

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 50 - NO. 7 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON JANUARY 2005

CALENDAR 2004-2005

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking.

(2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Sunday, January 2

Southeast Volusia Audubon. Ponce Inlet Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Brannon Center (Riverside Dr. and Canal St. BSR44) in New Smyrna Beach. 6:30am. Dinner at Spiro's Restaurant, US-1. Call David Hartgrove for information.

Thursday, January 6

Flagler Audubon Society meeting. "Status of Florida Migratory Whooping Crane Flock." Flagler County School Board Building, 3039 Highway 100 East (next to High School). 7:00pm.

Friday, January 8

HRA Field Trip. Viera Ponds. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. & Taylor Rd., Port Orange. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler at 255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, January 15

Flagler Audubon Society field trip. Safari River Wildlife Boat Trip embarking from Highbanks Marina, Debary. Two-hour trip aboard a large pontoon boat with lunch following at the Swamp House Restaurant. If 15 or more people sign up, the cost is \$12/per person (else \$16) plus \$2.00 insurance fee. Advance registration and payment is required. Contact Arnie Levine at 446-1906.

Saturday, January 15

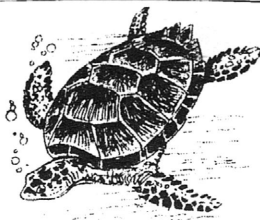
Orange Audubon Society. Birds of Prey ID Class. Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Zellwood. Contact Bob Sanders, 407-898-9798.

Saturday to Monday, January 15-17

Broward County Audubon Society. Everglades BirdFest, Everglades National Park. 954-776-5585. www.browardaudubon/birdfest.htm.

Monday, January 17

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Michael Brothers, Marine Science Center. "Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Project." Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 6:30pm.



Saturday, January 22

HRA Field Trip. Tomoka Landfill. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. and Taylor Rd., Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by Kevin DeWall at 767-3031. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23

Rookery Bay Birding Festival, Naples, FL. E-mail www.rookerybay.org. Phone 239-417-6310.

Friday to Saturday, January 28-30

Big "O" Birding Festival, Moore Haven, FL. Contact www.bigbirdingfestival.com. Phone 863-946-0300.

Friday to Saturday, January 28-30

National Audubon Society Annual Member Meeting. Blair Audubon Center at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (Collier County, Florida; near Naples, Florida) at 10:00am. See article.

Sunday, January 30

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

Friday, February 4

HRA Field Trip. Emerald Marsh. Meet at Circuit City parking lot, International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. 6:30am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. Bring lunch. (1-2)

Do you want to receive a reminder about attending our monthly meetings?

If so, please send a message to paulawehr@bellsouth.net to be included in a group mailing.

If you would like a telephone reminder, please call 386-673-5332 and leave your name and phone number so that we will know how to reach you.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS Rita Davis, Shirley Dortner, Keith E. Freeman, Joseph V. Giuffre, Mark Grose, Mary Kall, John & Laura Lannon, Patricia Race, Ms Dolores J. Rennix, Ms Lorrie E. Robertson, Vincent Roundtree, Edna J. Schumann, Hertha E. Spencer, Joe Vetter, and Virginia B. Woltjen.

VIERA WETLANDS

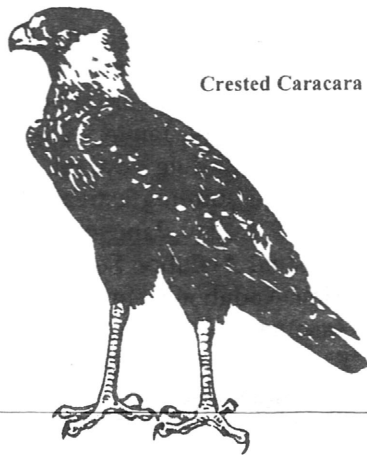
John Roessler

Viera Wetlands is a series of connected ponds created to treat wastewater from the Central Brevard area. Since opening in 2001, this site has rapidly gained recognition as a premier birding destination. During fall and winter, a remarkable diversity of bird species use these wetlands and nearby prairie hammocks and cabbage palm savannahs.

Participants may see shorebirds, including American Golden-Plover, and Pectoral and Stilt Sandpiper. Viera Wetlands has been visited by several rarities, including the first US record of a Mangrove Swallow.

Last year we saw Crested Caracara and three otters, a mother and her two babies.

Remember, this trip is around dike roads and involves very little walking. Please come join us on Friday, January 8 for a visit to Viera Wetlands. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Publix in Port Orange, Williamson Boulevard and Taylor Road. Remember your lunch!



Crested Caracara

January 17 Program Meeting

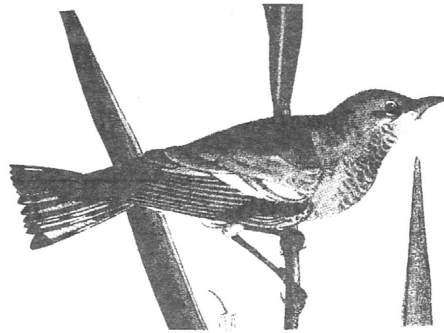
EFFECTS OF THE HURRICANES ON BIRD & TURTLE REHABILITATION

Paula Wehr

Michael Brothers, Manager of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, will talk about the turtle program at the Center as well as the effects of the hurricanes on bird and turtle rehabilitation when he joins us on January 17 at Sica Hall. His talk will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Born and raised on a farm in southern New Jersey, Michael began studying birds in 1971 while in college at Stetson University. He spent many hours combing the swamps and marshes of the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, scanning the mud flats of Ponce Inlet, and watching the Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers near Hill Avenue in Deland. He led many field trips for the West Volusia Audubon Society and was President of that chapter for several years. Extending his expertise beyond just birds, he led hundreds of field trips, canoe trips and beach walks throughout Volusia County, other areas of Florida and the Everglades and the Okefenokee Swamp. Michael holds a Florida Masters Degree in Public Administration in Natural Resource Management from Florida State University.

EAGLES ARE GUARANTEED TO BE SPOTTED



Northern Parula Warbler

Birders go to all the best places! Kevin DeWall will lead a trip to the Volusia County Landfill on Saturday, January 22. Last year we spotted 28 Bald Eagles at this location. We saw about 40 different species of birds on

our last trip, including Savannah Sparrows, Northern Parula Warblers, Brown-headed Nuthatches (building their nests), a variety of gulls, herons, ibises, storks and others.

We'll meet at the Publix parking lot (Taylor Road and Williamson Boulevard) in Ormond Beach at 8:00 a.m. and will carpool to the landfill. There is very little walking involved in this trip. Bring your binoculars and your lunch. Questions: Call Kevin DeWall at 676-3031.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Paula Wehr

Attending: John Roessler presiding. James and Joan Anderson, Willie Burns, Fran and John Carr, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Lois Robinson, Madeline Shaddix, Paula Wehr.

Received donations of \$3,500 from Florida Power and Light Company via Bob Coleman and \$250 from News-Journal.

Received \$110.72 from Golden Dog for sales of books, calendars, and miscellaneous items.

Kevin Doxstater rescinded his resignation from the Board. He will continue as chair for Field Trips.

We will continue to send letters to new and lapsed members. Lois Robinson requested that a nomination committee be formed to approach some of our new members about taking an active role in the Chapter, perhaps filling some of the vacancies on the board. John Roessler will appoint committee members. Fran Carr will include a notice in *The Pelican* asking members to provide phone numbers or e-mail addresses if they wish to receive reminders about meetings or field trips.

After discussion of possible reasons for declining attendance, Rachel Ramsey suggested that we revise the monthly meeting format to begin with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker at 7:00 p.m. to allow working members extra time to arrive before the speaker begins. Paula Wehr moved to make the change; Joan Anderson seconded. Everyone approved. Notice of change will be included in *The Pelican* and on the website.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

"The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

As the new year starts, it's time for an update on several issues we've been tracking here locally.

On Friday, December 10th, the parties involved in the dispute over the proposed extension of Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA to SR 40 met in the County Attorney's office with mediators from the Department of Community Affairs. There was an entirely new team from DCA and we were worried that there might be a change in their position on the issue. Construction of this road requires an amendment to Volusia County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. Because of this, and the potential for irreversible damage to the nearby Tomoka River, we entered into the case, along with Wetlands Alert and established our standing by obtaining legal help from attorney Dennis Bayer.

In order for DCA to approve the amendment, the petitioners (in this case the County and the developers) must provide evidence of overwhelming need for the road. They must also demonstrate that the benefits to the public outweigh the potential damage caused by construction. So far, the arguments and traffic numbers put forward by the petitioners have failed to convince DCA that the project has merit. So this second attempt at mediation produced only the need for further traffic studies. Our Audubon Chapter owns two small, ephemeral islands in the Tomoka. This fact may lend us even more strength in future efforts to protect the river. We'll keep you posted.

On November 2nd, seventy-one percent of the voters approved Urban Growth Boundaries as a growth management tool. They did this even though a week before the election, a circuit judge had ruled that the language in the ballot initiative was too ambiguous. The saga of how UGB's got on the ballot is a story made for Hollywood. Faced with apparently insurmountable challenges, a plucky group of dedicated volunteers did what the experts had said was impossible. They collected over 18,000 signatures in 6 weeks. We in the environmental community attempted to prevail on the County Council to enact UGB's anyway.

The Volusia Growth Management Commission had other ideas. This group was formed twenty years ago to help manage growth and advise the County Council on growth related issues. Somehow, over time, this group's

mission seems to have changed from "management" to "promotion." They inserted what amounted to a poison pill in the language before the County Council that would have actually weakened what little protections exist now.

So on December 18th, when the County Council was holding their final meeting of the year, they voted unanimously to reject UGB's for the time being. The battle lines have once again been drawn. This time the issues will be amendments to the county charter that will restrict the power of the VGMC to override the will of the majority of the voters. We need to apply the brakes to this run away development train that is gobbling up vast tracts of the county with the eager assistance of the cities. On one side of the issue are the folks who think that places like Miami and Ft. Lauderdale offer a vision of how this area should look in 30 years. Needless to say, we're on the other side.

You would think that the St. Johns River Water Management District would consider the protection of a designated Outstanding Florida Waterway as one of its primary missions. How then could they vote to permit the construction of the new First Baptist Church at the headwaters of the Tomoka River. It is inconceivable that the SJRWMD Board, which voted 3 to 2, could have understood the enormity of the proposed project. There are 1,931 parking spaces planned, a 5,000 seat house of worship, a pre-K through middle school with 36 class rooms, a high school with 16 class rooms, an assisted living facility with 90 beds, a retirement village with single and multi-family residences and a day care center for 300 children. There is simply no way this massive expanse of asphalt, built in the middle of the river's flood plain, could not do irreparable harm to the Tomoka.

Currently, we are trying to get the Army Corps of Engineers to deny the dredge and fill permit required for the 7 acres of wetlands that would be destroyed if construction is permitted. It's hard to imagine a more inappropriate place for this project. A lot of excellent bird habitat will disappear locally in the next decade. Saving the river is an important step back from the precipice. If the church is to move from its present location, it should move elsewhere.

NOTICE

CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL NOW BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. WITH REFRESHMENTS, FOLLOWED BY THE PROGRAM AT 7:00 P.M..

January 28 - Corkscrew Swamp

NATIONAL AUDUBON ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Members of the National Audubon Society is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 28, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the Blair Audubon Center at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The meeting is open to all Audubon members and attendees are encouraged to stay to enjoy the Sanctuary after the close of the Annual Meeting.

It is helpful to know in advance who will be attending in order to assure that adequate seating is available. For that reason, anyone planning to attend the Annual Meeting is asked to contact Lynn Teneffoss in the Chapter Services Office at lteneffoss@audubon.org or 800-542-2748. The Chapter Services Office will also be happy to answer any questions about the meeting.

The National Board Meeting will take place at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2005, at the Naples Beach Hotel. The Board Meeting is open to members, who are asked to please inform the Chapter Services Office if they plan to attend.

Details and an agenda are available on the Audubon site at www.audubon.org/nas/board/0105meeting.html.

February 18-21

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

This year the Great Backyard Bird Count is February 18-21, 2005. You remember how we do it. Go out on any or all of days mentioned, count all the birds you see (species and numbers) and log onto the web site www.Birdsource.org/GBBC and enter your count. It's easy and fun! The same Web Site will have lots of interesting data when the count is finished.

One caution: do not count the same birds twice. If you see ten doves one day and then see two doves the next day in the same area count only ten doves in all.

This year we are being encouraged to go out into our public lands and count as many as you can in our parks, wildlife refuges, city and county public areas. Since we do not have an organized field trip that weekend, organize your own field trip with a few friends and have a great day. Any questions? Call Lois Robinson at 760-8480.



March 17, 24, 31, and April 7, 14 and 21st

FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

- COASTAL SYSTEMS OF FLORIDA CLASS

What: 40 hour classroom/field trip opportunity to learn about coastal ecology, animals, plants, issues and ethics. The class will be taught by University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service Staff. The class will consist of 4 classroom sessions and 2 field trips.

When: Classes will held on March 17, 24, 31, and April 7, 14 and 21st. All classes will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Where: Classroom instruction will be held at the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service office located at the Volusia County Agricultural Center, 3100 East New York Ave, DeLand, Florida. Field trip locations are to be determined.

How Much? The class registration will be \$200.00. Cost includes approximately 1,400 pages of notebook educational material, two field trips, Florida Master Naturalist Program Patch, and lapel pin, registration on the *University of Florida - Florida Master Naturalist Program Coastal Systems* web site, and a certificate of achievement.

Registration: Register at ww.masternaturalist.org. Or for more information Contact David Griffis at 386-822-5778; 257-6012 or 423-3368.

April 1

DORA CANAL TRIP

Willie Burns

On Friday, April first of 2005 Halifax River Audubon will once again sponsor a Field Trip to the Dora Canal. This boat trip in Taveres, Florida always provides large numbers of birds, some very rare and hard to find. Most are very close to the boat and easy to observe.

The cost will be \$20.00 per person (payment is required in advance!) for the three hour boat ride. Yes, there is a rest room on the boat if needed. Reservations are important as we are limited to 36 passengers, so please contact Willie Burns at 386 253-2150, or email at wwillie@Juno.com, or mail to 810 Mason Avenue, #31, Daytona Beach, FL 32117-4747.

The Dora Canal is actually a small river that had the last several hundred feet straightened to build a highway, hence the name "canal." We will also cruise the Dead River, named because there is little or no current flowing, and portions of Lake Eustis and Lake Harris.

The natural beauty of the "Canal" has been called one of Florida's most wonderful places. Night Herons usually may also be seen as we cruise the waterway. Of course the ubiquitous Alligators and Turtles will be seen, and perhaps some Otters will frolic near us. Every trip is different, but all are well worth the cost.

Purple Gallinules, Prothonotary Warblers, and many other wonderful birds may be seen, along with Bald Eagles and large numbers of Osprey and Wood Ducks. We usually see nesting Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Anhingas, and Warblers.

We will meet at the Circuit City parking lot on Route 92, West International Speedway Blvd., in Daytona Beach at 7:30 am on April first. This is close to I-95 on the north side of Route 92. Space is limited, so reserve early!

PALE MALE

Willie Burns

(This came over the Audubon news line, the latest on the situation in New York City where the nest of Pale Male, the Red-tailed Hawk, was destroyed by the building on Fifth Avenue where he had nested for ten years. There has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the Hawks and, I'm sure, acknowledgment of the mean spirited building managers. Apparently one of their main concerns was that the building "could be liable for injuries suffered by passers by on the street below if the nest fell.")

Victory for Pale Male! Representatives of Audubon, New York City Parks and Recreation Thank Pale Male's Supporters as Spikes and Nest Cradle are Installed at 927 Fifth Avenue.

New York, NY, Thursday, December 23, 2004 - Today, contractors working for 927 Fifth Avenue reinstalled the anti-pigeon spikes which enabled the Red-tailed Hawk Pale Male to build a nest at the building site and successfully raise his young over the last decade. A safety guardrail was also installed on the twelfth-floor window cornice; a schematic is available at www.audubon.org. Pale Male's supporters were on hand to witness the installation.



"It's the miracle on 74th Street," said New York City Audubon Society Executive Director E. J. McAdams. "The grassroots support for Pale Male and Lola has changed the hearts of the building. Now I hope Pale Male and Lola will come home for the holidays."

"People called us from all over the world to help," said National Audubon President John Flicker. "Pale Male inspired and motivated nature lovers everywhere. We are grateful to the owners of 927 Fifth Avenue for working with Audubon to find a positive solution."

To read the entire release, visit www.audubon.org; you can also find out about Audubon's Red-tailed Hawk Conservation Fund at <http://palemale.audubon.org/>.

December 18 Christmas Bird Count

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CBC

David Hartgrove

Sixteen of us showed up to do the Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18th. Problems with the timing of high tide that day meant that we didn't get as many shore birds as in years past but we still counted 2,378 Laughing Gulls, 828 Ring-billed Gulls and even 6 Great Black-backed Gulls. We counted 11 Bald Eagles, 38 Red-shouldered Hawks, 2 Ruddy Ducks and 2 Vesper Sparrows. All totaled, we counted 9,584 birds of 101 species. This is about our average. The most we've ever counted was 18,629 in 2000. But we had 29 observers that year too. The highest species count we've had was 116, in 1999. Some years you just luck out and you're where the birds are that day. Other years you have to work a little harder to find them.

My sincere thanks to all who came out and spent their day with us. As usual, we had a very tasty dinner while sharing bird stories and turning in the data sheets. Our next count will be the Spring Migration Count on Saturday, May 14th. Please, come out and join us. We have a good time.

Come on out January 8th!

HALIFAX RIVER'S BIRDING TRAIL

Barbara Kieran

On December 11th, seven members from Halifax Audubon gathered at Sugar Mill Gardens to clear a birding trail.

John Roessler, Ken Russell, Paula Wehr, Rachel Ramsey, Sharon Rich, Madeline Shaddix and I worked for three hours clearing and piling up brush. It's amazing what was accomplished in those three hours, and like Rachel Ramsey commented, "I don't know when I've had so much fun."

January 8th is the date to pick up and haul away the brush (all except the pile that Madeline and I made for the critters). We will again meet at the Garden at 8:00am.

This is a dream come true. As Dianne Gilpatrick of the Gardens said, "The Audubon Birding Trail is finally happening."

Halifax River Audubon Spring 2005 Events

Date	Event	Title
Fri., February 4	Field Trip. Emerald Marsh	
Mon., February 21	Program Meeting.	Non-Migratory Whooping Cranes in Florida
Sat., February 26	Field Trip. Smyrna Dunes	
Sat., March 5	Field Trip. St. Johns Ferry & Ravine Gardens	
Sat., March 19	Field Trip. Butterfly Walk	
Sun., March 20	Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge	
Mon., March 21	Program Meeting	Conserving the Everglades.
Sat., March 26	BIRDATHON	
Fri., April 1	Field Trip. Dora Canal	
Mon., April 18	Program Meeting	Day in the Life of a Florida Scrub-Jay
Sat. & Sun., April 23-24	Earth Day Observation	
Thu. & Fri., May 5-6	Field Trip. Fort DeSoto Overnight Trip	
Sat., May 14	Field Trip. Spring Count	
Mon., May 16	Program Meeting	Tiger Bay State Forest
Sun., May 22	Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge	

Po'o-uli

RARE HAWAIIAN BIRD HAS DIED

The Po'o-uli, which was suffering from avian malaria, belonged to one of the world's most threatened bird families – the Hawaiian honeycreepers. Thirteen other honeycreeper species have already died out, in what some are calling Hawaii's extinction crisis.

The small, stocky, brown Po'o-uli (*Malamprosops phaeosoma*) was discovered in 1973, in Maui's Ko'olau Forest Reserve. Even then it was desperately endangered, with an estimated population of fewer than 200 individuals. In 1995, fewer than seven birds were known and by 1997 that number had dropped to just three individuals.

None of these three remaining Po'o-uli seemed keen to breed, and each maintained a distinct home range. In 2002, one of the three individuals was caught and placed in the range of another, in an attempt to get them to mate. But the plan failed and the introduced bird soon left the area.

The following year conservationists decided to take drastic action and capture all three birds to begin a captive breeding program. But this proved difficult, and only one bird was caught in September 2004, which is the individual that has just died. A hunt began for the two remaining birds – believed to be a male and a female – but they have not been seen for nearly a year and hopes for their survival are slim.

Tissue samples from the dead bird were saved for possible cloning in the future; it could be the species' only hope. As well as habitat loss, Hawaii's massive bird losses are blamed on introduced mosquitoes, which carry diseases like avian malaria.

BBC

National Audubon Success. Florida wins big.

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

In 1964, the U.S. Congress established the LWCF for the purpose of acquiring federal lands and conserving important natural resources. Land acquisition funding for federal lands is a critical component of preserving valuable bird and wildlife areas and protecting threatened and fragile ecosystems.

Each year Audubon submits to Congress a list of priority sites in need of LWCF funding. While the House refused to include any specific sites for LWCF funding in its version of the Interior Appropriations bill, the Senate chose otherwise, and did include funding for 9 Audubon priority sites.

U.S. House Passed: \$0 Funding for Specific Sites.

Senate Committee Passed: \$9.75 million for 9 Audubon Nominated Sites

Included in FY05 Omnibus Appropriations bill:
\$8.75 Million for 9 Audubon-nominated sites:

1. Balcones Canyonlands NWR, Texas, \$900,000
2. Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, Texas, \$1,500,000
3. Patoka River NWR, Indiana, \$500,000
4. San Diego NWR, California, \$1,000,000
5. Silvio Conte NWR, NH/VT/MA/CT, \$1,250,000
6. Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, \$400,000
7. Wallkill River NWR, New Jersey, \$700,000
8. Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, Colorado, \$1,500,000
9. PINHOOK SWAMP/SUWANNEE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, FLORIDA, \$2,000,000

THE BIRDATHON IS COMING - MARCH 26, 2005!!!

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

What is a BIRDATHON? It is a 12-hour bird count in the spring with sponsors pledging gifts and donations based upon the number of species of birds counted.

What is our BIRDATHON goal? Our goal is to raise \$3,000 to help fund our chapter's local activities. We hope to increase our funding for education in our schools through "Audubon Adventures" for 5th graders, to improve the quality of our monthly programs, to expand our membership, and to continue bringing you the excellent and informative "award winning" newsletter, *The Pelican*.

How do we do a BIRDATHON? We are organizing FIVE teams of at least FOUR people each. Each team will plan their own strategy to find the most species in 12 hours and raise the most money while having a great day birding!!!

How can you be involved in our BIRDATHON? We need committee members, team members, birders, and most of all **SPONSORS!!** Call one of our committee members: Lois Robinson @ 760-8480, Rachel Ramsey @304-3441, and Gina Holt @ 427-8265, to sign up for a team or pledge your support.

We have provided a Pledge Form below, which you will be seeing again. Please send us your check and help us make our second **BIRDATHON** as successful as our first! Just fill out the form below and mail it today with your pledge. We hope to hear from you soon.

Halifax River Audubon Pledge Form

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Make pledge checks payable to Halifax River Audubon, P. O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166. Thank you. Halifax River Audubon is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations, except for membership, are tax deductible.

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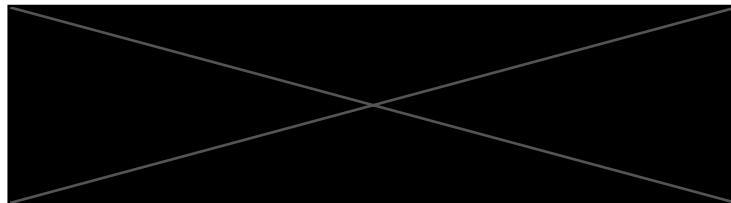


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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David Hartgrove	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
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	Webmaster		
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

January 2005

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. 8 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON FEBRUARY 2005

CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking.

(2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Friday, February 4

HRA Field Trip. Joe Overstreet Landing. Meet at Circuit City parking lot, International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. 6:30am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. Bring lunch. (1-2) See article.

Tuesday, February 8

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Drive around Lake Woodruff Refuge. Meet in the Refuge parking lot at 8:30am.

Saturday, February 12

Orange Audubon Society. Birds of Prey ID Class – Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Zellwood. Bob Sanders, 407-898-9798.

Saturday, February 19

Flagler County Nature Preserve Walk. River to Sea Preserve at Marineland. 9:00-11:00am. Meet at beach parking lot on A1A south of Marineland. Walk in maritime scrub. Led by Naturalist Gail Compton.

Saturday, Sunday, February 19-20

Rally for the Ocklawaha River. See article.

Monday, February 21

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Stephen A. Nesbitt, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Re-introduction of Non-Migratory Whooping Cranes to Florida - Progress and Challenges." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, February 26

HRA Field Trip. Smyrna Dunes. Meet at City Island Court House Annex parking lot, east. 8:00am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. 8:00am. Bring lunch. (3) See article.

Saturday, February 26

Orange Audubon Society. Orlando Wetlands Festival, Christmas FL. 9:00am to 3:00pm. Birdwatching, hikes, guided horseback and pony rides, bus tours. Mark Sees, 407-567-1706 or Olabisi Cox 407-246-2213.

Welcome to new members Joan Aliano, Carol E. Bickford, Maureen Carter, Dr. William C. Denison, Janice Dixon, Karen Emerson, Paula Gregory, James Henson, James Hogan, Wayne Johnson, Janet McLees, Vail & Karen Otis, Anna M. Schwarz, Paul Francis Schwarz, Jr., John W. Sheirich, Jeffrey V. Skidmore, Becky Tate, Esther E. Warneke, Lucille Yee.

Joe Overstreet Landing and Smyrna Dunes Park

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

David Hartgrove

Our two field trips in February offer a good opportunity to possibly see some very special birds. First, there's been a change in plans. The destination of our trip on Friday, February 4th, has been changed from Emerald Marsh to Joe Overstreet Landing. We'll still meet at the same time and place, 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Circuit City on West International Speedway Blvd., just east of I-95. Emerald Marsh is closed at this time so we're going to look for Crested Caracara, Whooping Cranes, Snail Kites and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Osceola County. Our picnic lunches at Joe Overstreet Landing have produced some memorable sightings in the past. This is a long but very rewarding trip.

On Saturday, February 26th, we'll meet in our usual spot at 8:00am at the City Island Courthouse for our trip to Smyrna Dunes Park. This is one trip that requires a lot of walking, though it's on the boardwalk and beach. This park has had some great sightings in the past, including a Lapland Longspur, Kirtland's Warbler (that one really lit up the rare bird alert!) and Horned Lark. The endangered Piping Plover is seen here regularly in winter as are Purple Sandpipers. We'll hope for a few of these and more.

Please, join us on one or both of these special outings.

Coming up!

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Save this weekend to count your backyard birds! Join the Count on February 18-21.

Remember how we do it? Go out on any or all of the count days, noting down the highest numbers of each bird species you see (species and numbers). Then log into www.birdsource.org/gbbc and enter your count. If you can't log on, call me, Lois Robinson, at 760-8480, and I'll do it for you. The same Web Site will have lots of interesting data when the count is finished.

This is the eighth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners.

Thanks to John Williams, Nancy LaFrance and Joan Anderson for providing the delicious refreshments at our January Program Meeting.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A recent post on the Florida Birds List (FLORIDABIRDS-L@LISTS.UFL.EDU) ended with the quote, "Long live Linnaeus." This refers of course to the father of modern taxonomy Carolus Linnaeus, the Swedish physician, botanist and explorer whose 1735 book "Systema Natura" set forth the scientific method used to name the plants and animals we see around us. This subject came up due to a thread of conversation that developed about how bird names have changed over the years. While the common names we use for birds may change, the Latin names generally remain the same so that scientists the world over can understand one another when speaking of different species.

The American Ornithologists Union, the official organization for bird taxonomy here, periodically decides to change the name of a species because new scientific evidence suggests such a change is warranted. Sometimes a name change is done based on arguments that a more descriptive name has been suggested. The most recent example of this that I can think of is the Tricolored Heron. Until the early 1980's, this bird was called the Louisiana Heron. Its current Latin name, *Egretta tricolor*, explains the change but the old name still has a more pleasing ring.

Sometimes, for who knows what reasons, a bird's name is changed more than once. Case in point: what is now called the Wilson's Snipe until recently was called the Common Snipe. Veterans of Boy Scout snipe hunts can tell you they're anything but common. And before it was called the Common Snipe, it was the Wilson's Snipe. Why it's now back to its original name I don't know, but "Wilson" refers to Alexander Wilson, the Scottish-born naturalist, considered the father of American ornithology. He landed in America in Newcastle, Delaware in 1794 and walked 35 miles to Philadelphia. Along the way he saw a Red-headed Woodpecker and thought it was the most beautiful bird in the world. He dedicated his life to the study of birds and, being the first to describe a number of species, his name has been attached to them since.

Locals who had never seen a field guide gave some of the old names of birds. They just knew what the birds sounded like to their ears or acted like when observed. The logic of some of these old names can be obvious. In other cases, that logic, if it ever existed, has long since been lost. A "pullet," according to Webster's, is a young hen. So I guess we have to conclude that "Indian pullet," the name given both species of night heron by our pioneer ancestors, means that Native American dinner tables were graced with roasted Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. The same goes for "Chokoloskee Chicken," the name given to the White Ibis by the Everglades plume hunters who dined on these skinny morsels. Here are some other old names and the birds they go with. "Crying Boy" is an old name for Limpkin, based on their weird, plaintive calls. "Fly up

the creek" was the name given to Green Herons, along with "Shitquick," both of which they do when startled from a perch. The "Pink Curlew" or "Pinks" was what we now call the Roseate Spoonbill. The "Wood Ibis" was the name for Wood Stork until that mistaken identification was corrected in the early 1970's. The "Ortolan" is one of those names whose logical origin is now lost to the ages. This is one of the old names for a Sora. Finally, here a few more: "Snake Hawk," American Swallow-tailed Kite; "Little Blue Darter," Sharp-shinned Hawk; "Log cock," "Wood cady," and "Good-god!" all old names for the Pileated Woodpecker.

While the AOU no doubt feels it has done a good job of providing us with accurate names for the birds we see, I'm not sure their new names are as adequately descriptive as the ones our grandmothers used.

February 21 Program Meeting

REINTRODUCTION OF NON-MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES TO FLORIDA – PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Paula Wehr

The Whooping Crane is one of the most endangered bird species in North America. The very traits that make them so fascinating also contribute to the reasons why they are endangered. They are territorial. They are monogamous. They breed at about 4 years of age, and early breeding attempts may fail. Two eggs are usually incubated, but the second hatchling is often pushed out of the nest or starved. Whooper parents must teach their chicks everything – even how to eat and drink. They patiently dip their beaks into water and let it drip. The chicks are attracted to the moving water, so they try to catch it and get their first drink by accident.

Since 1993 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been part of an effort to reintroduce non-migratory Whooping Cranes to Florida. Join us at Sica Hall to hear **Steve Nesbitt** tell us about the history of the project, the challenges that have been faced along the way and why we have reason for hope.



Steve Nesbitt was born in Washington DC and received a B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Wildlife Ecology. He has worked as a wildlife biologist with the FFWCC since 1971 on a variety of projects that include annual statewide surveys of nesting Brown Pelicans, habitat and range of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, statewide Bald Eagle nesting survey, statewide survey of wading bird colonies and studies of Sandhill Cranes in Florida with the goal of re-establishing Whooping Cranes in the southeast.

January 17 Program

SEA TURTLE AND SEA BIRD REHABILITATION

Paula Wehr

Michael Brothers, Manager of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, gave a wonderful presentation using great photos of the facility. Last year 50,000 visitors toured the Center, which includes a 5,000-gallon artificial reef tank, a mangrove ecosystem exhibit, a manatee sculpture, a 5 foot mosquito and the Bait Shack, housing a variety of aquaria holding alligators, snakes, eels, sharks and turtles.

The Marine Science Center is the main rehabilitation facility for sea turtles from North Carolina to Florida and receives injured turtles from Georgia, South Carolina and northern Florida. Since opening in 2002, over 3,000 Loggerheads, Green, Kemp-Ridley and Hawksbill turtles have come through the center. Four quarantine tanks keep the injured or ill turtles safe while they recuperate. They are moved to a larger, pre-release tank prior to being released back into the wild.

Everyone is familiar with the flocks of sea birds following fishing trawlers. Turtles, too, follow the boats to eat the crabs passed back into the sea by the fisherman. Sometimes turtles will eat so many crabs (and their shells) that their intestines become impacted. Then gas accumulates and the turtles float, preventing normal eating patterns. It is when the turtles become weaker and weaker that they are brought to the MSC where they will be given treatment to clean out their intestinal tracts. Jellyfish are a normal item in the diet of sea turtles. Plastic bags floating in the ocean are often mistaken for jellyfish and eaten by sea turtles. This causes the same impaction and brings many sea turtles to Marine Science Center for medical treatment.

