear their very distinctive song. It was a life bird for **Paula Wehr** and she was thrilled. In fact, we all were thrilled. This bird is not easily found in Central Florida but in Tiger Bay State Forest, it can be observed quite regularly.

The day ended with a Red-headed Woodpecker perched quietly for all of us to see, and a Swallow-tailed Kite sailing into a magnificent plunge behind a slash pine canopy.

All this happened, including a friendly picnic under spectacular Live Oak trees at Indian Lake, at Tiger Bay State Forest, but not before a special bird appeared. Not one bird but a small flock of Blue Grosbeaks dazzled us on Dark Entry Road. We were first attracted by the singing, a musical song similar to a House Finch's repertoire. Leaving our cars we searched for the singing bird. Then, there it was, atop the highest point of an eight foot pine tree, clearly belting out a medley of notes any opera star would be proud to imitate. Other Blue Grosbeaks responded to this singing and we felt special to witness this intimate wonder of Nature.

This day at Tiger Bay was a good birding day and we had fun.

A Special Note: This past Halifax River Audubon Field Trip season we scheduled thirty-three field trips and during the course of these trips we observed a total of two hundred different species of birds. I am proud of this undertaking and honored to have been field trip chair for this Audubon chapter. I wish to thank all those who participated. We had fun.

Thank you, Ray Scory

To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour

William Blake (from Auguries of Innocence)

WE'VE GOT THE BIRD RIGHT HERE

July 2, 2004

Ladbroke's, the grand British bookmaker, takes any and all action from bettors around the world. But a 6,000-mile race involving 18 young albatrosses has to be one of a kind. The birds took off more than two months ago from Australia, heading for South Africa. Tagged with satellite transponders, several competitors perished early: yes, including one named The Ancient Mariner. When Aphrodite's signal disappeared, the field seemed to narrow to Xanadu, Ocean Spirit, Demi and The Ecologist. (There was no Seabiscuit.)

Tens of thousands of dollars had been bet when Ladbroke's teamed up with the Conservation Foundation to raise money for research and preservation programs for the young Tasmanian shy albatrosses. Committed punters, of course, will bet on anything that moves. But the glorious, wave-hugging flight of the albatross is truly special.

And this contest, called the Big Bird Race, is a worthy new way to attract public attention to the dangers albatrosses must overcome in their migration. Modern long-line fishing boats present a bigger threat than any natural predator along the journey, killing hundreds of thousands of seabirds each year.

Over the weekend, Aphrodite's signal suddenly came alive again. There she loomed, beeping down the backstretch. Much to the surprise of race officials, Aphrodite had flown far ahead of the field, having mastered the perils of the vast Southern Ocean.

The signal also indicated that she had paused to fish off the South African coast, nonchalant as a grazing filly, a mere day or two from the finish line. Still, victory appeared safely in hand.

But wait: under a technicality, the bird's two-week silence meant disqualification. C'mon, no one accused Aphrodite of taking steroids or a taxi, right? The real-world word from Ladbroke's is that it will proudly pay off on Aphrodite once she beeps across the line.

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Answers to Birds in Hiding Puzzle: 1. Caracara. 2. Dowitcher. 3. Curlew. 4. Flamingo. 5. Turnstone. 6. Verdin. 7. Raven. 8. Ibis. 9. Flycatcher. 10. Budgerigar. 11. Teal. 12. Snipe. 13. Poorwill. 14. Brant. 15. Myna. 16. Pelican. 17. Loon. 18. Martin. 19. Stint. 20. Swallow. 21. Thrasher. 22. Towhee. 23. Crane and emu.

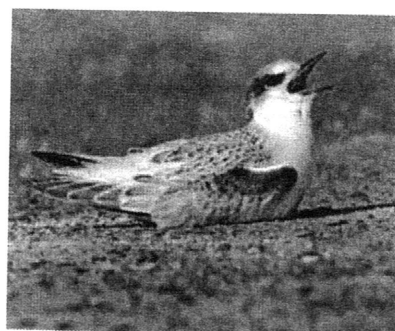
How well suited the lining of a bird's nest, not only for the comfort of the young, but to keep the eggs from breaking! Fine elastic grass stems or root fibers, pine needles, or hair, or the like. These tender and brittle things which you can hardly carry in cotton lie there without harm.

Henry David Thoreau, June 6, 1856

ROOF-DWELLING TERN CHICKS

National Audubon Newswire email

Clearwater, FL, Monday, July 19, 2004 - Driven from their preferred nesting grounds on the beach by development and other factors, Least Terns in Florida



Least Tern Chick

have made their homes on at least 27 gravel roofs in Pinellas, Florida this year. While these lofty breeding grounds offer refuge from many earthbound dangers, they also pose a new risk - falling. Many young chicks, after tumbling off the roofs, find themselves

stuck on the ground below, unable to return to their nest. If they happen to have fallen into a driveway or parking lot, they also risk being run over by vehicles.

Fortunately for the fifty or so pairs of Least Terns nesting at Autoway Pontiac GMC in Clearwater, volunteers from St. Petersburg Audubon Society have engineered a rescue solution. Called the "chick-a-boom", the ingenious device consists of a cardboard orange juice carton cut to provide a flap, duct tape, a paint stirring stick, and a long piece of metal pipe. The dealership's employees are put into service, catching the chicks and placing them in the orange juice carton. The flap comes down, the chicks are lifted to the roof, and they are tipped out of the carton, safely home. This is clearly one time when business is for the birds!

Note: to receive Audubon Newswire emails, log on to ltneffoss@audubon.org

Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources ... the history ... the romance, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.

*President Theodore Roosevelt
Creator of National Wildlife Refuge System*

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

32115-0166 05



Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtreves@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	b.kieran@att.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin Doxstater	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
	Webmaster		
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

August 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2004-2005
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

THE PELICAN



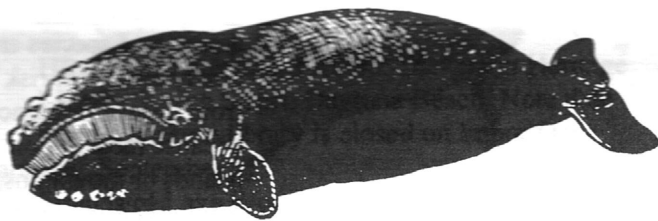
"We need to be the stewards of this natural world, not its destroyers!"

VOL. 50 - NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON SEPTEMBER 2004

FRANK'S WHALES

Paula Wehr

Frank Gromling will speak about "Marineland Right Whale Survey Project" at our first program of the year on September 20. Frank became active in whale conservation when the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project began in 2000. With only about 325 right whales remaining, scientists and volunteers are working to minimize the whales' greatest threat, human impact of ship strikes and fishing gear entanglement. He became so involved with efforts to save these most endangered whales in the ocean, that he wrote Frank's Whales, a fascinating story of the endangered whales and the special



role being played by local citizens to save the whales from extinction. In his book, he convincingly answers the questions so many people ask: "How can I make a difference?" and "What can I do to help?" He will have photos and a handout to complement his presentation. He will also have signed copies of his book on sale at the meeting.

Frank is the Project Assistant and Team Coordinator for the Survey Project, which operates from St. Augustine Beach to Ponce Inlet. When he is not tracking and photographing right whales, he is the publisher at Ocean Publishing, a firm he started in 2002.

CONSERVATION NOTES

This month David Hargrove is unable to write his usual column about our environment. David works for Florida Power & Light and has been working up to 36 hours at a time, day after day, since Hurricane Charley hit.

Thank you, David, for being our hero and helping us to better survive this bad time.

Editor

THE GOLDEN DOG HAS NEW "PUPPIES" THIS SEASON

Willie Burns

Golden Dog Books, our book and stuff selling subsidiary, will be providing members and friends with a few new products. A new book in the Florida's Fabulous series, "...Canoe & Kayak Trails," has arrived. While many of us no longer paddle around (except in our driveways!) the pictures are wonderful and show the way to many good birding locations.

We are now stocking the most marvelous pralines. These delectable confections are made of pure cane sugar and pecans, with no preservatives or glop. They come in plain or triple chocolate. Aunt Sally's Creole Praline Shops, the manufacturer, is right next door to the famous Cafe du Monde in New Orleans. We will sell them for \$1.75 each, less than the manufacturers recommended price of \$2.25 apiece, and can take orders for the Holidays.

More important is the other new item, Shade Grown Coffee. Most of us read of this in the latest Audubon magazine. Coffee organically grown in the shade of the rain forest canopy does not require destruction of the forest in Central and South America, nor pesticides nor fertilizers. Best of all are the myriads of migratory birds that winter in the trees above.

While slightly higher in price than the cheap store brands, it gives us the opportunity to support small growers and their efforts to preserve as much of the forest canopy as possible. We are using the Breakfast Blend and it does taste better than Maxwell House, Bernie's, or Folger's. The really big advantage is ecological preservation.

This coffee is under the aegis of National Audubon and has been certified organic by the OCIA and the USDA, and rain forest friendly by The Rainforest Alliance. Without these seals, the products found on grocery store shelves are neither organic nor shade grown.

Varieties are Breakfast Blend, French Roast, and decaf. The price of \$7.00 for regular or \$7.50 for decaf are a discount for members and well below manufacturer's suggested retail. We can supply whole beans by special order if you prefer.

BUSCHMAN PARK FIELD TRIP, SEPT. 24

Kevin Doxstater

We'll begin our 2004-2005 Field Trip year with a new venue, Buschman Park in Port Orange. Opening in June 2003, the city has chosen to keep this park "environmentally friendly" by limiting the number of user amenities. Year round one can expect to find several species of regulars including herons, egrets, woodpeckers, and more. When luck is with you at Buschman you will sometimes get a good look at the resident Barred Owls and Wood Ducks. The real attraction in the fall, however, is migratory birds. Visitors the final week of September last year included Hooded, Black & White, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Also American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat (scores), Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Northern Waterthrush, and a family of Painted Buntings.