In 2003, more than 2,300 disoriented sea turtle hatchlings were rescued and released back into the ocean. "Wash backs" are hatchlings that made it into the ocean for a few weeks but were washed back to shore. They can be differentiated from hatchlings by the algae on their shells. Both hatchlings and wash backs are taken out into the ocean in boats and released onto the floating seaweed beds that provide food and shelter.

The Marine Science Center also rehabilitates box and gopher turtles, Florida cooters and red-eared sliders (non-native turtle pets released into the wild.) In 2004, they cared for 59 non-sea turtles and have 14 eggs incubating.

The Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Center opened in June 2004. They cared for numerous unusual seabirds such as Cory's Shearwater following the hurricanes. These birds which breed in the islands off northwestern Africa were migrating in the north Atlantic to their wintering grounds about 20 miles off Florida's

coast. They arrived at the center with eyes pasted shut by compacted sand, and feathers so torn that they could no longer fly. After cleaning and rest, many were able to be released back into the wild during a pelagic boat trip from the Space Coast Birding Festival in November.

Although the Marine Science Center is funded by the county, there is never enough funding to provide all the services needed by marine wildlife. Friends of Marine Science Center has been formed as a non-profit organization to raise funds and provide volunteers for the center. Volunteer assignments range from docents who lead educational tours to people who clean the cages and the tanks, and everything in between. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Center at (386) 304-5545 or msc@co.volusia.fl.us.

March Program

EVERGLADES NAT'L PARK RESTORATION HOW'S IT COMING ALONG?

Glade Koch

Our speaker at the March meeting will have an answer to this question. Mary Munson will come to us from Hollywood, Florida where she is Sun Coast Regional Director for the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Her office is directly concerned with restoring the Everglades by re-capturing, re-routing, and cleaning water flows that affect more than 2.5 million acres of national park lands (Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve).

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is an ambitious government restoration project that requires Florida and U.S. Government jointly to fund and construct 56 separate engineering projects over 30 years. The NPCA's Everglades program seeks to insure that CERP gives priority to the needs of the natural system, particularly during the design phases of the various projects. NPCA is working to represent and engage the public to insure that the public influences both broad and programmatic policies. Ms. Munson is an attorney and has worked for U.S. Defenders of Wildlife.

Ms. Munson will also touch on the newly federally funded preservation of St. Augustine's Castillo de San Marcos and the construction of a visitor's center. U.S. Rep. John Mica of Winter Park (sponsor of the funding Act) points out that Castillo is the oldest existing permanent seacoast fortification in continental United States. It was built in 1672 and 1695 by the Spanish.

In the March Pelican there will be more on NPCA efforts in the Everglades, which are of vital interest to every environmentalist in Florida and the nation. Please be reminded of our March 21 meeting with Mary Munson. Questions? Call me, Glade Koch, at 253-8438.

Halifax River Audubon Christmas Bird Count

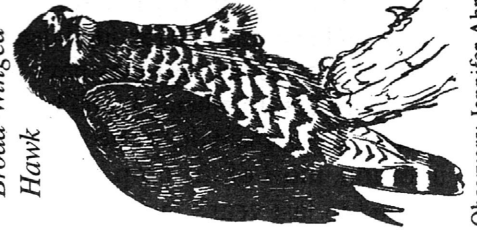
Count Area: 7 1/2-mile radius of Tomoka River Bridge on I-95
 (A listing of CBC from 1996 to the present is available on line on request to franni@junco.com)

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Bird
2	1	1	3	2	2	5	Loon, Common
19	37	39	21	12	14	14	Grebe, Pied-billed
			6				Grebe, Horned
33	27	99	82	423	11	3	Gannet, Northern
		3	1	27	20	20	Pelican, American White
133	92	100	73	238	84	189	Pelican, Brown
106	202	190	98	205	175	203	Cormorant, Double-crested
21	14	21	27	20	18	18	Anhinga
	1						Bittern, American
7	23	26	28	21	20	31	Heron, Great Blue
32	82	44	32	29	24	37	Egret, Great
24	7	7	14	1	19	31	Egret, Snowy
12	12	12	9	20	15	23	Heron, Little Blue
1	1	1	3	5	1	12	Heron, Tricolored
							Egret, Reddish
71	90	11	84	110	368	103	Egret, Cattle
2	5	1	1	6	5	1	Heron, Green
251	135	122	69	200	276	125	Ibis, White
							Ibis, Glossy
							Spoonbill, Roseate
10	12	68	38	23	8	51	Stork, Wood
			1				Goose, Canada
5		6	2		9	6	Duck, Wood
						7	Pintail, Northern
					3		Wigson, American
59	20	18	38	10		3	Mallard
				3			MallardXMuscovy Hybrid
							Teal, Blue-winged
							Teal, Green-winged
3	2	5					Duck, Ring-necked
							Scaup, Greater
						104	Scaup, Lesser
1	7		17	2807	1		Bufflehead
6		107		12	4	11	Merganser, Hooded
11	5		5	8	2	7	Merganser, Red-breasted
1	1	1				2	Duck, Ruddy
				15	6	29	Duck, Muscovy
						50	Duck, Muscovy
16	36	69	92	85	146	133	Vulture, Black
77	90	254	265	93	269	137	Vulture, Turkey
36	8	12	26	5	12	19	Osprey
1	3	8	9	2	1	11	Eagle, Bald
1						1	Harrier, Northern
						3	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
1	2	4	2	2	6	2	Hawk, Cooper's
17	28	17	21	17	24	38	Hawk, Red-shouldered
						1	Hawk, Broad-winged
3	14	9	21	7	5	5	Hawk, Red-tailed

33	33	31	45	26	25	13	Kestrel, American
		1	1		1		Merlin
						1	Peregrine
	1	73	50	36	67	67	Hawk, <i>species</i>
1				2			Turkey, Wild
							Bobwhite
	1						Rail, Clapper
							Sora
			1				Gallinule, Purple
16	10	12	14	26	21	10	Moorhen, Common
95	219	101	44	21	22	8	Coot, American
	2						Crane, Sandhill
27	11	20	31	2	1	13	Plover, Black-bellied
35	72	153	104	76	91	127	Killdeer
	1			2	2		Oystercatcher, American
			2	1			Yellowlegs, Greater
					1		Yellowlegs, Lesser
							Sandpiper, Solitary
6	12		46		10		Willet
	2		2	1	3		Sandpiper, Spotted
168	81	89	187	112	58	110	Turnstone, Ruddy
11	11		316	40	6		Knot, Red
411	200	138	430	221	149	248	Sanderling
				2			Sandpiper, Western
	3		36				Dunlin
			16				Sandpiper <i>species</i>
	11						Dowitcher, Short-billed
	5		74	2	3		Snipe, Wilson's
	1						Jaeger <i>species</i>
2276	231	1363	1382	1057	627	2 378	Gull, Laughing
2121	1303	3954	370	1753	1155	828	Gull, Ring-billed
5	14	7	20		7	10	Gull, Herring
		1					Gull, Lesser Black-backed
6	3	3	3	2	1	6	Gull, Great Black-backed
			75				Gull <i>species</i>
	8	2	3		2		Tern, Caspian
30	121	20	161	66	159	33	Tern, Royal
2	24		24	35	43	26	Tern, Sandwich
1							Tern, Common
11	7	24	8	43	5	13	Tern, Forster's
			1		8		Tern, <i>species</i>
		202		5			Skimmer, Black
335	595	518	757	752	514	1,002	Pigeons, Rock
58	81	14	109	76	71	76	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
586	284	135	294	271	127	215	Dove, Mourning
2	3	17		6			Ground-Dove, Common
			1				Owl, Barn
11	9	1	4	4	6	3	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	1	3	1	1	2		Owl, Great Horned
6	7	5	4	3	6	1	Owl, Barred
					1		Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
12	12	19	29	10	8	13	Kingfisher, Belted
1			4	1	7		Woodpecker, Red-

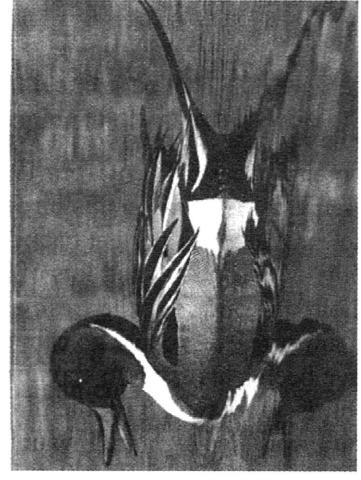
	24	46	34	49	55	20	36	headed
1	3	1	2	5	2	10	36	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
5	16	8	17	22	18	7	10	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
6	1	2	2	1	3	1	7	Woodpecker, Downy
7	10	9	15	14	8	27	1	Woodpecker, Hairy
19	19	31	29	36	18	14	27	Flicker, Northern
10	33		180	857	812	54	14	Woodpecker, Piliated
			2				14	Phoebe, Eastern
7	40	15	28	48	32	47	54	Swallow, Tree
32	73	62	56	49	39	27		Swallow, Northern
29	312	36	184	11	98	32		Rough-winged Jay, Blue
19	127	45	67	26	17	18	47	Jay, Blue
3	15	14	3	16	7	21	27	Crow, American
20	15	22	6	11	21	6	32	Crow, Fish
12	35	15	20	46	16	17	18	Crow, species
4	19	17	3	21	16	4	2	Chickadee, Carolina
							5	Titmouse, Tufted
6							7	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
7	44	38	32	128	27	27	6	Wren, Carolina
8							4	Wren, House
32	4	16	10	22	19	5	4	Wren, Winter
3	4	2	10	10	6		1	Wren, Sedge
266	258	7221	755	1339	1007	834	1	Wren, Marsh
8	22	9	25	65	35	20	27	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
85	63	62	79	73	52	63	14	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
4							5	Bluebird, Eastern
2	6	204					6	Thrush, Hermit
32	26	27	45	40	29	23	834	Robin, American
592	773	92	490	439	135	340	20	Catbird, Gray
1	4	13	2	18	17		63	Mockingbird, Northern
							1	Thrasher, Brown
							66	Pipit, American
							223	Waxwing, Cedar
							40	Shrike, Loggerhead
							439	Starling, European
							18	Vireo, White-eyed

Broad-Winged Hawk



Date	1-2-99	12-30-99	12-30-00	12-29-01	12-28-02	12-27-03	12-18-04
Total Species	98	116	109	113	111	112	101
Total Individuals	8,984	8,358	18,629	9,374	15,425	9,454	9,584
Observers	16	15	29	23	12	12	16
# Parties	4 +1 at feeder	4	---	2:00am-5:30pm	5	5	4
Time	2:30am-5:45pm	3:00am-6:00pm	---	---	---	---	---
Owling Hrs.	7.75	5.75	5.5	7	8.5	8.5	4
Owling Mi.	88	105	76	155	98	98	48
Foot Hrs.	12	---	17	9	3	3	3
Foot Mi.	2.5	3	2.75	10	---	---	3
Car Hrs.	27.5	40.5	22	32	32	---	35
Car Mi.	279.5	226	293	464	---	269	207
Temp	56-82°	37-65°	31-50°	---	---	---	50-63°
Wind	SE 8-22	NW 5-10	NW 10-15	---	---	---	---
Water	Open	---	---	---	---	---	---
AM	Cloudy	---	---	---	---	---	---
PM	Partly cloudy	---	---	---	---	---	---

Northern Pintail Duck



	8	1	1	1	1	11	6	3
	1	2	2	2	2	4	3	3
	1							
	1177	1406	728	1659	1416	822		
	86	54	27	7	61	41		
	67	39	45	73	65	39		
	2	1	1	2	2	2		
	1							
	11	11	18	5	18	7		
	18	31	30	33	83	32		
	10	8	1	6	13	13		
	56	2	49	29	25	7		
	2	15	23	2	6	19		
	2	2	2	5	6	6		
	4		1	9	9	3		
	258	128	177	147	197	182		
	1		6	6	3	4		
	297	347	127	230	81	208		
	244	51	209	84	285	129		
	64	100	250	35	136	56		
		1						
				1				
	21	6	3	1	60	17		
	4	4	10	81	13	22		

Observers: Jennifer Ahrens, Denny Ariola, Rob Bowden, Kevin DeWall, Kevin Doxstater, Novetta Duffer, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Veronica Merenda, Lois Pauchey, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, John Roessler, Ken Russell, Ray Scory, Paula Wehr.

VIERA PONDS FIELD TRIP

John Roessler

The January 7 trip to Viera Water Treatment Facility was a great success! There were 19 people who came and saw 67 species of birds in this birders' dream spot. The weather provided the perfect background for the birds allowing us to spot lots and lots of birds around the two huge holding ponds and the freshwater impoundments.

I am sure everyone who came would agree it would not have been a hardship to stay longer and identify a few more birds. Our target bird, the threatened Crested Caracara, was also sighted. I want to thank everyone who came. It was a memorable trip!

Is that a whale you see? Tell us about it.

If you aren't on a Right Whale Sighting Team, you can still participate. Official right whale season in Florida is December 1 to March 31 each year and they can often be seen within a few hundred yards off the shore. Please report your whale sightings to 1-888-97-WHALE immediately. Try to call while you are still watching the whale. If you are unable to do so, please have the following information ready when you call: your location, your contact information, total number of whales, whether a calf is present, direction of movement. If you leave a message on the hotline, please stay near your phone so we can reach you. All we need is a few brief minutes to collect information from you before you head back outside to watch the whales!

How can you tell it's a right whale?

- Large white bumps on the head called callosities
- Black, paddle-shaped, short, stubby flippers.
- Black triangular tail.
- No dorsal fin on its back.
- V-shaped blow from blowhole when it exhales.

If the whale you see has long flippers with white markings on them, it is most likely a humpback whale. However, please report all sightings because scientists still would like to know what species are in the area.

Reminder... Right whales are one of the most endangered marine mammals, with only about 325 remaining in North American waters.

MANATEE REPORT

Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have confirmed that 276 manatees are known to have died in state waters in 2004. The 2004 manatee mortality rate seems to be an improvement over the 380 reported dead in 2003, but weather conditions last year may have prevented many of the dead animals from being found by boaters (four hurricanes meant many fewer people on the water). In addition, most of the drop in deaths can be attributed to last year's lack of a prolonged red tide

event, which killed 96 manatees in 2003. Deaths in 2004 resulted from watercraft-related injuries (69), cold weather (49), red tide (4), and other causes.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Halifax River Audubon President John Roessler has appointed Rachel Ramsey to form a nominating committee to produce a list of candidates for 2005-2006 offices of the Chapter. Members appointed are Barbara Kieran, Lois Pauchey and John Carr.

Positions to be filled are President, two Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Historian, and two At-Large Board members. We urge all our members to volunteer to serve the Chapter. Please contact a Nominating Committee member if you are willing to serve.

Come for Field Trips, Parties, and Tree Plantings!

RALLY FOR THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER

Karen Ahlers, Putnam Co. Environmental Council

The *Rally for the Ocklawaha River*, sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (PCEC), is a weekend full of great field trips, a big party and the beginning of "The People's Restoration." In short, it's an opportunity for you, your friends and family to have fun and make a difference in the ongoing struggle to restore the Ocklawaha River.

Here in Putnam County, almost daily we deal with the controversy in our backyard – the dammed Ocklawaha River and the resulting Rodmann Reservoir. While we understand the apprehension of local officials and the business community that fear a negative economic impact if the river is restored, PCEC has planned a fun-filled weekend event to demonstrate the positive impacts of nature-based tourism that will result from a restored river.

To make this successful, we need you! We are asking supporters from across the state to come to Putnam County February 19-20, 2005 (President's Day weekend). We've created 50+ outings to satisfy a wide variety of interests and have enlisted the help of some of the best trip leaders in north central Florida. Great birders, botanists, naturalists, outfitters, and artists will be on hand to show you what makes this area so special. Come and enjoy the field trips and tours and please, spend a little money! We're asking participants to buy gas, eat at local restaurants, do a little shopping, or stay a night or two. We're asking you to be obvious: strap your canoes to the roof, wear your binoculars 'round your neck; in other words, be conspicuous eco-tourists.

Reservations for field trips are required. For more information go to www.fladefenders.org/events or contact Karen Ahlers, Putnam County Environmental Council, 352-546-3560 or ECRiverRally@hotmail.com.

Newsletter jewel

HURRICANE HUMMINGBIRDS

From The Limpkin, Jan. 1, 2005
newsletter of Space Coast Audubon Society

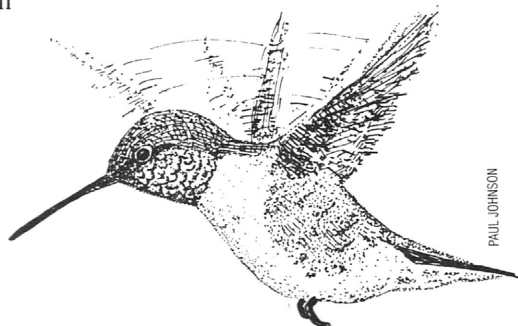
Betsy Franz has written a story about her experience with a hummingbird during this fall's hurricanes. She writes:

"On the morning of Sunday, September 5th, when 75 mph winds from hurricane Frances were ravaging Brevard County ... my husband and I stood on the porch on the sheltered side of our home and watched the winds topple and break huge, ancient mighty oaks. Suddenly, out of the midst of these destructive winds, a tiny miracle appeared.

No more than 10 feet from where we stood, a ruby throated hummingbird emerged and hovered in front of our native firebush

plant, jockeying back and forth with the gusts of wind to get nectar from the swaying plant.

Unbelievably, this bird came back time and again to drink from this plant.



"The next morning, most of the firebush plant was gone, victim of the winds that continued to batter Brevard County for hours. But much to our pleasure and surprise, our new hummingbird visitor was still there, dining on the other plants that we have provided for wildlife, including wild petunia and scarlet sage."

Mrs. Franz writes, "To see the determination of this tiny 3-inch bird, which weighs about 1/10th of an ounce, in the face of a storm that put fear into the hearts of millions of Florida residents was truly remarkable."

MINUTES OF HRA BOARD MEETING - 1/3/05

Paula Wehr

Attending: Willie Burns, Fran Carr, John Carr, Kevin Doxstater, Barbara Kieran, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, John Roessler, Paula Wehr.

- Volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. on January 8, to continue removing the brush from the birding trail created at Sugar Mill Gardens.
- Lois Robinson moved to purchase two memorial benches to be placed along the birding trail at Sugar Mill Gardens. Motion approved.
- Willie Burns moved to maintain affiliate membership in the American Birding Association (ABA) Motion approved.

THE BIRDATHON IS COMING - MARCH 26, 2005!!!

Halifax River Audubon Pledge Form

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____

Make pledge checks payable to Halifax River Audubon, P. O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166. Thank you.
Halifax River Audubon is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations, except for membership, are tax deductible.

THE PELICAN

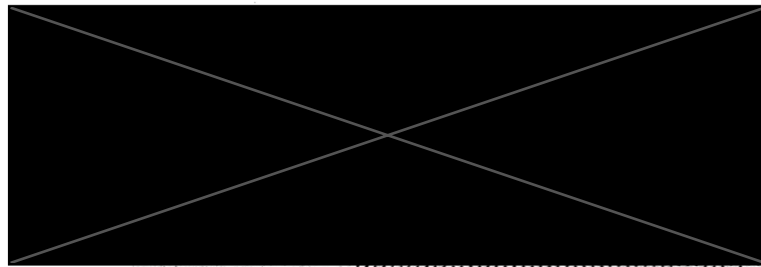


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Rachel Ramsey	Vice President	304-3441	
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

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

February 2005

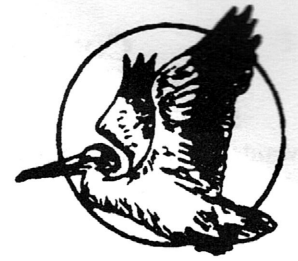
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In Recognition of David Hartgrove

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. 9 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON MARCH 2005

CALENDAR 2004-2005

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

Tuesday, March 1 and Friday, March 11

Birds of the Salt Marsh Guided Kayak Tours.
Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Explore the waters behind the Park. \$40/person for all equipment. Two-hour trip. Call Coastal Outdoor Center 904-471-4144 for reservation. www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com.

Saturday, March 5

HRA Field Trip. Ravine Gardens & St. Johns Ferry. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds., Ormond Beach. 8:00am. Led by Willie Burns at 253-2150. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, March 5

Canoeing on Shell Creek at Ed Stone Park, DeLand. West Volusia County Leisure Services. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Call 386-736-5953 for info.

Saturday, March 12

Coastal Estuaries Kayaking and Walking Tour. Kayak to observe birds, walk on small island refuge for catered lunch. Depart from Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. \$60/person for all equipment. 3-hour trip. Call Coastal Outdoor Center at 904-471-4144 for reservation. www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com.

Saturday, March 12

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey 25th birthday. See article.

Saturday, March 19

HRA Field Trip. Butterfly Walk. Meet at City Island Courthouse Annex parking lot, east. 10:00am. Led by Dr. Marc Minno. For information contact Madeline Shaddix at 761-0301. (2)

Sunday March 20

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

Monday, March 21

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Mary Munson, Director, National Parks & Conservation Association. "Conserving National Parks, Especially the Everglades: Water Flow and Fisheries Management." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, March 26

HRA BIRDATHON. 6:00am. Led by Lois Robinson at 760-8480. Check with team leader.

THE BIRDATHON IS COMING!

Our Birdathon this year is March 26, Saturday. Please join us for a day of fun, fellowship and fund raising. Call one of our team captains (John Roessler, David Hartgrove, Kevin Doxstater, Rachel Ramsey or Lois Robinson) and tell them you want to help. Rachel Ramsey (673-1037) is in charge of getting the teams together and she can place you where you are needed.

The purpose of this fund raising is to continue our efforts of Environmental Education through the *Pelican*, newspaper articles and programs to reach as many people as possible with our message of being responsible citizens who care about the environment, urban sprawl, loss of wildlife habitat, pollution of waterways, air and underground aquifers. We also work through the schools to educate children on the values of a life of thoughtful caring regarding environmental issues through Audubon Adventures, a school related educational program. All this takes money, hence the Birdathon.

The Birdathon will be a 12-hour contest between the five teams to see who can find the most birds, get the most sponsors, find the most unusual bird, get the largest single contribution. It is fun and the competition is friendly and good-natured.

Each team member will solicit contributions from their friends, from people in the community, and from our membership. You can make a single contribution or pledge to pay the birder so much for each individual bird species he or she sees that day. If you can't bird you can make a contribution. We hope each member of Halifax River Audubon will help.

After a day of birding on the 26th, we will meet at Piccadilly Restaurant on the corner of N. Ridgewood and Bay Street to give our awards, gloat over what we have seen and done that day (just kidding) and have a good old time all around. Even if you didn't bird come at 6 PM and join us. Call Lois Robinson (760-8480) for more information.

National Audubon Board Meeting

CORKSCREW SWAMP ENLARGED

The Board approved a 2,778-acre addition to the Corkscrew Sanctuary with the Panther Island Mitigation Bank.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In our last election, 71% of the voters said they wanted limits on the runaway growth that is fast destroying the way of life that brought so many of us here in the first place. The Volusia County Council claims they're committed to protecting the rural heart of the county since it's our only source of fresh water recharge. Now, once again, one of our Congressmen has decided that he has a better idea. If he succeeds, his legacy will be to have broken the county's rural heart.

Traffic congestion on I-4 has recently been alleviated slightly by the replacement of the bridge over the St. Johns River and the addition of two more traffic lanes. But due to the breakneck pace at which we're mowing down the woodlands to build new housing units, it won't be long before those improvements are overwhelmed. One plan in the works to deal with this is to use 350 million dollars from the Turnpike Authority to construct toll lanes along the I-4 corridor. Another is to buy the existing CSX rail lines and convert them for a light rail commuter service from Volusia into Orange County and Orlando.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman John Mica is in the perfect position to funnel millions of taxpayer dollars into this area. It can be argued that the money goes toward helping with the transportation problems that are a part of being in an area that's growing at such a phenomenal rate. Unfortunately, those funds can also be used to further open the land to developers' bulldozers. And in spite of all of the carefully worded assurances from the Congressman's office and those of his supporters, the "Eastern Connector" will have exactly that effect. The Eastern Connector is a planned toll road from SR 417, near Sanford, to I-95 near New Smyrna Beach ... right through the rural heart of Volusia County. Two years ago, the Turnpike Authority canceled plans for such a toll road. Their estimates said the road would cost 900 million and never come close to paying for itself. "This Eastern Connector is something we have to do," Mica said in a recent News-Journal article. "It is absolutely critical for Volusia County."

Now, bearing in mind the 71% figure mentioned in the first sentence of this piece, my first thought is, "Has this guy been drinking the poisoned Kool Aid again?" We citizens of Volusia County have spoken forcefully in several elections: to tax ourselves to purchase environmentally sensitive lands and to ask for Urban Growth Boundaries to control development. What is it going to take to get through to the likes of Congressman Mica and his ilk that we're fed up with seeing our taxes go to support schemes that will destroy the quality of life that we all feel we're entitled to? I know that the big time developers who bank roll our politicians are salivating at the prospect of using tax payer dollars to build the roads

necessary to allow their development schemes to come to fruition. It's our job to hold our elected officials accountable and to warn them in advance that to continue on their present course is to guarantee that a new office holder will be sitting in the seat they currently occupy when the next election rolls around.

Take a minute to call or e-mail Congressman Mica and advise the staff person who answers that you think the Congressman's idea for an "Eastern Connector" is a recipe for disaster for our county. His local office number in Ormond Beach is 676-7750. E-mail him at John.Mica@mail.house.gov. He deserves to hear from those who have differing opinions on the future of our county.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING ACTIONS

Attending were James & Joan Anderson, Willie Burns, John Carr, Barbara Kieran, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, Madeline Shaddix, and Paula Wehr. John Roessler presided.

1. Golden Dog sales from the Manatee Festival was \$192.50.
2. Bi-monthly raffle for the next two months will go to the **HRA** general fund to defer the costs of printing *The Pelican* over the summer months.
3. Madeline Shaddix and Barbara Kieran will meet with The Friends of Sugar Mill Gardens to discuss details about installing a bird feeder on/near the **HRA** Birding Trail. When consensus is reached, we will place a notice in *The Pelican* requesting volunteers to fill and clean the feeder.
4. Mary Ann Tomlin has offered **HRA** the opportunity to sell our cookbooks at the Book Bash that will be held April 9. Barbara Kieran and Willie Burns will man the booth.
5. The Bird-A-Thon Committee will meet to finalize arrangements for the event on March 26. Information has been sent to all members via *The Pelican*.

Saturday, March 12, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

AUDUBON CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Since opening in 1979, the Center has received more than 12,000 injured or orphaned birds of prey from the Central Florida community and beyond. Over 5,000 of these birds have been released into the wild, including more than 278 Bald Eagles.

Join us in celebrating 25 years of raptor rehabilitation, environmental education, and conservation in Florida. Participate in environmental themed games, educational activities, and demonstrations. Bring your camera!

Special admission price is \$2.50 per guest. For more information and directions call 407-644-0190.

VOLUSIA LANDFILL FIELD TRIP

Kevin DeWall

At 8 am on Saturday morning January 22nd a small group of birders gathered in the Parking lot of the Taylor Road Publix in Port Orange. Turn out was pretty good with 19 participants, but the weather was not very cooperative. The temperature was in the fifties and it was about as foggy as I have ever seen in Florida.

The fog was the major factor in the quantity and quality of the birds we observed. The first couple of stops were a bit tough. We could actually hear more species than we could see.

The third stop was another matter. By then the fog was slowly lifting and gradually we could make out vague shapes in the fog. Within a few minutes we were seeing a field of roosting Turkey Vulture, and Bald Eagles shared the treetops with Boat-tailed Grackles and Fish Crows. The grass was full of Savannah Sparrows and we even had a flock of Wild Turkeys. Oh yes, the good stuff had started. The fog continued to lift giving us a panoramic view of thousands of gulls, White Ibis, Cattle Egrets and several Bald Eagles. As we traveled to the next stop we passed large numbers of these species plus many European Starlings, Wood Storks, assorted other birds and several more eagles.

The next stop was on the shore of the lake between the active dumpsite and I-4. This is where we found what I would call the bird of the day. After observing Anhingas, several species of heron, lots more gulls and eagles, we were preparing to move on when we spotted a small kind of dull looking winter-plumed gull sitting on the bank about 50 feet away. Wait a minute. What's that? A dark spot behind the eye? It's got a black bill and pink legs? It's a Bonaparte's Gull!

A life bird for a number of the folks.

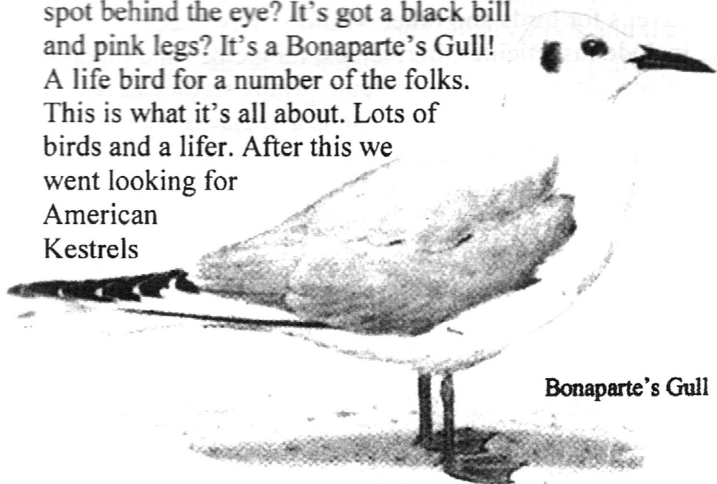
This is what it's all about. Lots of

birds and a lifer. After this we

went looking for

American

Kestrels



Bonaparte's Gull

and Sandhill Cranes both of which we eventually found. On the way out we stopped upwind and had lunch. All in all it was a good half-day of birding in less than ideal conditions. Final count was 42 different species of bird and one alligator.

The Pelican Vol. 50, No. 9 March 2005

LAST CALL FOR THE DORA CANAL BOAT TRIP!

There are still a few spaces left for the Dora Canal boat trip on April first, 2005. This is a 2½ hour boat ride on several bodies of water in the Taveres - Leesburg - Mt. Dora area. The Dora Canal teems with bird life.

Many birds are almost close enough to touch. Many are nesting, or raising tiny babies. We always see Bald Eagles and usually the rare Prothonotary Warblers. The Prothonotaries are not really rare, just hard to find, as they only live in the midst of dense swamps.

We will meet at Circuit City parking lot on West International Speedway Blvd. near I-95 at 7:30. Bring a light lunch as we usually have a picnic beside the canal before returning home. The boat is a very stable pontoon boat with a restroom if needed. We will provide drinking water.

Call Willie Burns at 386 253-2150, or simply mail him a check for \$20.00 as we must have deposits in advance. His address is 810 Mason Ave, #31, Daytona Beach 32117.

OVERNIGHT TRIP TO FT. DESOTO

On May 4th and 5th, Thursday and Friday, we are taking an overnight bus trip to Ft. DeSoto. We will leave Thursday morning at 8 am from Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris, where we will leave our vehicles and travel by reserved air-conditioned bus to St. Petersburg. We will be staying in comfort at Eckerd College's Adult Education Center and spend the afternoon Thursday and most of the day Friday birding Ft. DeSoto County Park.

This is always one of our most productive birding spots where we easily see more than 100 species of birds in the day and a half. We can expect to see numerous migrating warblers and wading birds of all kinds

Please call Lois Robinson (760-8480) to reserve a seat for you on the bus. The cost is \$120.00 and includes the bus trip, three meals and the overnight room (double occupancy) so get yourself a roommate and sign up to go. If you want a private room the cost is \$25.00 more. We need reservations in and paid for by April 5th so we can hold the rooms and the bus (the deadline for cancellations). We pay for all this in advance thus the need to have your name early. We have room for 30-40 persons on the bus so sign up early so you don't miss out. Remember this is a great time to add to your Life List. Each trip we have made has resulted in several persons and, often everyone, adding to their Life List.

Thanks to our hosts Joan Treves, Alexa Ross, Nancy LaFrance, Carol Branch, DeDee Blanchard and John Williams for the wonderful food they provided for our February program meeting.