This will also be the first time migrants have been to the park since the waterfall was installed by the city on the recommendation of our Chapter's Friends of Wild Birds committee. With luck we'll see some migrant birds using it for drinking and/or bathing.

In addition to the birds this park is also home to several species of butterfly.

The best birding area is not regularly mowed, so be prepared to walk through some tall - and possibly dewy - grass. Total walking distance will be about 3/4 mile. Insect repellent is highly recommended as a large portion of the park is wetland.

We will meet in the parking area at Buschman at 7:30 a.m. to begin our walk and we should be finished between 9:30 and 10. The park is located on Spruce Creek Road; from Nova turn north on Spruce Creek, the park is on the right approx. 1/4 mile past Commonwealth Ave. From Dunlawton take Spruce Creek south, the park is on the left just past the kennel.

NEW BIRD SPECIES FOUND IN PHILIPPINES

HRVOJE HRANJSKI, Associated Press Writer
MANILA, Philippines - Filipino and British wildlife researchers say they've stumbled upon what appears to be a new species of flightless bird found only on the tiny forested island of Calayan in the northern Philippines. During a May expedition to Calayan, about 320 miles north of Manila, a team member was walking in the forest when she saw a small group of unfamiliar dark brown birds with distinctive orange-red bills and legs, the British conservation group BirdLife International said in a press release Tuesday.

The team reported seeing more adult and juvenile birds on several occasions over the next few days, the group said, and estimated there are probably 100-200 pairs in the area. The bird is locally known as "piding," but has

never been documented, Filipino conservationist Carl Oliveros told The Associated Press.

Unlike its most similar relative, the Okinawa Rail, the Calayan Rail is "almost certainly flightless" and may be new to science. Rails usually have brown plumage and short wings that allow only brief flight.

"I find it quiet unusual," Oliveros said. "Most species have been documented, but this shows there is still a lot to be revealed to us. There may be other islands that have been overlooked by scientists."

The Calayan Rail was seen skulking in undergrowth or out on open trails, sometimes alone, sometimes in family groups, BirdLife said.

According to the statement, although the bird is not thought to be under immediate threat, the development of roads on the island of about 8,500 people may lead to new settlements and result in loss of habitat and the introduction of predators such as cats and rats.

"These newly discovered species are nearly always at risk from human influence, because most are on islands or mountains, where their ranges are naturally quite small," BirdLife's Nigel Collar was quoted as saying.

"We don't know a lot about the bird," Oliveros said. "Flightless birds are the most vulnerable. Based on a history of extinction, its future doesn't look that bright."

BirdLife said the new species' scientific name is *Gallirallus calayanensis*, named after Calayan island.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Deadline for \$99 early registration is September 15
Audubon Assembly 2004
October 7-10

Hilton, St. Petersburg

Register now on-line at www.audubonofflorida.org
or call Vicky Johnston at 305-371-6399 to request a
Registration brochure.

The Florida Birding and Nature Festival site is on the
campus of Eckerd College. Check out their website at
www.flabirdfest.com for the complete festival program
and easy on-line registration.

MARY KELLER STILL IN THE BIRD BUSINESS

Pat Mihalic

Mary Keller is still accepting birds and doing rehab. She is trying to keep only songbirds and other smaller ones at her home. The others she is sending to the rehab center. Many people thought that when the new Mary Keller Bird Rehabilitation Center opened that she was going to retire. However the Center is not set up for songbirds or baby birds. Eventually they will be able to do this (at least we hope they will), but for now they are just taking the seabirds, herons, pelicans, etc.

Mary needs the following items: A used washing machine for the towels and blankets that she uses for the birds (many of the birds are covered with lice so she cannot use her personal washing machine), a used Water Pik to remove maggots from the birds, white paper towels, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula, towels, blankets, donations of money for vitamins, medicine and special food.

Items may be dropped off at her home on 1216 Deneece Terrace, off Derbyshire Road between 10th Street and LPGA Boulevard in Holly Hill, or call me at 767-9437 for pickup.

CALENDAR 2004-2005

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Tuesday, September 7

HRA Board meeting, 1:30pm, Dickerson Heritage Library, Keech Street, Daytona Beach. Note date change because library is closed on Labor Day.

Saturday, September 11

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR Event. 8:30-10:30am. Deer Program. Meet at parking lot at end of Mud Lake Road. Everybody welcome.

Monday to Friday, September 13-17

Adult Science Camp, 9:00am-4:00pm. Marineland on A1A. \$100 fee. Learn about the biology and ecology of coastal NE Florida. Biologists are from Florida Sea Grant, GTMNERR, Marineland and the UF Whitney Laboratory. For more information or to register, please contact Maia or April at 904-824-4564. A flyer and registration form can also be downloaded from

<http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm>.

Saturday, September 18

Fall Bird Count. Meet at City Island Courthouse Annex Parking lot east, Daytona Beach. 7:00am. Bring lunch. Call David Hartgrove at 788-2630. (2)

Monday, September 20

HRA Program meeting. Speaker Frank Gromling, Project Assistant and Team Coordinator. "Marineland Right Whale Survey Project." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, September 21

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society. Kevin Doxstater. "Beautiful Birds, Beautiful Music." 7:00pm Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Friday, September 24

HRA Field Trip. Buschman Park. Meet at the park. 7:30am. Led by Kevin Doxstater at 212-4319. (2)

Sunday, September 26

HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange Causeway. Meet under bridge, south. 5:00pm. Led by Kitty Albee at 254-8246. (1)

Friday, October 1

HRA Field Trip. Guana River. Meet at Publix parking lot. Williamson & Granada Blvds. Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler at 255-9826. Bring lunch. (2)

FALCON FAR FROM HOME

Birders on Martha's Vineyard are having an ornithological feast this August as they watch a recently identified rare vagrant Red-footed Falcon. The bird normally breeds in Eastern Europe and migrates to Africa. Somehow it got off track and the kestrel-like juvenile male has been seen to the delight of the hundreds or even thousands of vagrant birders who have made the trip to this Massachusetts island.

How did it get there? Guesses are that flew across to Latin America last winter and worked its way north; or maybe it arrived recently from Europe; or just maybe it hitched a ride on a transatlantic ship.

The bird is molting now, but later it might get the urge to migrate and head south to what it thinks is Africa. Because he is only one of his species anywhere around, he will never have a chance to breed.

Bird-watchers say the best moments are when the falcon flies of



his perch and grabs some large flying insect in its talons and eats it.

The falcon – *Falco vespertinus* – has bright red feet. The male is slate-gray above and paler gray below, and the female has black barring on back and tail. The birds breed, migrate and roost in colonies of up to 5000 birds.

THE PELICAN

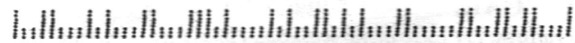


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

32119-2396 05



Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	OwensI@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	304-3441	
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingim@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtreves@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingim@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin Doxstater	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
	Webmaster		
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franni@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Florida Rare Bird Alert		(941) 242-9338
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(407)-644-0190
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

September 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2004-2005
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. 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. 50 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON OCTOBER 2004

BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS STARTS IN NOVEMBER

Lois Robinson

It's time already for our Beginning Birdwatching Class. If you want to know how to identify birds, how to find birds, how to develop birding skills, how to improve your binocular use and many other birding facts please join our class for fun, information, and fellowship.

To register, call me, Lois Robinson (760-8480) or the Colonial Colony South Park (767-8521 and ask for Mandy).

The particulars are as follows:

- Cost: \$35.00 payable to Halifax River Audubon, due the night of the first class.
- Dates: November 5th, 12th and 19th.
- Time: 7-9:30 PM
- Place: Colonial Colony South Park, 1275 Beville Road, in the south Recreation Center in the park.

Note: this is an evening class for those of you who are employed as well as for retirees. You do not have to be a member of Halifax River Audubon to attend.

Birding trips to practice what we have learned will be on the day after each class, November 6th, 13th and 20th from 8 AM to 10:30 AM. We will visit the best birding sites in the area for this time of year. All other Halifax River Audubon members who are interested are invited to join us on these trips. They are always fun! We will leave from Colonial Colony South promptly at 8 AM.

WHALE WATCH PROGRAM

Paula Wehr

Frank Gromling, Project Assistant and Team Coordinator for the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project, was the featured speaker at our September 20 meeting. Frank began by defining a right whale. Prized for its oil and baleen plates and preferred for its slow speed and floating-carcass characteristic, commercial whalers deemed this animal the 'right whale' to hunt, and, in doing so, nearly eliminated the northern right whale. Today there are only about 325 right whales left in the Atlantic Ocean.

Right whales have an average life span of 60+ years. They reach 60 feet in length, are black or dark gray, have deeply notched tails, large wide flippers and no dorsal fin. They are born with callosities, which are horny growths on the head and behind the blow holes on the chin, lower lip and around the eyes. The pattern of these callosities

remains the same as the whale grows and acts as a "fingerprint" to identify individual animals.

The northern right whale has been protected internationally since 1935, and is listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Although no longer hunted, right whales continue to be killed by human activities. They are struck and killed by large ships (these whales have no fear of large ships) and by becoming entangled in commercial fishing gear and eventually strangling or prevented from feeding. Pollution and habitat destruction also pose threats to the species. Approximately a third of all right whale deaths are caused by humans.

Right whales live in the north Atlantic; pregnant females migrate to the shallow ocean shelf off the coast of Florida to give birth. The new-born calves have virtually no blubber to insulate them from the cold. They are fattened on rich whale milk and may double their weight within a week. During this time frame, December through March, the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project does its work. Team leaders work with volunteers to "watch" sections of the Atlantic throughout the day. When a right whale is spotted, the sighting is verified and the whale is photographed, if possible. Each whale is identified using the pattern of callosities and the information is sent to the scientist heading the program. Volunteer training sessions will be scheduled for the upcoming season.

Volunteers are needed to watch for whales between Ponte Vedra Beach and Ponce Inlet. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call Marineland at 904-471-1111. Joy Hampp is the volunteer coordinator. If you see a right whale when you are looking at the ocean from your condo or while you are walking the beach, please call 888-97WHALE to report your sighting.

THANK YOU **Dee Dee Blanchard** and **Erma Rice** for the wonder refreshments you prepared for our September 20 meeting.

PLEASE SIGN UP

Paula Wehr, Hospitality Chair, asks members to volunteer to prepare simple refreshments to serve at a program meeting. Sign up now to select your date. Call Paula at 673-5332.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Well I for one have had enough hurricane to last me for a long time. The combined effects of both "Charley" and "Frances" on our members and those of our neighboring chapters forced the cancellation of the Fall Migration Count here in Volusia County. I haven't heard yet but I imagine we weren't the only county to cancel. We'll just have to look forward to December's Christmas Bird Counts and hope for much better weather then.

Speaking of weather, I've been asked a number of times recently what the birds do when a hurricane approaches. The short answer is that they look for a place to hide or a place as protected from the howling winds as possible. Pelagic birds are often seen inland immediately after a storm. Several years ago (while doing the Fall Count) **Madeline Shaddix** and I saw a Wilson's Storm Petrel tip-toeing down the river across from Down the Hatch restaurant in Ponce Inlet. This is a bird you'd normally see thirty miles offshore. We'd had two days of 35-knot winds out of the northeast and this bird showed up in an unexpected place. On Sunday, September 3rd, as the winds from Frances were continuing to rake our area, I saw an American Oystercatcher here in the parking lot of FPL's Port Orange Service Center. There were 4 or 5 inches of standing water in the lot and the hedges along the east side of the fence offered some protection from the blowing gale. So this bird, which had almost certainly been blown in from the river near the Port Orange Bridge, settled down in an alien environment and made the best of the situation.

The changes wrought by a hurricane are probably most pronounced on cavity nesters. Woodpeckers will just excavate new nest sites as they do each year anyway. But Tufted Titmice, Great Crested Flycatchers, Brown-headed Nuthatches and others may have difficulty breeding next year due to the absence of nesting trees blown down during these recent storms. Marsh birds like Clapper Rail's would seem able to easily survive since they live in an aquatic environment year round anyway. This is not the case. The storm surge wreaks havoc on their marsh. A 1940 hurricane in South Carolina killed an estimated 15,000 Clappers and a 1976 storm in New Jersey an estimated 20,000. But the lack of competition means that those that survived had a much better rate of nesting success. So nature bounces back and their numbers in these areas recovered in a decade or so. It will be interesting in the coming seasons to see what kinds of population trends we see here in our area after these two immense forces of nature, Charley and Frances, left paths of destruction across the landscape.

On November 2nd, as we go to the polls here in this country, our neighbors south of the border in Mexico will

be celebrating their annual "Day of the Dead" holiday with parades and ceremonies. This may well be the most important presidential election of our generation. As a tax-exempt organization, Halifax River Audubon does not endorse candidates or political parties. Still, here are some things to ponder as you weigh the issues before casting your vote.

On his first day in office, George W. Bush called for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His administration has continued to do so ever since. Dick Cheney serves on the board of directors of an outfit called the Center For the Defense of Free Enterprise. Though it sounds innocuous enough, it's the brainchild of a man named Ron Arnold, the founder of the so-called "Wise Use" movement. The 25-point agenda of this group includes opening all public lands (including national parks) to oil and gas drilling, mining, grazing, etc. In a 1991 interview with the Toronto Star, Mr. Arnold said, "Our goal is to destroy, to eradicate the environmental movement ... We're mad as hell. We're not going to take it anymore. We're dead serious - we're going to destroy them," he said. "We want to be able to exploit the environment for private gain, absolutely ... and we want people to understand that is a noble goal". Others in the administration who have worked with Mr. Arnold or his associates include Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior and Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture.

Mark Rey, Agriculture Department Under Secretary For Natural Resources is a former timber industry lobbyist and speaker on the "Wise Use" events circuit. He was appointed to his post by George W. Bush 6 months after taking office. His duties include overseeing the US Forest Service. It's hard to imagine a person less qualified to protect our nation's natural heritage. This appointment is only one example of the kind of self-aggrandizing that ideologues placed in positions of power by this administration.

A former lobbyist for the coal fired power industry is in charge of enforcement at the Environmental Protection Agency. Is it any wonder that quotas for the reduction of mercury pollution from power plants were relaxed? Is it any wonder that after 2½ years of watching what was supposed to be an agency that protected the nation's citizens, EPA Administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, resigned in disgust and frustration because so many of her "subordinates" had been placed in positions of power regulating industries they'd recently been employed by and consistently getting administration hacks to override her attempts at enforcement?

The motto of our organization reads in part, "We need to be the stewards of this natural world." Stewardship demands reasoned thought and action. Please bear these things in mind as you make your decision next month.

CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2004

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Friday, October 1

HRA Field Trip. Guana River. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler at 255-9826. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, October 2

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society field trip. Osteen - Volusia Forever Conservation Lands, Wiregrass Prairie Preserve. Meet 8:30am at NW corner of Hwys 44 and 415 (Tomoka Farms Rd). For reservation contact Sonya Guidry 427-3399 or sonya940@cs.com.

Thursday, October 7

Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society sponsored trip. Guided Kayak Tours at Washington Oaks State Park in Palm Coast. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$40 per person (includes kayak rental, outfitting equipment, bottled water, Park entrance fee, and two-hour tour). Deadline for registration is 24 hours prior to tour. Payment is due upon registration by contacting Coastal Outdoor Center of St. Augustine, 904-471-4144. More info at <http://www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com/>

Saturday, October 9

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR Event. 10:00am-2:00pm. Family Fun Day. Raindate: October 16. Held in Learning Center (old office building).

Monday, October 18

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Tim Breen, biologist. "Great Egret Project." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, October 19

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society meeting. Workshop leader Patty Bruda, Master Gardener. "Butterfly Gardening with Florida Native Plants." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm. *Note:* Pre-meeting mini-field trip. Central Park (South of Hand Ave.) Meet in parking area Fleming Ave. and S. Center St. 5:30pm. Contact Paul Rebmann 441-4962 for reservation.

Saturday, October 23

Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society event. Deborah Green. "Water-wise Landscaping." 10:00-11:30am. Full

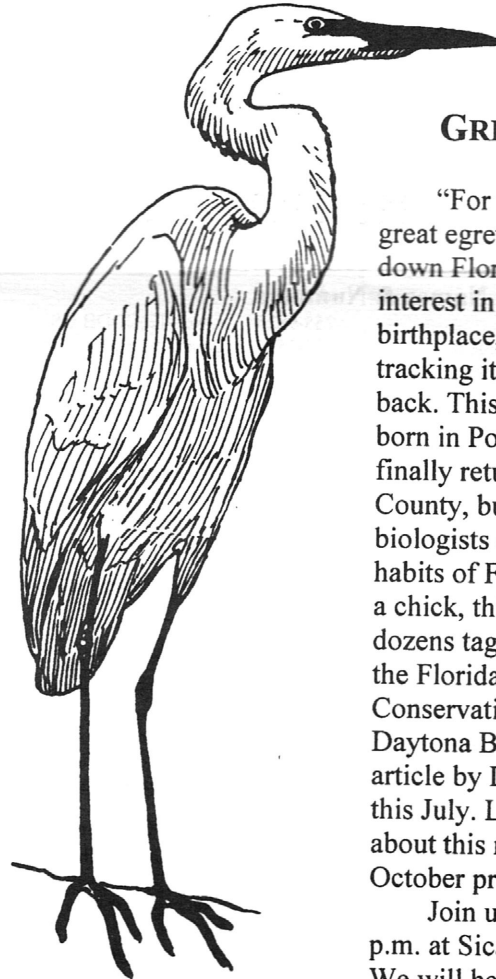
Moon Natives Nursery at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. Contact 212-9923 or www.FullMoonNatives.com for details.

Friday, October 29

HRA Field Trip. Lyonia Preserve. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd & Taylor Rd., Port Orange. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler at 255-9826. Bring lunch. (3)

Saturday, October 30

Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society field trip. Ocala Forest Walk: Yearling Trail. Walk four-mile loop trail to explore Pat's Island. Marjorie K. Rawlings referred to it as "Forrester's Island" in book *The Yearling*. Possibly visit Baxter's sinkhole. Contact Sonya Guidry at 427-3399 or sonya940@cs.com for reservations.



GREAT EGRET

Paula Wehr

"For three years, a young great egret wandered up and down Florida, showing little interest in returning to its birthplace, surprising biologists tracking it by a tiny radio on its back. This summer, the female - born in Port Orange in 2001 - finally returned to coastal Volusia County, but not before giving biologists a good look at the habits of Florida's great egrets. As a chick, this egret was one of dozens tagged by biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission." This Daytona Beach News-Journal article by Diana Pulver appeared this July. Learn the full story about this meandering bird at our October program meeting.

Join us on October 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Sica Hall in Holly Hill. We will hear Tim Breen, biologist from the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation at FFWCC, discuss what scientists have learned about Great Egret migration, habitat and much more.