FACING THE WORST THREAT

“It [climate change] is the greatest environmental health problem the world has ever faced.”

Carol Browner, Chair, Audubon Board of Directors, quoted in the 12-03 Audubon Magazine

Florida needs help. Prized ecosystems, especially the Everglades, would probably be damaged beyond recovery by unchecked global warming. Countless species would be imperiled by higher temperatures, rising sea levels, stronger storms and exotic invaders.

Let’s call it global heating; ‘warming’ sounds too benign. Average global temperatures climbed 1°F in the last century, and heating has accelerated. Virtually all scientists blame human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, for part or most of the heating and expect another 3 to 11°F temperature rise this century. Computer models of climate correctly predicted that weather extremes would increase with global heating.

Downpours instead of gentle rains, blizzards, killer heat waves and scorching droughts have become more common worldwide.

Four devastating hurricanes hit the state, but most Floridians seem unaware that warming seas fuel more powerful hurricanes. Wind damage pales beside potential flooding. Two or three foot higher sea levels, as projected by climate models, would mean catastrophic damage to coastal communities and ecosystems by a powerful hurricane striking at high tide. A lingering nor’easter could wreak even more havoc.

Climatologists studying earth’s geological history have established that atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations have varied in tandem with earth’s average temperature for some 400,000 years. Greenhouse gas buildup shows no sign of abating and threatens to exceed prehistoric peaks over that time span. Greater polar warming was correctly predicted by climate models. Arctic temperatures have risen about twice the amount as elsewhere, and the Antarctic Peninsula has warmed 4.5°F in the last half century.

Glaciers are melting faster on six continents. Greenland, essentially an ice mountain, now has a summer melt line above 6,500 feet or over halfway to its top. Melted ice from Greenland would raise sea level around 24 feet, which is unlikely this millennium. But even a 10 or 20 percent melt would mean a Florida calamity.

Shrinking arctic ice and snow cover is exposing dark water, rocks, soil and vegetation that retain four to eight times as much solar heat as white snow and ice. Scientists term this ‘positive feedback’. In other words, global heating reinforces itself.

What should you do about this threat? You can cut your family’s greenhouse gas emissions and set an

example for friends and neighbors. Most of these suggestions will save money as well:

- For your next car, buy a higher mpg vehicle. New hybrids offer a range of models. My early model has averaged over 68 mpg in four years. Walk or ride a bicycle when you can and enjoy the health benefits.
 - In replacing appliances, select for top-rated energy efficiency. Consider installing a solar thermal water heater; it can be a good investment.
 - If your local utility offers a “green power” option, support it. Such programs feature energy purchased from renewable sources, financed by consumers volunteering to pay a small additional monthly fee.
 - A few non-profit municipal utilities have offered solar photovoltaic (PV) installations largely subsidized by government. Participate if you have the opportunity and can afford your share of the installation cost.
 - Make sure your house is properly insulated; many utilities provide a low-cost evaluation. Avoid overheating in winter and excessive air conditioning in summer. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent types. Turn off unnecessary lights and unplug idle appliances. Install low-flow shower heads to save hot water. Dry clothes outside when practicable. Recycle and use recycled products as feasible.
 - Trees soak up carbon dioxide and will provide summer shade and restrain cold winter winds if strategically placed. Use lawn fertilizers sparingly, preferably organic types. Don’t water excessively. Florida lawns can flourish without pesticides and be havens for birds and other wildlife. ‘Pesticides’ include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and other ‘cides’ derived from petroleum. Many studies have shown that lawn pesticide use is associated with higher levels of cancer in toddlers and pets. For 25 years, I have maintained a pesticide-free lawn that is green and inviting, but not a monoculture.
- Using energy more efficiently reduces greenhouse gas emissions and prepares for the time when cheap petroleum products become only a memory. But we need to do much more.
- Audubon members should demand that government leaders require compulsory energy efficiency laws, such as minimum mpg vehicle fleet limits. Voluntary measures aren’t enough. Several major firms have saved money by reducing waste and greenhouse emissions, but will go no further without assurance of competitive equality – that is a ‘level playing field’ set by law.
- Lavish subsidies now benefit mature and shrinking industries that provide and process fossil fuels, including uranium. This money should be redirected to growing renewable energy enterprises that will more than replace jobs inevitably lost in fossil fuel industries.

Incidentally, hydrogen is not an energy source; it is an energy carrier and means of storing energy from another source, preferably renewable. Hydrogen's future utility depends on developing economical renewable energy sources along with infrastructure to distribute it.

Most importantly, limiting global heating requires international efforts. Our nation must cooperate in cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Only powerful grassroots pressure is likely to force our government to adopt energy policies that will preserve Florida's ecology and economy for future generations. Audubon should be leading in this effort.

By Lee Bidgood, Jr., Conservation Chair, SE Volusia Audubon Society, Inc. bidgood@ucnsb.net

References:

Audubon booklet, "CO2 Diet for a Green house Planet: A Citizen's Guide for Slowing Global Warming", by DeCicco, Cook, Bolze and Beyea, published June, 1990.

Audubon Magazine, special issue of December, 2003, Global Warming, Confronting Climate Change: How the World Can Keep Its Cool.

February 21 Program Meeting

REINTRODUCTION OF NON-MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANES TO FLORIDA

Paula Wehr

Stephen A. Nesbitt, wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) since 1971, presented photos and video clips of progress with the Whooping Crane project. The is partnered with many other organizations, including the International Crane Foundation, the Canadian Wildlife Society, Disney Corporation, San Antonio and Calgary Zoos and the Windway Capital Company (a private organization that provides planes to transport cranes so they don't have to travel on commercial airlines.)

The Whooping Crane is still one of the most endangered birds in the world. he total global count is about 450, 150 of which are in captivity. Whoopers reached an all-time low of 22 birds in 1942. Part of that number were birds from a Louisiana colony that has since died out, so the genetic material of current birds actually came from a smaller number, perhaps only 3 females. During this period, there were two populations, one migratory and the other non-migratory

The focus of this study was to learn whether Whooping Cranes could be taught not to migrate. The project began by using Sandhill Cranes as models because they are very similar to Whooping Cranes and because they are very populous. Scientists learned that the key is to prevent the cranes from migrating in the fall because once learned, migration becomes routine. After all the methods were tested and perfected using Sandhill Cranes, the project turned to Whooping Cranes.

Whooping Crane eggs are incubated in captivity and young birds grow up with captive cranes teaching them life skills. Veterinarians check the fledglings to ensure they are not carrying any disease into the wild. The birds are fitted with radio transmitters, put into transport crates and flown to the introduction site in central Florida. When released from their crates, one wing is bound to prevent them from flying away. They stay in a very large quarantine pen for two weeks where they are acclimated to the Florida site. The site is half wetland and half dry area. Following additional health checks, the wing binding is removed at the end of the quarantine period and the birds begin life in their new habitat.

The goal of this project is to have 25 breeding pairs reproduce to sufficient numbers to sustain the flock. There are about 80 cranes in this flock now. Pair bonding takes place at about 4-5 years of age. Pairs stay together unless they are unable to reproduce. When that happens, they may seek other mates. If the male member of a pair dies, the female will often pair with a young male. Whooping Cranes build very large platform nests in 16-24 inches of water. In Florida, breeding begins in January. By February and March, eggs are being incubated. Eggs hatch in about 30 days.

In 1999 pairs in this new flock produced eggs but did not successfully hatch any checks. In 2000 we had chicks that did not survive. In 2002 the first chicks were fledged - meaning the chick survived for more than 90 days and could feed itself. In 2003 there were 14 nests in the introduced non-migratory flock with one fledged chick. Pairs normally lay two eggs but only raise one chick. Video cameras are placed on the nests whenever possible to allow monitoring without having human contact. This current introduced flock is spread throughout the Kissimmee area and Polk and Lake Counties.

For more information, go to www.myfwc.com.

KRISTINA SORENSEN

Wildlife Biologist from Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge is recruiting volunteers for:

1. May 14 - Migratory Bird Day. Needs experienced birders to lead short walks in the Volusia Track, which is pine flatwood.
2. Tentatively May 1 - Second Annual Breeding Bird Survey. Needs experienced birders-by-ear to walk through brush and go point to point, listen for and record birds heard. Requires extensive walking.
3. Every 10 days beginning April 1 through mid-June - Secretive Marsh Bird Survey. Needs birders who can learn the calls of rails, bitterns and gallinules and then take a survey every 10 days.
4. Needs volunteers to accompany her on bi-weekly bird surveys from October through March next year.

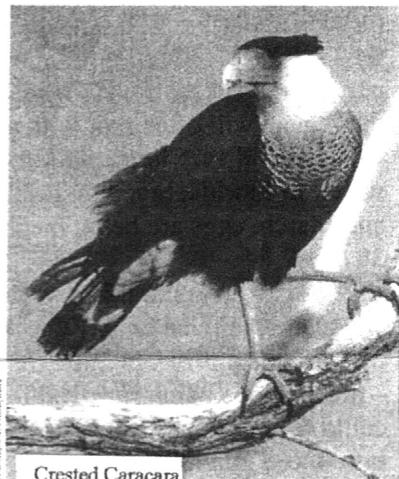
Contact her at Kristina_Sorensen@fws.gov or 386-985-4673.

JOE OVERSTREET LANDING

David Hartgrove

There was no sign of the sun when seven of us met on Friday, February 4th, at 6:30 a.m. It was 46 degrees with a 20 knot wind from the north, so the early morning chat was kept to a minimum. Our first stop was the park on the south shore of East Lake Tohopekaliga, in St. Cloud. Unfortunately, the park, which has been such a good spot in the past, was barricaded for reconstruction. Between the frigid wind off the lake causing one's eyes to water and the shivers causing the binoculars to shake, we beat a hasty retreat to the warmth of our cars and headed south down Canoe Creek Road.

Cypress Lake Fish Camp produced Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, several gulls and terns and some very accommodating Sandhill Cranes. Along the road in, **Barbara Kieran** caught sight of our first Crested Caracara of the day walking around in the woods, an unexpected spot.



Crested Caracara

The C bar C ranch at 3650 Canoe Creek Road is one of the most reliable places in the state for Whooping Cranes—except that day. Usually there are between 3 and 14 hanging out with the Sandhills inside the fenced haven of this property. So we headed off toward Joe Overstreet Landing. There we struck gold, in the form of not only the missing Whoopers but also some adult Herring Gulls and Black Skimmers. It would seem highly improbable to be able to see these 3 species at the same stop but there they were. We lunched in the car since it was still too chilly to dine *al fresco* and then headed off to our final stops.

The campground at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area has all of the visual appeal of a hobo camp from the 1930's. It also has Red Cockaded Woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Eastern Bluebirds and Pine Warblers, among other things. Our final stop at the Prairie Lakes Unit a bit further south produced no Grasshopper Sparrows, the target species there, but by then we were ready for the ride home.

Eschewing the lunacy of Friday afternoon on I-4, we headed east on SR 532 out of St. Cloud. It was one of the prettiest roads we've seen and offered lots of potential spots to bird for another day. Crossing the bridge over the Four Mile Swamp, our final bird of the day was a Northern Harrier. Life is good.

PERSONAL FIELD TRIP

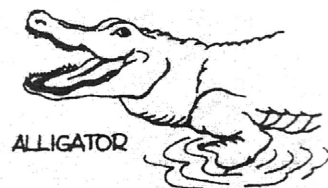
Patricia T. Bennett

My recent all-day trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge was one of the best birding experiences I've ever had. Of course, the fact that it was a private tour conducted by Auduboners Carol Branch and Joan Treves had a lot to do with it. Naturally, the Halifax Audubon group has been there many times, and I've been before, but this private lesson in bird viewing was outstanding.

We started with Spruce Creek Park off Ridgewood Ave. — a well-kept secret — and proceeded to River Breeze Park in Oak Hill. At Haulover Canal in Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge was a manatee lookout that surprisingly had no visible manatees. The bridge there was raised to let through sailboats with tall masts.

We continued into the Refuge, a 35-mile long barrier island with a rich abundance of plants and animals. It is a major bird migration corridor and a resting stop for many migrating birds. We drove along Black Point Wildlife Drive, a 7-mile marked, self-guided tour through one of the best wildlife viewing areas I've ever seen. Of course, it helped a lot that Joan and Carol pointed out the birds, then lent me their binoculars. I saw many of the birds we were supposed to see: Glossy Ibis, Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, Killdeer, Tricolored Herons, Pied-billed Grebes, Great Egrets, Wood Storks, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Yellow Legs. And to my great surprise, I recognized any number of Roseate Spoonbills. Their pink chests showed up so that I didn't even need them pointed out.

In the water were many ducks and water birds: Blue-Winged Teals, Cormorants, Pelicans, Anhingas, Northern Pintails, Coots, American Avocets, and an extremely large number of alligators. We lost count at 25 gators. Of course, we saw turtles in the water and Turkey Vultures flying overhead. No Florida panthers came into view, but we did get a good look at an armadilla, hairy legs and all.



Carol drove us along the road until we were at Eddy Creek boat launch area at Playalinda Beach. Here is a sign marking William Bartram's trail in 1767 or thereabouts when he, a noted ornithologist, traveled through Florida. As a teacher of literature, I find it fascinating that English poets Coleridge and Wordsworth, used his book, *Travels*, as a source for their poems.

Finally, we ended up at the visitors' center where we ate lunch at a picnic table, visited the gift shop, and signed our names. All in all, it was a great trip, and I recommend it, especially if you have guides like Carol and Joan who knew where to go, provided bird books, binoculars, lunch, and spotted the birds. That's my kind of Audubon trip.

RAVINE GARDENS AND ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY FIELD TRIP

Willie Burns

On March 5th Halifax River Audubon will be conducting a Field Trip to the Ravine Gardens in Palatka. We will leave from the Publix parking lot at the south east corner of Williamson and Granada in Ormond Beach. Departure time is 8:00 am.

Willie Burns will lead us way northwest through Barberville to Crescent City, where we will make a potty stop. This is at a garden that may be full of blooming trees, depending on climatic conditions.

The next stop is at the Welaka Fish Hatchery. The ponds are drained this time of the year and we can see many species of birds. In the past we have gotten Snipe, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and several Hawks, along with many others.

Next is the Fort Gates ferry. This rustic and interesting conveyance will carry us across the St. Johns River and back. Osprey, Eagles, Hawks, and much other wildlife is usually on hand for our pleasure. There is a fee of one dollar for the ferry ride.

Last but not least is Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka. This lovely collection of flowering trees and bushes surrounds a gorge cut in the side of a large hill. One can walk down the trails to the lower end amidst the forest and shrubbery or drive slowly along a scenic loop road.

Afterwards we will meet at a large gazebo to chat about the day's sights. Bring what ever you like for a light lunch. We will as always have cold square water. Many of us have State Park vehicle passes, otherwise there is a small entrance fee for the Park.

BUTTERFLY WALK

Madeline Shaddix

Birders all over the country have become interested in butterflies, a natural progression for those of us who appreciate wild and beautiful things. Gardeners have become more aware of the pleasure of attracting these lovely and cooperative creatures to our homes, and are providing suitable habitat for them.

On Saturday, March 19, we have the marvelous opportunity to go on a butterfly field trip lead by Dr. Marc Minno, who will join us from Gainesville. Dr. Minno (with his wife) wrote the book *Florida Butterfly Gardening*. Their book is an invaluable asset toward success in attracting, increasing and identifying butterflies. It offers many suggestions for host plants to provide the essential material for the survival of the eggs and emerging caterpillars. There is also information about nectar plants that both attract and sustain the adults in our gardens. The



7
photographs of the various stages of the development of these creatures are fascinating. To have our excursion led by this outstanding expert in this field is exciting.

For the field trip we will be going to the Rima Ridge area of the Tiger Bay State Forest, west of town, between US 92 and State Rd. 40. In the various habitat there, we should see nature nurturing the "flying flowers". We will meet at the Court House Annex on City Island, leaving there at 10:00 AM. Be sure to bring water, lunch, repellent, and binoculars and be prepared for being in the sun. Call me (761-0301) if you need any additional information.



March 21 Program Meeting

STATE OF THE EVERGLADES REPORT

Glade Koch

Our March program speaker, Mary Munson, Director of the National Parks Conservation Association, Sun Coast Region, will report to us on the Plan's commitment to a 30-year project, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, to restore the Everglades National Park. Florida and National Audubon, the National Park System and many other agencies and interest groups are committed to this project. We will see and hear just what progress has been made.

The National Park System is described by author Wallace Stegner as, "The best idea America ever had." Many Auduboners agree. National Parks are places we go to experience the very best of America, where we marvel at Nature's unthinkable feats - Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Great Smoky Mountain!

The National Parks Conservation Association has embarked on a State of the Parks Program. Their goal is to complete biological and cultural resource assessments for 128 of the 388 National Parks over the next six years. The Great Smoky, Olympic and Canyon Lands National Parks' assessments are available now.

Congress took an important step by providing an unprecedented increase of nearly 5% for operations of each of the National Parks across the country. This increase doesn't yet enable parks to meet critical needs; Great Smoky has an auto air pollution problem comparable to Los Angeles and Yellowstone has air and noise pollution problems due to snowmobiles.

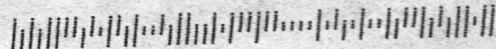
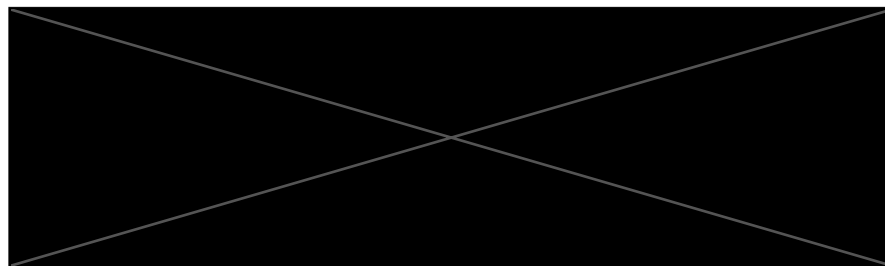
We have invited Louise Chapman and the Rose Bay Park Planners of Mainland High School to be with us. Be ready to ask your questions of Director Munson on this multi-billion dollar project in Florida. We will start at 6:30 at Sica Hall.

THE PELICAN



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	Historian		
	Publication Chair		
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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
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	Webmaster		
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnmanderson3@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

March 2005

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
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THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at 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. On the first Monday of each month. 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. 10 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON APRIL 2005

MARCH BOARD MEETING

Madeline Shaddix presided. Present were James and Joan Anderson, Carol Branch, Willie Burns, John Carr, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Lois Robinson, and Paula Wehr.

Action Items:

- Board approved location of the bird feeder requested by Friends of Sugar Mill Gardens. Steve Gardner of Allendale Gardens will donate plants for the butterfly garden at Sugar. Madeline Shaddix will donate two cassia trees.
- Board received list of nominations for Board offices to be voted at April Chapter Meeting.
- Board requested *The Pelican* to list meetings to decide program speakers and field trips for the 2005-2006 Chapter year.

Paula Wehr. Interested Chapter members are encouraged to participate in planning by attending these meetings. If you are unable to attend, please call or e-mail a Board member with your recommendations. If you plan to attend the June 14 meeting, please contact Paula for directions to her home.

BENCHES AT SUGAR MILL GARDENS

Halifax River Audubon placed these benches on the new Audubon Trail at Sugar Mill Gardens in memory of Board Members Marie Oglesby and Gail Lincoln.

Sign reads, "In Loving Memory of Avid Birder Marie Oglesby"

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD FOR 2005-2006 CHAPTER YEAR

A nominating committee appointed by the Board has compiled a list of nominees to the Board for next year. The names and positions are:

President: John Roessler

Vice President: Madeline Shaddix

Vice President: Novetta Duffer

Treasurer: Rachel Ramsey

Historian: John Carr

Corresponding Secretary: Paula Wehr

Membership Secretary: John Carr

Recording Secretary: Lois Robinson

At Large, 2008: Carol Branch

At Large, 2008: Barbara Kieran

If you wish to nominate a member for the Board, make sure you have that person's consent to serve, then notify a member of the Nominating Committee. That committee consists of **Barbara Kieran** at 672-2927, **Lois Pauchey** at 672-9345 and **John Carr** at 255-9360.

Members present at the May meeting will vote.

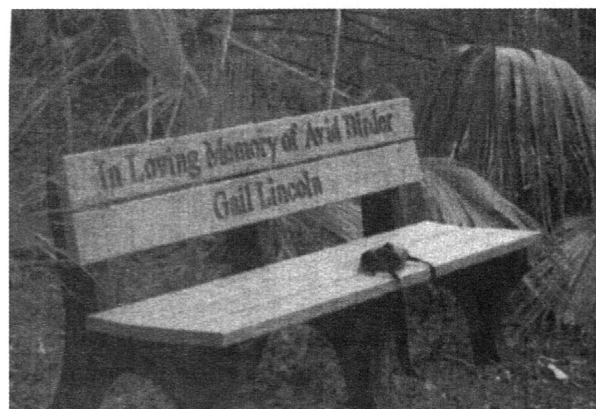
2005-2006 CHAPTER PLANNING SESSIONS

Planning for monthly program speakers for the 2005-2006 season will be done at the Board Meeting held at Dickerson Library, 411 South Keech Street, Daytona Beach on June 6 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting to plan the field trips for 2005-2006 will be held on June 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of



- Sign reads, "In Loving Memory of Avid Birder Gail Lincoln"



CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A little over twenty years ago, a Dutch firm had options on all of the land surrounding the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Their announced plans called for the destruction of nearly all of the native vegetation and the construction of townhouses and condos. The sleepy fishing village that was Ponce Inlet would have disappeared under layers of concrete, asphalt and exotic turf. The public rose up in outrage. The Town Council meeting where the final decision was to be made granting the developers their clearance to begin bulldozing was packed to overflowing and lasted well past midnight. The vote went against the developers. The state and the county stepped in and purchased the land that is now Lighthouse Point Park. That may have been one of the last real environmental victories I can remember.

Now Ponce Inlet seems to be trying to set records in how fast they can facilitate the destruction of the village atmosphere that brought folks there in the first place. The notices have been in the paper for several weeks now about the rezoning and plans for land use change in the area south of the lighthouse. The boatyard that has so long served the needs of the community and seems a natural fit for the area's nautical ambiance is to be torn out and replaced with condos. Imagine how much worse the traffic will soon be on the crowded little two lane roads that serve Ponce Inlet. Further north, Harbor Village, a carbuncle on the face of the community that makes long time residents wince when its manicured visage appears in the windshield, sits atop an area where I once counted 5,000 Yellow-rumped Warblers in twenty minutes and where Common Ground Doves were a regular sight. No doubt on a drawing board somewhere there are plans to four lane Peninsula Drive and build a high rise bridge across the Inlet to New Smyrna Beach!

But Ponce Inlet is only a microcosm of what's going on all over Florida and the nation. Locally, we have city governments that actively work to conceal their plans for development until the last minute. Their paid spokesmen engage in forms of doublespeak that inadvertently validate everything Orwell said about government being the enemy of the people. The state legislature pays lip service to the idea of growth management and then sets about revamping the already weak system we have by trying to dump decision making back on local governments still mesmerized by the myth that growth pays for itself.

We had hoped that the courts would be a place of sanctuary for ideas to protect our natural heritage. Instead they provided the inspiration for all those champagne corks popping in developer's offices lately. First they scrapped the Urban Growth Boundary Initiative and now they've done the same with the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment. Both of these issues will come back in some form or other but the effort to mount these

drives is grass roots based. There aren't any sugar daddies on the horizon to bankroll an effective PR campaign that will guarantee passage of either issue. The environmental community lacks the deep pockets of its opponents.

Now comes the news that "Big Oil" and its well lubricated political machine has finally managed to steamroll the U.S. Senate into allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is of course only the opening salvo in a long battle. Not only for access to ANWR but to the entire refuge system. To hell with global warming! We have profits and stockholders to protect.

The environmental community has suffered so many set backs it's like a boxer whose legs are growing wobbly and who's having trouble seeing for all the swelling around his eyes. But we are not out of the fight yet. Remember what Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Our children's future depends on our commitment to the present.

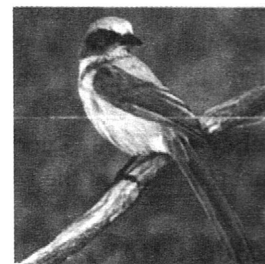
April Program

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCRUB JAY

Paula Wehr

What is that bird sitting on the wire above the scrub? He looks something like a Blue Jay without a crest. It's the Florida Scrub-Jay! The Florida Scrub-Jay is the **only** bird species found exclusively in Florida. They live in families that consist of a monogamous breeding pair and usually one or more helpers.

Join us on April 18 to hear Katrina Locke tell us about the bird, its life style, its habitat and more. Katrina Locke, Volusia County Scrub Conservation Program Manager, is responsible for scrub habitat and wildlife conservation. She is also manager of the County's Native Plant Nursery and is leading the County's efforts to create a Westside Environmental Learning Center. Ms. Locke has a Bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of Wales and is completing course work towards her Master of Science degree in conservation biology from the University of Central Florida. Ms. Locke has nine years of experience in the environmental field including education, research, habitat enhancement, and restoration projects.



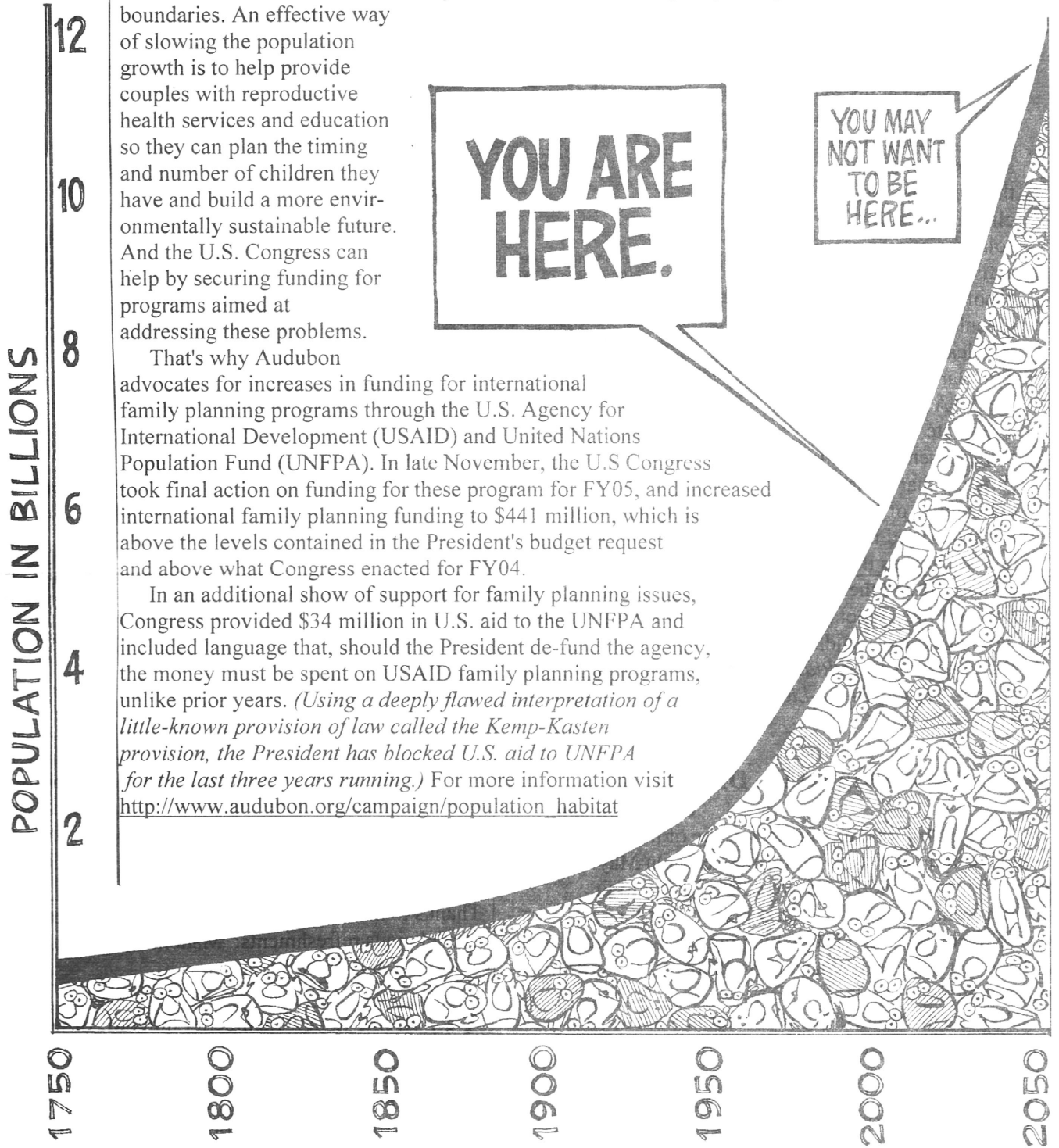
florida scrub jay

NATIONAL AUDUBON POSITION ON POPULATION AND HABITAT

Rapid population growth exacerbates many environmental problems including air and water pollution, loss of wildlife habitat, fisheries depletion and climate change – global problems that transcend national boundaries. An effective way of slowing the population growth is to help provide couples with reproductive health services and education so they can plan the timing and number of children they have and build a more environmentally sustainable future. And the U.S. Congress can help by securing funding for programs aimed at addressing these problems.

That's why Audubon advocates for increases in funding for international family planning programs through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In late November, the U.S Congress took final action on funding for these program for FY05, and increased international family planning funding to \$441 million, which is above the levels contained in the President's budget request and above what Congress enacted for FY04.

In an additional show of support for family planning issues, Congress provided \$34 million in U.S. aid to the UNFPA and included language that, should the President de-fund the agency, the money must be spent on USAID family planning programs, unlike prior years. *(Using a deeply flawed interpretation of a little-known provision of law called the Kemp-Kasten provision, the President has blocked U.S. aid to UNFPA for the last three years running.)* For more information visit http://www.audubon.org/campaign/population_habitat



A CURRENT AFFAIR

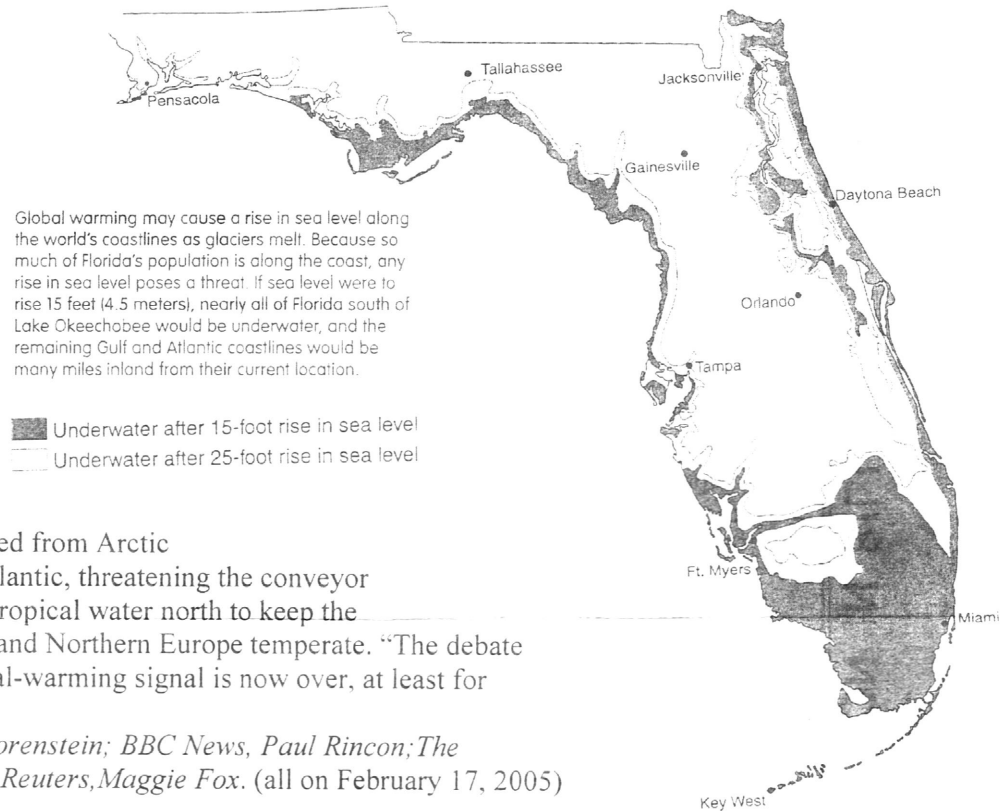
Measurements of ocean temperatures presented yesterday [17 Feb 2005] constitute (still more) compelling evidence that global warming is upon us, say scientists. The data, introduced at the annual gathering of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, show that temperature readings in the oceans for the past 40 years line up almost exactly with the predictions of climate models.

Researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography spun several different scenarios to explain the warming – natural climate variability, solar radiation, volcanic activity – but “what absolutely nailed it was greenhouse warming,” said lead researcher Tim Barnett. Also at the AAAS conference, a separate research team presented findings showing that some 4,800

cubic miles of freshwater had melted from Arctic ice and drifted into the northern Atlantic, threatening the conveyor belt of currents that moves warm tropical water north to keep the climate around the U.S. Northeast and Northern Europe temperate. “The debate over whether or not there is a global-warming signal is now over, at least for rational people,” said Barnett.

References: Knight-Ridder, Seth Borenstein; BBC News, Paul Rincon; The Union-Tribune, Bruce Lieberman; Reuters, Maggie Fox. (all on February 17, 2005)

Projected Coastline of Florida Resulting from Rising Sealevel



FIELD TRIP TO FT. DESOTO

Lois Robinson

There is still time to sign up for one of the most productive and most fun trips for the year. On May 4th and 5th, Thursday and Friday we will be going to Ft. DeSoto County Park on Florida's West Coast for an overnight trip. Cost is \$120, which includes a private bus for our use, overnight accommodations at Eckerd College and three meals.

Here are the details: We will meet at 8 am at Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. in Daytona Beach and leave our cars there in their parking lot. Please bring your lunch for our first meal. We will have extra water and coolers for your drinks. Also bring any snacks you want. Remember to bring a folding chair for viewing birds if you want to sit while birding. We will have dinner and breakfast at the college. The second day we will be birding and have lunch at a picnic area in the park and start for home no later than 3:30 pm.

For any questions or sign up for the trip please call me, Lois Robinson, 760-8480. Your friends who may not be members of HRA are invited to come and enjoy a new level of birding!

Thanks to our hosts at the March program meeting for the delicious refreshments: Madeline Shaddix, John Williams, and Paula Wehr.

Welcome to new members Emma M. Bower, Scott Burdick, Steve Doll, Holly Zwart Duryea, Dolores Egner, Jean Goodwin, Joseph Costanzo, Creason, Fred & Pat Gruner, David Hochstetler, Ms Patricia Krumenacker, Myron Lichten, Alice Lowry, Gerald R. McLeod, Shari Meyr, Ruth M. Reid, Dristen Richards Ms Carley S. Smith, Robert B. Spaulding, Georgie C. Seigler, Robert Shipley, Ms Cynthia P. Williams, Constance C. Wilson, Philip J. Neimark, Linda Stafford, and Melissa Woodric.

CALENDAR 2004-2005

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

Friday, April 1

HRA Field Trip. Dora Canal. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds., Ormond Beach. 7:30am. Led by Willie Burns at 253-2150. Bring lunch. Reservations and boat fee required. (1)

Saturday, April 2

Canoeing on Tomoka River, Ormond Beach. West Volusia County Leisure Services. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Contact 386-736-5953 for info and reservation.

Saturday, April 9

2005 Beachside Book Bash at the Casements 10-4. Willie Burns & Barbara Kieran will sell our HRA cookbooks.

Monday, April 18

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Katrina Locke, Volusia County Environmental Management. "A Day in the Life of a Florida Scrub-Jay." Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24

HRA Earth Day Observation. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Meet at park, SR-A1A in Flagler County north of Palm Coast. All day. Coordinator is Willie Burns at 253-2150. (1)

Thursday, April 21

Earthday at Ormond Beach Library 12-4

Saturday, April 23

Flagler County Nature Preserve Walk. Princess Place Preserve 8:30-10:30am. Meet on the Lodge front porch. Led by Naturalist Gail Compton. For more info call 904-471-0116

Thursday and Friday, May 5-6

HRA Field Trip. Fort DeSoto Overnight Trip. Meet at Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by Lois Robinson at 760-8480. Reservations and fee required. (2)

Saturday, May 14

HRA Field Trip. Spring Count. Meet at City Island Courthouse Annex parking lot, east. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. Bring lunch. Check with team leader.

RAVINE GARDENS FIELD TRIP

Willie Burns

On Friday, March 4, 2005, twelve smiling people drove to Ravine Gardens in Palatka. We also stopped in Crescent City and at the Welaka Fish Hatchery and the Fort Gates Ferry on the St. Johns River.

We made an unscheduled stop at Crescent City's Methodist Church and were served the best two dollar breakfast we've had in years!

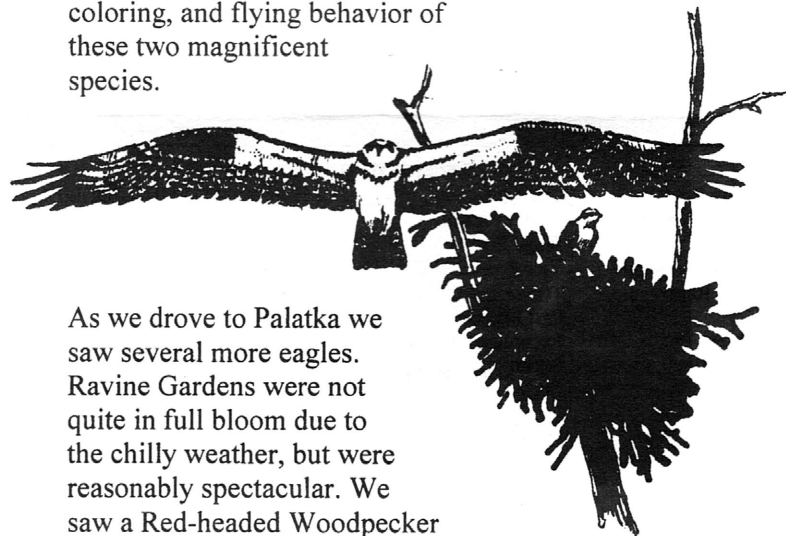
The next stop was at the Welaka Fish Hatchery. Because they drain their growth ponds for the winter, only one had any water to speak of. As always it was teeming with interesting birds. We saw American Pipets (rare here), Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, several plovers and a Willet.

There were eight Sandhill Cranes when we arrived, to be joined by twelve others one or two at a time. Several Bald Eagles, mature and immature, gave us fly overs as did several Osprey. Swallows and several other species including an elusive Belted Kingfisher joined us.

On we went to the ferry. This antique vessel plies the river daily. The Captain always provides us with a good ride, this year across the river and then along the bank to the north.

After crossing back, we followed the east bank where we saw a mature Bald Eagle on the ground four feet from the water eating a fish among the reeds.

There were Osprey nests on every power line pole in the area. A pair of Bald Eagles flew towards one, generating a response from the Ospreys to repel the eagles; their harassment didn't look like a serious attempt to plunder the nest. It gave us an opportunity to compare the differences in wing shape, coloring, and flying behavior of these two magnificent species.



As we drove to Palatka we saw several more eagles. Ravine Gardens were not quite in full bloom due to the chilly weather, but were reasonably spectacular. We saw a Red-headed Woodpecker quite close, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet among others.

All in all we saw 49 species on a pleasantly cool day with lovely blue skies. Lunch under the huge gazebo at the Gardens was cheerful. Ya shoulda been there!

BIRDATHON A BIG SUCCESS

Lois Robinson

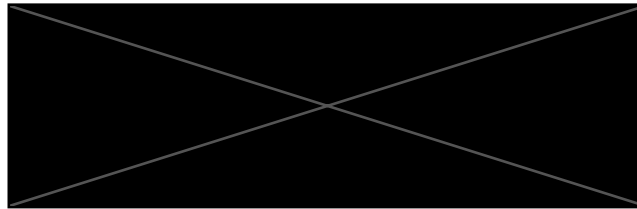
Thanks to all of you who participated in the Birdathon, Saturday, March 26th. We are so grateful for the many checks that have been pouring in. Your generous giving supports your deep commitment to the environment and to the work of Halifax River Audubon. We will have a complete financial report in the May *Pelican* as all the monies are not in yet as we go to press.

THE PELICAN



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April 2005

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. On the first Monday of each month. 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. 11 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON MAY 2005

May Program

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF TIGER BAY STATE FOREST

Paula Wehr

Where is Tiger Bay State Forest? It is located approximately 7 miles west of Daytona Beach, Florida. The forest extends north and south of US Highway 92.

Why is it important to the local environment and to citizens of the area?

Join Cathy Lowenstein, Forestry Resource Administrator of the Bunnell District of the Florida Division of Forestry for answers to these questions. Cathy will begin her presentation at 7 p.m., May 18 at Sica Hall.

Cathy graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management and has worked for the Florida Division of Forestry for 25 years as a Forester, Forestry Supervisor, and is now a Forestry Resource Administrator. In her current position she coordinates and supervises the program of state forest management on about 53,000 acres in the Bunnell District. This covers five state forests - Lake George and Tiger Bay State Forests in Volusia County, and Matanzas, Watson Island, and Deep Creek State Forests in St. Johns County. Cathy lives in DeLand with her husband and has two children - a son attending DeLand High School and a daughter attending the University of Florida.

APRIL BOARD MEETING ACTIONS

Attending were Carol Branch, Willie Burns, Fran Carr, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Pat Mihalic, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, John Roessler, Madeline Shaddix, and Paula Wehr.

Actions:

- Lois Robinson reported proceeds to date from the Bird-A-Thon. Plans to apportion the funds was deferred to the August meeting. List of the 128 bird species found will be listed on the Chapter web site.
- The year-to-date proceeds from Willie Burns' Golden Dog book sales is \$1,022.87. The profit from the Dora Canal trip was \$130.
- The Board voted to discontinue publication of *The Pelican* in June and July.
- At the Earth Day celebration at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park April 23-24, HRA will set up a telescope so visitors can view birds, especially a Red-tailed Hawk nest. Members will sell Golden Dog items.

- The Chapter will charter two 12-passenger vans for the Ft. DeSoto trip rather than a bus because only 19 people have signed up. Sleeping rooms, meetings rooms and catering have been arranged.
- The Board gave Madeline Shaddix authority to purchase a new feeder for Sugar Mill Gardens, John Roessler will install it and Barbara Kieran and Diane (head of the volunteer program at Sugar Mill) will take responsibility for filling and maintaining the feeder(s). Barbara requested that members donate field guides, new or used, to be placed in the Sugar Mill Library for use by visitors and guests. She will also contact Eagle Optics to learn if they may be willing to donate binoculars to the Library.
- David Hartgrove donated a copy of the DVD HRA Birds of Backyards, Beaches and Byways for use by HRA members who speak to other organizations. Lois will use it in her "Beginner Bird Class" each fall.
- Pat Mihalic explained the Universal Tag Program for the benefit of new Board members. Following discussion, the Board reiterated its support of this program. A letter of support was generated several years ago when this program was first introduced. The Universal Tag Program ordinance will go before Halifax County Council for enactment this fall.

Subsequent to the Board meeting, two items of Chapter business occurred.

At the April Program Meeting, Board member Willie Burns made the motion that publication of *The Pelican* continue throughout the summer. The original Board action was made to spare expenses and to give the editor a break. Funds for support of distributing the newsletter are sufficient now. The editor seconded the motion and it was carried.

Also a motion was made via email consultation among the Board. David Hartgrove proposed the Board approve a grant to the Environmental Council of Flagler/Volusia of \$150.00 to help defray the cost of their *pro bono* lawyer's expenses in pursuing the Leffler case in Deltona (see Conservation Notes). This was seconded and passed by email vote. The use of an email vote had been approved by the Board last year and was to be used for emergency issues arising between scheduled Board meetings

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING APRIL 18, 2005

Paula Wehr

Katrina Locke, Volusia County Scrub Conservation Program Manager, began her presentation by defining "scrub" habitat as open pineland with an understory of oaks and well-drained sandy ridges. Forty to sixty percent of the specie found in scrub habitat is found only in that habitat, and nowhere else. Therefore, scrub habitat is the only location where you are likely to find Florida Scrub-Jays. Ideally, healthy scrub should be 50-75% oaks, 10-30% bare sand with a tree canopy of 15-20 feet. Unfortunately, most ideal habitat is found only in managed areas.

Florida Scrub-Jays are about 12 inches in length with iridescent blue on their wings, heads, tails and a band on the breast. Adults have gray breasts and upper backs. Juveniles have gray heads. Males and females have very similar plumage. Females can be identified by a behavior where they throw their heads back and make a clicking sound. Pairs normally mate for life..

Scrub-Jays nest at about eye level. Only females incubate the eggs, but the males provide food for the females on the nests. Hatchlings are born naked, hence the phrase "naked as a jaybird." In about 15-20 days they leave the nest but are dependent on the adults long afterward. Family units consist of the two mates and one or more "helper" birds, which are offspring who remain in the natal territory for the next year to assist in raising the new young. Florida Scrub Jays may live to be 15 years of age.

Often you may see Florida Scrub-Jays feeding at lower levels, with another lone bird sitting higher in the trees nearby. That is the sentinel bird who is keeping watch for predators or other Scrub-Jays who may be invading the family's territory. This behavior allows the family to forage without fear. Sentinel duty is rotated during the day to allow all birds to feed.

The smallest population of Scrub-Jays can be found at Northeast Peninsula State Park on A1A near Flagler Beach. Lyonia Preserve in Deltona has identified and banded almost every Florida Scrub-Jay in the area. The largest population can be found at Canaveral National Seashore/Brevard County/Merritt island NWR probably because those areas have been managed for the longest period of time to create suitable habitat.

Katrina explained that for people to feed Florida Scrub-Jays may have detrimental effects on their reproductive process. When the public provides peanuts, seed, or other food the jays often start to nest early in the season. The young then hatch earlier than normal when there may not be sufficient natural food to allow the hatchlings to grow and fledge.

If you see Scrub-Jays in areas other than Lyonia Preserve or NE Peninsula State Park, especially those without leg bands, please report the location to Katrina at 386-736-5927, ext. 2331, or via e-mail at klocke@co.volusia.fl.us.

DORA CANAL FIELD TRIP

Willie Burns

On Friday April first Halifax Audubon ran a field trip to and upon the Dora Canal in Taveres, Florida. As in past years we also toured the Dead River, so named because it has so little current. Lake Harris was visited, along with the rookery of Great Egrets on Lake Eustis.

The Dora Canal connects Lake Dora and Lake Eustis. Only the first hundred yards were dredged and straightened many years ago to facilitate small steamers, but the name has stuck. The waterway winds between huge ancient Cypress tress with birds everywhere, up close and friendly.

This rookery failed several years ago, apparently due to low water that would have allowed predators to reach the nests. Now the lake level is almost thirty inches higher and the alligators below keep raccoons and snakes away. Yes, we did see many gators, some quite huge.

We failed to see the elusive but lovely Prothonotary Warblers although we heard them four times. One tree had both night herons, the Yellow Crowned and Black Crowned, sitting five feet apart in clear view!

Hordes of Wood Ducks, many with puppies, were everywhere. Some young were quite small, others almost full grown. The Ospreys, Anhingas and Great Blue Herons were nesting all over also. Many of the young were clearly visible.

Due to the higher water levels that has allowed water to flow into the surrounding trees and swamp we saw no Otters this year. Several snakes were seen, one coiled around a small stump. Turtles were all over, sunning happily, including one really cute little one 3 inches long.

This year the boat left from the county boat ramp and dock rather than the location of previous years at Palm Gardens fish camp. We had our lunch at the park next to the ramp although birds had messed up the tables a bit. We were treated to the drama of a woman being rescued after falling from the bow of a small boat.

This year we had a new tour operator as our previous guides, the Hollanders, have retired and moved back to Virginia. Captain Reg talks a bit. Captain Walli ran the vessel, doing quite well despite a really strong current on the Dora Canal. The lake levels are being lowered after all the rain so the flow was unusually strong. Most of us felt she would have docked easier without conflicting shouts from Reg.

CALENDAR 2004-2005

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk.

(3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path

Note:

Lake Woodruff Wildlife Refuge will be closed until mid May to undergo major impoundment cleanup.

Thursday and Friday, May 5-6

HRA Field Trip. Fort DeSoto Overnight Trip.

Meet at Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by Lois Robinson at 760-8480. Reservations and fee required. (2)

Saturday, May 14

HRA Field Trip. Spring Count. Meet at City Island Courthouse Annex parking lot, east. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove at 788-2630. Bring lunch. Check with team leader.

Monday, May 16

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Cathy Lowenstein, Forestry Resource Administrator. "Environmental Importance of Tiger Bay State Forest." Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 6:30pm.

NOTE: Members present will vote on slate of officers for 2005-2006 Chapter year.

Tuesday, May 17

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Native Orchids: Can We Save Them and by What Means?" Bob Clifford, Species & Conservation Chair of the Central Florida Orchid Society. Sica Hall, 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 21

Flagler County Nature Preserve Walk. Wadsworth Park. 8:30-10:30am. From A12A in Flagler Beach, turn west on Moody Blvd., go across bridge; turn right into Wadsworth Park. Meet at pond on right just beyond the skateboard area. Led by Gail Compton, 904-471-0116.

Sunday, May 22

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

Saturday, May 28

Marineland Program. "Energy and Resource Efficient Landscape Design: A Guide for Florida's Landowners". Landscape Design workshop 10am-4pm at the GTM Marineland Office. The cost: \$10 with lunch included. Please RSVP by May 20 to Terri Mashour McClelland at 904-461-2025 or terri.mcclelland@dep.state.fl.us or register online at www.dep.state.fl.us/ctp.

Monday, June 6

HRA Planning for Monthly Program Speakers for 2005-2006 Season. Dickerson Library, 411 South Keech Street, Daytona Beach at 1:30pm. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in planning by attending this meeting. If you are unable to attend,

please call or e-mail a Board member with your recommendations and suggestions

Tuesday, June 14

HRA Planning for Field Trips For 2005-2006 Season. Home of Paula Wehr at 10:00am. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in planning by attending this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call or e-mail a Board member with your recommendations and suggestions. If you plan to attend, please contact Paula at 673-5332 or paulawehr@bellsouth.net for directions to her home.

Tuesday, June 21:

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Beautiful Nature, Beautiful Music." Kevin Doxstater. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm

THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

The internet has already been filled with reports of migrants passing through Florida. On Saturday, May 14th, we'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. to venture forth and try to count as many of the birds as possible. As always, this is an all day event. But we can easily work with you to get you back to your car if you need to leave before that final tally at the Port Orange Bridge. So, bring your lunch, your binoculars and your keen eyes and ears and we'll have a great time. And please, if you're going, let me know so I can begin team assignments.

David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630, birdman9@earthlink.net

BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP

Carol Branch

The March 19 trip was arranged by Madeline Shaddix and led by Dr. Marc Minno of the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was a highly qualified leader and the author of the definitive book on butterflies, their host plants and plants which attract them.

Approximately 22 of us traversed the Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area of Rima Ridge Unit between highways US-92 and FL-40. This area has a mixture of environments: hardwood, swamp, lakes, marshes, pine islands and ridges, and we were out in them from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 pm. We saw 16 varieties of butterflies, which was pretty good considering the previous days of rain and cold temperatures. The thistles were blooming, however, and that was a big drawing point. We watched a female lay an egg and then found it to look at.

A primary grade teacher picked up a deer skull to take back to her classroom and another lady found a couple of old shells to take to the museum for their displays. We also saw eagles, Red-tailed Hawks and three Swallow-tailed Kites.

Thanks to Lois Pauchey, Rachel Ramsey, Barbara and Steve Kieran, and John Williams for the delicious refreshments at ur April program meeting.

PEREGRINE FALCONS NESTING

Willie Burns

The State of Pennsylvania has a camera set up on a Peregrine nesting box on the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, PA. In addition to four different camera angles on the birds and their nest there is a plethora of other information on Peregrines.

These birds have fledged dozens of young over the last few years. There are videos of past years and lots more on the home page. While some days one wonders why we are looking at a parking lot below the nest, this morning when I looked, the male was on the perch and the female was brooding her four eggs.



The pair mated on Valentines Day, started laying eggs over Easter Weekend, and are due to hatch on Mother's Day. They seem to have a fine sense of public relations, no pun intended.

Here is the address for the Falcon cam home page: www.dep.state.pa.us, then one scrolls down and clicks on "Falcon cam" on the right

side of the page. www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon should take you directly to the site without scrolling.

There are four camera angles, changing every two minutes. Below the Rachel Carson State Office Building is the transportation center, with the rail station mostly out of sight. We see the perch, two angles of the nest box (front and side views), and a corner section of their ledge.

FELLING EAGLE'S NEST TREE COSTS TWO MEN \$100,000

TAMPA, Florida, February 8, 2005 (ENS) - A federal judge in Tampa has ordered an Indiana man to pay a total of \$90,000 and serve a year of probation for violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Mylon Stockton of Noblesville, Indiana was penalized for cutting down a tree containing an eagle's nest on a property in Venice, Florida. The property owner, co-defendant, Mark Borinsky, North Port, Florida, was fined \$10,000 after pleading guilty to a similar offense.

According to public real estate records, Borinsky purchased a piece of property in Venice, Florida in November 2002 for about \$59,000.

According to the criminal information filed in the case, Borinsky and Stockton went onto Borinsky's Venice property on November 27, 2002. According to the charges, Borinsky attempted to cut down a pine tree containing an eagle nest which was visible from beneath the tree.

Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act the presence of an eagle nest may result in restrictions on the use of, or removal of trees from, the vicinity of the nest.

The tree began to fall but toppled on another tree. It stayed standing at an angle with Borinsky's chainsaw stuck in the trunk. A neighbor told the two men the tree contained an eagle's nest and that it was illegal to cut the tree down.

Stockton ignored the neighbor and used his car jack to lift the tree trunk and free his chainsaw. This caused the nest tree to dislodge from the other tree and fall to the ground. Stockton and Borinsky then cut several additional trees down on top of the nest tree, which destroyed it.

The prosecutor told U.S. District Judge James Whittemore during the sentencing hearing on January 31 that most of the funds Stockton was ordered to pay represent the profit realized when the property, by then without the eagle nest, was resold for about \$150,000 in April 2004.

Stockton was sentenced to the same \$10,000 fine as Borinsky but was also sentenced to community service consisting of a \$40,000 donation to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Florida Bald Eagle Conservation Fund and a \$40,000 donation to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey.

A single violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is a misdemeanor. The maximum penalty is one year imprisonment and a fine of either \$100,000, or twice the financial gain or loss caused by the offense.

whan that the month of May
Is comen,
and that I here the foules synge . . .
Farewel my boke, and my devocioun!
Chaucer

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR CASEMENT'S "CHRISTMAS WALK"

Halifax River Audubon will enter a decorated Christmas Tree in the "Christmas Walk" to be held at the Casements in Ormond Beach the first week-end of December. If you have bird-related ornaments you would like to display on the tree, contact DeeDee Blanchard at 386-673-6541. Ornaments will be returned to you when the trees are taken down. DeeDee and Erma Rice are also requesting donations of new kitchen-related items (i.e.: tea towels, utensils, cookware, cookbooks, etc.) to fill a basket that will be raffled during the Christmas Walk. Please bring your kitchen donations to the May 16 or September 19 monthly meeting. All proceeds from the raffle will come back to HRA to further our environmental work.

BIRDATHON PARTICIPANTS WE THANK YOU!

Lois Robinson

Thanks again and again for all your wonderful work and contributions to the Birdathon this year. Here are some of the interesting statistics:

- The net profit was \$4,340.36 at this writing (4/11/05).
- We had contributions from 65 HRA members in addition to a number of other friends and relatives who supported us willingly.
- **Carol Branch** raised the most money, a total of \$1,500.00. She had 45 sponsors.
- **David Hartgrove** had 40 sponsors and he raised \$875.00. The rest of us did very well canvassing our friends, our assigned HRA members and our relatives.
- We saw a total of 128 species in that one day that was twelve hours long. I think that speaks well for Volusia County that in one day you can still find this number of birds. Three years ago we found 130 species if I remember correctly. The birds we counted are listed on our Web site thanks to **Paula Wehr**, our Webmaster so check them out.
- The Dixie Chickadees got first prize for finding 99 species but we had two other teams finding 95 or above.



Each team submitted their most unusual bird and we put the teams in the hat and drew out **Rachel Ramsey's** team who saw an Orchard Oriole.

Two of the teams went out to Lake Woodruff and found the pair of Whooping Cranes that have been there for a short time.

As a member of one team I can verify that we had a terrific time racing against the clock, telling jokes, arguing where to go next and just finding so many birds in one day. It was a breathtaking experience. David Hartgrove said it best: "It was a labor of love." The proceeds will go toward our continuing fight to save birds and the environment.

Birdathon Song written by Carol Branch

THE DIXIE CHICKADEES SONG (To The Tune Of The Hokey Pokey)

First we met our teammates before the dawn,
 With great anticipation and a smiling yawn.
 Off to scout Volusia for half a day,
 Spot the birds, count the types, every which way.
 Willie drove, and Carol sang, and Lois looked,
 Paul confirmed and verified and marked the book.
 We tramped the woods, scanned sky and seas,
 You heard this from the Dixie Chickadees!

BUILD.IT AND THEY WILL COME

From *Woodruff*, newsletter of Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR, Inc. Spring 2005.

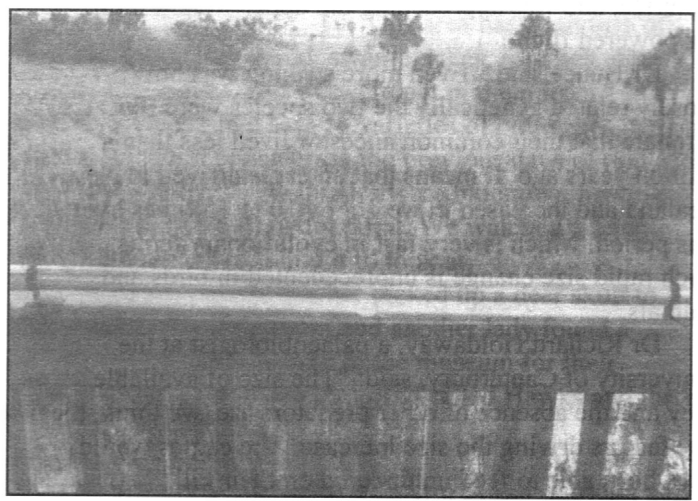
During a [recent facelift to the Audubon Lookout], Kristina Sorensen searched out and obtained new vulture deterrents. These were installed on the railings to replace the homemade roller system which no longer discouraged rail-sitting by the vulture population. The new Coyote Rollers™, manufactured in California, were designed to prevent coyote from jumping over fences.

We are hopeful. We are also aware that vultures, like squirrels, know a good thing when they find it and are not easily discouraged from their pursuits.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY PACE

The Audubon Lookout in its full panoply of vulture lookers-out with perchers-in-waiting below. Note binocular is also in use.



PHOTOGRAPH BY KRISTINA SORENSEN

Could new rollers put a stop to vulture rail-sitting?

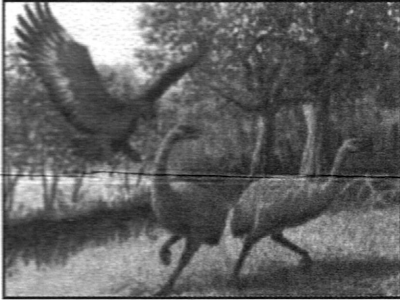
HUGE EAGLES 'DOMINATED NZ SKIES'

Alex Kirby, BBC News

One of the largest birds of prey ever recorded, an extinct giant eagle, was once New Zealand's chief predator, DNA evidence from fossil bones indicates. Research published in the journal PLoS Biology says the bird, Haast's eagle, was big enough to rule its environment.

The eagle increased its weight at a rate unprecedented in other birds and animals after reaching New Zealand. But it was driven to oblivion about five centuries ago, just 200 years or so after the first humans arrived, about 700 years ago. Forest fires destroyed its habitat and humans exterminated its food supply. There is also some evidence to suggest the eagles were hunted.

The researchers extracted DNA from fossil eagle bones dating back about 2,000 years. Dr Michael Bunce, who carried out the research, said: "When we began the project it was to prove the relationship of the Haast's eagle with the large Australian wedge-tailed eagle. But the DNA results were so radical that, at first, we questioned their authenticity."



The eagles struck from the side (Image courtesy of John Megahan)

What they showed was that the New Zealand bird was in fact related to one of the world's smallest eagles - the little eagle from Australia and New Guinea, which typically weighs less than two pounds.

Yet the Haast's eagle weighed between 8 lb and 31 lb - between 30% and 40% heavier than the largest living bird of prey alive today, the harpy eagle of Latin America, and was approaching the upper weight limit for powered flight.

Dr Bunce said: "Even more striking was how closely related genetically the two species were. We estimate that their common ancestor lived less than a million years ago. It means that an eagle arrived in New Zealand and increased in weight by 10 to 15 times over this period, which is very fast in evolutionary terms. Such rapid size change is unprecedented in birds and animals."

Dr Richard Holdaway, a palaeobiologist at the University of Canterbury, said: "The size of available prey and the absence of other predators are, we think, the key factors driving the size increase. The eagles would have been able to feed unhindered on their kill."

Nerc says: "Haast's eagle is the only eagle known to have been the top predator in a major terrestrial ecosystem. They hunted moa, the herbivorous, flightless birds of New Zealand [now also extinct], which weighed up to 7 lb. With a truncated wingspan of around three metres, for flying under the forest canopy, the eagles struck their prey from the side, tearing into the pelvic flesh and gripping the bone with claws the size of a tiger's paw. Once caught, the moa would be killed by a single strike to the head or neck from the eagle's other claw."

Before humans arrived, New Zealand had virtually no terrestrial mammals apart from bats; the only inhabitants were about 250 species of bird. There is no evidence the giant eagles ever attacked people.

Other research in progress involves the DNA from ancient moa droppings, and from soil in former petrel breeding colonies.

The scientists believe the eagle died out within two centuries of human settlement of New Zealand, which happened about 700 years ago. Forest fires destroyed its habitat and humans exterminated its food supply. There is also some evidence to suggest the eagles were hunted.

BIRD SONG

The robin sings of willow-buds,
Of snowflakes on the green;
The bluebird sings of Mayflowers,
The crackling leaves between;
The veery has a thousand tales
To tell to girl and boy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings, "Joy! Joy! Joy!"

The peewee calls his little mate,
Sweet Phoebe, gone astray,
The warbler sings, "What fun, what fun,
To tilt upon the spray!"
The cuckoo has no song, but clucks,
Like any wooden toy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings, "Joy! Joy! Joy!"

The grosbeak sings the rose's birth,
And paints her on his breast;
The sparrow sings of speckled eggs,
Soft brooded in the nest.
The wood-thrush sings of peace, "Sweet peace,
Sweet peace," without alloy;
But the oriole, the oriole,
Sings, "Joy! Joy! Joy!"

-- Laura E. Richards

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

GROWTH. It is a curse we must live with here in Central Florida and all over the state.

Generally speaking, cities have more relaxed zoning and land use codes than the County. So if a developer can get his property annexed into a city, he can get a higher density zoning and increase his profits. And that's what it's all about. The quality of life for those living in the area isn't included in the equation. All of the cities in our area are constantly looking for land to annex so that they can continue to issue building permits and increase the size of their tax base. In spite of all of the vast evidence to the contrary, they continue to preach that growth pays for itself and is a good thing.

In the Hammock, that beautiful stretch along A1A through Flagler County, the city of Palm Coast is trying to coerce property owners into agreeing to annexation against their will.

The Port Orange Planning Advisory Board was all set to request a moratorium on building permits until it could work out details of new requirements for builders seeking new permits. It's hard to imagine how fast the phone lines lit up with calls from developers when that announcement hit the papers. Lo and behold, rather than a moratorium, the city manager's office announced the hiring of several consultants to help speed along the permitting process.

Part of the process is Port Orange's plan to annex thousands of acres west of Tomoka Farms Road, just south of the Landfill. Volusia County objected to this land grab at first. Now they're about to allow Port Orange to annex a small parcel and change the zoning from agricultural to public use. Once this has been accomplished, it will be all but impossible for the County to prevent the further annexation of all of the land Port Orange wanted in the first place.

Today [April 19] I attended a workshop for the Volusia County Council on the issue of Deltona's proposed annexations of large tracts of property in Osteen and along the SR 415 corridor. When the meeting began, the comment was made that everyone there was hoping to assist Deltona in getting what it wants. I was flabbergasted.