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
POST OFFICE BOX 166
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #395
Daytona Beach, FL

RETURN SERVICE

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
113 CENTENNIAL LANE
DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

32119-2396 05



Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	235-7544	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Jean Lesh	Recording Secretary	761-6893	flyinsqrrl@bellsouth.net
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtreves@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin Doxstater	Field Trips	763-4260	colors@cfl.rr.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
	Webmaster		
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

October 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
activities by
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

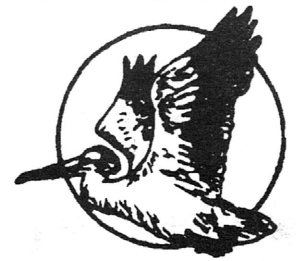
For Your Information - All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

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. 50 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON NOVEMBER 2004

November Program Meeting

THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S LANDSCAPES

Barbara Kieran

Don Spence will tell about new things happening to Florida's landscapes when he speaks to Halifax River Audubon members and their guests November 15 at Sica Hall. He comes to us from our local Pawpaw Chapter of The Native Plant Society. A native of Volusia County he owns Native Florida Landscapes, a landscape design business, and teaches courses in Botany and Biology at Daytona Beach Community College.

Don earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Stetson University and a Master's degree in Biology from University of Central Florida. He is an Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, and holds a certificate in landscape design from the Professional Ground Maintenance Society.

CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Friday, November 5

HRA Field Trip. Hontoon Island. Meet at Circuit City parking lot, International Speedway Blvd. Daytona Beach. 7:00am. Led by Paula Wehr at 673-5332. Bring lunch. (3) **Note: As of this printing Hontoon Island is closed due to flooding. Call Paula Wehr prior to the trip date for current information.**

Friday, November 5

HRA Beginning Birdwatching Class (1 of 3). Meet at Colonial Colony South Park, 1275 Beville Road, South Recreation Center. 7:00-9:30pm. Fee for 3 classes and 3 field trips is \$35. Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480 to register.

Saturday, November 6

HRA Beginning Birdwatching Class Field Trip. Visit to birdwatching area. 8:00-10:30am. Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480 for meeting location. HRA members are invited to attend.

Saturday, November 6

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR Event. 9:00-11:00am. Invasive exotic plants program. Held in Learning Center (old office building).

Friday, November 12

HRA Beginning Birdwatching Class. Refer to Calendar entry for November 5.

Saturday, November 13

HRA Birdwatching Class Field Trip. Refer to Calendar entry for November 6.

Monday, November 15

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Don Spence. "The Future of Florida's Landscapes." Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 6:30pm.

Wednesday-Sunday, November 17-21

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, Brevard Community College, Titusville. For info contact Neta Harris 800-460-2664 or neta@natureandspace.com See article about the Festival in this issue.

Friday, November 19

HRA Beginning Birdwatching Class. Refer to Calendar entry for November 5.

Saturday, November 20

HRA Birdwatching Class Field Trip. Refer to Calendar entry for November 6.

Saturday, November 20

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip. Buschman Park & Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Contact Gail Domroski at 428-0447 for info.

Saturday, November 20

Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society field trip. Tour Florida Agricultural Museum site, and I-95 Land Bridge. Picnic lunch at Princess Place Preserve. Meet at Publix parking lot at W. Granada Blvd and Williamson Ave. Ormond Beach. 8:30am. Bring lunch. Call Sonya Guidry 427-3399 or 441-5161 or email sonya940@cs.com.

Sunday, November 28

HRA Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet under bridge, south. 4:00pm. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. (1)

Friday, December 3

HRA Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, north. 8:00am. Led by John Carr at 255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 4

HRA Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, north. 8:00am. Led by John Carr at 255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

*Sign Up Now***BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS***Lois Robinson*

Now's the time to get to know how to identify birds, how to find birds, how to develop birding skills, how to improve your binocular use and many other birding skills. Come join our class for fun, information, and fellowship.

To register, call me, **Lois Robinson** (760-8480) or Mandy at the Colonial Colony South Park (767-8521).

The particulars are as follows:

- Cost: \$35.00 payable to Halifax River Audubon, due the night of the first class.
- Dates: November 5th, 12th and 19th.
- Time: 7-9:30 PM
- Place: Colonial Colony South Park, 1275 Beville Road, in the south Recreation Center in the park.

Note: this is an evening class for those of you who are employed as well as for retirees. You do not have to be a member of Halifax River Audubon to attend.

Birding trips to practice what we have learned will be on the day after each class, November 6th, 13th and 20th from 8 AM to 10:30 AM. We will visit the best birding sites in the area for this time of year. All Halifax River Audubon members who are interested are invited to join us on these trips. They are always fun! We will leave from Colonial Colony South promptly at 8 AM.

GUANA STATE PARK FIELD TRIP*John Roessler*

On Friday, October 1, four of us took a trip to Guana River State Park & Wildlife Management Area. It was a perfect day. As soon as we got out of the truck we saw a male Painted Bunting.

The staff at the park was very helpful telling us where to look. One ranger gave us a trail map with some hot spots. This turned into a pleasant hike in the woods with a few detours around wet spots. Still, it was a good trail as we saw all sorts of critters and plenty of birds (23). We got back around 2 p.m. Overall, it was worth the 130-mile drive.

Welcome to new members Andrew Albert, Jessie Brown, Carolyn Garris, Esther Gergely, Henry M. Gilliam, E. R. Greenway, Ruth Hagar, Hyder Heather, Thomas & Susan Jarosik, Jim & Sue Johnson, H. John Kugler, Shirley R. Lieberman, Yvonne L. Lodes, Nancy Loverty, H. Lusky, Thomas MacDonald, Coral McRobert, Al Perkins, Mary Proctor, David R. Pummer, Elizabeth M. Richards, Becky Riley, Ella Sample, Roberta Sappington, V-M Shambora, Daniel Snow, Phil & Jackie Sommerlad and Melissa L. Vitori.

*Halifax River Audubon***OCTOBER BOARD ACTIONS**

1. Develop Sugar Mill Birding Trail. **Barbara Kieran** reported that Dianne Gilpatrick, President of Friends of Sugar Mill Gardens, had contacted her requesting that the Chapter develop a Birding Trail at the Garden. The Board noted that this would be a fitting memorial for **Gail Lincoln** and that earmarked funds were available for do it.
2. Accepted Resignation. Board accepted the resignation of **Jean Lesh** as Recording Secretary.
3. Change Program Meeting. Board changed the Halifax River program meeting for Monday, February 21 from a banquet meeting to a regular meeting.

REPORT OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER/INDIAN RIVER LAGOON REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Halifax River Audubon is a member of this committee comprised of 14 local area Audubon Chapters. Representatives of these Chapters met September 11, 2004 at the Audubon Center For Birds Of Prey In Maitland. Reported by Gail Duggins of Flagler Audubon.

- Audubon of Florida Board Members Election
Seat 1: Nominees – Carole Adams of Duval Audubon; Joan Brown-Bachmeier of Seminole Audubon. *Carole Brown elected.*
Seat 2: Nominee – Neta Villalobos-Bell of Seminole Audubon. *Seat required no voting.*
- Audubon of Florida Report: Charles Lee of Audubon of Florida. Lee urged Green Swamp in central Florida as the top priority and a rallying point for Audubon of Florida.
- Audubon of Florida Strategic Plan: Eric Draper of Audubon of Florida. Policy Director Draper presented a draft of Audubon's new strategic plan, prepared by the steering committee and President Dave Anderson. The focus will now be growth issues, attempting to protect and manage natural habitats. Fundraising and assistance to chapters will be increased; education will be a lower priority. Emphasis will be placed on water overuse, drainage and pollution problems and choosing special places to protect such as important bird areas. Discussion followed with several objecting to new direction.
- Conservation: Old Business: Discussion of Model Fertilizer, Herbicide, and Pesticide Ordinance.
- New Business: Chapter News and Events.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

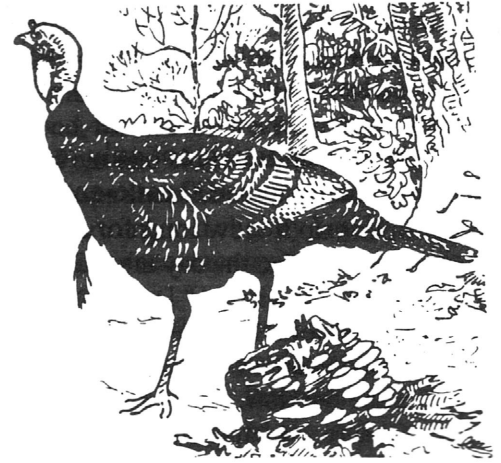
Last year, the U.S Forest Service spent 36 million taxpayer dollars to facilitate the sale of timber in the Tongass National Forest. They sold the timber for 1 million dollars. The Tongass contains some of the largest remaining stands of old growth forest left in our national forest system. It covers a large section of southeast Alaska and has been the object of a drooling desire by the timber industry for years. National forests are supposed to be just what the name implies, an area that belongs to all of us. Through a series of sleight of hand maneuvers, the Bush Administration has set about wrecking the so-called "roadless rule" that was developed after years of public hearings and negotiations. Their plan is to allow governors of states with national forests to implement their own levels of "protection" and issue their own development strategies. It's hard to believe that the Administration really thought that they could pull off this theft of yet another national treasure. But their hubris has reached monumental proportions and besides, they felt confident that they had rigged the game. Enter Earth Justice.

This "lawyer for the environment" group has tirelessly battled the Administration at every turn. They have also lobbied Congress to put a stop to this give away of our natural resources. About the time we were dealing with the arrival of Hurricane Charley, an amendment to the Interior spending bill was narrowly passed in the House that prohibits the spending of federal funds for road building in the Tongass. A visit to the Congressional Record web site turned up confusing results, so I don't know yet how this amendment fared in the Senate. Stay tuned and we'll find out together.