If an eight year old says he wants to pour gas all around the school house and light it, some figure of authority is supposed to step in and say, "No." Legal authority flows downhill from the US Constitution. Congress and the federal government have powers that trump those of the states. States have powers that trump those of local governments. The counties are supposed to have the power to protect us from the abuses of our local

governments when that becomes necessary. Why then are some people in the County offices in DeLand seeking ways to accommodate Deltona's greedhead grab for more land?

Yes, the County initiated a lawsuit to prevent Deltona from annexing what's called the Leffler Tract. This is 5000+ acres, much of it prime wetlands and over half of it is located in what the County's land use map has designated "Conservation Corridor."

Our Halifax River Audubon Chapter, through its affiliation with the Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler Counties, is a party to the County's suit. Hopefully, the Fifth District Court of Appeals, where the annexation case now sits, will rule against Deltona's illegal land grab. Then we'll see what happens next.

Stay tuned. We're keeping tabs on the situation.

Mark Your Calendar!

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY 2005

OCTOBER 21-22

At Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort
Special rate: \$89.99/night. Parking and resort fees are free.
Reserve rooms now at 800-206-2724.

Special Audubon rate good through September 28 only.

Cocoa Beach is near fabulous birding hot spots including Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Canaveral. This casual beachfront setting will be fun for the entire family.

Don't miss it! Plan to attend Florida's largest gathering of conservation-minded citizens. Join chapter leaders and members, Audubon staff, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, scientists, students, agency and elected officials, and other Floridians to network and learn about the environment. Kick off the event at a beachside reception on Thursday evening, October 20.

Details including Assembly registration information, programs, exhibits and field trips will appear in the summer Naturalist, and available online at www.audubonofflorida.org in July.

MARY KELLER, "THE BIRD LADY"

Pat Mihalic

Our Chapter has supported Mary Keller, Bird Rehabilitator for many years. Recently, she has been quite ill and her son, Butch, is taking care of the birds.

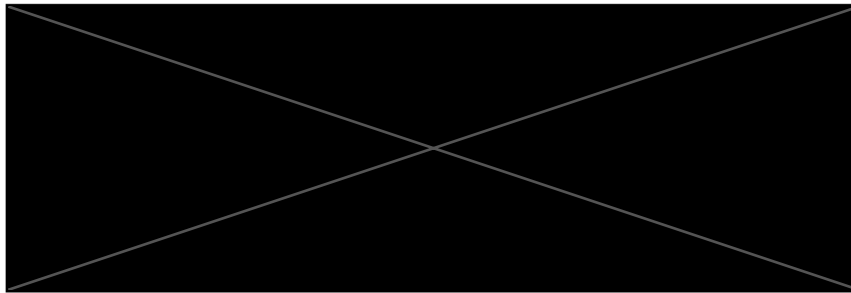
She will be getting a lot of new baby chicks soon and she will need Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Feeding Formula, white paper towels, bird seed, clean towels, heating pads, shower curtains, etc. She can always use money for medicine and vitamins. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. You can call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup.

THE PELICAN



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	Ways & Means		
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
	Past President		
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Pat Mihalic	Recording Secretary	767-9437	wldkingjm@aol.com
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May 2005

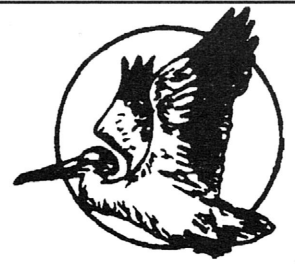
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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 50 - NO. 12 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON JUNE 2005

FORT DESOTO BIRDING TRIP

Lois Robinson

I don't know which was more exciting, seeing a Scarlet Tanager posed between two male Indigo Buntings or two Hudsonian Godwits on a sand spit or a Swainson's Thrush about six feet away busy feeding. Maybe it was the Magnolia Warbler and the many Magnificent Frigatebirds we saw soaring overhead. We could go on and on about the delights of our overnight trip to Ft. DeSoto. We saw 89 species and one peacock (do we count him or not?).

The weather, which was very iffy when we left, turned out to be beautiful, cool with low humidity and no rain during the day. A cool front coming down from the north helped keep the birds down here before they continued farther north.

The hospitality at Eckerd College as well as the food was very good. I don't know any other place in Florida where the rates are so reasonable. Those of us who stayed up for the Thursday night program fell in love with Pale Male (a video we saw thanks to Willie Burns) about the Red-tailed Hawk in Central Park who has attracted so much attention over the past several years as he has survived there and raised more than 22 offspring. The book about his exploits is entitled *Red Tails In Love*. I hope you will read it if you haven't already.

The seventeen of us who went traveled in two passenger vans and they turned out to be very comfortable as well as flexible to our needs. Our two wonderful drivers, David Hartgrove and Willie Burns were outstanding. We couldn't have done it without them. The fellowship and cooperation of the whole group was lovely to behold. Thank you all so very much.

HRA BOARD MEETING, MAY 2, 2005

Paula Wehr

Attending: Joan and James Anderson, Willie Burns, Barbara Kieran, Rachel Ramsey, Lois Robinson, Paula Wehr. Rachel Ramsey presiding.

Action items.

- Board will investigate the procedure for bonding the Treasurer.
- The feeder has been installed at Sugar Mill Gardens. Food is stocked there as well. Diane Gilpatrick, head of the "Friends of Sugar Mill" volunteers will arrange for someone to refill and clean the feeder when Barbara Kieran is not available. HRA has \$200

remaining in the budget to pay for this new feeder's supplies.

- The e-mail vote to provide \$150 in support of the Leffler Appeal was approved by the Board last month. The donation was to the Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler to help fund the *amicus* brief being filed in support of the County's appeal of the lawsuit challenging Deltona's annexation of the Leffler property. Al Hadeed, former county attorney for Flagler County, has agreed to take the case but appeals can get expensive and he's just not in a position to do it for free.
- Golden Dog, Willie Burns money-raising venture, submitted a check for \$559.73, representing profit from sales at Washington Oaks State Park Earth Day Celebration and The Casements' Book Sale.
- Election of new officers will be held at the May 16 program meeting.
- Donations from proceeds of the Bird-A-Thon were approved as \$250 gifts to: Coastal Island Sanctuaries (an Audubon-sponsored sanctuary near Tampa), Friends of Merritt Island NWR, Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, Friends of Tomoka Geo Basin, and Friends of Lake Woodruff. In addition, the Board approved a donation of \$50 to the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

GREAT ENERGY PROGRESSIVE WASHINGTON STATE

Washington State has moved ahead of the rest of the nation with in its "most important solar legislation ever introduced in any American state legislature."

Two bipartisan-sponsored bills rolled through the legislature that will put the state on its way to becoming the U.S. leader in solar energy use.

The first bill, SB 5101, drives market demand for solar photovoltaic (PV) energy by rewarding homes and businesses using a "feed-in" production incentive of 15cents per kWh for solar PV and wind power systems.

The second bill, SB5111, promotes the supply side of the equation by providing tax breaks for renewable energy businesses that now reside in or move to the state.

"The performance-based incentive is an ideal form of policy," said Marc Roper, VP of RWE Schott Solar.

For more information see an article by Jesse Broehl, Editor of RenewableEnergyAccess.com.

LARGEST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION EFFORT EVER!

Glade Koch

At our March 21 membership meeting Mary Munson, Director of Sun Coast Region, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) opened her enthusiastic talk on the Everglades restoration with gorgeous projections of landscape photos of some of the 388 National Parks and striking wildlife photos.

She urged us to keep track of Congressional and Florida funding of the Conservation of Everglades Restoration Plans (CERP) \$7.8 billion in the next two to three decades. Two of CERP's 56 separate engineering projects have been built. CERP is to be implemented under an unprecedented federal-state partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District with important roles by other federal and state agencies. Although CERP is intended to provide continued flood control and drinking water supply for South Florida residents, the legislation makes it clear that the restoration of the Everglades is the top priority. More than 240 miles of levees and canals that now block water flow will be removed; water currently being lost to the ocean will be captured and stored in surface reservoirs or underground wells until needed; and urban agriculture (mainly sugar) waste water will be cleansed by special treatment plants or by filtration through portions of the 35,000 acres of newly created wetlands. Restoring wetlands and diverting or eliminating some canals should also deliver cleaner and better-regulated flow of water to Biscayne National Park. Especially in the aftermath of storms, Biscayne Bay receives surges of fresh water, often contaminated by runoff from the West that alters salinity and water quality in offshore coral reefs and in the near-shore mangrove forests that shelter young fish and shellfish.

For CERP to succeed, Ron Tipton, NPCA's Senior Vice President, says "(1) an incredible level of federal-state cooperation unprecedented in scope and magnitude is essential; (2) continued bi-partisan political support between succeeding administrations and Congress sufficient to guarantee the necessary political support over the next 25 to 30 years".

Also enthusiastic, Louise Chapman and 12 of her Mainland High School students, whom we are always pleased to welcome to our meetings, reported their Volusia County Rose Bay Park activity. They reported the Corps. Of Engineers' withdrawal from their commitment to dredge the Bay to improve circulation. The Mainland students are stymied but are writing all they know how to write or say to authorities.

Students took fact sheets and other NPCA publications on the Everglades that Ms. Munson brought for us. One very fine publication, "Restoring the River of Grass," is authored by Audubon and World Wildlife Fund.

A few of these informative pieces are available from Glade Koch.

CALENDAR 2004-2005

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

Monday, June 6

HRA Planning for Monthly Program Speakers for 2005-2006 Season. Dickerson Library, 411 South Keech Street, Daytona Beach at 1:30pm. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in planning by attending this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call or e-mail a Board member with your recommendations and suggestions.

Tuesday, June 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Beautiful Nature, Beautiful Music." - Kevin Doxstater. More than just birds in images of nature beautifully choreographed to the music of Ludwig van Beethoven. Kevin has been featured in a recent News-Journal article and one of his photos won the 2004 contest to be used on the cover of the National Wildlife Federation magazine. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 14

HRA Planning for Field Trips For 2005-2006 Season. Home of Paula Wehr at 10:00am. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in planning by attending this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call or e-mail a Board member with your recommendations and suggestions. If you plan to attend, please contact Paula at 673-5332 or paulawehr@bellsouth.net for directions to her home.

Monday through Friday, June 13-17

Exploring Our Environment – From The Ocean to the Estuary. Florida Sea Grant, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Marineland. 5-day, 90am to 4:00pm program for adults at Marineland, SR-A1A in Flagler County. Cost \$100.00. Bring bag lunch. Reservations required. Contact Maia at 904-824-4564. A flyer and registration form can also be downloaded from <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm>. (Look under the Education page.)

Tuesday, July 19

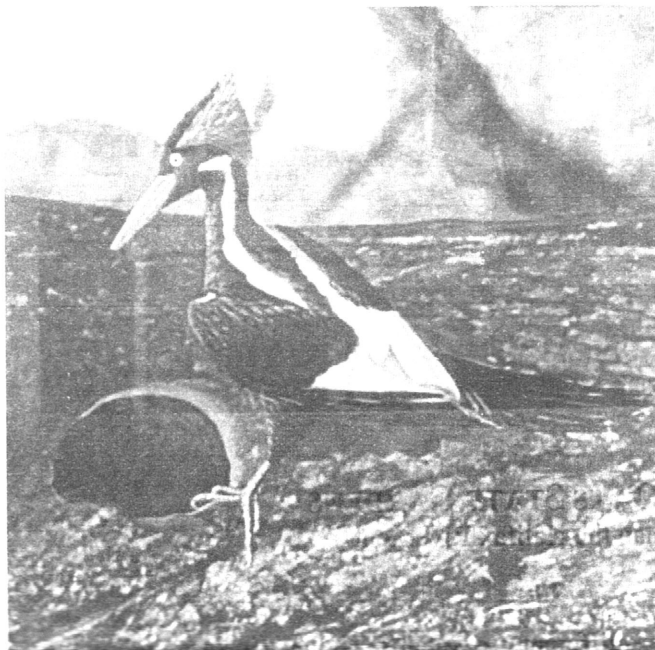
Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Lewis & Clark & Us" - a film by George Sibley, who will be present to discuss the movie.

Thanks to David Hargrove, the Arbogasts and Joan Anderson for providing the delicious refreshments at our May Program Meeting.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

There are so many depressing events around us these days that I thought it was time to start the summer off with something positive. And what could be more positive than the discovery of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker alive and flying in a world that had given up on its existence?



George Sutton of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

In 1924, Arthur Allen and his wife, Elsa, found a pair of Ivory-billeds along the Taylor River here in Florida. After reading the published reports, a pair of taxidermists shot the birds (legally!) and sold them. Beginning in 1935, James Tanner, a researcher with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, spent several years in what's called the Singer Tract, in northeast Louisiana. He took the only known film and recorded the only known audio of what was assumed to be the last of this country's largest woodpeckers.

Then sightings dwindled to almost nothing. The last confirmed sighting by two experienced witnesses was in 1944 in the Singer Tract. There were a number of other reliable sightings over the years, including one in 1950 on the Chipola River in the Florida Panhandle. There were several seen in Cuba in 1948 and 1957. In the 1980's a flurry of reports from Cuba gave researchers another rush of excitement. But the confirmed sighting of a lone female in the mountains of Cuba in 1987 was the last sighting for a long time.

On April 1st, 1999, David Kulivan, a forestry management student at LSU, was hunting in the Pearl River area of southeast Louisiana. He reported seeing a pair of the birds, at times observing them from no more

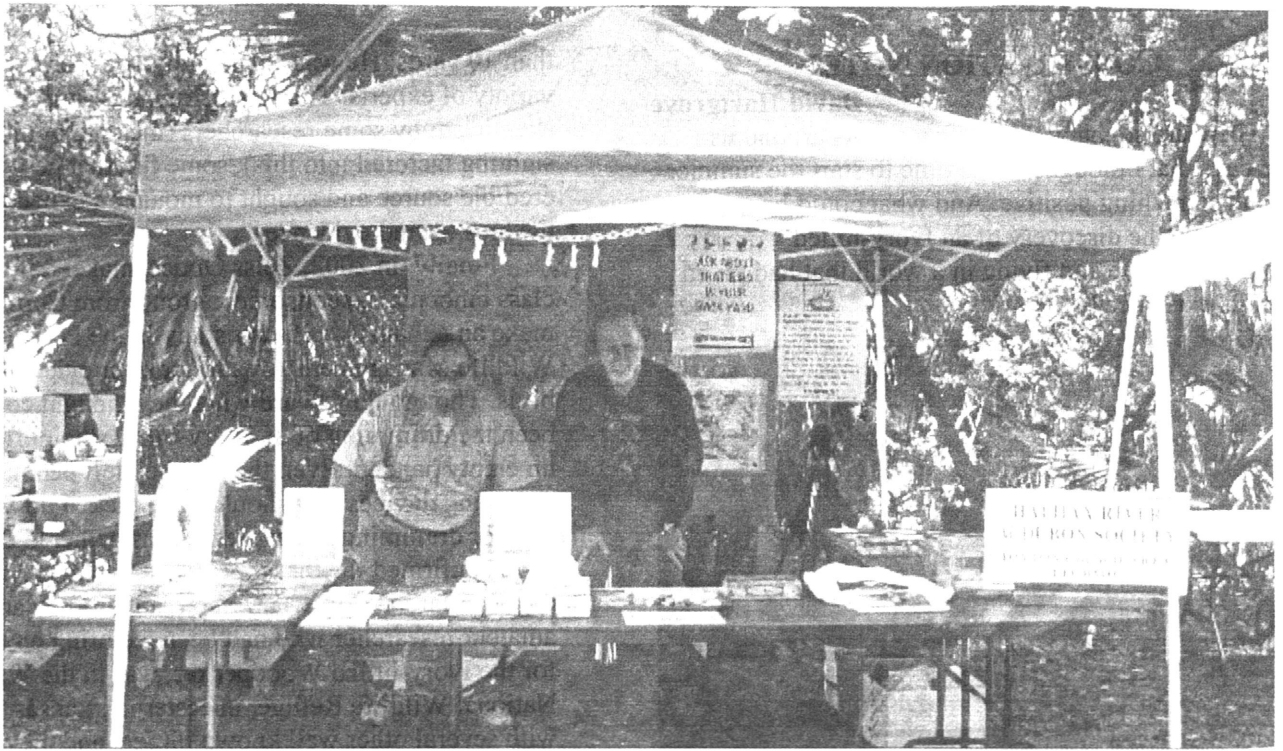
than 10 yards. He was extensively questioned by a variety of experts. Though his report was received with skepticism by some researchers (the date of his reported sighting factored into this), some felt that he was a credible source and sought to mount an expedition into the area to find evidence.

Finally, in 2002, Zeiss Optics, makers of world-class binoculars, sponsored a group from Cornell Lab to make an exhaustive 30-day study in the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area to look for evidence of the birds. Though they heard what they thought could have been the drumming of an Ivory-billed, their efforts came up empty handed. Even though they left behind remote recording devices that should have picked up the birds' calls or drumming, no evidence was gathered that would have confirmed the birds' presence in that area.

In March 2003, Mary Scott, an attorney and amateur researcher who had been lecturing on the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, was in the White River National Wildlife Refuge, in eastern Arkansas. She was with several other well known birders and they were there to search for the elusive birds. Her companions had walked off in another direction and as she walked around to the back of the car, she saw a bird fly up off the flooded forest floor. It landed 15 feet up on the side of a tree 50 feet away. Her mind reeled as she checked off the field marks. She did not reach her video camera in time to capture an image before the bird unfolded its massive black wings with their brilliant white trailing edges and powerfully glided out of sight in silence.

Part of her reason for maintaining a web site was to host a spot where people could report their sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. 99.9% of the reports were easily discounted. But one, from a fellow named Gene Sparling, was made while kayaking along the Cache River, near where she had seen the bird. She forwarded her observations along to Tim Gallagher, at Cornell Lab. On February 27, 2004, Tim Gallagher, Bobby Harrison and Gene Sparling saw what was undoubtedly an Ivory-billed Woodpecker about half a mile from where Sparling had seen the bird 2 weeks earlier. Subsequently, 5 others have seen the bird and 4 seconds of digital video shot on April 25th, 2004 show beyond a doubt, a male Ivory-billed Woodpecker. One year later, just last month, the scientific paper was published verifying its existence.

I have long said that I thought there was no way that such a large bird could go undetected for so long. I have never been so happy to be wrong about something. So far, there's only proof of one male and that doesn't bode well for the survival of the species. But the habitat these birds use is very remote and who knows what we have to look forward to. Have a great summer and watch those swamps!



EARTH DAY AT WASHINGTON OAKS STATE GARDENS

Willie Burns and David Hartgrove man the Halifax River tent

TIGER BAY PROGRAM

Barbara Kieran

Neal White, Forestry Supervisor at Tiger Bay State Forest spoke to our program meeting May 16 about Tiger Bay, the State Forest right in our backyard. The land for Tiger Bay was purchased by the State, starting in 1976 through 2004. It includes 27,315 total acres: 67 percent wetlands, swamps, bays, natural drainage etc. The Tiger Bay Mission: To Conserve and Protect Native Species, Habitat, and Listed Species. To Provide Preservation of Archaeological or Historical Resources.

The State Forest has various resources for people to enjoy.

- Tiger Bay is a natural urban buffer for Daytona, and Holly Hill. Urban well fields are located on conservation lands for Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, and Port Orange. Neal said some of Ormond Beach's best wells were located in the Rima Ridge area.
- Recreation opportunities abound; hiking, birding, camping, horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, hunting, and photography.
- There are two campgrounds. And the cost is only \$5.00 a day, or \$10.00 for a group.
- The Buncombe Hill Interpretive Trail is a two-mile leisurely hike that will take less than one hour to complete. Along the trail you will observe many

different ecosystems. The terrain surrounding the trail is primarily a sandhill ecosystem with a wetland ecosystem near Indian Lake.

- Cultural resources protected are the Old Brick Road, Turpentine Camp, and Boy Scout Camp.

In addition, Tiger Swamp, Indian Lake, Sawgrass Lake, and Scoggins Lake have been designated as outstanding Florida waterways. And Tiger Bay is an important Wildlife corridor. The Forest Bay is a habitat for protected species, such as Gopher Tortoise and Rugell's Pawpaw. The area is a primary Florida Black Bear roaming territory. Neal said three wildlife-crossing areas were selected to go under 1-4 to protect the wildlife.

Neal believes in prescribed burning. He said it reduces wildlife threat, improves wildlife habitat, and improves smoke management conflicts with highway and residential urban areas. During the summer of 1998, nearly half of Tiger Bay State Forest burned in the wildfires that swept through the state.

Neal White is a graduate from Ohio State University, with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, majoring in Forest Management. He started with the Florida Division of Forestry in May 1999 as a County Forester in Suwannee County, then transferred in 2001 to Twin Rivers/Big Shoals State Forest in Hamilton, Suwannee and Madison Counties. In 2002, he was promoted to Senior Forester on "Other Public Lands" in North Florida assisting other agency managers with the management of their woodlands.

JOIN AUDUBON



NEW MEMBERS ONLY

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 am eligible to join for \$15.60

Dues for **National Audubon Society** include \$10.60 for *Audubon* magazine including \$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 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. You 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

MEMBERS ELECT NEW BOARD

Halifax River Audubon members present at the May 16, 2005 program meeting voted unanimously for the Board proposed by the Nominating Committee chaired by Rachel Ramsey and composed of Barbara Kieran, Lois Pauchey, and John Carr.

The positions and names of the elected Board members are:

President: John Roessler
 Vice President: Madeline Shaddix
 Vice President: Novetta Duffer
 Treasurer: Rachel Ramsey
 Historian: John Carr
 Corresponding Secretary: Paula Wehr
 Membership Secretary: John Carr
 Recording Secretary: Lois Robinson
 At Large, 2008: Carol Branch
 At Large, 2008: Barbara Kieran

Motion to accept the slate was made by Barbara Kieran and seconded by Rachel Ramsey.

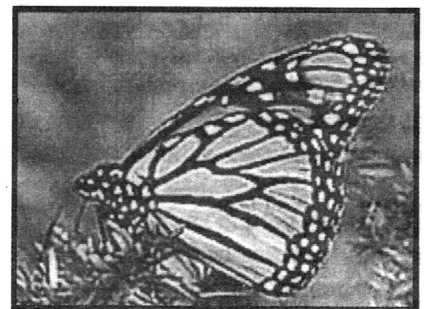
HOW DO MONARCH BUTTERFLIES MIGRATE?

One generation of Monarchs migrates from as far north as Massachusetts to a pine forest in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains near Mexico City. How do these fragile animals do it? This long trip that may take two months – and then they may live about nine months. It may be that a special generation of Monarchs, apparently responding to the changed angle of the sun, emerges from the chrysalises and immediately begins flying toward Mexico.

Dr. Steven M. Reppert reported in the journal *Science* that the length of daylight helps set the internal clock in the developing fall Monarch. Those exposed to normal sunlight tended to fly southwest, the direction of their destination in Mexico. But butterflies that developed in constant light lacked this navigation skill and always flew toward the sun, east in the morning and west in the evening.

The Monarch has fascinated people because of its uncanny ability to migrate.

At least four generations of Monarchs live each year. The first generation



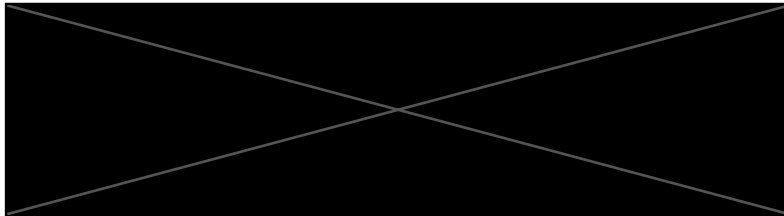
emerges from eggs laid in Texas and Louisiana in early spring. The larvae feed on milkweed leaves, develop through a chrysalis, and emerge as a winged adult. The adults fly farther north, following the milkweeds and breed again. This continues until the fall, when the special long-lived generation flies to Mexico and starts the cycle over.

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Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
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	Past President		
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June 2005

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VOL. 51 - NO. 1 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON JULY 2005

PETERSON MAKES A BIRD GUIDE

At nineteen, Roger moved to New York to study painting, first at the Art Student's League under John Sloan, the famous realist of the Ashcan School of painting, and then at the more traditional National Academy of Design. To pay his way, we went back to his old profession of painting furniture – some of the gaudier beds he decorated being destined, he understood, for the city's higher-class brothels. The city, was for him, an astonishingly rich habitat and over the years he birded it devotedly. On a very foggy morning, with Central Park full of confused fall migrants, he saw half a dozen scarlet tanagers in one tree and four rose-breasted grosbeaks in another, five species of thrushes, a Florida gallinule (common moorhen) and an Audubon's "bimaculated" duck – the one the artist had misnamed after Thomas Brewer. He listened to migrant warblers at night from the top of the RCA Building and tracked down a hermit thrush that had migrated into a florist shop and Sixty-third Street and Madison Avenue.

Bit by bit, birds drew Peterson away from art school, and a job as nature counselor in a summer camp pulled him away from decorating furniture. The camp job led, in 1931, to a position teaching art and natural history at a school near Boston. As a guest at the Nuttall Club he gave some informal reports on his sightings but was rebuffed when he applied for membership – "too cocky about his records," was the verdict. Made aware that what was expected behavior in the Bronx was unacceptable in Boston, he modified his manners and was admitted the next year. One evening the club played one of its favorite indoor games. About twenty bird specimens, all tricky to identify, were held up briefly and members had to name them, that night, Ludlow Griscom, generally looked on as the best field man in the country, was present and, of course, got all the birds right. So did Peterson, and the Nuttall members realized that their initiate had a right to be cocky.

At night, in his cubby-hole room at the school, Peterson had begun working out his dissatisfaction with existing bird guides by writing and drawing one of his own – a proper bird guide that, as he described it, would be "a boiling down of things so that any bird would be readily and surely told from all others at a glance or a distance" – and in nature, not in a museum. Almost all the books of the time conscientiously noted the minute differences between birds but "the really distinctive

characteristics were overlooked." With too many confusing clues "the shadow of uncertainty" hung over all watching.

Peterson was sure he had a solution and in working it out he was given a push by a book he had known since childhood and by a friend, William Vogt, he had met through the Bronx County Bird Club. One misty December day, the two were up along the Hudson River counting ducks for the Christmas census when, as Vogt wrote, "a barely perceptible note fell from a flock of small birds overhead and my companion said with unchallengeable assurance, 'siskins.'" Vogt, a first-class birder himself, felt "a bumbler by comparison" with Peterson. He began arguing earnestly with his companion. Peterson knew more about identifying birds than almost anyone around and he also could paint. Why didn't he put down what he saw and knew in a book, a guide that would tell others how to look at birds the way he did? Not too excited by the idea, Peterson asked who would buy the book. If he did it, Vogt promised, he would guarantee to find a publisher. That impressed Peterson.

The boyhood book that gave Peterson the other push was *Two Little Savages* by Ernest Thompson Seton, a famous nature writer and artist.

Its hero was a boy who, Peterson remembered, "... discovered some mounted ducks in a dusty showcase and ... painstakingly made sketches of their patterns. This lad had a book which showed him how to tell ducks when they were in the hand, but since he only saw the live ducks at a distance, he was usually at a loss for their names. He noticed that all the ducks in the showcase were different – all had blotches or streaks that were their labels or identification tags. He decided that if could put their labels or 'uniforms' down on paper, he would know these same ducks as soon as he saw them at a distance on the water."

Seton accompanied the text with little drawings, silhouettes that emphasized one or two characteristics of the ducks.

There was another work that reinforced the ideas Peterson already had formed: *Guide to the Birds of New England and Eastern New York* by Ralph Hoffmann, a prophetic but largely overlooked book that had been published in 1904. As a boy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Hoffman was so expert a birder that when Matthew Arnold visited the town and asked to be shown the native birds, thirteen-year-old Ralph was called on to take the eminent English poet and schoolmaster out for a

(Continued on page 2)

bird walk. He grew up to be a schoolteacher by profession and a bird watcher by addiction – seeing a new bird, he wrote, “gives one a peculiar thrill of exaltation and all the rest of the day one moves in a kind of rapture, all one’s thoughts suffused with an inward glow.”

In his eastern guide and later in a companion guide to Pacific Coast birds, Hoffmann had set out to “emphasize the aspect of birds as seen out of doors, to describe their general or most prominent colors rather than any mark difficult to see on the living birds and to call attention to the characteristic habits and haunts. There has been no attempt to give a complete description of the plumage, as it would look if the bird were held in the hand.” The effectiveness of his method can be seen by going back to Chapman’s lengthy description of the song sparrow. Hoffmann’s far briefer, more selective description was interspersed with italics to call attention to the “most prominent or characteristic field marks that serve best to distinguish one species from others closely resembling it.” The sparrow’s head, he wrote, had “streaks of *gray* through center and over each eye” and the breast streaks coalesce “to form a *large spot* in the *centre of the breast*.” The illustration, a closeup of the head, showed the line and, though not too clearly, the spot. In a recognizable way, this was what Peterson would do. And a clue to what he was seeking lies in Hoffmann’s use of the expression “field marks.” In the book Peterson finally produced, the operational work in the title was “field,” a term rarely used before in bird book titles.

It took Peterson three years to finish his book, with its hundreds of illustrations, and Bill Vogt found it much harder to get someone to publish it than it had been to get Peterson to do it. Four or five publishers turned it down before Vogt showed it to the editor at Houghton Mifflin, Francis H. Allen. A member of the Nuttall Club, Allen knew Peterson’s skills; he liked the book; and Houghton Mifflin had a tradition of publishing bird books, going back to the 1870s when it published John Burroughs and Olive Thorne Miller and subsequently, Ralph Hoffmann and many of the country’s best-known nature writers.

But this was 1933. The depression was getting worse and the book required expensive art work. Peterson’s colleagues stepped in to convince the doubting publisher. Ludlow Griscom came over to test Peterson’s drawings, the core of the book. They were set up at one end of a room and Griscom at the other end. Even at an unrealistic distance, he identified them all. When Allen said he was worried that the book would lose too much money, Richard Pough, whose own guide later became a competitor of Peterson’s, said he was so sure the book would succeed that he would make up any money Houghton Mifflin might lose. Peterson himself

agreed to forgo royalties on the first thousand copies – and then wondered whether it would ever sell more than that.

As soon as *A Field Guide to the Birds* came out in the spring of 1934, Dick Pough could forget about his guarantee and Peterson did not have to regret the royalties he had surrendered. The first printing of two thousand copies was virtually sold out in the first couple of weeks and, in the worst of economic times, the *Field Guide* went back to press again and again – and eventually it sold some three million copies. Peterson’s elders, the men whose own books were from then on to seem archaic, were generous in their evaluations. The usually acerbic Griscom wrote that Peterson’s “many qualities and talents . . . amounted to genius.”

From *A World of Watchers* by Joseph Kastner, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1986.

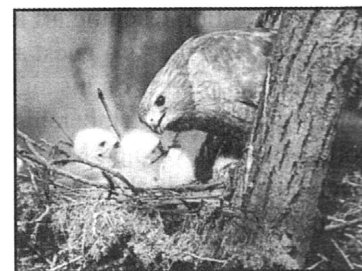
Greetings from Baby Central!

AUDUBON CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

Gina Holt

May has come and gone, and we lived to tell you about it ... it was a busy, busy month, with 70 baby raptors admitted. The number was down from the 91 admitted in 2004, so some of the "jumping beans" must have decided that staying in the nest was a better idea than bailing out!!

Of the 70 babies admitted, half were red-shouldered hawks, and we firmly believe that each red-shouldered baby counts for two of any other species! They are loud and obnoxious (good thing they're so cute) with their downy-head "punk rock" look and the more we feed them the more we have to clean up after them! Other babies admitted were Eastern screech owls, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, barred owls, barn owls, great horned owls, American kestrels, ospreys, a bald eagle and a black vulture.



Red-shouldered Hawk, photo by Maszlowski

For all of you who might want to donate to help support the Center, a Baby Bird-A-Thon was established this year. Each gift will be matched by a contribution from The Batchelor Challenge to support Audubon of Florida's revitalized strategic focus and programs. We couldn't do it without your help, and we appreciate your support and encouragement, in addition to your donations.

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey
1101 Audubon Way
Maitland, FL 32751

followed calls of the Scarlet Tanager and quickly spotted him, as well as his cousin, the Summer Tanager, who sported greenish sides from his incomplete molt. At one point, we had both males in the same glass. Awesome!

While trying to identify small birds flitting in and out of trees lining a local driveway, we saw a larger yellow bird with gray wings, white wing bars and a black throat. Further looks proved him to be a first-year male Orchard Oriole. Later on we found the adult male as well. But the find of the morning was a Common Nighthawk sleeping on a branch. He never moved while 22 people studied him and took photos.