Now, let's talk turkey. With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I thought a quick lesson on *Meleagris gallopavo* was in order. Of course, we've all heard the tale of Ben Franklin lobbying for the Wild Turkey over the Bald Eagle for the honor of "national symbol." And the Wild Turkey is quite a different bird from the one that will grace the tables of America on the 25th of this month. The story of that turkey is truly depressing and after reading it, I'm not sure I want to eat turkey again. But Wild Turkeys have made a real come back here in Florida and the sight of a flock in the early morning mist, even in a residential neighborhood is truly welcome. There are six subspecies of Wild Turkey in North America. Here in Florida, we have *M.g. osceola*, after the famous Seminole chief and it's northern cousin, *M.g. silvestris*. Signs of interbreeding between these two sub-species have often been reported. Wild Turkeys in the east are darker plumaged than their western cousins. The name "turkey" actually refers to the nation of Turkey, which by the way has no turkeys. It all leads back to early Spanish explorers who brought Wild Turkeys back from the New World and introduced them to

The Pelican Vol. 50, No. 5, November 2004

Europe. The English assumed these were the same birds that had long been imported from Africa through Turkey. So, thanks to a lot of confused ancestors, our Wild Turkey has its name, though its roots are here in the western hemisphere.



Males stake out a territory in late January and by mid February, the several females he's coaxed into mating are incubating eggs in nests on the ground. Incubation takes 27 to 28 days and the young are able to follow mom to search for food within hours of hatching. Dad, once his strutting and puffing are done, has little to do with his offspring. Here in Florida, Wild Turkeys live 7 to 9 years on average. Since the fires of 1998, the population has increased substantially.

So, no matter what you're having for dinner - turkey, ham or tofu - enjoy, and know that the Wild Turkeys of Florida are doing just fine.

ENDANGERED SNAIL KITE DOING WELL

*From Space Coast Audubon's newsletter "The Limpkin,"
by Brad Martin*

On July 18 a Snail Kite was admitted to Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary in Melbourne. The bird was found in Canaveral Groves perched on a car and being mobbed by mockingbirds. Snail Kites are listed as Endangered and are found mainly in the marshes of south and south-central Florida. Out of habitat and out of range, the kite, whose diet is almost exclusively Apple Snails, was weak and underweight but with no obvious injuries.

This kite is feisty and has had a 50% weight increase. Apple Snails are purchased wholesale from Nahacky's Aquarium in Melbourne. Still, it costs \$140 a week to keep the culinary snob of the avian world supplied in escargot; it is the hospital's most expensive patient.

Update: The Florida Wildlife Hospital was happy to announce that the Snail Kite has been banded and was released back into the wild on October 1.

ILL WINDS IMPROVE THE VIEW

ANNE RAVER (NYT) Published: September 23, 2004

Correction Appended

THERE'S an old truth about hurricanes: they take out the trees that gardeners don't have the heart to cut down. Like wildfires, they clear the land of deadwood. They fell trees weakened by disease or stunted roots, leaving only the strongest -- or the luckiest - - when skies clear.

Such ruthless pruning not only reveals which plants can stand up to a 100-mile-an-hour wind, but suddenly opens up a view long forgotten.

"When I saw the garden the day after Charley, my first thought was, 'Oh, the vistas,'" David Price, the director of horticulture at Historic Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales, Fla., said, speaking about five weeks after Hurricane Charley crossed the state.

The 250-acre garden sits on top of Iron Mountain, at 298 feet above sea level the highest point in the state. From there Mr. Price looked south, through a grove of old live oaks that had held steady through the winds, toward 1,700 acres of orange groves in the valley below. To the west Mountain Lake shimmered through a tree line thinned by half in the storm. "Now I'm tempted to cut down a few more oaks blocking the view," he said.

Just before Hurricane Ivan smashed through Pensacola in mid-September, gardeners in central Florida and along the coast were beginning to lift their heads from clearing the wreckage of fallen trees and mangled shrubbery left by Charley, which roared by on Aug. 13, and Frances, which crawled through three weeks later.

In many places Charley and Frances took 70 percent of the canopy, stripping live oaks of their leaves, felling weaker trees like laurel oaks, snapping branches off magnolias and leaving camellias and other shade-loving shrubs to scalding sun.

Gardeners who are still "picking up sticks," as they say -- big ones -- are being forced to think anew about the sorts of plants that might best go in the bare spaces. No hurricanes have swept through Lake Wales since Donna, in 1960. "But meteorologists studying rising temperatures and weather patterns think we may be seeing more hurricanes the next two decades," Mr. Price said.

No plant is hurricaneproof, as attested by all the native live oaks that went down, despite their reputation for being able to survive storms. Bok lost 23, including one 80-footer that crashed into the reflecting pool.

The McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach, Fla., lost about a dozen live oaks, some 300 years old, in its jungle hammock. The trees were shallow-rooted, growing over limestone. Two tall slash pines, natives that usually just bend with the wind, were lifted out of the soft, saturated soil and crashed into a pool at the entrance. "I'm

going to miss those big old slash pines," said Janet Alford, the executive director.

At Mounts Botanical Garden, a 14-acre public garden in West Palm Beach, the director, Allen Sistrunk, mourned the downing of his tamarind and sapodilla trees, but saw the opportunity posed by the loss of three 70-foot eucalyptus trees. "They were planted too close together," he said. "Now we may only upright one of them, the white eucalyptus, which glows at night." And across the flattened trees, Mr. Sistrunk now enjoys a view of three regal queen palms on the south side of the garden.

Palm trees hold up beautifully in storms: their limber trunks bend with the wind, which blows right through their fronds. So savvy Floridians know they shouldn't believe any tree company that shows up just before hurricane season to prune their palms. "Hurricane pruning is a racket," Mr. Sistrunk said. "I've seen palm trees pruned to a Q-Tip."

Take too many fronds off, and you deprive the palm of its ability to photosynthesize, actually hurting its chances in a hurricane. Unpruned sabal palms have done fine for centuries without help from the knife. Paurotis palms, native to the Everglades, have also evolved with the high winds of seasonal storms, which do them the favor of cleaning out their dead brown fronds.

Ficus trees, on the other hand, develop massive trunks and dense canopies that catch the wind like sails, so they can topple over and do great damage during a storm. Such trees should be pruned judiciously. Some ficus trees put down aerial roots from their lateral branches as an anchor to the ground. Prune too many, and you destabilize the tree.

Live oaks, which grow slowly, generally do well, because they have dense wood and roots that can spread 150 feet -- unless they are growing over limestone rock, as at coastal gardens like McKee and Mounts. The live oaks that went down at Bok had insufficient roots or weak points in their trunks where two branches had grown together but had not fused, Mr. Price said.

Old, weakened trees could well be growing in your yard, leaning over the house or car -- and high winds aren't confined to hurricane zones. All such trees should be examined carefully, by a certified arborist if possible, to avoid damage in the next storm. Advice on finding a certified arborist is available from the International Society of Arboriculture, www.isa-arbor.com or (217) 355-9411.

But left to their natural form, live oaks have dense interlocking wood that is nearly impossible to cut down. "You have to tear it," Mr. Price said. That is why the hulls of ships, like Old Ironsides, were built of it. So if you have the climate, the room and the time to watch a live oak spread out in your yard, it's a magnificent shade tree well worth planting.

But customers are already appearing at nurseries like Rockledge Gardens, near Cocoa Beach, Fla., demanding fast-growing trees. "They say, 'I want my shade back,'" said Kevin Reilly, the owner. They ask for laurel oaks, sycamores, Chinese elms, all the fast growers that tend to have weak wood. Many want instant shade to protect their camellias, but no tree can grow fast enough to keep the sun from scalding the camellia's lustrous green leaves.

At Harry P. Leu Gardens overlooking Lake Rowena in Orlando, a collection of 2,500 camellias, all selected before 1940, are now frying in the sun. The garden lost 135 large trees, including laurel oaks, sweet gums and pines. "So we will probably move things around a bit," said Robert Bowden, the executive director, and plantsome sasanqua camellias,

"which can take the sun." Many of the camellias look hopelessly mangled, with broken limbs and a few green leaves on stumps. But if the trunk has not been gouged too deeply the branches can be pruned, and new growth will burgeon. "There were some little miracles," Mr. Bowden said, pointing to a great laurel oak still standing close to the house, built in 1888.

Laurel oaks grow fast and offer generous shade, so they were frequently planted in these parts. But with their weak, brittle wood, Mr. Bowden advises against using them. He pointed out one old laurel oak leaning across a walkway that perhaps should be cut down. The ground was soft around the trunk and slightly higher on one side: telling signs for the homeowner trying to secure the yard against the next storm.

Mr. Bowden worries that people with felled trees will rush to plant fast-growing species like the camphor or the goldenrain tree for quick shade. But both are invasive, growing like weeds, and should be avoided.

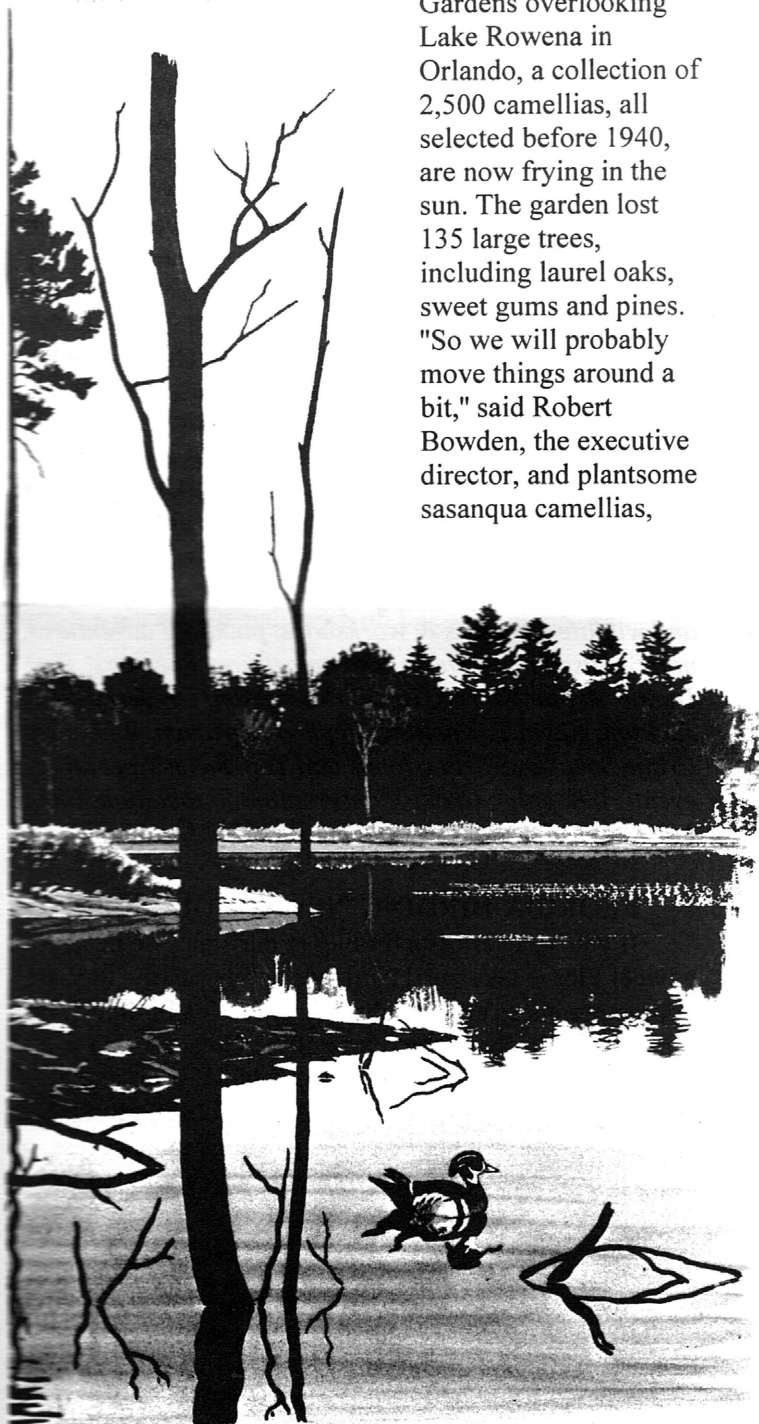
The garden's Web site ([www .leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)) lists storm-resistant trees like bald and palm cypress, palms, Southern magnolia, holly, live oak, river birch, yaupon holly, white cedar and trident maple. Susceptible trees include Chinese elm, laurel oak, silk floss, hickory, Southern red cedar and sycamore.

"Some people are just planting palms," said Mr. Reilly of Rockledge Gardens. And though no landscape is stormproof, a yard planted with saw palmetto, coontie (an American cycad) and sabal palms could be not only striking and low-maintenance, but fairly secure in a hurricane. And tropical plants like calatheas, with their strikingly patterned leaves, and lily pad begonias grow so low that they can ride out a storm.

Mr. Bowden was amazed at how well his Southern magnolias had held up, despite the size of their big leaves and the density of their canopies. He stood by a lustrous specimen of D. D. Blanchard, a variety of *Magnolia grandiflora*, which has shiny green leaves with orange-brown, feltlike undersides, and declared that more people should plant them.

The Southern magnolia is a native of the coastal plain. So is the live oak. But life is risky. Especially in a hurricane.

Correction: September 30, 2004, Thursday An article last Thursday about the impact of Hurricane Charley on Historic Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales, Fla., attributed a distinction to the sanctuary erroneously. It is not the highest point in the state; that is Britton Hill, in Lakewood Park in Walton County, 345 feet above sea level.



Halifax River Audubon October Meeting

POST-FLEDGING MOVEMENTS OF THE GREAT EGRET

Paula Wehr

Tim Breen, regional non-game biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, presented the preliminary results of a satellite tracking study of Great Egrets that started in 2001. The study was designed to use Great Egrets as the subject rather than some other wading birds because the egret is large enough to accept the backpack transmitter. In this study, biologists wanted to:

- Know where the egrets go when they leave the colony where they were born.
- Understand how egrets use their habitat—for roosting or breeding or feeding.
- Learn the length of survival and causes of mortality.
- Understand colony fidelity; i.e.: do egrets return to the area where they were born or do they move away and never return?

After selecting five egret colonies (one in Port Orange), seven young birds were chosen from each colony. At four weeks of age, they were fitted with a backpack-style satellite transmitter and a USGS metal leg band. Blood samples were taken to determine sex and to check for pesticide levels. Prior to the study, egrets living in permanent re-hab centers were used to test the backpack transmitter to ensure they would not interfere with the lifestyle of the egrets. Tim reported that within a day or two, the egrets would preen their feathers over the transmitter and only the antenna would be visible. The young egrets were also colored with a red paint to make them easily visible to the biologists at the beginning of the study. Of course, after the first molt, the paint was gone. The location of each egret in the study was reported to Tim via e-mail each day.

Preliminary results show that the sex of the egret had no bearing on how far the egret traveled after leaving the nest. Surprisingly, the average distance traveled by the tagged egrets was only 83 miles. Slightly less than 20% of the egrets left the state. One egret traveled to Atlanta, back to Tallahassee and then on toward Cuba. Unfortunately, transmission then stopped. Tim cannot confirm whether the bird died or the equipment failed.

This study also gives preliminary information on important habitat areas. Numerous tagged egrets went from their nest colony directly to the St. John's Basin, Kissimee Basin, Mallory Swamp and fish farms in Hillsborough County. While none of this is surprising because all of the areas are known as good wetlands, it is interesting to note that the newly-fledged egrets arrived in these areas within days of leaving the nest colony. Since they couldn't have known about these areas, it seems likely that they moved with a group of older egrets, which

6

knew about the benefits of the wetlands. The study showed that most Great Egrets in Florida don't really migrate but move regionally. As the birds age and attain breeding maturity, the biologists hope to learn whether they will return to where they were born. Six of the original 35 tagged egrets are still transmitting.

If you see a great egret with a metal leg band, please contact the FFWCC with the location and band number, if possible.

COME ON DOWN TO THE FESTIVAL!

David Hartgrove

The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival is scheduled for November 17th through the 21st. There will be over 40 field trips, pelagic birding, great workshops and seminars, and a trade show for all of those hard to find birding related items you've seen in magazines.

Headquarters for the Festival will once again be the North Campus of Brevard Community College, in Titusville. Our own **Kevin Doxstater** and **George Sibley** will be presenting seminars and **Ray Scory** and I will assist on several of the field trips. Visit the Festival web site: <http://www.nbbd.com/fly>, for all of the details or watch the local papers. You're guaranteed to have a good time and to learn a lot along the way.

From the Festival brochure

More than 40 field trips, pelagic birding trip, birding and wildlife seminars & workshops, paddling adventures, nature based trade show, art competition. Speakers: Pete Dunne, Arthur Morris, Brian Harrington, Dr. Jerry Jackson, Kevin T. Karlson, Stephen Ingraham. Whooping Crane Speakers: Brian Johns and Tom Stehn. Special event: Whooping Crane Conservation Association Annual Meeting presentations & field trips.

FLORIDA BIRDING NEEDS YOUR HELP

If you've ever been birding in our state, we need your advice! Please take our 15-minute online survey, to share your experiences and insights about Florida birding. Your input will help shape the future of the Great Florida Birding Trail and demonstrate the value of birds and birding to Florida communities. All responses are anonymous and cannot be traced to your email address, so there is no chance of spam from our survey. Log on to www.surveyroom.com/birdtrail/list

JULIE BRASHEARS

Coordinator, Wildlife Viewing Section, Office of Recreation Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

620 S. MERIDIAN ST. TALLAHASSEE, FL
32399-1600. 850/922-0664.

WWW.MYFWC.COM

WWW.FLORIDABIRDINGTRAIL.COM

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

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

Down below the pasture pond,
O'er the lovely lea,
I went spraying bushes
With 2, 4-D

*(For young, susceptible annual weeds,
apply one to two pints per acre.)*

I had read my bulletins,
I was in the know.
The two young heifers
Came and watched the show.

*(Along ditches and fence rows, use 2, 4-D
when weeds are in a succulent state.
Won't harm livestock.)*

Rank grew the pasture weeds,
The thistle and the bay;
A quiet, still morning,
A good time to spray.

*(Control weeds the easy way with
Agricultural Weed-No-More – not by
chemical burn but by hormone action.)*

Suddenly I looked and saw
What my spray had found:
The wild, shy strawberry
Was everywhere around.

*(An alkyl ester of 2, 4-D is produced by
reacting an alcohol with the raw 2, 4-D
acid. The result is an oily liquid that
sticks to weed leaves.)*

What sort of madness
Little man, is this?
What sort of answer to
The wild berry's kiss?

*(Any 3- or 4-gallon garden pump-up
sprayer can be used, after the standard
nozzle has been replaced with a new
precision nozzle.)*

It seemed to me incredible
That I'd begun the day
By rendering inedible
A meal that came my way.
All across the pasture in
The strip I'd completed
Lay wild, ripe berries
With hormones treated.

*(The booklet gives you the complete
story.)*

I stared at the heifers,
An idiot child;
I stared at the berries
That I had defiled.
I stared at the lambkill,
The juniper and bay.
I walked home slowly
And put my pump away.
Weed-No-More, my lady,
O weed no more today.

*(Available in quarts, 1-gallon and 5-
gallon cans, and 55-gallon drums.)*

We've got a winner!

BIG BIRD RACE

*From "Eagle's View," Newsletter of Lake Region
Audubon*

Scientists and the betting public used albatrosses fixed with radio-tracking devices to raise awareness of bird migration. UK's Conservation Foundation thought up the idea; they work with Tasmanian scientists to learn about the albatross migration route from Tasmania to South Africa.

The world's largest bookmaker, Ladbrokes.com, invited bets on the 6,000-mile albatross oceanic steeplechase migration, which began in April 2004. The contestants were eighteen juvenile Tasmanian Shy Albatrosses, a reclusive species that nests on three islands off Tasmania – Pedra Blanca, Albatross Island, and Mewstone.