The afternoon was spent at Jakes Landing, where the forest meets the salt marsh. Despite fairly breezy conditions, we had excellent views of both the Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Having Pete and Louise give us running commentary on how to differentiate the species made it almost easy.

At 7:00 a.m. on the final morning we met at Reed's Beach on Delaware Bay where Horseshoe Crabs come to shore to lay their eggs and bring thousands of shorebirds to the feast. The beach was roped off with yellow caution-tape, but the Laughing Gulls, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin, Short-Billed Dowitchers, Red Knots and Semipalmated Sandpipers feasted within "naked-eye" sight. Excitement rose when we heard Pete Dunne shout, "There's a Reeve in the group of Turnstones," even though most of us didn't know that a Reeve is the name of a female Ruff, a rare but regular Eurasian visitor. Scope views showed her incredibly fluffy neck, as if she were wearing an ostrich boa. Someone said, "It looks like the shorebird version of a Ruffed Grouse." So true! Another life bird to add to my list.

Then back to Jakes Landing for the pièce de résistance—three female Northern Harriers disputing a territory. The dominant female extended her legs during full-speed flight and hit the intruders, eventually forcing them out of the area. A few minutes later, we understood why. A male Northern Harrier came over the horizon with deep wing beats. As he built up speed and height, he folded his wings into his body and did somersaults, flips and rolls – much like an F-14 at an air show. We were treated to this show twice before he flew off to another field, assuming, I guess, that the female would just follow him. What a way to end a terrific workshop.

We ended up with a total of 108 species for the trip, and I added seven birds to my life list. If you can attend one of these wonderful workshops presented by CMBO, you'll be as delighted as I was. You can preview their programs at <http://www.njaudubon.org>. You don't need to be a member to join a workshop.

And, yes, I did invite Louise and her husband, Michael O'Brien, to speak to our Chapter when/if they come to Daytona Beach to promote Michael's new book on shorebird ID using the "size and structure" method

rather than plumage field marks. It's due out next year. So, keep your fingers crossed and your hearts pure. Maybe we'll get lucky and they will come to see us.

Editor's Note: The picture of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the June 2005 Pelican was shown sideways incorrectly; the bird should have been shown upright against a tree trunk. However, Willie Burns supplied a scenario that makes the picture correct and saves your editor's face: the tree blew down and the parent bird walked along the downed trunk up to the nest hole to check on the chicks.

Welcome to new members J.W. Armstrong, Margaret Baron, Hanford Bettman, Billie Birdsong, Beverly Blanchard, Jennie & Steve Blickstein, Lynn Bowen, Randy Britson, Ellie R. Cyr, Edgar L. Deighan, James F. Doan, Elly Dotson, Edward R. Eisler, Bill Elliott, John M. Farrell, James R. Flagg, Tristan Fortich, Joe Freeland, Fay Gallagher, Frances Graves, Vitalina Holm, Patricia Huston, Edward D. Kalletta, Bob Kazak, Mrs. N. Long, Carole Madison, Jere Main, Marjorie Maloney, George S. Maye, V. McNary, Suzanne McNeill, Arthur N. Morris, Ernest R. Newcomb, Nancy Niday, Richard Peterson, Philip Rosenblum, Rita Rotunda, Jean C. Royce, Alda Salem, Robert Schalk, Harold Schmetterling, Mrs. Tracy Shaw, Anne Solomon, Lynn Stackhouse, Sherman Stanley, Edward Susa, Mrs. Sophia K. Szyndlar, Wanda Terry, John W. Walker, Larry Wallberg Jeff Wedge, and Paul Williams.

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

Tuesday, July 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Lewis & Clark & Us." A film by George Sibley, who will be present to discuss the movie. Some of Sibley's other films from Gale Force Films include "Simple Gifts," "Tale of Two Counties," "Town at the Crossroads," "Phantom Future," "Changing Lanes," and "Six Fairy Tales about Growth in Florida." Sica Hall, 6:30pm.

Saturday, July 23

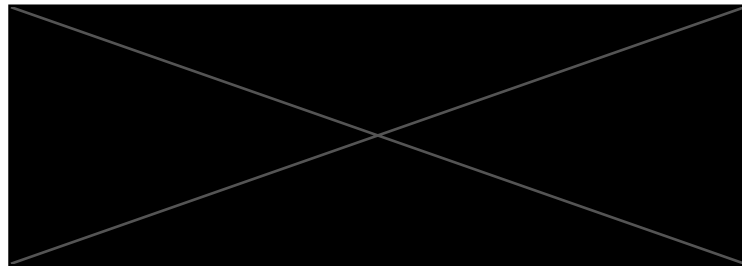
Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society Field Trip. DeLeon Springs: Wild Persimmon Trail/ pancake breakfast/ swim. Meet 7:15am at Daytona Home Depot parking lot (NW) to carpool. Or meet at the DeLeon Springs State Park entrance gate BY 8:00am. We will walk Wild Persimmon trail in the cool of the day. Then keep our 10:30am breakfast appointment at the Old Spanish Mill Restaurant. Bring water, insect repellent, swim suit, change of clothes, ID books, etc. Reservations required for Old Spanish Mill (limit 14). Contact Sonya Guidry at cell phone (386) 690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com.

THE PELICAN

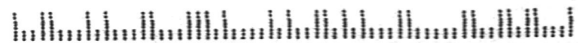


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Bird Information and Web Site

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 2005

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
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THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at 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. On the first Monday of each month. 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. 51 - NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON September 2005

REPORT FROM CANAVERAL

Willie Burns

The space shuttle returned to flight on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 at 10:39 in the morning. I was heading south on US 1 to Canaveral Seashore National Park that bright and sunny morning, up at 6 and on the road by 6:20.

The morning was hazy, with advection fog over the coast obscuring the shuttle launch tower from the Park. I have volunteered at the Park for the last twelve years, and on this day I was assigned crowd control at parking Lot 5, where access to the south is stopped during a launch by NASA's restrictions.

Lot 5 is the last parking area of five spread along five miles of beach in the North District of the Park. Then there are twelve miles of wild and deserted barrier beach with no road. Next is the South District with another five mile of paved road.

I had to stop a bunch of people from heading south. One would think a line of yellow cones and all the people to one side would be enough, but no, several wanted to have irate conversations. One young man was busily photographing me as we talked, perhaps hoping for something to sue over.

I even had to call for a Law Enforcement Ranger as a clump of people had crossed earlier and were sitting on the beach a half-mile south. They had passed after District Ranger Mike Chambers set up the cones and before I got there. Is this a major problem for anyone? Yes, NASA will close the Park entirely if we do not comply with their restriction. Mike rode an ATV down and chased them back to the boardwalk.

The beach air cleared slowly, enough to see the launch towers fading in and out in the haze. At launch time I could see ignition with its huge burst of steam as the engines fired. Water is sprayed to deaden the noise. Then the great flare of fire pushed the shuttle into the sky and over the Atlantic.

The fire faded to smoke and a puff showed separation had occurred. The boosters separated and for a short time there were three flames, then the boosters fell toward the sea. As the shuttle faded to the east the roar of the rockets arrived to drown out the excited cheers of the watchers, and quiet returned.

NASA had one of their huge high definition cameras set up at Lot 4 and flew in a helicopter after the launch to pick up the tapes. They have 90 or so of these

set up to check the condition of the shuttle, hopefully to avoid a repeat of the last disaster. Also Channel 13 had a live feed set up at Lot 5.

In between I had birds to watch, mostly Brown Pelicans "surfing" on the updrafts from the waves. There were Cardinals and a Kingbird calling. Several fishermen were trying their luck but not catching much. Least Terns were in evidence, as were a few Caspian Terns overhead. Their distinctive squawks as they fly are a sure thing even if they are too high to see or one cannot get one's binoculars focused fast enough.

Out on the Lagoon were the white blobs of Great Egrets and I'm sure the other usual suspects were nearby. After the launch an Osprey flew past on its quest for fish and many Willets were busy on the beach along with a few resident Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls.

An immature Red-shouldered Hawk was sitting on a power pole near the Visitor Center. This year there are four or five pairs of Mourning Doves nesting in some Sabal Palms nearby. They are very busy coming and going feeding their young. They seem to have several broods each year.

On the sad side for birds, one was struck by the shuttle's large fuel tank as it lifted off. We have not heard what kind it was, but it was large enough to have been a Bald Eagle. There has been a nesting pair very close to NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building for years.

The noise and turmoil of the launches do not seem to disturb the birds and wildlife much. Some are killed by the heat and blast of course, but most species seem to have adapted to the intermittent launches.

Large Alligators live very close to the pads, some as big as anyone has ever seen, close to fifteen feet long. Bobcats and the awful, destructive feral pigs are everywhere. Black Bears roam the northern portions of the island and there have been persistent reports of Florida Panther. A lot of natural species live in close proximity to the space program.

Then it was time to head home, with lunch at Mi Mexico in Bethune Beach. This restaurant is worth the trip. I got home and took a well-earned nap (at least I felt it was!).

Due to persistent demand a Halifax River Audubon OVERNIGHTER is being planned to Wakulla Springs near Tallahassee. Interested? Contact Rachel Ramsey at 637-1037.

THE GOLDEN DOG'S TAIL IS WAGGING

Willie Burns and the Golden Dog

This summer the Golden Dog has been happily wagging her tail. We were able to bring a net profit to Halifax River Audubon of \$1738.01 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. Overall profits to HRA since we started now total \$4848.46.

Sales of our Shade Grown Coffee have helped. This not only tastes good but helps preserve the environment as well. French Roast, a more robust blend, has joined our breakfast blend and de-caf coffees. There has been a slight price increase, to \$7.50 for regular and French Roast and \$8.00 for de-caf.

This year's Audubon calendars should be in by the September meeting. We still are able to sell them at a discount over the regular price. Get yours quickly before they are gone!

Our nature and children's books are still being sold. We have a few copies of the latest issue of the DeLorme Florida atlas, an excellent map that covers the entire state in detail. Stop by at the meeting and see what else we have available.

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

Twenty-five regions of the earth contain nearly half of all plant species and a third of all terrestrial vertebrate species. These important areas cover only about 1½ percent of the earth's land surface.

Only one of these special hotspots is in the United States; 70% of California north to southern parts of Oregon and south to northern Mexico. With a rare Mediterranean climate, over 2,000 plant species grow there nowhere else in the world, which includes the world's largest redwood trees. This area is home to the California condor, the mountain lion and the giant salamander. 9.7 percent of this land area is protected. It contains 12 threatened species and two endangered ones.

Other identified hotspots are: Atlantic Forest of Brazil, Caucasus, Central America, East Africa, Indonesia, Madagascar, Polynesia and Micronesia, South West Australia, and Western Ghats (mountain range) of India.

THE BIG SIT!

The 13th annual BIG SIT! will take place on Sunday, October 9th 2005. The BIG SIT! is like a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within a 24-hour period. But the unique thing about The BIG SIT! is that teams must count birds from within a 17-foot-diameter circle! It is FUN.

Anyone can play at The Big Sit! Get a gaggle of fellow bird watchers or go it alone – your results will help improve Florida's total species count! Participating teams must register prior to October 9, 2005, by visiting the Bird Watcher's Digest website, birdwatchersdigest.com.

The BIG SIT! is an annual, noncompetitive, international, birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. It was founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. For more information, to register, and to view past BIG SIT! results, visit the Bird Watcher's Digest website and look for the blue and orange BIG SIT! logo.

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

Saturday, September 10

West Volusia County Leisure Services. Canoeing on St. Johns River. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Contact 386 736-5953 for info and reservation.

Saturday, September 17

Halifax River Field Trip. Fall Bird Count. Bring lunch. (2) See article.

Monday, September 19

Halifax River Program Meeting. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm. See article.

Tuesday, September 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Lessons Learned from Designing Waterwise Landscapes" by Deborah Green. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, September 24

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society field trip. North Peninsula State Park & Flagler Beach Intracoastal Waterway Boardwalk (Greenway Trail). Meet 8:00am Publix Parking lot (NW), Granada and Williamson Blvds., Ormond Beach. Lunch at local restaurant. Contact Sonya Guidry- cell 386 690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com.

Sunday, October 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by John Roessler, 386 225-9826. (1)

Saturday, October 8

West Volusia County Leisure Services. Canoeing on Intracoastal Waterway. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Contact 386-736-5953 for reservation.

Sunday, October 9

The Big Sit! See article.

MARY KELLER, BIRD REHABILITATOR

Mary Keller now needs white paper towels, bird seed, millet sprays, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula, and cash donations for medicines, fruits and vegetables. She and her husband have not been well this year. But, she is still taking care of birds.

Mary takes care of ailing and young song birds and gets no funding from Volusia County, while the Marine Science Center cares for sea birds. The address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Holly Hill. You can call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437.

Interesting factoids from Population Connection

POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Only 0.3% of the planet's water is available for human use. Due to mismanagement, over 40% of the groundwater in the U.S. is contaminated by industrial, agricultural, and household pollution, making it extremely difficult and costly to purify.
- One U.S. citizen consumes about 30 times as much as a citizen of India. If everyone on earth lived like the average North American, it would require four more earths to provide all the material and energy.
- Americans are only 5% of the world's population, yet we consume 25% of the world's resources. Resulting social and environmental problems reverberate around the world.
- We lose one or more entire species of animal or plant life every 20 minutes – some 27,000 species a year. This rate and scale of extinction has not occurred in 65 million years.
- Although the U.S. accounts for less than 5% of the world's overall population, we produce 25% of all greenhouse-gas emissions. In 50 years the U.S. will add 114 million people and Africa 1.2 billion. Yet, it's expected that the carbon emission for the U.S.'s 114 million will be the same as for Africa's 1.2 billion.

ALBATROSS CHICKS ATTACKED BY MICE

Gough Island, "the remotest island in the world," is almost 5 miles long and 4 miles wide and is the most southerly of the Tristan da Cunha group in the South Atlantic Ocean, 1740 miles from South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The islands are an ornithologists dream with fourteen different types of petrel including the greater shearwater, the prion and the storm petrel; the rockhopper penguins; the yellow-nosed albatross and the wandering albatross. It is used as a nesting ground for 22 bird species, of which 20 are seabirds; 10 million individuals can be found there at any one time.

Until passing sealing ships moored up in the 19th Century, the birds were largely safe from predators. But mice aboard the ships have infested the islands, and grown large, partly because of the abundant new food source on which they have recently started to feed.

These "supersize" rodents are taking out one million petrels, shearwaters and albatrosses each year and putting some species in danger of extinction; the island hosts virtually the whole populations of several species. The UK Royal Society for the Protection of Birds hopes to find ways to control or even eradicate the rodents, possibly including poisons and potential diseases for mice - the equivalent of myxomatosis for rabbits.

The albatross chicks spend eight months sitting waiting for food from their parents. They are over 3 feet tall and 250 times the weight of the mice but are largely immobile and cannot defend themselves when attacked by a number of mice. They will turn around when under attack but cannot withstand such an assault.

Albatrosses are already endangered by industrial trawling when they are hooked on the longlines of fishing boats and pulled under the water to drown. About 100,000 birds are thought to be killed each year at sea. Now they are found to be in danger on land as well.

Invasive species are responsible for the greatest loss of biodiversity on islands; and are second only to habitat loss globally as a major cause of extinctions.

Sources: Jonathan Amos, BBC News Science Reporter and The South Atlantic Tour

A Little End Of Summer Fun

BIRD RHYME PUZZLE

Courtesy of LieCoot from The Wasatch Audubon Society of Utah

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

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

Answers on page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

It is Monday, August 15th, as I write this. In today's News-Journal, Pamela Hasterok's column is about attending the Daytona Beach Visioning Committee meeting the previous Wednesday night. Gwen Azama-Edwards, Zone 4 Commissioner and candidate for mayor, had called me to ask that I participate in this committee as a representative of the environmental community. Ms. Hasterok's impressions of the meeting are wildly out of sync with mine.

The meeting began on time and was as far from what I had expected as it could be. Seated at each of 8 round tables were 10 or 12 people from a broad cross section of the community. Each table had a detailed map of the city, including newly annexed areas far west of I-95, covering its surface. We began by answering 7 thought provoking questions relative to growth and our expectations about it. We were given about 8 minutes to do this; some answers required 2 sentences. Then, with a minimum of explanation as to what was expected, we began an association quiz wherein we were asked to rate pictures that flashed on the screen at the front of the room: 180+ pictures. Many of the people at my table and others groped around trying to keep up with the flow of information and finally, half way through the exercise, began to understand what was expected of them.

We then took what stretched into a 15-minute break. This was followed by discussions of what we had just done and what we were about to do. At around 9:30 we began another exercise. This one involved placing large pieces of tracing paper over the map on our table tops and using a variety of colored markers and blocks of different shapes, sizes and colors to locate where we wanted to see growth occur and what kind of growth we thought maximized the potential of the chosen areas. To be done properly this exercise should have taken at least 90 minutes. We were given 30. And that's one of my chief complaints about the work of this committee. If we're to believe the statements made at the opening of the meeting, the actions we took that night could have a lasting bearing on the development patterns in Daytona Beach over the next 25 years. Shouldn't we at least take time to make rational decisions? There were people at my table who couldn't even find Nova Road and US 92 on the map and yet we're given 30 minutes to make decisions that could be used to plan the growth of our area for decades to come.

Of course, my chief objection to the whole process is that it assumes we all want growth and 30,000 new residents in Daytona Beach in the next 25 years. Our moderator's opening comments expressed condolences that we're currently in a static growth pattern barely keeping up with the demographics of population birth and death cycles. Unlike the boosterism evidenced in

Ms. Hasterok's account of the evening, I left feeling depressed and angered that we were rushed through what I thought should be a far more deliberative process. There are 8 more meetings that are part of this Visioning process. I hope there's more time for thought and less of the slap dash approach I saw in this first meeting.

A quick update on Ivory-billed Woodpeckers that may have slipped past your view. The 3 biologists who were about to publish their criticisms of the announced rediscovery of the birds quickly turned around and accepted the findings of the original team after a number of sound recordings made in the area convinced them of the birds' existence. Their objections made big headlines. Their eventual acceptance of the evidence did not. This was science at its best, doubting and testing the hypothesis to come up with an answer.

IDENTIFYING BIRDS AT CITY PARK

Glade Koch

What are the birds on the park on the east side of Beach Street? The J. Saxton Lloyd Riverfront Park extends south from Fairview to Orange Avenue and it is here that Halifax River Audubon Chapter's David Hartgrove and Glade Koch assisted this summer in identifying birds for bird markers.

They were asked to help by the Daytona Beach Partnership Association, an organization comprised primarily of downtown business as well as Old Daytona District owners. Rob Edwards, their Executive Director is shepherding a \$50,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Water Fronts of Florida Grant Program. Michael Brothers, Marine Science Center, also gave valuable assistance to this \$6000 portion of the DEP grant.

In November the interpretation should be in place. Bald Eagle and Osprey diving into the Halifax. Little Blue Herons and Great Egrets at the edge of cattails. Ibis, Red Wings, swallows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers in fall and winter! A new place for us to visit.

THE FALL MIGRATION COUNT

The Internet has already been filled with reports of migrants passing through Florida. On Saturday, September 17th, we'll meet at City Island at 7:00 a.m. to venture forth and try to count as many of the birds as possible.

As always, this is an all day event. But we can easily work with you to get you back to your car if you need to leave before that final tally at the Port Orange Bridge. So, bring your lunch, your binoculars and your keen eyes and ears and we'll have a great time. And please, if you're going, call me so I can begin team assignments. Thanks!

David Hartgrove. 386-788-2630

September Program

THE DUCKS OF MERRITT ISLAND

The sight and sound of several thousand waterfowl filling the sky and gracefully settling down on a quiet marsh is an experience to savor and remember. Each winter, freezing temperatures force the southward migration of millions of waterfowl. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is one link in the chain of refuges established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along ancestral migration routes. These areas provide feeding areas, rest stops and over-wintering grounds.

Merritt Island is one of the key wintering areas in Florida and supports winter populations of 50-70,000 ducks and 100,000 coots. Join us on September 19 when Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet will provide a narrative for a slide presentation of various ducks that winter in the Merritt Island area. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. The slide presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

Tomoka State Park Bird Banding Station

SECOND SEASON STARTS AUGUST 16

Meret Wilson

Last year, despite hurricanes, rain and many days of high winds, we still banded 291 birds. Probably the most thrilling catches, though we did not band them, were 3 ~~Ruby-throated Hummingbirds~~. Other species included: Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Black and White Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Pine Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-pewee, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, American Robin, Mourning Dove, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, House Wren, Eastern Towhee, Gray Catbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-eyed Vireo, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Many more species were identified overhead.

As you can see, even with limited banding days we have started a nice bird-in-hand list for the park. Banding will be Tuesday through Friday from one half hour before sunrise until about 11 AM. The park will admit you free of charge if you are coming specifically to visit the station. You will need to contact Meret Wilson for the gate number if you plan to come before 8 AM.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the station please contact me, Meret Wilson, at mileybug@aol.com for specific information. If you would like to help make bird bags we could use another 50.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY - OCTOBER 20-22

Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife and habitats. Register by September 28 and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 25, this all-inclusive package is \$125.

The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. Contact the Holiday Inn directly at 1-800-206-2747 to make your hotel accommodations.

Assembly participants receive a reduced rate of \$89.99/night, up to 4 in a room. The daily resort fee has been waived and parking is free. Oceanfront suites and lofts can be reserved, if available, at prevailing rates. **Special rate is valid through September 28.**

Field Trips will be offered, courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. Look for detailed information in the upcoming *Florida Naturalist* as well as on-line later this month www.audubonofflorida.org. See you there!

Day camp for grownups - way up AIA!

EXPLORING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The next Exploring our Environment Class will be October 2005. 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, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Florida State Parks 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 October 3-7, 2005. Days will run from 9 am to 4 pm. The program will be held at the GTMNERR - Marineland office 9741 Ocean Shore Blvd. For more information or to register, please contact Maia at 904-824-4564. Space is limited for the class and we do expect to fill the class before September. A flyer and registration form can also be downloaded from <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm>. (Look under the Education page.)

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

THE PELICAN

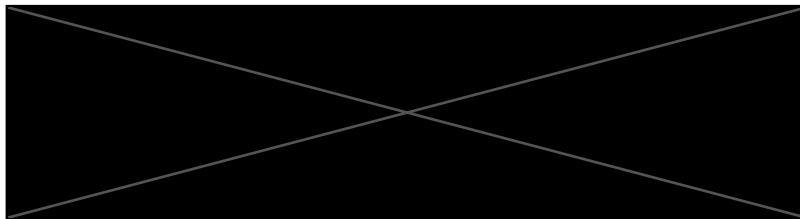


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SEPTEMBER 2005

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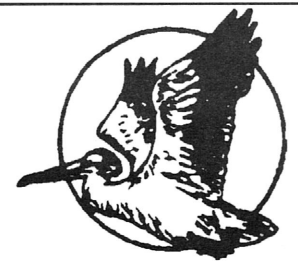
For Your Information - All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through May, at 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. On the first Monday of each month. 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	(561) 340-0079
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON October 2005

September 19 Program Meeting

THE DUCKS OF MERRITT ISLAND

Paula Wehr

Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, began his presentation by telling us how the complexion of birds in Volusia County has changed since he came here in 1969. For example, Eurasian Collared-doves are seen here now, but were a rarity when he first arrived. When he first came to Florida, he never saw Wild Turkeys. Last week he saw 46 of them in nearby pastures. On Saturday, he found a single Seaside Sparrow in Ponce Inlet. Historical data shows that in the 1910's through 1930's, Seaside Sparrows routinely nested in the spartina grass that lined the Halifax River down to New Smyrna Beach. In the 1920's, mangroves began taking hold in that same area along the river and by the 1950's there was very little spartina grass left. Without the grass, the Seaside Sparrow no longer found appropriate nesting habitat and moved to other areas.

Even though we humans may not think it feels like fall yet, birds have begun their fall migration. Many shorebirds have already begun passing through. Blue-winged Teal have arrived at Ponce Inlet and Lake Woodruff. Michael showed slides of the four flyways in the United States, comparing the areas of highest density of migrating birds. Relative to some of the other flyways, the Atlantic flyway has less dense populations of wintering migrants in Florida than in other states. Many migrants stop in the coastal Carolina area. The National Wildlife Refuge system (including areas such as Merritt Island) is crucial in providing appropriate wintering grounds for many of the migrants who come to Florida.

Michael then provided tips for identifying ducks and other waterfowl. He spoke about using silhouettes, sound, behavior and habitat to aid in identification when visibility doesn't allow us to use color and field marks. For example, ducks can be divided into dabbling and diving categories. Dabbling ducks, such as Mottled Ducks, Pintails and Green-winged or Blue-winged Teal, feed in shallow marshes and ponds by dipping their bills into the water. They are often seen in the upside-down position with only their bottoms visible above the water. Diving ducks like Red-breasted or Hooded Mergansers are found in open bays and rivers where they feed on fish, mollusks and aquatic plants. He showed photos and drawings of different ducks, which can be identified at

great distances by a single field mark, such as a white stripe. Knowing behavior of the birds also aids in identification, even from long distances. Large rafts of dark birds floating together just beyond the breakers at the beach are most probably scoters. If you can only see the silhouette of a medium-large duck with a strikingly long spatulate bill, you know it's a Northern Shoveler, even if you can't see any color.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

Saturday, October 1

"Save the Loop" Festival at Tomoka State Park. Marine Science Center "Wings on the Wind". (See article.) **HRA** will man booths at both events.

Sunday, October 2

Halifax River Audubon Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by John Roessler, 386 225-9826. (1)

Saturday, October 8

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society Fall Native Plant Sale. Dunlawton Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens, Herbert Street, Port Orange from 10am to 2pm. For more information contact Elizabeth Flynn at 673-9543.

Saturday, October 8

West Volusia County Leisure Services. Canoeing on Intracoastal Waterway. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Contact 736-5953 for reservation.

Sunday, October 9

The **BIG SIT!**

Monday, October 17

Halifax River Audubon Program Meeting. "Eagle Watch Update" by Lynda White, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, October 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program. "Bonsai with Natives" by Jason Schley. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm

Sunday, October 29

Halifax River Audubon Field Trip. Lyonia Preserve, DeLand. Meet at east end of Courthouse Annex parking lot, City Island, Daytona Beach. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler, 386 225-9826. Bring snack and water. (3)

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

At our first of the season board meeting it was suggested that I give an update on several of the environmental issues we're working on as we try to save what we can of our local birding habitat. Of course, some of the news isn't too good. The Leffler annexation, which is a 5,000-acre piece of property annexed by Deltona, was challenged in court. It's a long story but for a municipality to annex property into its city limits, it must be an adjoining piece of property. The Leffler tract was contiguous to Deltona only through a tiny strip of property that was purchased for the express purpose of circumventing the law. These 5,000 acres is largely wetlands and is in the middle of what the County has designated as its Conservation Corridor. We, through our affiliation with the Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler, have retained an attorney and filed a "friend of the court" petition in the 5th District Court of Appeals. If this annexation were to go unchallenged, it would open the door to even more egregious abuses. The wheels of justice turn slowly. We're awaiting the outcome of the appeal.

Yesterday afternoon (9/14) I sat in the conference room at the County Attorney's office while we had yet another attempt at mediation over the issue of extending Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40, along the east side of the Tomoka River. Because this road extension wasn't on the County's thoroughfare map in the Comprehensive Plan, it required a Comp Plan Amendment. This meant not only an opinion from County staff on the advisability of the amendment (they recommended rejecting the amendment) but a vote by the County Council to transmit the amendment request to the Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee. This was the one where the Council voted originally to reject the amendment. Then, after all of the public who vehemently opposed the amendment had gone home, one of the Council members asked to reconsider the amendment (perfectly legal) and the vote changed from 4 to 3 against to 4 to 3 in favor. Needless to say, speculation on the reasons for this change of heart was all over the place.

On a cold February day I walked the length of this property with members of the Native Plant Society and Wetlands Alert. We were determined to challenge this amendment after seeing just how beautiful this stretch of the river is. We have now attended four mediation sessions between County staff, DCA, attorneys for the developers and our attorney, Dennis Bayer, who's doing this *pro bono*. We get to sit in the room but we can only offer comments through our attorney. As has been mentioned in past articles on this, the DCA staff seems to change every time we meet. So we're almost back at

square one, except that they now accept the County staff's opinion that this road is needed. This is the same County staff that said the road wasn't needed and that advised against its construction. We are not optimistic about the outcome of this since DCA seems inclined to now approve the amendment. It's one of the few they've ever denied. We're waiting to see what happens.

For several years now we've been trying to determine which government entity has jurisdiction over the islands in the Halifax River. We have been sent from one agency to another to no avail. Finally we were pointed toward the Florida Inland Navigation District. Sure enough, FIND does administer the islands but they have no enforcement branch. I finally got an e-mail address for the executive director and sent him a note outlining our concerns about what's listed on navigation charts as "Island #3", the rookery island just south of the Port Orange Bridge. Often referred to as "Pelican Island" or "Seabird Island" by locals, this environmental treasure is endangered by boaters landing and turning their dogs loose and by wakes from bigger boats cruising the Intra Coastal Waterway. Their wakes cause erosion along the island's east side. We're not sure what we're going to do about the erosion but the issue of declaring the island a sanctuary just became a whole lot easier. It turns out that we've spent the last three years trying to reinvent the wheel. In February of 1960, 45 years ago, the island was designated the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary by FIND and responsibility for its care was assigned to what was then the Florida Audubon Society. I have already received a note from Port Orange City Manager, Ken Parker, asking for a meeting to see how the City can assist us in implementing the resolution making the island a sanctuary. We couldn't ask for a better outcome.

WAKULLA SPRINGS TRIP

Halifax River Audubon is planning an overnight trip to Wakulla Springs State Park on February 25, 2006. "A popular 'birding Mecca' the park offers hiking, bicycle and nature trails and swimming opportunities. Narrated river cruises provide glimpses of animals in their native habitats." Wakulla Springs Lodge is rustic but comfortable with freshly prepared meals served in their dining room.

All-inclusive price will be approximately \$150.00. Space is limited -- If interested, contact Rachel Ramsey at 637-1037.

THANKS to Novetta Duffer, Lois Pauchey, and John and Fran Carr, our hosts at our September Program Meeting, for the delicious refreshments.

ATTENTION

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON CHAPTER MEMBER

Be sure to make your plans NOW to attend this Festival that is close by us in Titusville. It is one of the very best in Florida. You can find out about it by logging on to their website <http://www.nbbd.com/fly/>



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and

The Brevard Nature Alliance
present the 9th Annual

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

November 16 - 20, 2005

October Program Meeting

EAGLEWATCH UPDATE

Paula Wehr

Audubon of Florida coordinates a vast statewide volunteer effort to monitor Bald Eagle nests in Florida. Audubon EagleWatch is a volunteer nest-watch program with 250 volunteers in 39 Florida counties watching 265 active nests. With one of the nation's largest Bald Eagle populations, Florida is an important part of the recovery plan for America's national symbol. The program is designed to educate volunteer participants in general eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nests. This data is compiled and used to augment the Mid-Winter Annual Bald Eagle Nesting Survey and to document urban and rural eagle nesting activity.

Lynda White, Coordinator for the Audubon EagleWatch program, will present an update on the activities of this important program at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 17, at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Be sure to come early—refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m.

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

The Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is hosting a Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, October 8 from 10am to 2pm. The event will take place at The Dunlawton Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens, on Herbert Street between Nova and Ridgewood Roads in Port Orange.

Fall-blooming native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers will be on sale as well as a huge selection of books on native landscaping, planting for wildlife, seaside gardens, xeriscaping, wildflower field guides, and butterfly gardening, a FREE children's activity table with crafts, games, and give-aways, FREE plant and planting information, and tours of the gardens.

For more information contact Elizabeth Flynn at 673-9543.

SPOT ANY UNUSUAL OR RARE BIRDS?

Michael Brothers, our September program speaker and Director of the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet, is working on a list of "Birds of Volusia County." He asked our Chapter members to please contact him at Marine Science Center 304-5545 if we see strange or rare birds in the County.

HRA BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

Board members at the first Board meeting of the 2005-06 Chapter year summed up some of the financial activities of the past year. Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported that our checking account balance is \$8,449.77, a great deal of which is due to a successful Bird-A-Thon, Willie Burns' Golden Dog sales, and sales events at local fairs. Paid Chapter membership is 493.