The initiative highlighted the plight of albatross species across the world, which are slaughtered each year due to poorly executed, or illegal longline fishing practices. All the profits from the Big Bird Race were placed in a fund for global seabird conservation administered by the Conservation Foundation.

The undisputed winner is **Aphrodite** since she reached South African territorial waters and no bird passed her last known position either at the time she first went offline in mid-ocean or by the end of the race.

Xanadu is second; **Monarch of the Glen** is third; **Daniphobouska** is fourth; the **Ancient Mariner** and **Homeland** are fifth and sixth respectively. The winning stable is Albatross and the winning gender is female!

We will never be sure how many birds died through predation by sharks or sea eagles, succumbed to the weather, were longlined by pirate fishing boats or went offline through technology malfunction. However, we do know that **Aphrodite's** journey was followed by millions of people around the world and that the Ladbrokes.com BIG BIRD RACE 2004 has brought the potential of extinction of albatrosses and other seabirds due to poorly managed longlining to the attention of the world.

Aphrodite's flight provided irrefutable evidence of the track taken by juvenile Tasmanian Shy Albatrosses on their first migration in their migration along the southern coast of Australia and across the Indian Ocean to Africa, allowing a far clearer picture of the designation of potential fishing conservation zones. All of the birds fitted with satellite tracking devices have contributed greatly to our understanding of the routes taken and areas fished by Tasmanian Shy Albatrosses. In addition to these seabird conservation gains, Aphrodite's tract may also have provided botanists working on the biogeography of the world's flora with empirical evidence of wind-blown spore dispersal between continents and remote landmasses, potentially contributing to a major global botanical discovery.

THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396

Names & Numbers

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	235-7544	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Open	Recording Secretary		
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingim@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtreves@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingim@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@minndspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Open	Education		
Kevin Doxstater	Field Trips	212-4319	kevdox@mindspring.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
	Webmaster		
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

November 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. 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. 50 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON DECEMBER 2004

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

David Hartgrove

Saturday, December 18th, seems a perfect time to take a break from the hectic pace of holiday planning and preparation. The Daytona Beach CBC will be held that day and we need your participation to make it a success. We will meet in the parking lot in front of the Publix at the corner of Granada and Williamson Boulevards at 7:00am. This is an all day event but as usual, we can accommodate those who need to leave sooner. Of course if you do, you'll miss the excellent Chinese food we always have at the nearby Royal Dynasty Restaurant while we tally the results and tell bird stories. Please contact me if you're planning to come. It makes organizing so much easier.

On Sunday, January 2nd, Southeast Volusia Audubon will conduct the Ponce Inlet CBC. They will meet at the Brandon Center (that's the old New Smyrna Beach library, on Riverside Drive south of Canal St.) at 6:30am. Dinner will follow that evening at Spiro's Restaurant on U.S.1.

Finally, the West Volusia CBC will be held on Saturday, December 18th too. Christmas and New Years falling on a weekend always creates scheduling conflicts. Those who wish to count in a different area this year should contact Dr. David Stock at 386-736-1893 for information on participating with the West Volusia group.

I wish I could do all three but I will do two and I encourage all who wish to join me. We will definitely have a lot of fun.

EAGLES ON THE WING

Willie Burns, with assistance from Diana Flynt, Lynda White, and Gina Holt, all of CBOP & BOPIM

A recent article in the "News-Journal" on eagle nests aroused some curiosity about their breeding habits. We tried to research this further and here is what we found.

The Bald Eagle population in our country is in two separate sub-species, the Northern and Southern. Our local birds are of the Southern variety, a bit smaller than the Northern. Females are always larger than the males with the Southern females about the size of a Northern male, 8 to 10 pounds.

The Southern nest in the late fall and winter, as our local nest studies have shown. The Northern nest six months later, in late spring and summer in the northern

sections of the country. There is some overlap of territory, especially by wandering immature eagles of both varieties.

There is no pattern to their wanderings. While current research has shown no interbreeding of the two varieties this has not been ruled out conclusively. There is no physical reason not to, but their biological clocks are six months apart. In the areas where their regions overlap it may occur.

During our winters we have large concentrations of eagles, both adults and immatures, gathering at good food supply locations. Here in Volusia County the County Landfill on State Road 415 is a prime spot. Similar gatherings take place in other areas of the country. The Yukon River delta in Alaska gets photographed every year as many eagles winter there close to a good supply of food.

The main food of the eagles at the landfill is not the obvious, garbage, but rather gulls and rats. The gulls and rats feed on the trash. The eagles feed on the trash pickers. The Circle of Life spins always.

The assumption in the newspaper that returning eagles from the north would find their nesting sites damaged or gone was mildly in error. Our local eagles are the ones that nest here, not the "snowbirds." They have had some loss of nesting trees, but amazingly most nests seem to have survived more or less intact.

The nest across from the Pappas Restaurant in New Smyrna Beach is a case in point. The nest and its tree are still there. As many factors control nesting, only time will tell if we have as many nests this year as last. While undoubtedly a few Northern eagles will visit they will be quite late for breeding, much less nesting.



Photo courtesy of James Shadle

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

I've been thinking a lot about language in the last week or so. It's a powerful tool used by politicians and their cronies to divide the electorate and to obfuscate issues that ultimately affect us all. The oceans of rhetoric that preceded our recent election contained almost no mention of the environment or the abysmal environmental record of the current administration. Perhaps, if there had been extended debate on issues such as the plan to open vast tracts of National Forest property to oil and gas drilling or the decision to allow the death of the Super Fund plan for cleaning up toxic waste sites, the outcome of the election would have been different. We'll never know. We do know that we'll see another attempt to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Republican senators have already said they have a plan to attach an ANWR drilling amendment to a budget bill and that tactic would only require a simple majority vote. We're also likely to see further erosion of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act through this administration's slash and burn, pro business policies. They masquerade under names like "Clear Skies" and "Healthy Forests." The ghost of George Orwell must be chuckling and wondering how long it will be before we see signs proclaiming, "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," "Ignorance is Strength."

I was thinking about these things and the power of language when I came across a magazine article about Lewis and Clark and how much had changed in the 200 years since they went west. In many places along the route Lewis and Clark took, the endless vistas of timber they reported have been replaced with a checkerboard pattern of denuded clear cuts. In an effort to explain these blots on the landscape to vacationing tourists, the U.S. Forest Service has installed some interpretive signs that seek to explain the situation. One such sign states in part "The people who followed Lewis and Clark practiced a more visually evident style of land management than did the American Indians. American Indians utilized resources made available by natural events. Today, on the other hand, we often create disturbances to make resources available." Translation: they treated the land and its resources with respect while we trash paradise for quick profits. Imagine the committee meetings and hand wringing that went into crafting those phrases. Again we see the power of language.

Two birds that you're likely to see in the back yard here during winter are Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) and Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*). Yellow-rumps are divided into 2 subspecies: the Myrtle Warbler here in the east and Audubon's Warbler west of the Rockies.

Though there are other species of warbler that winter here in our area, the Myrtle Warblers outnumber all others. Flocks of 20 or more will suddenly settle in your trees or around your bird bath and then just as suddenly



move on. Some years ago, while working on the Ponce Inlet Christmas Bird Count, we counted 5,000 in 15 minutes! They like berries and bugs, so you won't see them at your feeder. The tiny berries of wax myrtles (hence the name) are a favorite because they're rich in fat content. Often your first clue that they're nearby will be hearing multiple "check" calls as a flock moves through the trees feeding, keeping your trees cleaned of harmful pests.

Chipping Sparrows have been known to breed in the Panhandle sporadically but here we only see them in winter. In the north they often raise 2 broods.

This comes in handy since their nests are often parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. In summer, with young in the nest, they eat a lot of insects. In winter they eat more seeds, which is why you're very likely to see a flock of 10 or more appear at your feeder, nervously eating and watching for predators. One of the few clear breasted sparrows we see here, look for their rufous crown and a dark stripe through the eye.

Have a good holiday and don't forget our Christmas Bird Count.



RICHARD DAY

Halifax River Audubon

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

1. Action: Mary Keller's complimentary National Audubon Society membership was extended for three years.
2. The Chapter will clean up an area at Sugarmill Gardens in Port Orange that is targeted for placement of our Chapter's memorial Birding Trail.
3. Halifax River Audubon Chapter members will meet with members of the Pawpaw and Lyonia Chapters of the Native Plant Society on Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00pm in Sica Hall in Holly Hill in lieu of our traditional holiday dinner.

CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Friday, December 3

HRA Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, north. 8:00am. Led by John Carr at 255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 4

HRA Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, north. 8:00am. Led by John Carr at 255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 11

HRA Cleanup Day at Sugarmill Gardens. 8:00-11:00am. Call Barbara Kieran at 672-2927. See article, page 4.

Saturday, December 11

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR Event. 9:00-11:00am. History of Timucuan Indians. Official Opening of Myaca Trail. Midway Parking Lot.

Saturday, December 18

Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds., Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. Bring lunch. See article. (2)

Tuesday, December 21

HRA Program Meeting. Holiday Pot-Luck dinner jointly with Native Plant Society Chapters Pawpaw and Lyonia. See article, this page.

GOLDEN DOG

Willie Burns

Just in time for the Christmas Holidays, the Golden Dog has a few new and interesting items. We have a few boxes of donated Christmas cards available at a huge discount. We also have a nice selection of Audubon nature and bird calendars for the coming year, also at a discount.

The Shade Grown coffee is now available in both regular and de-caf, and ground and whole bean varieties. This coffee not only tastes far better than the store brands, it helps preserve habitat in Central America.

Our New Orleans Pralines, in regular and chocolate, are a delectable treat for the Holiday season.

There are only two copies left of "Chicken Soup for the Nature Lover's Soul." This fun and interesting book is a collection of short stories pertaining to nature, sure to be appreciated by anyone who enjoys watching and sharing our environment.