Conservation issues were reported by David Hartgrove: Tomoka Farms Road Extension; new Baptist Church site near the headwaters of the Tomoka River; and protection of the small rookery island south of the Dunlawton Bridge.

Action Items:

- Board voted to join the Save the Loop Committee, an organization to preserve the roadways looping around Tomoka State and Bulow Parks. The loop is an especially beautiful ride at risk from development. It starts in Ormond Beach north on Beach Street, loops on Old Dixie Highway, Walter Boardman Lane, Highbridge Road across the inland waterway, then on John Anderson Drive and back to Granada Boulevard.
- Board voted to donate \$200 to Save the Loop Committee (the Save the Loop organization plans a rally including participation of the Birds of Prey Center. \$150 of this donation will reimburse Birds of Prey Center for their expenses).
- Board voted to increase Board Meetings from ten to twelve.
- Board voted to conduct a Program Meeting in June.
- Board voted to discontinue our membership in the Museum of Arts and Sciences.
- Board moved to ask Ray Scory to conduct the Beginning Birding Class. (Ray agreed and will teach the class starting October 18.)

Other business

Rachel Ramsey reported on the reopening of Riverbend Nature Park. Rosemary Cole reported that she would begin to recruit teachers for Audubon Adventures with help from David Hartgrove and Paula Wehr. We discussed how we would keep our birdfeeder at Sugar Mill Gardens refilled.

Welcome to new members Hazel Bowen, Dianne M. Gilpatrick, Patricia J. Guy, Virginia (Ginny) T. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Kain, Fred and Karen Mosher, Carol Navarra, Mary Nilsson, William Rispoli, Harry L. Ruppenthal, Barbara Stumper, Mary Templeton, and Charlotte Van Horn.

Migratory Bird Festival

WINGS ON THE WIND

The Marine Science Center at the Davies Lighthouse Park in Ponce Inlet is presenting a 3-day festival celebrating bird migration. For more information contact the Marine Science Center at 304-5545.

Events At The Center

Friday, September 30:

6am – Noon Lake Apopka Restoration Area Tour. Includes guided tour through the private restoration area by Florida's foremost bird experts. Leave from and return to the Marine Science Center. \$45.

Saturday October 1:

- **10am-4pm. Festival.** Naturalist exhibits, crafters, food, children's crafts and games, tours of the Center and Bird Sanctuary.
- **7am –Noon. Guided Tour to the Smyrna Dunes.** Tour Ponce shoreline and Disappearing Island with noted expert Wes Biggs. Tour will involve travel by van and boat and includes snack. \$25.
- **10am – 11am. Photography class.** At Ponce Inlet at the Lighthouse Education Room. Includes admission to the lighthouse. \$10.
- **11am – 12am. What To Do Then You Find An Injured Bird Seminar.** At Lighthouse Education Room. Includes admission to the lighthouse and guided tour afterwards. \$7
- **1pm. Kayak Tour.** Includes use of kayak and a snack. An adult must accompany children under 15. (Meet at Marine Science Center to travel by van to the Wilbur Board House.) \$35
- **1pm. Butterfly Gardening Seminar.** At the Lighthouse Education Room. Includes admission to the lighthouse and a guided tour afterwards. \$7
- **2pm. Introduction To Bird Watching Seminar.** At the lighthouse Education Room. Includes admission to the lighthouse and a guided tour afterwards. \$7
- **4pm. Bird Release.** Location to be announced.
- **5pm – 9pm. Sunset Reception and Cruise.** Enjoy appetizers on the private pier at Inlet Harbour Restaurant. At 6:30 board boat for a leisurely cruise, watch the birds fly into Seabird Island and the sunset. Return to Inlet Harbour. \$35.

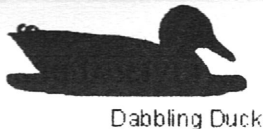
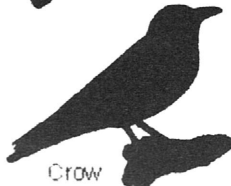
Sunday, October 2:

9am all day. Pelagic Bird Tour. Boat trip with four expert birders. SOLD OUT. Call to be placed on waiting list. \$100.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Presents

BEGINNER BIRD WATCHING CLASS



Learn how to identify birds, how to find birds, how to develop birding skills, how to improve your binocular use and many other birding facts, by joining our class for fun, information and fellowship.

To register, call **Ray Scory** at **386-763-4260**.

Cost: \$35.00 payable to **Halifax River Audubon**, due the night of the first class.

Dates: Classroom instruction will be held on Tuesday evenings, **October 18, October 25 and November 1.**

Time: 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Place: Daytona Beach Shores Community Center, 3048 S. Atlantic Avenue. Park behind the building and enter the door marked "**Activity Room.**" The driveway into the parking lot is directly opposite Oceans II high rise building.

Birding field trips to practice what we learn will be held on Saturday morning following the evening class; i.e.: Saturday, October 22, October 29 and November 5 at 7:30 a.m. Locations will be announced at the end of each class.

Bring your **binoculars** to the class as well as to the field trip.

Class size is limited to 25, so sign up early. Classes are being held in the evening to accommodate those who are working or in school, as well as retirees. You do not have to be a member of Halifax River Audubon to attend.

All members of Halifax River Audubon are invited to join us on the birding trips.

THE PELICAN



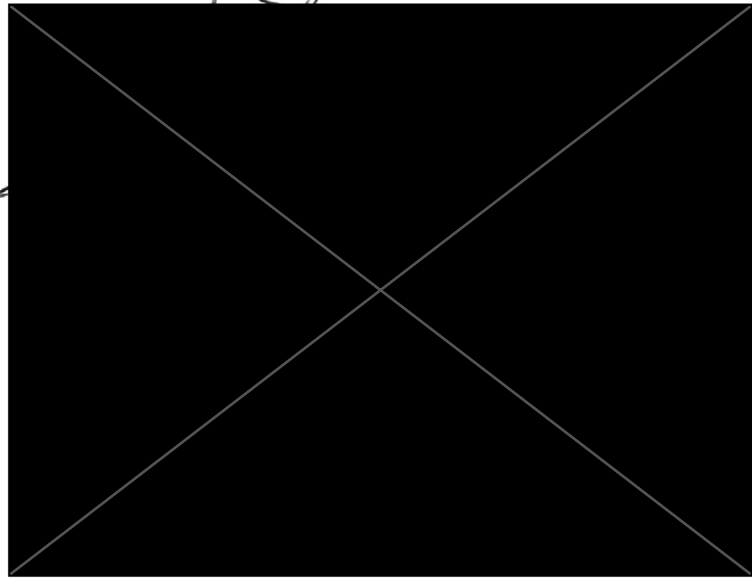
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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OCTOBER 2005

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Open	Education		
Kevin Doxstater	Field Trips	763-4260	kevdox@mindspring.com
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Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

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

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of the newsletter

The Pelican by

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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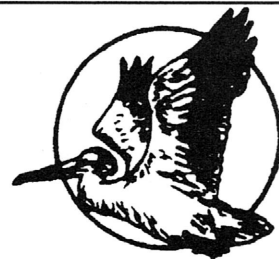
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through June, 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. On the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

Support Our Songbird Rehabilitator - Mary Keller needs white paper towels, bird seed, millet sprays, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula, and cash donations for medicines, fruits and vegetables. Her address is 1216 Deneece Terrace, Daytona Beach, 32117. You may also call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON November 2005

CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2005

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking.

(2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path.

Thursday, November 3

Flagler Audubon Society Program Meeting. "GTM Estuarine Reserve" by Richard Gleeson. State and local policy issues. Meet at Flagler Hospital Meeting Room A or B, SR100 west of I95. 7pm.

Friday, November 5

West Volusia County Leisure Services. Canoeing on DeLeon Springs. 9am-1pm. \$15 fee includes canoe. Call 386-736-5953 for info and reservation.

Friday, Sunday November 5-6

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park. Call 407-644-5700.

Saturday, November 6

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge, north side. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 4:00pm. Led by David Hartgrove, 386 788-2630. (1)

Saturday, November 12

Flagler Audubon Society field trip. Princess Place & Pellicer Creed. Bring lunch. Meet at Princess Place parking lot 9:30am. For directions call 1-386-446-1906 or 1-386-437-0550.

Sunday, November 15

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Bonsai with Natives" by Jason Schley. Visit Schley's Bonzai & Supply between 5 and 6 pm at 1080A Ridgewood Ave. Holly Hill (close to Sica Hall) then meet for the program at Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Sunday, November 15

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Wekiva State Park. Contact Vivian Taylor at 734-1390.

Monday to Sunday, November 16-20

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, sponsored by Space Coast Audubon. Titusville. For list of activities log on to <http://www.nbbd.com/fly/> or spacecoastfestival.com.

Monday, November 17

Orange Audubon Society program meeting. "The Ocala/Wekiva Conservation Project." Keith Schue. Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room, 7:00 pm. 1920 North Forest Ave. Orlando. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Saturday, November 19

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Brevard County: Riverbreeze Park, Seminole Rest, Oak Hill area & maybe Shilo. Call Gail Domroski 428-0447.

Saturday, November 19

Orange Audubon Society field trip. Driving trip to Zellwood. Guided trip of the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. 407-644-7850.

Sunday, November 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. Sugar Mill Garden. "Christmas in the Garden." 1-4 pm.

Sunday, November 20

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club field trip. Boat trip on Indian River Lagoon. 3:00-5:30pm. Trip fee: \$12.50. Limit 40. Reservations required. Contact Sonya Guidry: 386-690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com

Tuesday, November 22

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. "Scrub Jays" by Bonnie Cary. Woman's Club of DeLand, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30 pm. For information call Laura Cash, 626-2329.

Monday, November 21

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Beautiful Nature, Beautiful Music" by Kevin Doxstater, Natural Visions and HRA member. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Thursday, December 1

Flagler Audubon Society program meeting. "Bike Trails and Birding - How They Coexist" by Linda Crider. Flagler Hospital Meeting Room A or B, SR100 just west of I95. 7pm.

Friday, December 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge north side. 8:00am. Led by John Carr, 386 255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 3

Halifax River Field Trip. Same as previous day.

MARY KELLER NEEDS SUPPLIES - She needs white paper towels, bird seed, millet sprays, Kaytee Exact Baby Bird Formula, and cash donations for medicines, fruits and vegetables. Her address is 1216 Denece Terrace, Daytona Beach, 32117, or you may call Pat Mihalic at 767-9437 for pickup.

Program Meeting – November 21

BEAUTIFUL NATURE, BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

HRA’s own favorite son, Kevin Doxstater, will present a program of magnificent photos of nature set to classical music at our November 21 meeting. A native Californian, Kevin pursued many different hobbies, but all of them included his camera. Following a move to Colorado, he became a serious hobbyist with a darkroom in his home. The local scenic beauty was his usual subject. In the late 1980’s, Kevin moved to Florida to photograph auto racing. As computer technology advanced, he became involved in digital photography and made a career change. One of his new clients was a bird photographer whose work inspired Kevin. He continued as a week-end birder until he saw his first Bald Eagle. That’s when his hobby became a passion and photographing auto racing was limited to a couple of events per year.

In 2004 Kevin’s photo of two courting Laughing Gulls won him his first cover – on National Wildlife magazine, no less! This year his photo of a Long-Billed Curlew will be published in the December/January issue of National Wildlife magazine.

Don’t miss this beautiful, educational and entertaining presentation. Join us at Sica Hall for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Kevin’s presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Action Item: Board moved to buy a mist net for Meret Wilson not to cost more than \$100 unless we have further Board approval. Meret will use the net to catch and band birds at Tomoka State Park.

Other Business:

Treasurer Ramsey reported a checking account balance of \$7,519.30. Membership Chair Carr reported Chapter membership of just under 500.

A check for \$100 will be sent to the Volusia-Flagler Environmental Council to help with attorney fees regarding the Leffler Appeal.

HRA participation in events at Tomoka State Park “Celebrate the Loop Day” and the Marine Science Fair was successful. Board will be seeking to locate an inexpensive give-away gift for children at future events and asks for suggestions from members.

The Volusia County fall migratory count totaled 137 bird species and 17,352 individuals.

Conservation Chair Hartgrove reported on findings regarding the island south of Dunlawton Bridge. See Conservation Notes in this issue.

V-P Shaddix reported that plans are made to redo our Chapter bird feeder at Sugar Mill Gardens so squirrels and raccoons won’t invade it.

Corresponding Secretary Wehr announced she has completed our application for membership in Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG). We will be participating in a quarterly bird count at Faver Dykes State Park in St. Johns County at a time chosen by the park services.

Paula will also be sending out letters to prospective sponsors of HRA and *The Pelican*.

We will participate in “Christmas in the Garden” at Sugar Mill Gardens on November 20th (see calendar).

Recording Secretary Robinson will follow up on our commitment with the Tomoka Regional Science Fair on January 21.

DID YOU MISS THE EARLIER INVITATION?

WHAT Overnight field trip
WHERE Wakulla Springs (with a stop at Ichetucknee Springs for a picnic lunch on the way there and a stop at St. Marks NWR on the way back)
WHEN February 25, 2006
HOW Together on a bus
WHY Birds, Nature, History, Fun, Camaraderie
HOW MUCH Approximately \$150.00
CONTACT Rachel Ramsey ASAP at 637-1037

- The Seminole word “Wakulla” means “strange and mysterious waters.”
- Ponce DeLeon visited the spring twice looking for the Fountain of Youth. During his second trip, in 1521, local Indians killed him with an arrow.
- The spring is a pre-ice age sinkhole that is connected to an underground cave.
- The spring is one of the world’s largest and deepest freshwater springs. Diving teams have descended 180 feet to the spring opening, then into underground tunnels. After many miles of exploring, sometimes as deep as 360 feet, they found no end and exploration continues.
- The greatest outflow of water ever measured at the spring was almost 860,000 gallons per minute, in 1973. That’s over 1.2 billion gallons a day. The spring averages 250 to 400 thousand gallons of water a minute.
- Several movies were shot in the Park, including “Tarzan’s Secret Treasure,” starring Johnny Weissmuller as Tarzan and Maureen O’Sullivan as Jane. Other films partly shot there were “Creature from the Black Lagoon” and “Airport 77”.
- Almost 200 bird species have been found in the park, among them Limpkins and Purple Gallinules.
- A three-mile, forty-minute boat tour on the Wakulla River allows you to see wildlife up close.

FORT DESOTO TRIP

We are going to Ft. DeSoto for an extended birding trip. Put these dates on your calendar: April 27 – April 29. We'll leave from Daytona at 8 am on the 27th and return Saturday night April 29. That means another extra 24 hours to bird! Cost will be around \$225 each and includes 5 meals, two overnights and all transportation costs. You can't beat that!

Welcome to new members Helen Antonio, Elise H. Armstrong, Juliet E. Bain, Elizabeth Bertrand, Margaret Brayman, Douglas Brown, Ruth Burgess, James Carlin, Alan Cataldo, Vaughn Cooper, C.W. Ebbert, Anita Estrada, Janet Falknor, Anita Gallentine, Dianne M. Gilpatrick, Thomas Haines, Jo and Wayne Hardee, Jackie Harrington, Maggie Heffner, John M. Hodson, Ms Judy T. Hogan, David E. Horrigan, Hannah Hovious, Beverly J. Markel, Fred and Karen Mosher, Mrs. Jack H. Mosman, Ms Kathleen Muir, Marcia Padalik, Sharon Phelps, Albert Seyforth, Carol Smith, Everett D. Stout, Red Sullivan, Gertrud Uppgard, and Dieter Zimmermann.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT SOLAR

from Lee Bidgood, SE Volusia Audubon Society
newsletter *The Skimmer*, October 2005

Some people and nations are taking constructive actions to expand the use of solar power, the Sunshine State's best renewable energy source.

The second solar Decathlon will be held in Washington DC on October 7-15. Teams from 18 colleges and Universities will compete in building the most attractive and livable house powered entirely by the sun. Houses will be judged in ten categories. Since spring 2003, student teams have been working to design and build their solar homes, then dismantle them for shipment to Washington DC and reassembly on the capital mall.

This year 16 teams are from the US, including Puerto Rico, along with a Canadian team and one from Spain. This year Florida has an entrant, Florida International University of Miami. Solar homes must provide electricity to power all the usual home appliances and also provide power for a plug in electric vehicle used for local errands. After the contest, solar houses are shipped back to the schools for reassembly, generally for use as solar technology classrooms.

Another encouraging solar event was held recently in Orlando. The International Solar Energy Society (ISES) celebrated its 50th anniversary at its biennial conference in Orlando on August 6th to 12th. Over a thousand visitors came from a dozen nations including UN officials and CEOs of solar equipment producers.

Some 76 booths exhibited the latest solar advances. The Utility Commission of New Smyrna Beach shared a booth with the Lakeland Electric municipal utility. I found that listening to technical presentations and visiting many of the booths was good medicine to counteract negative feelings about Florida's future.

Systems for solar power are here and improving constantly, but are still expensive. Our government would be well-advised to invest more taxpayer dollars in subsidizing solar systems. This would save dollars otherwise spent repairing tragic messes caused by unrestrained global heating.

FLORIDA RARE BIRD ALERT SITE

Inactive for months, a new *Florida Rare Bird Alert Site* has been established. It can be reached by using Google, and perhaps others. It is slow, so be patient. The address is long, so save it.
<http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/flrba.html>

NEW INTERNET DATA FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

From Lynn Teneffoss, lteneffoss@audubon.org
[Chapter and State Office Interactive Maps](#)

The new pages can be accessed at
<http://www.audubon.org/states/index.php> From there, a pull-down menu connects users to updated pages of contact information for every Audubon entity in each state, while the sidebar provides access to a similar locator for Centers at
http://www.audubon.org/states/centers_sanctuaries.php.

[Large map of the United States](#)

Clicking <http://www.audubon.org/states/flashMap.php> brings up a large map of the United States, allowing you to select individual states by clicking on that state or selecting it via a pull-down box. Easy to navigate state maps feature geographically located, interactive graphics that offer instant links to Chapter, State or Center contact information. By using the tools provided, users may enlarge the map and pan to a specific area. In addition, by layering on cities and roads, website visitors can map a route to their nearest Audubon Center or other facility.

We encourage you to explore these new features.

“The increasing acidity of the oceans is terrifying. The ocean's pH has always been above 8.2. It is now at 8.09. If it drops below 7.9, calcium carbonate dissolves. By 2100 the coral reefs, the bottom of the food chain, may be jelly.”

William McDonough,
speaker at Sierra Club Summit,
quoted by Alexa Ross in *Tumucuan* newsletter
October-November 2005.

Volusia County Fall Bird Count

There were no counts in 2001 and 2004 due to weather conditions.

1999	2000	2002	2003	2005	Bird Name
12	40	11	9	18	Grebe, Pied-billed
		1	7		Pelican, White
					Gannet, Northern
123	914	602	1150	1203	Pelican, Brown
25	73	47	18	199	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
50	41	61	60	42	Anhinga
		1			Bittern, American
		2			Bittern, Least
45	117	52	43	52	Heron, Great Blue
185	203	260	155	356	Egret, Great
196	263	414	170	146	Egret, Snowy
38	87	100	83	43	Heron, Little Blue
21	41	60	21	27	Heron, Tricolored
4	5	7	7	12	Egret, Reddish
2493	1430	1760	1901	1019	Egret, Cattle
16	32	24	4	8	Heron, Green
		3	2		Night-heron, Black-crowned
2	8	2	8	3	Night-heron, Yellow-crowned
2459	629	1052	886	364	Ibis, White
11	29	162	62	63	Ibis, Glossy
7			1	6	Roseate Spoonbill
90	17	83	56	33	Stork, Wood
				1	Goose, Canada
x	x	54	108	66	Duck, Muscovy
24	21	12	10	42	Duck, Wood
2	22	1	12	12	Duck, Mottled
19	9	85	45	26	Mallard
	69	84		1	Teal, Blue-winged
1					Duck, Ring-necked
	1				Scaup, Lesser
1847	233	449	432	495	Vulture, Black
401	422	149	215	396	Vulture, Turkey
48	105	61	69	51	Osprey
			1		Kite, Swallow-tailed
32	15	18	27	15	Eagle, Bald
1	1	1	2	2	Harrier, Northern
1	3		5	2	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
	1	3		2	Hawk, Cooper's
47	31	54	63	52	Hawk, Red-shouldered
		2			Hawk, Broad-winged
11	14	7	5	8	Hawk, Red-tailed
26	7	5	5	3	Kestrel, American
					Merlin
	1				Falcon, Peregrine

97	4	41	26	72	Turkey, Wild
10	7	24	1		Bobwhite, Northern
	16	2	4	3	Rail, Clapper
		1			Rail, King
					Sora
3		2			Gallinule, Purple
48	69	95	77	126	Moorhen, Common
2	12	5	2		Coot, American
3	2			1	Limpkin
59	72	107	121	60	Crane, Sandhill
	2				Crane, Whooping
5	30	32	36	36	Plover, Black-bellied
		4		27	Plover, Wilson's
2	302	61	101	265	Plover, Semipalmated
		4	2	12	Plover, Piping
26	28	37	60	44	Killdeer
3	1			1	Oystercatcher, American
12				1	Avocet, American
1					Yellow-legs, Greater
				1	Yellow-legs, Lesser
			1		Sandpiper, Solitary
19	50	151	68	221	Willet, Eastern
4	1		3	4	Sandpiper, Spotted
				2	Whimbrel
35	151	345	123	323	Turnstone, Ruddy
	1	10	3	151	Knot, Red
67	556	580	163	802	Sanderling
20	65	34	184	85	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
		253	5	37	Sandpiper, Western
		31	65	49	Sandpiper, Least
40	15				peep sp.
	2			68	Dunlin
		4		2	Dowitcher, Short-billed
		2			Dowitcher, Long-billed
	1				Snipe, Common
2605	3905	8297	3864	3534	Gull, Laughing
	86	21	8	95	Gull, Ring-billed
3	2	12	8	12	Gull, Herring
			1	2	Gull, Lesser Black-backed
			1	3	Gull, Great Black-backed
					Tern, Gull-billed
8	32	23	4	22	Tern, Caspian
27	662	265	536	762	Tern, Royal
2	37	109	103	107	Tern, Sandwich
		1		191	Tern, Common
	4				Tern, Arctic
	104	43	1	19	Tern, Forster's
3	2				sterna sp.
4			28	1	Tern, Least

32	2	74	203	65	Skimmer, Black
248	345	576	649	498	Dove, Rock
50	100	180	190	154	Dove, Eurasian Collared
584	723	723	927	490	Dove, Mourning
26	19	13	18	9	Dove, Common Ground
1			2		Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
1	2	2	6	11	Owl, Eastern Screech
		2	1	5	Owl, Great Horned
7	4	4	10	8	Owl, Barred
10		1			Nighthawk, Common
1		1			Chuck-will's-widow
37	130	291	163	245	Swift, Chimney
4	6	1	2	3	Hummingbird, Ruby-throat
30	37	54	28	23	Kingfisher, Belted
13	17	21	13	21	Woodpecker, Red-headed
83	101	139	113	90	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
22	54	75	50	57	Woodpecker, Downy
	2	1			Woodpecker, Hairy
11	14	9	3	4	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
38	47	58	54	33	Woodpecker, Pileated
	2				Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied
		1		1	Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
	1		1		Flycatcher, Acadian
2	1	2		1	Phoebe, Eastern
4		1		5	Flycatcher, Great Crested
17	4	26	30	5	Kingbird, Eastern
		1			Kingbird, Gray
11	42	11	2	9	Martin, Purple
40	537	60	60	90	Swallow, Tree
	20	9	1	3	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
			48		Swallow, Bank
17				6	Swallow, Cliff
30	52	3	86	55	Swallow, Barn
193	222	208	191	152	Jay, Blue
9	13	18	22	9	Scrub-Jay, Florida
41	34	96	95	124	Crow, American
159	98	114	379	467	Crow, Fish
10758	59	39	22	27	crow sp.
4	3		5	4	Chickadee, Carolina
83	140	146	125	118	Titmouse, Tufted
	1	1			Nuthatch, White-breasted
		10			Nuthatch, Brown-headed
49	111	157	135	100	Wren, Carolina
1		1		1	Wren, House
2	1	5	2	1	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
19	31	93	41	60	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
	2	12	23	1	Bluebird, Eastern
1		1	3	2	Veery
		1		2	Thrush, Swainson's

3	3	105			Robin, American
268	283	364	310	4	Catbird, Gray
20	16	18	15	6	Mockingbird, Northern
17	32	43	45	4	Thrasher, Brown
13462	928	1178	2439	1487	Shrike, Loggerhead
				3	Starling, European
				3	Pipit, American
6	31	49	17	28	Vireo, White-eyed
1	1	1	3	1	Vireo, Blue-headed
5		1		1	Vireo, Yellow-throated
4	9	25	8	18	Vireo, Red-eyed
1					vireo sp.
1		1	1		Warbler, Tennessee
		4			Warbler, Nashville
5	15	19	3	8	Parula, Northern
	2	7	7	13	Warbler, Yellow
		2			Warbler, Chestnut-sided
	1				Warbler, Magnolia
					Warbler, Cape May
8	2	1		1	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
	1				Warbler, Black-throated Grn
1				9	Warbler, Yellow-rumped*
		1	1		Warbler, Blackburnian
6	3	4	5	4	Warbler, Yellow-throated
7	26	27	7	12	Warbler, Pine
1	17	25	1	14	Warbler, Prairie
3	5	8	3	8	Warbler, Palm
					Warbler, Bay-breasted
8	16	3	4	1	Warbler, Black-and-white
28	29	17	2		Redstart, American
			1		Warbler, Prothonotary
2	4				Warbler, Worm-eating
2	1	10	3		Ovenbird
		5	2	1	Waterthrush, Northern
			2	1	Waterthrush, Louisiana
		1			Warbler, Kentucky
13	52	40	14	7	Yellowthroat, Common
2		3			Tanager, Summer
165	200	308	213	202	Cardinal, Northern
1		1		3	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
		1			Grosbeak, Blue
		1			Bunting, Indigo
1	34	21	4	19	Towhee, Eastern
				3	Sparrow, Chipping
				1	Sparrow, Seaside
258	58	167	89	26	Blackbird, Red-winged
10	1	12	1		Meadowlark, Eastern
3896	799	354	507	296	Grackle, Boat-tailed
268	62	209	393	93	Grackle, Common

		35	20	Cowbird, Brown-headed
				blackbird sp.
			2	Oriole, Orchard
2	1		2	Oriole, Baltimore
1	8			Goldfinch, American
63	60	34	46	59 Sparrow, House

Volusia County Fall Migration Count

2005 Observers:

D. Backus, C. Barrow, M. Brothers, C. Bruce, M. Bruce, C. Buchy, M. Buchy, F. Burgis, J. Carr, L. Cash, B. Cushing, D. Davis, K. DeWall, G. Domroski, R. Domroski, R. Dreggors, N. Duffer, J. Egbert, R. Evanson, P. Gottschall, D. Hartgrove, J. Hayes, J.V. Hayes, D. Miller, J. Morgan, S. Parillo, L. Pauchey, R. Ramsey, P. Rehmann, J. Roessler, M.J. Rogers, D. Schaeffer, E. Slyker, D. Stock, J. Stock, S. Taylor, L Wallberg

Count Data

Date	9-18-99	9-16-00	9-15-02	9-20-03	9-17-05
Species	127	129	146	127	140
Individuals	42,522	16,774	22,657	19,102	17,374
Observers	37	35	55	50	37
Parties	12	12	24	19	17
Time	6am-6pm	3am-6:30pm	3a-6:30p		3am-7pm
Temp	74-80	75-91	74-89	73-87	72-94
Wind	S, SE SW 0-25	SW5-SW10	SE5-E15	NE8-E10	SE10-SE18
%Cloud	100	98-100	30-60	15-40	10-30
Precip	Rain all day	Lt rain-rain	0	0	0
Hrs foot	36.5	19.75	55.75	39.5	33.75
" car	69	57.25	240.5	76.25	81
" boat	0	3.5	2	2	1.5
Miles foot	21.25	15.5	36	33.25	25.75
" car	749	525	837	82.5	66.5
" boat	0	4	3	1.5	1.5
Owling hrs	5	3.75	4.5	7	6.5
" miles	3	57	62	91	75
" parties	-	1	3	2	2
" observ	-	1	2	2	1
Feeder hrs	0	18	28	16.5	0
" observ	0	4	4	5	0
" stations	0	3	4	4	0

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In last month's edition of this column I mentioned the establishment of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. This was brought about through the efforts of Conrad H. Ekdahl and T.J. Wetherell of Halifax River Audubon Society and C. Russell Mason, of the Florida Audubon Society. They put together a petition that was presented to the Board of Commissioners of the Florida Inland Navigation District (FINID) at their meeting in West Palm Beach on February 26, 1960. The petition outlined the importance of the islands along the Intracoastal Waterway in Volusia County as rookeries for a variety of nesting wading birds and their allies. So "our" little island off the south side of the Port Orange Bridge will once again be recognized as the fecund treasure that it is.

The resolution establishing the sanctuary placed certain responsibilities on the Florida Audubon Society. Among these were: "A proper and attractive sign be erected to that effect, and that the proper POSTED signs also be placed..." We assume this was done back in 1960 and that between hurricanes, northeasters and the usual windy, salt laden weather, the signs disappeared over time. The people who were instrumental in the establishment of the sanctuary had passed on and it seems there was no one around to replace the signs when they disappeared. So the fact of the sanctuary's establishment was lost to current memory. We're about to change all of that.

Last Wednesday, I had a meeting with City staff from Port Orange in City Manager, Ken Parker's office. They have agreed to assist us in reestablishing the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary and I have a meeting next week with the Port Orange Environmental Advisory Board to discuss wording and materials for the signs.

Now there's an old Chinese proverb that says, "Be careful what you wish for, you might get it." The Sanctuary covers more than just "our" little island. According to the article I found in the March 6, 1960 Daytona Beach News-Journal, it contains 975 acres and according to the aerial photo map provided by FINID Director, David K. Roach, it runs along the west side of the ICW almost to Ponce Inlet! For the immediate future we're going to concentrate our efforts on "our" island. But this amazing opportunity to do something good has been thrust upon us at a time when our environment is under assault on every front. What we do now could have effects far into the future, just as our predecessors here in HRA had hoped to do. We owe it to them and to our grand children to see to it that what was once forgotten won't be again.

EAGLEWATCH

Paula Wehr

Lynda White, Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, began her presentation by saying that eagle season in Florida is already in swing. Bald Eagles are fish eagles and are normally found within one mile of a large body of water. They are opportunistic feeders—always on the lookout for a free meal. Observers often report eagles mobbing an Osprey that has caught a fish. Ospreys like to sit on a preferred perch, fly to the water to catch a fish and then fly directly to another perch where they eat the fish. Bald eagles watch this behavior and harass the Osprey in flight until the Osprey releases his catch. The Bald Eagle will catch the fish in mid-air and fly off to enjoy the free meal. Unfortunately, the Osprey doesn't always catch on and continues to use the same flight pattern, allowing him/her to be robbed again and again.



Bald eagles exert 300 pounds of pressure with their feet. They use their feet/talons to kill their prey and tear the flesh with their beaks. They possess the best eyesight in the world and can focus up to two miles away. In the wild, they live approximately 30-40 years. They are born with gray natal down. At time of fledging they are brown with a black beak and brown eyes. At 2 years of age they are showing more white in the brown feathers. At 3 there is some white on the head and the eyes and beak are beginning to lighten. At age 5 they carry the white head and tail and are ready to breed.

Nesting season in Florida begins in September when the male and female return to the nest. Bald Eagles mate for life but split up for the summer after they complete raising their family. They begin to reacquaint themselves by staying close, touching beaks and refurbishing the nest. They also have a beautiful

courtship flight when they fly in circles with their wings touching. An even more spectacular ritual has them fly up, lock talons and spiral downward, releasing their talons before reaching the ground. Then they fly upwards again and repeat the performance.

Bald Eagles build the largest nests of any birds in North America. They prefer pine trees with large openings in the branches to accommodate their large wingspan and sufficient canopy to provide shade from the sun and protection from rain. Bald Eagles obtain the large branches used to build their nests by flying feet first into a tree and snapping off the branch. They then transfer the branch—which can be up to 6 feet long and 2 inches in diameter—to their beaks to carry back to the nest. Approximately 70% of the nests in Florida were damaged or destroyed in the hurricanes last year. Approximately 80% of those damaged nests were rebuilt by returning Bald Eagle pairs. They spend about a week

building the nest, lining a one-foot depression with grass and moss. When the nest is complete, they place a live pine bough on the edge of the nest—perhaps to signify that it is occupied. One to four eggs will be laid. Most nests contain two eggs.

Both parents incubate the eggs, turning them about once per hour. Both male and female will pluck a bare spot on their breasts called a brood patch. The area has increased blood vessels that act as a built in incubator. In 30-35 days the first hatchling will appear, weighing about 4 ounces. The babies grow rapidly, eating a diet of organ meat only for the first few days. Later the parents will include bones in their food to provide calcium for the growing babies. In 5-6 weeks they will be as large as their parents.

The juvenile eagles will stay in the branches of the nest tree, imprinting the area on their brains. Bald Eagle parents continue to feed theyoungsters and stay nearby. In 10-12 weeks, the babies will look larger than their parents because of longer tail and wing feathers that are needed for migration. First year birds may migrate from Florida to the Chesapeake Bay or even to Canada. They return to Florida for the winter and often congregate at landfills. They follow this routine for five years, until they reach maturity and are ready to find their own territory and begin breeding.

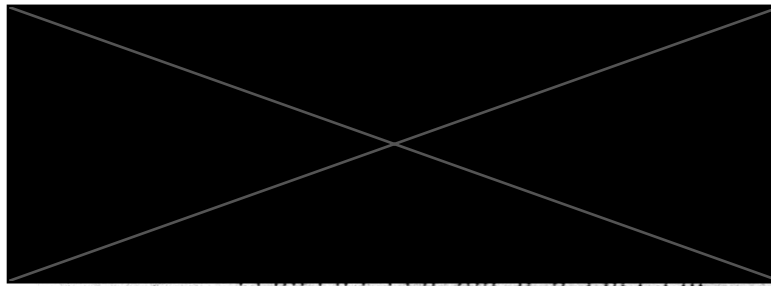
Lynda brought Paige, a 10-year old female Bald Eagle, who lives at the Birds of Prey facility at 1101 Audubon Way in Maitland. Lynda provided details about the facility and the work that is done there. The facility is open to the public. If you haven't visited there yet, be sure to do so. For more information see <http://www.audubonofflorida.org/conservation/cbop.htm>

THE PELICAN



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Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Mary Keller	252-2794
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland FL	(561) 340-0079
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/flrba.html

NOVEMBER 2005

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 June, 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. On the first Monday of each month. 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. 51 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON December 2005

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

Thursday, December 1

Flagler Audubon Society program meeting. "Bike Trails and Birding – How They Coexist" by Linda Crider. At top UOF speaker will discuss saving open spaces and their creatures, in boom times. Meet at Flagler Hospital Meeting Room A or B, SR100 just west of I95. 7pm.

Friday, December 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge north side. 8:00am. Led by John Carr, 386 255-9360. Bring lunch. See article. (1)

Saturday, December 3

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge north side. 8:00am. Led by John Carr, 386 255-9360. Bring lunch. See article. (1)

Saturday December 3

Friends of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. "BEAR!" by Brian Scheick, Bear Biologist, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Learning Resource Center, Grand Ave. north of Mud Lake Rd, DeLand. 8:30-10:30am. (At conclusion of Bear! Program a road cleanup will take place. 10:30-11:30am.). Contact Kathy Barnard, 386-734-6123, kbbirdkathy@netscape.net. Note: *Halifax River Audubon is a Patron of the Friends group.*

Sunday, December 4

Duval Audubon Society field trip. Merritt Island NWR, Cape Canaveral NS, Vierra Wetlands Complex, etc. All day trip. Call Roger Clark at 904-251-3625 for directions where to meet.

Wednesday, December 7

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Swamp House Boat Trip. Reservations required. Contact Vivian Taylor at 734-1390.

Wednesday, December 7

Ormond Beach Garden Club. "How to Make Holiday Decorations" demonstration. 11:00am to noon by designer from Michael's Craft Store. The Casements, Ormond Beach. Tea and business meeting begins at 9:30. Call Dorothy Hartley 441-8627 for information.

Saturday, December 17

Flagler Audubon Society field trip. Safari River eco boat tour. Goat Island, St. Johns River, etc. Lunch at

Swamp House Grill afterwards. \$16. Meet at Highbanks Marina 10am. Limited to 22 persons. For reservations call 1-386-446-1906 or 1-386-437-0550.

Sunday, December 18

Halifax River Field Trip. Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson and Granada Blvds, Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386 788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

Tuesday, December 20

Halifax River Program Meeting. Joint meeting of HRA, and Pawpaw and Lyonia Chapters of Native Plant Society. Plant auction. Pot Luck Holiday Party. Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

- 6pm. Doors open, people can bring in food & auction items; Pawpaw Chapter will hold a brief business meeting to elect officers for next year.
- 6:30pm - 7:30pm. **Food**
- 7:30 pm - 9pm. Auction. All plants must be Florida natives. Non-plant auction items may include nature, ecological or conservation oriented items.

1914- 2005

REMEMBRANCES OF ANGELO CERRITO

Longtime Financial Officer Of Halifax River Audubon

I recall that Angelo was always willing to help out where needed. He often helped serve refreshments at HRA meetings, especially when we met at Seabreeze Church. He and Jean offered their home for lunch and birding on their property and along Spruce Creek often. He and his son were experts at grilling hot dogs and hamburgers in his spacious backyard where birders sat in their folding chairs waiting for the treats to get done. He will be missed!

Vivian Smith

Our friend Angelo, financial advisor to our Chapter for decades, has been told by the highest authority ever that his place now is among the Great Eagles. I had known Angelo for 35 years and although he looked so stern, it belied his warmth and love for nature and for his many friends. His ranch was open to us and many enjoyable times were spent there watching the resident Barred Owl.

I have made a donation in his name to the World Vision's Woman's International Loan Fund, a charity that teaches financial skills, a fitting memorial to Angelo.

John Williams, Past President

Solar Decathlon 2005

COLORADO WINS AGAIN!

The University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder, successfully defended their championship and took first place overall in Solar Decathlon 2005. Cornell University was the second place team, and California Polytechnic State University finished third.

The Solar Decathlon brought together 18 teams of college and university students from around the globe to participate in an unparalleled solar competition to design, build, and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered home. Florida International University tied with Crowder College and University of Missouri to win the Energy Balance Contest. Winning despite the very cloudy weather provided a demonstration about just how energy efficient the houses were.

The teams transported their solar houses to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., where they formed a solar village. The village and solar houses were open to the public from October 7-16. The teams competed in 10 contests to determine an overall winner.

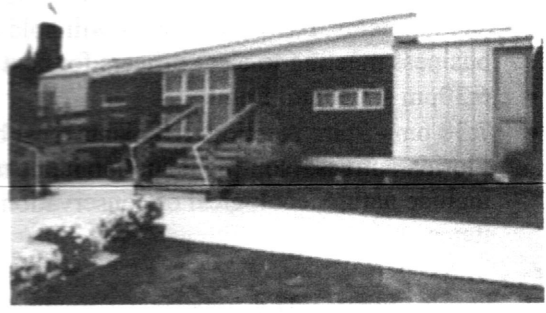


Photo by Stefano Paltera /Solar Decathlon

University of Colorado's energy-efficient, solar-powered house won first place in the Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washing, D.C., Friday October 14

using only energy from the sun, the teams generated enough electricity to run a modern household. With an eye on energy efficiency, the students carefully chose the systems, products, and appliances used in their houses. Each team is judged on its solar home's architecture, livability, comfort, and ability to provide a consistent supply of electricity to run appliances, provide ample lighting, and charge an electric car. The homes must also have been able to supply hot water for daily use. Teams must provide documentation about the development of the design of their homes and communicate about their homes to the public.

Each house was up to 800 square feet, about the size of a New York City efficiency apartment, but with features such as a hydroponic garden that doubled as a water-filtration system. The panel of judges for the Dwelling Contest noted several impressive features in the Virginia Tech design. They report that, "everything about the design is clever," from the method developed to transport the light-construction structure to the user-

friendly interactions with the sophisticated systems within the house. They also noted the "good flow" in the house. The judges said they could envision people living comfortably in the house, and that the house is buildable. They believe that the design could go into production right away. The house featured a bathroom with black slate walls and floors, a 400-pound cast-iron tub and a water-miserly toilet. The spotless white commode "has a number one and number two button, depending on your business, to save water."

Ed. Note: Lee Bidgood provided the e-mail address of solardecathlon.com where more information is available. Also, thanks to Reuters, Inc for the interesting toilet detail.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Eleven Board Members were present.

- Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$10,533.85.
- Membership Chair John Carr reported membership just below 500. He has recently received 4 renewals of Chapter Only Member dues.
- Willie Burns reported on developer's plans to create the Port Orange Riverwalk, on the riverfront with a marina, that stretches north of the Dunlawton Bridge to South Daytona.
- Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported on our plans to implement the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary as outlined by the 1960 Ordinance. This property is a group of rookery islands south of the Dunlawton Bridge. He suggested that we post signs at the north and south ends of the sanctuary as well as on each small island within the sanctuary. A motion passed to implement the establishment of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary and that we place these signs as suggested. President Roessler appointed David Hartgrove as Chair of the Sanctuary Development Committee with members Willie Burns, John Roessler, Rachel Ramsey, and Kevin Doxstater.
- David also reported that a settlement is in the works for the extension of the Tomoka Farms Road north.
- Madeline Shaddix reported on the progress of animal proofing the bird feeder at Sugar Mill Gardens. A new volunteer, Bill Horton, will help with this.
- Lois Robinson reported on the upcoming Volusia County Schools Science Fair. Board would like to increase the amount of award to \$100 each for the top entrants and \$50 each for the second place winners, and will present this to Don Picard, Chair of the Volusia Audubon Science Fair Committee, for his approval.

The Board voted a "Thank You" to Ray Scory for teaching Beginning Birding Class in October..

BIRD BANDING AT TOMOKA STATE PARK

Meret Wilson, October 2005

The Bird Banding Station began at Tomoka State Park last October 19, 2004 right after the four hurricanes, and we entered our second year with 7 new birds for the day. The big surprise was the fall-plumaged Blackpoll Warbler who looked suspiciously like either a Bay-breasted or Pine Warbler except for the very yellow legs and feet.

We closed last year with 34 species and a total of 41 banding days. So far this year we have added 9 more species bringing the total species banded to 43. These new species are: Magnolia Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Common Ground-Dove, Brown Thrasher, Painted Bunting, and Downy Woodpecker. We have had 26 active banding days so far. Our three biggest days were 16 birds October 6th, 17 on the 7th, and 21 on the 14th. And this was with only 6 nets open. Not bad!

People have come by the banding station to see what we were doing, including some folks staying in the Park during Octoberfest. I am hoping the number of visitors will continue to increase.

I have 10 nets back up and functioning thanks to the help of visiting assistant bander Virginia Duffy who is a volunteer at the Braddock Bay Bird Banding Station near Rochester, NY. She tediously mended one of the deer shredded nets. The other was hopeless and the bottom panel was cut away. While she was mending the net a Yellow-billed Cuckoo flew in almost on top of her. We were so excited to work up this juvenile bird (not a new species, though).

With Daylight Savings time coming to an end it means starting at daylight at 6:30. But it has cooled down nicely and there have been no mosquitoes since August. FINALLY! I hope I will see some of you soon.

Friday, October 28

The week ended with a great bird: our second Savannah Sparrow! The day was slow but very entertaining. As I climbed out of my car a Red-shouldered Hawk narrowly missed the top of my head with his talons. Three manatees played in the cove next to the banding table. Several stunt planes were practicing maneuvers for an airshow this weekend. And a nice array of birds flew over including a huge flock of Tree Swallows, which prompted me to move one net back into the middle of the field in the hope of getting lucky.

Yesterday we had visitors from West Volusia Audubon who seemed to enjoy the visit very much.

Next week will be our last week of four-day-a-week banding. Starting November 14, I will only open nets on Tuesday and Thursday.

Friday, November 4

Today ended the rigorous 4-day-a-week fall banding for migratory birds. Starting the week of November 14th I will switch to a modified winter schedule of once or twice a week.

The fall season ended with a whopper! When I approached one net, I thought I saw spots on the tail so I pretty much assumed from a distance I had another cuckoo. Wrong! I had a gorgeous Sharp-shinned Hawk. Thank goodness I paid close attention when Bob Wheeler removed one from a net at Rock Springs a few years ago because, by following exactly what he said to do, I was able to extract it, photograph it, put it in a bag to weigh, get it out and band it and let it go without nary a scratch! No footing or biting. I was very pleased, and EXCITED!

The Myrtle Warblers are present in full force but with the presence of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, an American Kestrel and a Merlin that zoomed right over my head, the birds remained fairly scarce. Even the harbingers of bad news, the Blue Jays, stayed their distance today. More catbirds were around than yesterday. There are at least 4 House Wrens in the long pile of rubble and a nice flock of Tree Swallows came over fairly low but avoided the nets. And 2 American Goldfinches passed through. I had a Carolina Wren recap that just couldn't get enough of the nets so returned to the adjacent net less than 3 minutes from release. Also caught a previously banded Titmouse.

The only down side of the day was the mosquitoes which were the worst I have had them since August. According to the news, though, we are supposed to have a drier winter so I am anticipating many more banding days than last year.

Charley [DuToit, Park Biologist] and I are going to lay out new net lanes for banding to sample a different part of the park and hopefully that can happen soon after I get back from a week in Utah.

You will hear from me as soon as I get back as to the schedule for the remainder of November and December. Happy birding.

Ed. Note: Chapter member Meret Wilson welcomes members who would like to assist at various jobs at the banding station or would like to be added to the banding station volunteer letter. Contact her for more info at mileybug@aol.com

REMEMBER THE FT. DESOTO TRIP

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY APRIL 27-29

Plan to come. We see birds on this trip very seldom seen in Florida: Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Cape May Warblers and other rare warblers, not to mention Frigate Birds, Long Billed Curlews, and Crested Caracaras. Save these dates for the trip.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Implementation of the establishment of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary is moving ahead as fast as possible. We have contacted the sign company to arrange for the sign announcing the sanctuary. As soon as the design is ready, we'll present it to the Port Orange Environmental Advisory Board for their approval. At our last board meeting we formed a committee to help put this whole project in motion. We are planning to have signs that announce to boaters that they are entering/leaving the sanctuary. We want to get these installed as soon as possible. The sign to be placed in the area under the bridge will be stainless steel with a graphic of a Great Egret and with text identifying the sanctuary as extending south to Ponce Inlet. Signs placed in this environment need to be capable of withstanding the assaults of wind, sun and vandalism. Stainless steel is the medium of choice. The sign will be attractive, extremely durable and expensive. But we'll get our money's worth. The signs announcing the boundaries will probably be marine plywood, painted, and are not designed to be as long lived as the sign under the bridge since they shouldn't be so subject to vandalism. Stay tuned for further developments.

The Tomoka Farms Road Extension case that has been going on so long is about to get longer. The Florida Department of Community Affairs has sent out its latest proposal for settlement. To make a long story short, it gives the County and the developers what they want after they satisfy a couple of easily supplied studies. Our position is to go to a mediation hearing. If we can get our position on this project before an impartial judge, we feel confident the amendment will be rejected in short order. Again, stay tuned for future developments

If you have a thistle feeder, now's the time to put it out. The Florida Birds List (floridabirds-l@lists.ufl.edu) last night posted the first report of American Gold Finches arriving in our area. These birds are a delight to watch and will stay all winter in your yard once they find your feeder. At first, the males will sport worn yellow plumage. Then they'll go to a tawny beige similar to the females. Around mid to late February they'll begin to sport the bright yellow of breeding plumage. They will occasionally come to a seed feeder but thistle feeders they can't resist.

MARY KELLER CLOSES SHOP

Pat Mihalic

Over forty years ago a young woman rescued an injured bird. She did not know how to care for it, but she knew that without help it would die. She called everyone that she could think of that may have knowledge about this little creature and how to save it. She used the information she received along with an inner spirit and

determination to save her first bird. The legacy of Mary Keller had begun. Mary and her family spent their lives saving birds. Thousands of sick and injured birds passed through her loving hands.

For over 25 years I have had the honor of calling Mary my friend. I have been there many times when she performed her miracles on birds that anyone else would have given up on. I was awed by the methods that she used to cure her charges. She seemed to know exactly what the bird needed in order to assure its survival. Many times it meant that Mary would sit up all night holding it in her hands and softly reassuring it. It seemed that the bird knew exactly what she was saying to it and by morning it was ready for the flight cage and a future release date. I had the privilege of releasing many of her patients. What a thrill it was to watch them leave the cages and return to wild. All of this because a special woman gave all she had to make sure that there was a place where sick and injured birds could receive the best care possible.

Now that special woman needs to be with her family. Mary's husband, Red, has been very sick and she had to make a very difficult decision. Red's health was deteriorating and a move to Arizona to live with their son was their only choice to assure his well-being. But what would happen to the birds?

Mary made arrangements to have injured and sick birds in her care transported to other rehabbers. [See back page.] She gave her permanent residents to friends and family. Many tears were shed during this transition period. Finally everything was in place for the move. Mary felt that it was easier to make the move and then let everyone know that she was gone.

She had planned on writing a goodbye to the News-Journal, but they jumped the gun when they found out that she was gone and they published information from a woman who was never in Mary's home. Mary called me to let me know that she had called the News-Journal and they had promised to print another story with the correct information. She asked that I let her friends at Audubon know that she did not just leave without her belongings and that all of her birds and other animals that were in her care have all been given to friends who will care for them for the rest of their lives. She also wanted everyone to know that her home did not have bird feces on the floors (the real estate person could attest to this; the house sold in one day). I told her that she should not worry about things like that because anyone who really knew her would be so proud to call her 'friend'.

Mary Keller will be remembered by all who have ever taken a bird to her. Her dedication to the welfare of all creatures in her care is her legacy. We should be honored that we knew such a woman as her kind only comes along once in a lifetime.

Our best wishes go to her and her family in their new home in Phoenix. Goodbye, Mary. We will miss you.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

David Hartgrove

I know we usually have our Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on a Saturday but with the way the holidays fall and the other CBCs in the area, December 18 was the only day we could select. As usual we'll meet at the Publix on Williamson and Granada in Ormond at 7:00 a.m. Please call me at 788-2630 to let me know you're going so that I can begin setting up teams. And don't forget, it's Chinese for dinner afterward.

Our CBC will be a part of one of North America's longest-running wintertime traditions. During the 106th CBC, approximately 55,000 volunteers of all skill levels are expected to take part in this census of birds.

"Having fun while birding can identify important results that help shape the direction of bird conservation," says Geoff LeBaron, National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count director.

"Audubon and our partners at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Boreal Species Initiative are analyzing data from the overall CBC database, and using the results they find to develop Audubon's 'State of the Birds' report. These important results will be reflected in 2006 in our 'State of the Birds' waterbirds report, and inform the Audubon WatchList, which is used to prioritize Audubon's bird conservation activities."

Count results from 1900 to the present are available through Audubon's website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc (and the 106th Count results will be viewable in near real-time). Included in those results is the last report of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the CBC database - two birds that were seen in the Singer Tract in Louisiana during the 38th CBC in 1937. Other sightings were reported earlier in the 1930s.

Join me and other novice to expert birders the Sunday before Christmas.

BEAUTIFUL NATURE, BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

Kevin Doxstater presented his wonderful program of music and nature at our November program meeting. Three-hundred-thirty of his photos projected on a screen accompanied by parts of Beethoven's Symphonies 7, 8, and 6, and Kevin's later question-answer period thrilled us all. This evening may have even excelled Kevin's earlier presentation of birds and Beethoven.

BEGINNER'S BIRD WATCHING CLASS

Ray Scory

When rationality takes a back seat to passion, an adventure begins. Like the thrill of a speeding roller coaster ride or a nice walk along an expansive ocean beach, mystery and excitement await. The future is not foreseeable and that can be exhilarating.

If this passion leads to identifying birds or watching their behavior, there is no better place to start than in a Beginner's Bird Watching Class. Like any adventure, preparation and instruction are important ingredients to jumpstart a new journey.

This past October six people decided to pursue their passion and enrolled in a Halifax River Audubon Beginner Bird Watching Class. Three instructional classes and three field trips encouraged their involvement. This program began their personal adventure into birding.

A total of sixty-one species of birds were observed on the three field trips. A lone Roseate Spoonbill at the Volusia County Landfill was the hit of these three field trips and a life bird for many. At the landfill the Bald Eagle is a common bird and unexpected sightings are always a possibility, such as the powered flight of Sandhill Cranes, rows of Wood Storks and tree searching migrating warblers. The other two field trip locations offered their share of interesting bird sighting, like the responding choruses of Clapper Rails at Spruce Creek Park and the lone Reddish Egret dancing through shallow waters at the Port Orange Causeway Bridge.

The three classes were informative and structured but casual enough to allow the students the opportunity to express their individual experiences with birds. Concise and time proven methods of field identification are paramount objectives of this class, illustrated by graphic visual aids and presented through the experience of the instructor.

To being anything is exciting. To begin birding will lead to rewards beyond expectations and experiences never imagined.

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES WILL SOON RETURN TO NE FLORIDA

Florida and Georgia are the only known calving and wintering ground for the endangered North Atlantic right whale. Hunted nearly to extinction in the last century, scientists estimate there are only 325 left. From Jacksonville Beach to Cape Canaveral, these whales will often come close enough to shore to be visible, but sightings are sparse and very valuable.

Volunteers are needed to help scientists find the whales and track them. This assistance can be as easy as calling a toll-free number if you spot one, to joining a volunteer survey team spending time on the beach looking for them. Training classes for volunteers to learn how to recognize right whales will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Ormond Beach Public Library from 1:00 to 2:30 pm and Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the Whitney Laboratory, Whitney Hall, Marineland. For more information, email summerwind99@bellsouth.net or call 904-669-8615.

SPOIL ISLAND'S HISTORY AS COLORFUL AS ITS INHABITANTS

By Virginia Smith, *News-Journal* Staff Writer

Last update: November 20, 2005

PORT ORANGE -- Members of the Halifax River Audubon Society have long wondered how to protect what the maps call "Island No. 3," a mangrove-covered and very birdy spoil island just south of the Dunlawton Bridge.

Thousands of pelicans, great egrets, tricolored herons, little blue herons, cattle egrets and cormorants build their nests on the island; from the bridge it appears mottled with birds. The largest nest in the sun atop the mangroves while small ones nest in the shadows, stealing the big ones' sticks and straw.

Why the birds are so attracted to No. 3 is hard to say; it could just be a force of habit, said David Hartgrove, conservation chairman of the Halifax River Audubon Society. "It's just amazing how fertile that little strip of land is," he said.

The residents of the Sea Bird Island mobile home park, west of No. 3, know firsthand -- when the wind is right, they're blasted with the stench of bird feces and dead nestlings. As they fight to save their homes from a planned luxury condominium, some wonder if the would-be buyers have any idea what they're in for.

Yet somehow all the bird funk never stopped boaters from landing on No. 3, picnicking and letting their dogs chase birds, and the Audubon members were concerned.

This year, Hartgrove called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, asking it to declare No. 3 a wildlife sanctuary where people can land if they tread lightly - - but not dogs. Commission officials sent him to the city of Port Orange, which directed him to the county, which told him to call the Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville.

When none of that worked, Hartgrove e-mailed one more state agency: the Florida Inland Navigation District, which manages the Intracoastal Waterway.

Weeks went by. "I thought I was being blown off again," he said.

The response he got, in late September, was anything but a blowoff. "It was beyond my wildest dreams," he said.

Hartgrove learned that not only Island No. 3, but the whole six-mile archipelago south of it, had been an Audubon sanctuary for 45 years.

How come no one knew?

A SPATE OF SANCTUARIES

"The Florida Audubon Society announced from its Winter Park office last night that 975 acres of mangrove islands and dredging spoils acres in the Halifax River between Port Orange and southern limits of Harbor Oaks are now designated the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary," reported the Daytona Beach Sunday News-Journal in March 1960.

"The full resources of all law enforcement agencies automatically are directed to keeping official bird sanctuaries unmolested by poachers, hunters, or thoughtless persons not fully aware of the damage they may do to picturesque wildlife of the area involved."

Sea Bird Island sat within the sanctuary bounds, but was developed and in private hands already.

This sanctuary was not the first of its kind. Between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, more than 50 Audubon sanctuaries were declared all up and down the Intracoastal Waterway, most with the help of the Florida Inland Navigation District.

For the Audubon chapters, it was a way to keep the islands -- which the state was quick to sell at the time -- from being developed.

For the district, it was public relations.

The sanctuary islands were created from spoils, the remains of a century's worth of dredging.

By the late '50s, there were hundreds of these spoil islands from Jacksonville to Miami, but new environmental rules made it hard for the district to keep dumping on them. The dangers of dredging and dumping to sea-grass beds and oyster bars were just beginning to be understood, and regulators frowned on new spoil islands.

Since many of the older spoil islands were by then vegetated, and the birds seemed to like them, the district "was interested in pointing out that there could be positive environmental improvements from these activities -- that it wasn't a total negative," said its current director, David Roach. "So we formed all these partnerships with Audubon chapters. That was our little environmental transition."

Under the partnership agreements, which were essentially free leases, all Audubon had to do was put up "proper and attractive" signs declaring a sanctuary, credit the Florida Inland Navigation District in its press releases, and promise not to cost the district any money.

The district would keep the islands from being sold, but in each sanctuary's agreement was a clause that it could place more spoil on them at will. "Yeah we'll protect the birds, but, uh, we can dump anytime we want," said Roach. "Aren't we the nice guy?"

The agreements had no time limits: they were forever. And thanks to a nascent change in environmental policy, few of the islands got dumped on after 1960 -- the spoil was moved upland.

Charles Lee, head lobbyist for Audubon of Florida, said some of the island sanctuaries survive intact; others have fallen by the wayside or become public parks. The Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary managed to both survive intact and fall by the wayside.

SIGNS DISAPPEAR

Roach said he'd known about the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary for years. In 1990, he said, he even tried to bring it to the Halifax River Audubon's attention. But nothing happened, and "when you manage a project that's 400 miles long and goes through 289 political subdivisions and 6 million people, other things come up."

Roach said the burden of sign maintenance likely caused the group's interest to fade. Spoil islands can be hard to access, "and to get all your volunteers out there fixing signs" is a tall order. Many signs probably washed away, he said. "Mother Nature is very cruel on signs."

Plus there's not much you really do to a sanctuary once you have it, Roach said, so "the Audubon societies kind of

forgot about these sanctuaries." Not to mention that most members from the 1950s or 1960s would be dead by now.

In 1960, T.J. Wetherell, a local civic activist, petitioned the district on Audubon's behalf. He died in 1996, but his son, T.K. Wetherell, a former state representative who is now president of Florida State University, recalls posting "hundreds" of Audubon signs as a teenager.

"I can remember storming up and down that river nailing up those daggone signs," he said. "It seemed like we stuck them every five feet." At least a few of the signs, he said, must still stand -- even if they're buried in a mangrove.

The Wetherells lived on the river, in the Allandale section of what is now Port Orange, and T.J.'s intent, his son said, was not to protect the birds. It was to protect his view. T.K. said he doubted his father was an Audubon member any longer than it took to get the sanctuary.

The sale of Sea Bird Island rankled T.J. Wetherell, who predicted more development would follow. "The motivation, I guess, wasn't totally pure. It was Daddy's way of putting a little roadblock in the way of developing those islands." T.K. Wetherell said his father never forgot about the sanctuary.

Yet others must have, because in 1970, a mere 10 years after it was founded, a Florida Audubon officer wrote the state asking to declare one of the islands a wildlife sanctuary. The Department of Natural Resources said it would look into the matter.

In 1971, the department wrote to Audubon, saying the Florida Inland Navigation District had already made the whole area a sanctuary. But it declared it a sanctuary again, for good measure. And some more decades passed.

ANTI-CONDO HOPES

Roach said it's probably no coincidence that the Audubon chapter started thinking about the islands just as a high-rise condo threatened to land in the middle of them.

In July, an Orlando developer offered \$25 million to buy the Sea Bird Island mobile home park, which sits in the middle of the sanctuary, and the park's owner wanted to sell. The developer showed plans for a 20-story building, but the sale has recently stalled over Port Orange's problems with the project's size.

Hartgrove of Halifax River Audubon said blocking a condo was never his group's motive. But it hasn't stopped others from seeing that potential.

"It's another issue that could stop the sale," said Richard Fahlbusch, president of the embattled Sea Bird Island Homeowners Association.

Island No. 3 happens to be right across the way, and some of its birds have federal protection. If a big condominium with a big sea wall goes up, Fahlbusch said, the waves would reflect off the sea wall and erode -- and possibly destroy -- a major nesting site.

Local Sierra Club members had earlier voiced the same concern, and Bob Haviland, a director of the Volusia-Flagler Environmental Council and a retired engineer, said he recently explained the problem in detail to Port Orange officials.

Hartgrove said Audubon is just glad to have the sanctuary. Two weeks ago, its members took a field trip to Dunlawton Bridge to learn more about it. Through their binoculars, they watched a peregrine falcon eat a laughing gull on Island No. 3, which they hope to rename "Rookery Island."

The group plans to place wood signs on islands popular with kayakers and personal watercraft riders and folks with dogs. Last month, Port Orange officials committed to helping Audubon with the signs, and with law enforcement.

The sanctuary news, said Margaret Momberger, a landscape architect for Port Orange, was received warmly at City Hall. "People were very inquisitive about it, and staff decided it was a good cause." The city's water police won't issue tickets quite yet, but they will warn island-hoppers about bringing their dogs and disturbing the birds.

OLD, BUT TIMELY

Sometimes neglect really can be benign. Though signs fell and memories failed, the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary's islands are still lush and unpeopled. The deal between the Florida Inland Navigation District and Audubon -- whatever its motives were 45 years ago -- served its purpose.

Lee of Florida Audubon said it can work again now, in a different way. "In the 1950s the problem was whether those islands would be developed," he said. "Now with the tremendous increase in public access, especially kayaks and personal watercraft, a lot of the islands are overrun by picnickers and campers.

"All over Florida you have these islands used by hundreds of people who picnic and let their dogs run, oblivious to the fact that the 'crunch crunch' sounds they're hearing as they walk are bird eggs," Lee said.

Having some law enforcement is key, Lee said, "because times have changed from the '50s and '60s, and it's very difficult for some volunteers in an Audubon chapter to go out and enforce something. You're out there on a Sunday afternoon with your straw hat and binoculars and there's a 6-foot-5 guy with a six-pack and two pit bulls."

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FIELD TRIP TO MERRITT ISLAND

John Carr

We have a great trip that will be the same for both days on the second and third of December.

We will leave from under the Dunlawton Bridge at 8:00am and head south on US-1. We'll look at the marsh as we drive over the Spruce Creek Bridge, then briefly stop at the eagle's nest in New Smyrna Beach.

The next stop is River Breeze Park in Oak Hill for a rest stop and to see what is on the oyster bar, then check out the White Pelican area. Afterwards we will turn off US-1 onto State Road 3 and head under the Haulover Canal to check for manatees. Afterwards we will check the Florida Scrub-Jay area before heading to Black Point Drive.

After Black Point Drive, we will check the ponds at the Titusville Bridge and then proceed to the Visitors Center for a rest stop and to eat our lunches.

If we have time we can visit the National Seashore or down the road that parallels the Indian River Lagoon. Be sure to bring a lunch, water, and bug spray.

THE PELICAN

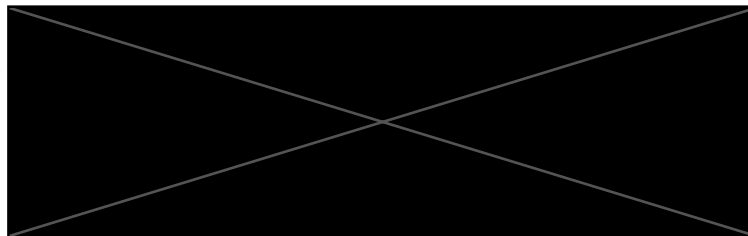


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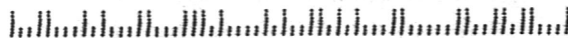
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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn (386) 423-1434	plamborn@cfl.frr.com
Bird Identification	Lois Robinson 760-8480	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL (407) 644-0199	
Halifax River Audubon		www.halifaxriveras.org
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

DECEMBER 2005

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through June, 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. On the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

Thank you for the delicious refreshments at our Chapter's October 17 program meeting that were by hosts Lois Robinson, Caroline and Ken Russell, and Barb and Steve Kieran. Thank you to our hosts for our November 21 meeting for refreshments that were provided by Vaughn Cooper, Elizabeth Ruebsamen, and Paula Wehr.