We have a new book in the "Florida's Fabulous..." series, "...Canoe and Kayak Trails." This and the rest of the series will be available at our meetings, along with several other books on nature.

Stop by and say "Hello!"

NOVEMBER 15 CHAPTER MEETING

Paula Wehr

Don Spence grew up in Volusia County where he observed first hand the importance of maintaining natural habitats. A plant is considered to be native if, in the best assumption by biologists, it was here when the Europeans first arrived in Florida. Some plants probably arrived with the explorers or were brought here by traveling Indian tribes.

Don began his presentation by answering the question, "Why should I use native plants in my landscape?" The four major reasons are:

- Conserve water. Each resident of Volusia County uses an average of 309 gallons of water each day, of which 195 gallons are used for outdoor irrigation. Plants defined as native are acclimated to the local conditions and don't require regular irrigation.
- Reduce pollution. Chemicals from lawn fertilizers and pesticides leach into the aquifer.
- Create a healthy and diverse habitat. Native plants provide food and shelter for native animals, butterflies and birds.
- Save money. If you have less sod, it means less irrigation costs, less fertilizer and less gas or electricity to run mowers, blowers, and edgers. In fact, you may be able to buy a walk-behind mower rather than a large and costly riding mower.

Owners of newly-constructed homes are sometimes disappointed that there are no birds in their beautifully-landscaped back yards. When we landscape using mostly ornamental or exotic plants, there are no food sources for the birds. Therefore, even though the landscape is aesthetically pleasing, there is no reason for the birds to come. Rather than having large expanses of sod, plan your backyards for small "islands" of sod for recreation areas or to provide a walkway from one naturalized area to another. A naturalized area can include native trees, shrubs, grasses and non-invasive ornamentals in mulched beds. These plants have seeds that birds eat, nectar in flowers that sustain butterflies, and leaves and thorns that provide shelter to many creatures.

Don showed pictures of a variety of landscapes that use native plants to provide beauty, structure and color for humans as well as conserve water and provide food and shelter. The photos prove that by choosing the right plant for the right spot we can have a beautiful and sustainable landscape which will conserve the natural resources of Florida.

Don graduated from Stetson University with BS and MS degrees in biology, and is Director of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

CHRISTMAS IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Gina Holt

Are you looking for something different to give your friends for Christmas this year? Why not give Audubon memberships and help the birds.

Several years ago I stopped spending my money on useless gifts no one needed and started giving Audubon memberships. It has taken a year or two for my friends to catch on, but they all tell me they now look forward to each issue of Audubon magazine, and some of them are even becoming more eco-friendly in the process! They are enlarging their boundaries, broadening their horizons, and new ideas are taking shape because of the information they receive through Audubon.

It is so easy to get caught up in the frenzy of mall shopping, trying to find that perfect gift, but how many times do you end up feeling like you have just wasted your money?

But Mother Nature and her wide variety of creatures do need everything we can give! Please consider making a change this year. Spend your money where it can do some good. Make a difference.

Life is for the birds, so they say. Let's help preserve their world, and ours.

CLEANUP DAY AT SUGARMILL

Barbara Kieran

Our Chapter is taking the first step in creating an Audubon Birding Trail at Sugarmill Gardens this month when members volunteer to clean up a thicketed area that will become our path and the site of viewing benches. Call me. Barbara Kieran. at 672-2927 for directions to the gardens and meet me there December 11, 2004 from 8:00-11:00am. Tools will be supplied, but bring gloves, bug spray, and water.

This garden will be an ongoing memorial to our deceased members. The Chapter has had donated funds earmarked for purchasing benches and other equipment to complete the Birding Trail and making it into a lovely restful site in a beautiful local Garden.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY DINNER

Barbara Kieran

This year we are trying something brand new for our Holiday Dinner. Our Chapter members will meet with members of our local Native Plant Societies in lieu of our traditional holiday dinner.

The Pawpaw and Lyonia Chapters will meet with us on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21** at 6:00pm in Sica Hall in Holly Hill. The Native Plant Societies will conduct their traditional plant auction. We will not hold a silent auction. Please bring a covered dish to share, such as vegetable, salad, dessert or meat. Drinks and serving items will be provided.

GIVE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIPS AS HOLIDAY PRESENTS



NEW MEMBERS ONLY

- Yes, I want to give membership(s) to **Halifax River Audubon Inc., Audubon of Florida and National Audubon Society.**

At the special introductory rate of \$20.60. , save 43% off regular dues.

- Senior Citizens or Students, are eligible to join for \$15.60

Dues for **National Audubon Society** include \$10.60 for *Audubon* magazine including \$0.60 sales tax. Members will also receive the Audubon of Florida magazine, *The Naturalist* and the Halifax River Audubon newsletter, *The Pelican*

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, complete the form and return it to Halifax River Audubon, Inc., P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166

Halifax River Audubon, Inc. **does not renew** National Audubon memberships or those of Audubon of Florida. You must make renewal payment directly to National Audubon Society.

- Yes, I want to give memberships to **Halifax River Audubon, Inc.** as a Chapter-Only member. A Member will receive our Chapter's *The Pelican* newsletter only.

The dues for this membership are \$20.00 for adults or \$15.00 for Seniors or Students. Make your checks for this category of membership payable to **Halifax River Audubon, Inc.** and mail to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, Florida, Florida, 32115-0166

Name _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

FLORIDA'S BALD EAGLES VS. CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN AND JEANNE

From Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

After an unprecedented FOUR hurricanes in six weeks caused damage statewide, the Audubon EagleWatch Program, headquartered at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, is receiving numerous reports that Bald Eagle nests and nest trees are either damaged, completely down or the area has sustained considerable loss of the nest and all surrounding trees. This will be a challenging year for eagles in Florida as they return to their nest territories, survey the natural damage, and decide to repair their nests, rebuild in alternate trees or even utilize man-made structures such as cell and utility towers. Typically, eagle nesting season in Florida begins in October and extends thru May.

Audubon is currently compiling data on these hurricane impacted nests and injured eagles. Preliminary information from EagleWatch volunteers reported in late September that of 102 territories in 23 counties, 45 eagle nests are gone, including the complete loss of 16 nest trees; 9 nests sustained damage and 16 nest trees are damaged. Additional statistical data is also being compiled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Audubon member EagleWatch volunteers are encouraged to contact Center Supervisor Dianna Flynt (Dflynt@audubon.org) or Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, Lynda White (Lwhite@audubon.org) at the Center (407-644-0190) with any information they may

have on this issue. Florida wildlife rehabilitators have been cautioned that they may see an increase in eagles injured in territory fights as they compete for reduced nesting habitat. As always, the Audubon Center and EagleWatch will continue to provide assistance for eagle care and rehabilitation, as well as locating and monitoring active eagle territories.

The multi-hurricanes' resulting population impact on many wildlife species, including Bald Eagles, is currently unknown. Collecting and publishing data on what effect a natural disaster has on a species may help us to manage the remaining habitat more efficiently, as well as understand the potential population impacts of future natural or man-made disasters.

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is a raptor rehabilitation and environmental educational center, open to the public, that admits 650 - 750 sick, injured and orphaned raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites and osprey) annually, including an average of 55 Bald Eagles. It is located at 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751.

The Audubon EagleWatch Program is a statewide Bald Eagle nest monitoring program. Currently, EagleWatch volunteers monitor over 20% of Florida's nesting eagles, with 240 volunteers active in 39 counties watching 282 nests. EagleWatch data also supplements state and federal wildlife agencies' eagle nesting data. For information on joining EagleWatch and attending one of this year's workshops, contact Lynda White. For more information about the Audubon Center, visit www.audubonofflorida.org.

THE HORNED OWL

In the hollow tree, in the old gray tower,
The spectral owl doth dwell;
Dull, hated, despised, in the sunshine hour,
But at dusk he's abroad and well!
Not a bird of the forest e'er mates with him;
All mock him outright by day;
But at night, when the woods grow still and dim,
The boldest will shrink away!

*O, Then the night falls, and roosts the fowls,
Then, then, is the joy of the hornèd owl!*

And the owl hath a bride, who is fond and bold,
And loveth the wood's deep gloom;
And with eyes like the shine of the moonstone cold,
She awaiteth her ghastly groom;
Not a feather she moves, not a carol she sings,
As she waits in her tree so still;
But when her heart heareth his flapping wings,
She hoots out her welcome shrill!

*O, when the moon shines, and dogs do howl,
Then, then, is the joy of the hornèd owl!*



Mourn not for the owl, nor his gloomy plight!
The owl hath his share of good:
If a prisoner he be in the broad daylight,
He is lord in the dark greenwood!
Nor lonely the bird, nor his ghastly mate,
They are each unto each a pride;
Thrice fonder, perhaps, since a strange, dark fate
Hath rent them from all beside!

*So, when the night falls, and dogs do howl,
Sing, ho! for the reign of the hornèd owl!
We know not always who are kings by day,
But the king of the night is the bold brown owl!*

Barry Cornwall. From *Poems for Children and Other People*

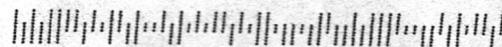
THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 POST OFFICE BOX 166
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #395
 Daytona Beach, FL

DAVID HARTGROVE 09-05
 113 CENTENNIAL LANE
 DAYTONA BEACH FL 32119-2396



President and Board Members

John Roessler	President	255-9826	Owensl@CODB.US
Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	304-3441	
	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
Open	Recording Secretary		
Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Gina Holt	Corresponding Secretary	299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Publicity Chair		
	Ways & Means		
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2005	226-8588	jtrevs@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2005	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
Pat Mihalic	At-Large Class of 2006	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Opnn	At-Large Class of 2007		
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Angelo Cerrito	Finance	767-5397	
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole41834@aol.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	Birdman9@earthlink.net
	Acting Field Trips Ch.		
Open	Education		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
	Webmaster		

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

December 2004

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of our 2003-2004
 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, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 PM. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.